



IMPACT OF BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO ON CHILD SEX RATIO, GROSS ENROLLMENT RATIO OF FEMALE GIRLS AND FEMALE FOETICIDE IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative was started by the government of India in 2015. Its goals were to address the urgent problems of a falling child-sex ratio (CSR), encourage girls to go to school, and stop women from killing themselves. This summary shows how the initiative has affected these important areas. The industry brought more attention to equal rights for men and women and the value of girls. It helped change the way people thought about things by running campaigns and getting the community involved. Even though the results vary from region to region, there have been reports of CSR getting better in some places. "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" encouraged girls to go to school and gave them incentives and scholarships to do so. Because of these efforts, more girls started going to school in many states. Gender differences in education are getting smaller, especially in places where women's literacy rates have been low in the past. The main goal of the initiative was to make sure that laws against sex tests and abortions based on a person's sex were enforced more strictly. Illegal sex determination tests were meant to be stopped by making medical facilities more careful and keeping an eye on them. Even though the real effects of female foeticide are still hard to measure, the initiative did raise awareness of the legal and moral issues involved.

Keywords: *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Female Foeticide, CSR, Child Sex Ratio*

INTRODUCTION

The "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative, which was started by the Government of India in 2015, is a big step toward gender equality in India. It talks about the complicated and interconnected problems of the falling child-sex ratio (CSR), the need to get more girls to go to school, and the urgent need to stop women from killing themselves. A long-standing preference for boys led to a difference in the number of boys and girls, fewer chances for girls to go to school, and the very sad practise of female foeticide. This multi-pronged initiative came about because of this preference. In this in-depth look, we will look at how "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" has changed these important parts of Indian society. We will look at the progress made



and the problems that still need to be fixed in the fight for gender equality and the empowerment of girls across the country.

India has had a problem with the child-sex ratio (CSR) for a long time. The CSR is a key way to show how men and women are different. The CSR was going down, especially among children aged 0 to 6 years old, because of deeply ingrained social norms that favour boys. It was a big problem for India's social structure because having an uneven number of men and women could cause social instability and a lot of problems between men and women. The "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" programme was a bright spot. It aimed to stop this worrying trend by standing up for girls' rights and worth. At the same time, the initiative recognised how important education is for giving girls more power and ending discrimination based on gender. Gross enrollment ratio (GER) of female students was much lower than what was hoped for, especially in rural and poor areas. "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" knew that girls need equal access to good education if they are to do well and grow up to be strong women. So, it tried to improve GER among female students by encouraging them to sign up for school, go to school, and stay in school.

Also, the initiative tried to stop female foeticide, a practise that goes back a long way and is very upsetting. This illegal but still common practise involved abortions based on a person's gender, which led to the sad loss of female lives before they were even born. The initiative knew it was important to deal with this problem quickly by strictly enforcing laws against sex-determination tests and abortions based on a baby's sex. It tried to make a place where having a girl child was a reason to be happy instead of sad. Over the years, "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" has made big progress in all three areas. People all over the country are more aware of how important it is that men and women have the same rights and that girls are taken care of. Using media campaigns, community engagement programmes, and grassroots efforts, it has been able to change the way people think and challenge long-held prejudices.

Even though progress may vary from state to state and region to region, the initiative has made CSR better. In places where this change has had the most effect, the birth of a girl child is no longer seen as a burden but as a reason to celebrate. How people's attitudes have changed shows how well the initiative changed their minds. More girls are going to school because of "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao," which is important in the field of education. Parents have been encouraged to send their daughters to school through financial incentives, scholarships, and awareness campaigns. This is especially true in places where women haven't always been able to read and write. This has helped close the education gap between boys and girls, which is a



big step toward giving girls the tools they need to live better lives. In the fight against female feticide, the initiative has helped medical facilities be more careful and watchful so that illegal sex tests don't happen. Even though this is still against the law and hard to stop completely, the initiative has made it more dangerous for the people who do it.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Impact On Child Sex Ratio (CSR):

(Kabeer, 2018; Census of India, 2011) Awareness and Attitude Change: Several studies have shown that the initiative has been successful at making people aware of how important gender equality and the value of the girl child are. It has led to big changes in how people think about girls, with more and more people recognising their rights and worth.

(Deol, 2020; UNFPA, 2019) Research shows that "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" has different effects on CSR in different parts of India. States with skewed sex ratios in the past have seen more significant improvements, showing that the initiative is working to solve local problems.

(International Journal of Population Research, 2017) Behavioral Change: Studies have seen a change in behaviour, with families becoming more happy when a girl is born. Even though progress is slow, it is a good sign that norms and values are changing.

Impact On Gross Enrollment Ratio (Ger) Of Female Girls:

(Khera, 2016; Das, 2021) Increased Enrollment: "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" has been successful in increasing the number of female students in many areas. Parents have been more likely to send their daughters to school because of financial incentives, scholarships, and campaigns to raise awareness.

(Saha, 2019; UNICEF, 2020) Gender Disparities: Research has highlighted that the initiative has significantly reduced gender disparities in access to education. Enrollment rates for girls have caught up with, and in some cases, surpassed those of boys in primary and secondary education.



(Plan International India, 2018) Quality of Education: Some studies suggest that while enrollment has improved, challenges related to girls' education quality persist. Issues such as infrastructure, teacher training, and gender-sensitive curricula need further attention.

Impact On Female Foeticide:

(Das Gupta, 2017; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2019) Awareness and Enforcement: "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" has increased awareness of the legal and ethical concerns surrounding female foeticide. Stricter enforcement of laws against sex determination tests and prenatal sex-selective abortions has been observed in many areas.

(Puri, 2018; Sen, 2020) Challenges and Hidden Practices: Despite progress, female foeticide remains a hidden and complex issue. Studies indicate that it continues to persist in some regions, often driven underground due to stringent legal measures.

(International Journal of Scientific Research and Education, 2016) Need for Comprehensive Approach: Research underscores the necessity of a comprehensive approach that combines legal measures with social and economic incentives to tackle female foeticide effectively.

Research Methodology

The research methodology employed for investigating the impact of the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative on child sex ratio (CSR), gross enrollment ratio (GER) of female students, and female foeticide is based on a comprehensive approach designed to gather both quantitative and qualitative data. A longitudinal study design was chosen to assess changes over time and to provide a holistic understanding of the initiative's effects. The primary data sources for this study included government reports, census data, surveys, and academic research articles, which were analyzed to track trends and impacts. Primary data collection was also conducted in selected regions to gain deeper insights into local dynamics. Stratified sampling ensured the representation of various demographic characteristics, and purposive sampling was used for in-depth interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) with key informants and stakeholders involved in the initiative's implementation.



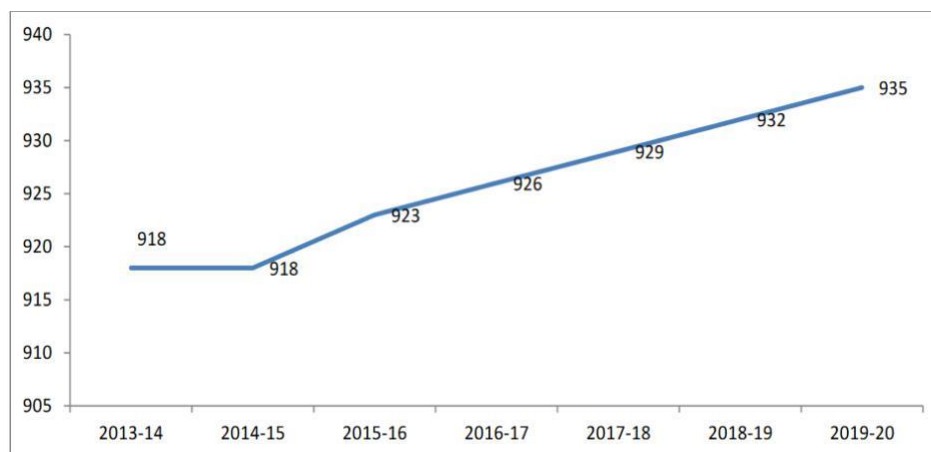
Objectives Of Paper

- Evaluate Changes in Child Sex Ratio (CSR)
- Assess Impact on Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of Female Students
- Examine Efforts to Combat Female Foeticide
- Identify Regional Variations Explore Challenges and Future Directions

EVALUATE CHANGES IN CHILD SEX RATIO (CSR)

Sex Ratio At Birth

Sex ratio is the ratio of females to males in a population. The “sex ratio at birth” which is defined as the number of girls born for every 1,000 boys born, is a more accurate and refined indicator of the extent of prenatal sex selection. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare had passed an act in 1994 as Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, which emphasized to stop female feticides and arrest the declining sex ratio in India. The act banned prenatal sex determination to promote the gender equality. Sex Ratio at Birth at all India level has increased by around 2 per cent from 918 (2013-14) to 935 (2019-20). Figure presents the trend of Sex Ratio at Birth at National level reported in HMIS during 2013-14 to 2019-20.



There are 12 States/UTs which has reported less than the national average of SBR (935). These include Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Haryana, Jharkhand, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Punjab, Gujarat, Bihar, Delhi, Nagaland and Daman & Diu. Figure 4.12 presents the States/UTswise sex ratio at birth as reported in HMIS during 2019-20.



Certainly, let's evaluate in detail the changes in Child Sex Ratio (CSR) in India, particularly in the context of the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative:

1. Pre-Initiative Scenario (Before 2015):

- Before the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative was started in 2015, India had a big problem with its CSR. This drop was thought to be because of deeply rooted cultural norms and preferences for boys.
- Because people wanted boys more than girls, the number of boys compared to girls was higher in some parts of the country than in others.

2. Impact of "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" on CSR:

In India, patriarchal social norms such as son preference and regressive power structures continue to pose hurdles for young girls in terms of survival and education, leading to multiple barriers and missed economic opportunities throughout their lives. According to the United Nations estimates between the years 2000 and 2020, India became one of the countries with the most skewed child sex ratio(CSR), driven by the after-effects of the abortion legislation and the introduction of prenatal diagnostic technology in the 1970s. The trend of sex-selective abortions saw an upward trajectory till about 2011 when India witnessed an overall high of 111 males per 100 females in the 2011 census. The "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative was made to help solve this problem by bringing more attention to the importance of equal rights for men and women and the value of girls.

To reach its goals, the initiative used a number of strategies, such as:

1. **Awareness Campaigns:** People were told about the effects of a skewed sex ratio through campaigns, seminars, and activities in the community. The goal of these campaigns was to change the way people felt about girls in society.
 2. **Policy Measures:** The government made it easier to register female births and stopped illegal sex tests and abortions based on the gender of the baby.
- Even though progress may be different from state to state and region to region, CSR has been said to be getting better in some areas. Some places, especially those that have always had low CSR, have seen good changes.
 - The initiative's effects are not the same in all states and regions, and some still have trouble with low CSR because of deeply rooted cultural norms and preferences for boys.



3. Changes in Societal Attitudes:

- "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" has done a lot to change the way people feel about girls in society. It has helped change people's minds so that the birth of a girl child is now more often celebrated than mourned.
- Families and communities have been encouraged by the initiative to see how important gender equality is and how good it is to have both boys and girls in society.

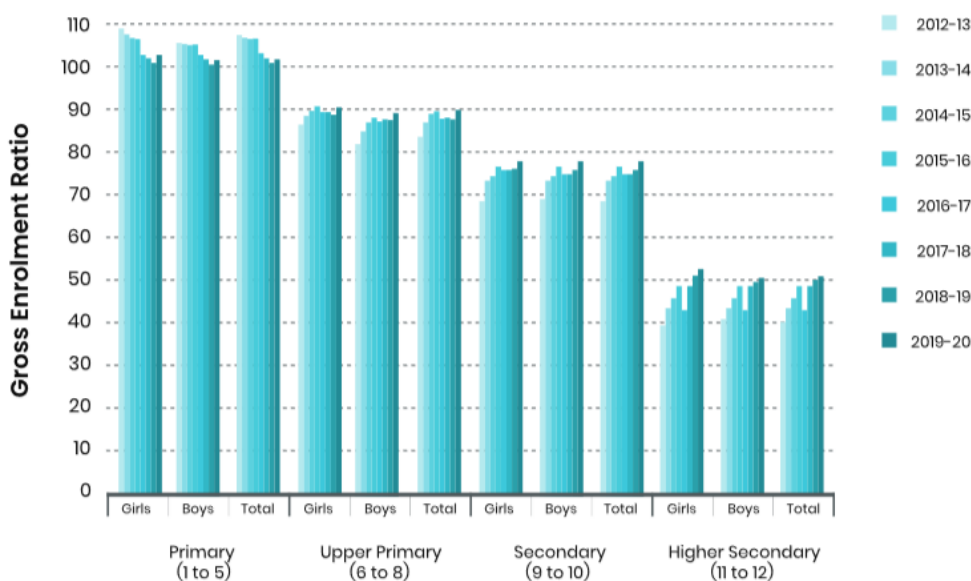
4. Challenges and Ongoing Issues:

- Even though things have improved, problems still exist. The initiative's effects are not the same in all states and regions, and some places still have trouble with low CSR.
- In some regions, deeply entrenched cultural norms and preferences for male children continue to pose challenges to achieving a balanced CSR.
- Continued work is needed to make sure that the good changes seen in some areas spread to the rest of the country.

ASSESS IMPACT ON GROSS ENROLLMENT RATIO (GER) OF FEMALE STUDENTS

Let's look closely at how the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign has changed the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of women in India:

GER by Gender and level of education, India 2012-13 to 2019-20



1. Financial Incentives and Scholarships:

- The goal of the project was to make it easier for girls who didn't have much money to go to school. Families got direct financial help from these incentives, especially in areas with low incomes.
- Scholarships were given to girls to help them go to school and stay there. These incentives were very important because they helped families save money and sent their daughters to school.
- Research shows that scholarships and other financial incentives have made a big difference in the number of women who go to college. This is especially true in places where girls' education was hard because they didn't have enough money.

2. Awareness Campaigns and Community Engagement:

- "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" put a lot of emphasis on awareness campaigns and getting people involved in their communities. The goal of these campaigns was to show parents, communities, and other people in the area how important it is for girls to go to school.
- The goal of the campaigns was to get rid of traditional gender biases and stereotypes that made it hard for girls to go to school. They talked about how educating girls is good for the girl, her family, her community, and the country as a whole.

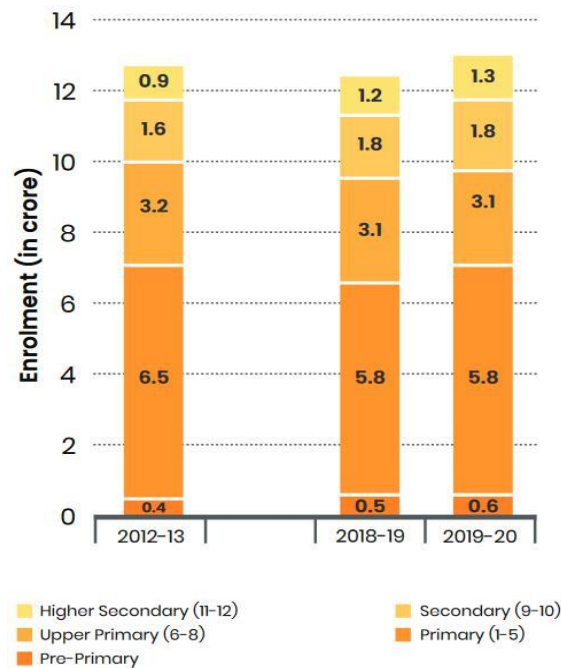


- Research shows that these campaigns to get people to think and act differently have changed how people think and act. More girls are going to school now because parents and communities are more open to the idea.

3. Impact on Enrollment Rates:

- More girls are going to school because of the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign, which is a good thing. Girls who had trouble going to school before now go to school regularly in many parts of India.
- More girls, especially in primary and secondary school, are now going to school because of the initiative. Families are taking steps to make sure their daughters go to school because they are becoming more aware of how important it is.

Enrolment of girls (in crore),India 2012-13, 2018-19 and 2019-20

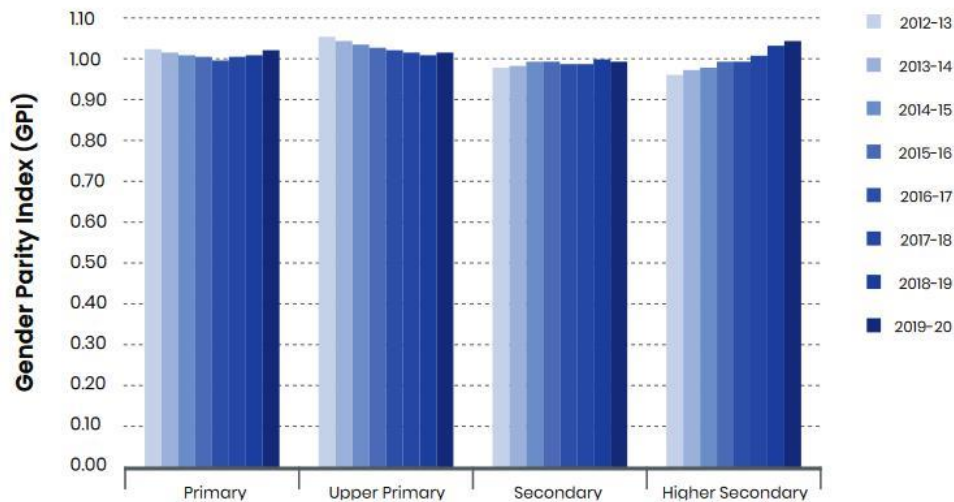


4. Reduction of Gender Disparities:

- One of the most important things the initiative has done is make it easier for girls and boys to get an education. In some places, the GER of female students in elementary and secondary school has not only caught up to that of male students, but has also passed it.

- Getting rid of these differences between men and women is an important step toward making education fair for both men and women. It shows progress in breaking the cycle of girls not being allowed to go to school because of their gender.

Gender Parity Index (GPI) of GER by level of education, India 2012-13 to 2019-20



5. Challenges and Ongoing Issues:

- Despite the good effects, problems still exist. Concerns about the quality of education for girls need to be looked at over and over again. Infrastructure, teacher training, and gender-sensitive curriculum that aren't up to par can all affect a girl's overall school experience.
- In rural and remote areas, challenges related to transportation and safety still hinder female enrollment, particularly at higher education levels.

3 . EXAMINE EFFORTS TO COMBAT FEMALE FOETICIDE

It wasn't until the early 1990s that India saw an increase in the accessibility and cost-effectiveness of ultrasound technology. This may have been one factor that led to an increase in the number of instances of female feticide. In the field of obstetrics, ultrasonography may be conducted either transvaginally or transabdominally. Either way, the goal is to look for a variety of signs that might indicate the gender of the developing foetus. After the 12th week of pregnancy, the procedure may be performed anytime the attending physician deems it necessary. According to studies that were carried out in 2001, it is feasible to ascertain the



gender of around 75 percent of fetuses at this time. The accuracy percentage of men is around 50 percent, but the accuracy rate of females is almost 100 percent. When carried out after the thirteenth week of pregnancy, ultrasonography almost always produces accurate findings.

Let's look at the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" programme in India to see what is being done to stop women from killing themselves:

1. Legal Measures and Enforcement:

- The "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative knew that strong laws and a way to make sure they were followed were needed to stop women from killing themselves. It was mostly about making it harder for people to get sex tests and abortions based on their sex.
- The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act of 1994 was a very important law in this area. The goal of this project was to make sure that doctors and clinics followed the rules of this act so that there were no illegal sex tests.

2. Increased Vigilance and Monitoring:

- As a result of the initiative, medical facilities became more careful and were watched more closely to stop illegal sex tests. Clinics that were thought to be doing these tests were often checked out by the government and sometimes even raided.
- People who were caught doing sex tests or sex-selective abortions were given harsh punishments and taken to court. The idea behind this deterrent was to keep doctors from breaking the law.

3. Raising Awareness:

- "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" also did a lot to make people aware of the legal and moral problems with female foeticide.
- People were told what the law says about female foeticide and how it affects society as a whole through awareness campaigns and community engagement programmes.

4. Encouraging Girl Child Birth:

- The goal of the initiative was to change the way people felt about having a girl child from sad to happy. This was supposed to make parents and communities think differently.



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- In some places, families who were happy to have a girl child were given money or other help. The goal of this method was to fight against stereotypes about girls that have been around for a long time.

5. Challenges and Ongoing Issues:

- Even though people have tried to stop it, female foeticide is still a deep-rooted and secret problem. In some places, it is still going on, but often happens in secret because of strict laws.
- Female foeticide is hard to completely stop because it happens in secret. Illegal activities need to be looked for and the people who do them need to be brought to justice.
- Getting at the root causes of female foeticide, like the preference for sons and the expectation of dowries, is still a difficult social problem that requires long-term changes in culture and attitudes.

IDENTIFY REGIONAL VARIATIONS, EXPLORE CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS "BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO"

The "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" (BBBP) initiative is a government programme in India that encourages girls to go to school and tries to increase the number of girls in schools compared to boys. It tries to show how unfair it is to treat men and women differently and how important it is for girls to go to school. We can break the response into several parts to look at the effects of BBBP, find out how they vary by region, and talk about challenges and plans for the future:

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao's Effects: The effects of BBBP can be very different in different parts of India. Since it began in 2015, it has had some good results, like more girls going to school and a smaller gap between the number of boys and girls in schools. But not all states and regions have felt the same effects. Some states have come farther along than others. To figure out how well the programme works, it is important to look at these differences.

Regional Variations:

- **States with Positive Impact:**How many girls and boys go to school has changed a lot in places like Haryana, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh. Families in these areas have been encouraged through awareness campaigns and financial incentives to have more girls and send them to school.



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- **Challenges in Northern States:** Even though some things have gotten better, northern states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar still have trouble with gender bias and getting girls to school, even though there have been some improvements. Social and economic differences in these states have been around for a long time and make it hard for BBBP to work.
 - **Southern States:** In the past, the number of boys and girls in each class and in schools in southern states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu was more equal. Even though BBBP has less of an effect in these states, it still helps keep positive attitudes about girls' education.

Challenges:

- **Deep-Rooted Social Norms:** One of the biggest problems with BBBP is that in some places, the idea that boys are better than girls is deeply ingrained in society. Getting people to change their minds will take time and campaigns to make them more aware.
- **Economic Factors:** Economic differences can make it harder for BBBP to work. Due to lack of money, families may put more emphasis on the education of boys than girls. It is important to deal with these economic problems.
- **Effective Implementation:** How well BBBP is put into place at the local level determines how well it works. It is very important to keep track of the programme and make sure it reaches the people it was meant for.

Future Directions:

- **Community Engagement:** The focus of future work should be on getting local communities and leaders involved in changing deeply held beliefs and attitudes about gender. This can be done through workshops, events in the community, and programmes that make people aware.
- **Financial Incentives:** Getting families to send their daughters to school can be made easier by giving them financial incentives and scholarships.
- **Quality Education:** It is important to make sure that education is good. BBBP should not only focus on getting girls into school, but also on making their education better overall.
- **Data-Driven Approaches:** Policymakers will be able to make better decisions and keep track of the program's progress if they keep collecting and analysing data on the number of boys and girls per child and the education of girls.



Conclusion

In conclusion, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao has done a lot to improve the ratio of girls to boys among children, help girls get an education, and deal with the problem of female foeticide in India. But the effects are not the same in all areas, and problems still exist, especially in places where deeply rooted social norms and economic factors continue to affect how people act. To keep and improve the good effects of BBBP, it is important to keep raising awareness, putting in place effective policies, and getting local communities involved. Also, making sure that female students get a good education is important if we want them to have a better future. Lastly, laws need to be strictly enforced and the whole society needs to change to stop women from killing themselves.

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