

CHAPTER-6

RESULTS OF FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD's)

Introduction

The present chapter deals with the results related to focus group discussions. In all, 4 (Four) FGDs were conducted during this research. The purpose behind these FGDs was to attain a deeper insight into the problem of “Skewed Sex Ratio” in Mahesana district in particular and Gujarat state in general. These four FGDs provided more qualitative data. In these FGDs participants comprised of opinion leaders, social activists, SHG members, PRI members, Health functionaries and ICPD functionaries.

Results of the discussion have been described under the following heads:-

a) Perceptions of the participants on the problem of declining sex ratio in Gujarat.

- 1) Majority of the participants were found to be aware about the problem of declining sex ratio in Gujarat state.
- 2) Modern sex determination tests, female foeticide, son preference, religious factors and dowry were some of the important factors identified by the participants in the discussion which were found to be responsible for the problem of “Missing Girls” in the society.
- 3) Majority of the participants underlined son preference and religious factors as responsible for the decline in the number of girls in society.
- 4) Few respondents highlighted economic, socio-cultural and psychological advantages in son preference over girls. Like, economically son supports the parents in old age & after marriage the son brings dowry to home.

- 5) Few participants underlined socio-cultural factors responsible for son preference such as continuation of family line, increase in the status in the society etc.
- 6) Majority of the participants mentioned the factors for not wanting the girl child in the family namely insecurity in old age, considering girl child as liability, social insecurity, problem of dowry etc.

b) Opinions of the participants on family size and family composition.

- 1) Majority of the participants were found to be aware about the issue of family size and family composition.
- 2) Almost all the participants highlighted that the desired family size was of two children in a family, i.e. one boy and one girl child.
- 3) Very few respondents mentioned that they were happy with girl child in terms of their number.
- 4) Most of the participants were found to be aware about family planning methods and practices. As a result of this awareness many of the parents wanted at least one boy child.
- 5) A minority of the participants mentioned that they liked to have only son child in their family in terms of their number.

c) Perceptions of the participants about dowry

- 1) Dowry was found to be one of the factors responsible for the declining sex ratio by the participants in conducted FGD.
- 2) Almost all the participants mentioned dowry as a social problem which led to harassment of girls and women. Very few stated referred to dowry as a normal cultural practice.
- 3) Majority of the respondents in the discussion opposed dowry system by highlighting various measures such as expansion of literacy, creating awareness about ill effects of dowry in society, not to take dowry and not give dowry and giving equal status to boy and girl child etc.

d) Opinions of the participants on abortion and sex determination tests & techniques.

- 1) A good number of participants agreed that abortions and sex determination tests and techniques were responsible for female foeticide which in turn resulted in the declining number of girls in the society.
- 2) It was stated by the participants that in their areas many such illegal activities related with abortion and sex determination tests were found to be prevalent, with few private clinics conducting such activities hiddenly.
- 3) Majority of the participants were aware about the ultra sound technique of sex determination. They also underlined that such tests were conducted to detect any problem or position of unborn child and also to find the sex of the foetus.

- 4) Many of the respondents said that they came to know about such tests and techniques from their friends, doctors, nurses, ANM, ASHA, Anganwadi worker etc.

e) Perceptions of the participants about migration.

- 1) Majority of the participants highlighted that migration was factor which directly and indirectly contributed for the problem of declining sex ratio.
- 2) Various reasons were highlighted by participants for migration process like education, business, and employment etc.

f) Opinions of the participants in terms of solving the problem of declining sex ratio in Gujarat.

- 1) Many solutions were stated by the participants such as education for girls, rigid implementation of various laws; complete ban on clinics who conduct sex determination tests and sex selective abortions; no gender discrimination etc.

G) Opinions of the participants on consequences of the problem of declining sex ratio on society.

- 1) All the participants in discussion stated that declining sex ratio is creating negative consequences for society.
- 2) Most of the participants mentioned the negative consequences of declining sex ratio such as increase in sexual crimes, decrease in status of women, polyandrous marriage, and involuntary bachelor hood for men.

H) Perceptions of the participants about various laws and MTP and PNDT issues

- 1) Very few participants in the discussion were found to be aware about the MTP and PNDT Act. But almost all of them said that sex selective abortion is illegal and punishable under the law.

Conclusion:-

From the above results of the FGDs it was observed that the above obtained results showed common similarities in terms of responses which were collected through interview schedules. This provides a strong justifiable base for the data or information collected from the respondents.