

FEMALE INFANTICIDE AND KILLING WOMEN FOR GIVING BIRTH TO A BABY GIRL

-A CASE STUDY OF PAKISTAN-

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Abstract

This paper analyses the educational, social, domestic, humanitarian aspects of the discrimination, sexual violation, and murdering women with the pretext of "honor" as well as killing women for giving birth to a baby-girl, female infanticide i.e. killing of the newborn baby-girls, abortion of female fetuses, besides physiological suppression of women. These are some of the discriminations exacted upon women especially in the Third World countries and South Asia particularly in Pakistan because of misconceptions and distorted cultural elements. Social conservatism is prominent in various segments of the Pakistani society by barring women from receiving basic and advanced education, hindering upward mobility of women in public sphere, and providing lesser or limited opportunities for women in the community. It is unfortunate that a woman is oft considered as a mere instrument of reproduction that functions for making and expanding families. A greater segment of society esteem and rejoice with the birth of a baby boy over the birth of baby girl. A newborn baby girl is regarded as a bad omen, financial burden, as well as a symbol of potential disgrace and disrespect for the entire family. The number of murder cases of women who are killed for giving birth to a baby-girl, female infanticides (killings of newborn baby-girls), and abortion of the newborn baby-girls occasionally make the headlines in Pakistan and the South Asia in general.

The paper highlights situations from comparative studies conducted among the Muslim and non-Muslim societies with reference of murdering women on giving birth to a baby-girl and female infanticides. Expressing a number of reasons, challenges and suggestions, the paper aims for discussing and analyzing the challenges, critical facts and problems that arrests the freedom, rights and honor of women to the extent of resorting to murdering them and their newborn.

Descriptive-analytical methodology is used in this research to describe the situations and analyze them with arguments.

Another purpose of this paper is to define and examine the pivotal role of women in the society as a mother, sister, and daughter but most importantly as an individual herself in order to bring better changes and improvements to her status. The researcher seeks ways to initiate for changes in people's perceptions from conservatism to moderation. In light of such discussions, and facts, answers are sought to a number of challenges as how we may strive for reducing weaknesses in women's societal roles and status in the progressive and developing societies of the 21st century which are also delineated by utter existence of poverty, communal divisions by different religious sects, tribes, cultures and an assortment of living standards regionally and worldwide. Most importantly, this is to be taken into consideration as the current Pakistani and regional societies are male chauvinist, and women are not deemed as equal to men. While the globalized world has come a long way by numerous inventions, continuous scientific progress, incredible discoveries in micro and macro scales, and founding of various state and non-state international humanitarian organizations for giving a louder voice for the rights of women worldwide, the development of human minds, thinking, perceptions and universal values such as respect and equality for all lags well far behind. It is concluded in the paper that the freedom and protection of women need to bring changes in the minds and perceptions of the people to result in permanent positive changes in their attitudes and values.

Keywords: Female Infanticide, Pakistan South Asia, Muslims and Non-Muslim Societies

1-INTRODUCTION

The subjugating behavior towards women, killings and discrimination on women's rights are as old as the human history exists. While the world is currently passing through an age of science and educational, political, cultural and economic modernization, globalization and openness, women are deprived of their fundamental and human rights including access to education, individual and equal representation in a society, and freedom in making decisions on their own for their education, career and founding a family by marriage.

Women's deprivation and discrimination of their rights is prominent in different societies, in the East and West or in emerging and developed nations where different religions, cultures, beliefs and traditions exist. Some discriminations are taken down as realities and established in a way visible to all, while some discriminations exist but are accepted accordingly to one's belief; otherwise, the victimized person or people might not take it as discrimination.

In some parts of the developing or the Third World countries, women are secluded from education and are subjected to lead ignorant and poor lives. They are entirely dependent on a man for financial means that would run a household. Such women's visions about life, thinking and decision making power is restricted. They are not free even in making one of the most vital decisions of their lives i.e. their marriage to a man decision of their own choice. This being the case, having their lives focused on home and children while suffering with poor health and having inadequate or no education, women are compelled to lead depressed lives, devoid of their basic human rights. This scenario applies to numerous educated women who face similar issues in terms of their own decisions on professional life, marriage and domestic affairs. Wrapped in socio-cultural cocoons that are shaped by the common beliefs in the society, women from all lifestyles undergo occasional restrictions and hardships. Especially women in the third world countries are predominantly domestic, enclosed to their homes and families, more dependent on others, less educated or having no education as well as economically and socially weak units of society, as having not much individual importance. Reasons behind this lies first in the general discrimination trend against women that exists around the world based on gender male domination and the gender competitive relationship and second in the religious misconceptions, cultural and social beliefs including the matters relevant to their honor and dignity in society and exclusive communities. In the Third World, women are discriminated in numerous ways: not allowing them to have basic and/or further education; forcing them to get married once they are teenagers; giving them less preference in education and lesser priority in choosing life profession over the male; providing them with less facilities in life compared to the male; killing them in name of 'honor' and on marrying by their own choice; expressing grief and sorrow on the birth of a baby-girl; allowing them less representation at social, public and professional level; providing them lesser wages of equal labor to a man; subjecting to them stress in married life and over-burden of many children at a very young age and so on. Thus, women are discriminated and exploited in every lifestyle by all aspects including dominant social position of a man, culture, social and religious beliefs.

Similar to the Eastern and/or developing countries, in various Western countries too discrimination against women and exploitation of women rights are observed in isolated cases. However, the nature of the matter over there differs from the developing countries. In the West, women are socially free, educated and moderate in thinking, daily routine life and decisions. The bare injustices observed in the East are not socially available in the West, i.e. women are not victimized by less education, young-age and forced marriages, honor killings, and killing newly born baby-girls with the pretext of potential harm to family honor. Western society, as a free and open environment where woman is independent and equally treated as males, does not implement discrimination in terms of education, politics, and social representation of women. Yet, women in the West are regarded less secure regarding their self-respect and dignity. Considering the high rates of sexual harassment and divorce compared to the developing countries, Western societies are challenged by the dissonance in the family and social setup. Additional challenges to the West include the low marriage rates, high rates of extramarital relations and children born without wedlock, economic and financial problems leading to family disintegrations, all of which lead to substantial disturbance of harmony in social setup in a manner higher than the developing countries. In Western scholarly and social point of view, the mentioned points are not termed as discriminations; however, from humanitarian point of view, these lead us to realize that women are occasionally deemed as commodity and thus individual and social respect shown to them is intermittent contrary to their

importance to a society and a family.

The issue of violating human rights of women and depriving them of their fundamental rights exists in both the developing and the developed countries. While in developing countries, men dominate women and cultural, religious and traditional beliefs work effectively against women, in developed countries where society and women are completely free, women are still inhibited by men who abuse, harass, manipulate and erode them. What sets the difference between these societies from the East and the West is different religious, cultural and social beliefs and structures; however, discrimination against women and depriving them of rights and human dignity is quite similar in both.

In Pakistan and the other South Asian countries, discrimination against women increase more and more to the extent of killing or maiming them for life out of grudge. Killing women because of sexual violence, with the pretext of 'cleansing a family's or a man's honor', for giving birth to a baby-girl, domestic violence, and the female infanticide are the growing issues of such underdeveloped and ultra-conservative societies.

To bring out the social and political importance of women role to the fore, the paper describes the discrimination and violation of the rights of women in Pakistan and the South-Asian countries, with particular focus on the Muslim and the non-Muslim societies in order to express reasons, facts, challenges and suggestions to this issue. Women are the primary elements of a society that give life and education to the new generation.

2- WOMEN KILLINGS ON HONOR, FOR GIVING BIRTH TO A BABY-GIRL AND FEMALE INFANTICIDE

Pakistan is a socially conservative country, where religious beliefs do not only shape her culture and traditions but also determine her social, political, economic and cultural functions, policies, decisions and systems. Pakistan is a male-dominated Muslim society where particularly in matters relating to women high conservatism and restrictions are common. Currently, the violation and discrimination of women's rights including less or no education, less political representation, killing women on honor, for giving birth to baby-girls, the female infanticide, killings by the domestic violence, killings by sexual violence etc. are the severe immoral crimes that are growing rapidly in Pakistan.¹ According to the human rights commission in Pakistan, from January 2012 to September 2013, there were also 90 acid attacks made on women, 72 cases of burning caused by other means, 491 cases of domestic violence, 344 cases of gang rape and 835 cases of violence etc.²

In Pakistan, majority of people live in family and tribe system and they are interconnected with and dependent on each other in very close set of relations. Male children are favoured over girl children and baby-girls mainly due to the parents' and the entire family's financial dependency in future would be on the male-child. In addition, male-children are considered stronger mentally and physically. Due to the social conservatism, girls are supposed to be married early but not be allowed to take active part in social activities and education, the birth of female-girls are welcomed with tears and deep sorrow; because their birth is considered as a sign of disrespect and financial burden. Females are occasionally considered as financially unfeasible members of their families.

The female infanticide has showed a soar in Pakistan for the last five years due to multi-dimensional social, religious, political, economic and cultural reasons. In a case witnessed in Karachi, the most populated city of the 180-million Pakistan, a newborn girl was killed by her father with the pretext of poverty, while male children have been cherished and protected by all means, trusting in their potential as breadwinners. Among the reasons cited for female infanticide are poverty, joblessness, mere idea of repulsion towards baby girls, family pride in the society or in a private community, fear to honor and respect, considering females/girls as financial burden, and illegitimate birth. These are actually the beliefs that are collectively responsible for female infanticide. There are occasional news reports about little corpses of newborn girls found dumped on dirt-heaps. According to the estimated figures provided by the Edhi Foundation, the largest humanitarian welfare organization in Pakistan, state the number of newborn baby corpses picked by their ambulances increased by almost twenty

¹ Infanticide is on the Rise in Pakistan <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/1/14/infanticides-on-the-rise-in-pakistan.html>

² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/636971/56-women-killed-in-2013-for-giving-birth-to-girls/>

percent since 2010³ as in 2009. The toll of female infanticide was reported as 1000; this increased in 2010 to 1200, ringing alarm bells for the country's situation on human and women rights.⁴

The increasing reason for female infanticide is the illegitimate birth of a child. Being an Islamic society, Pakistani social order regards the illegitimate children as "*Harami*"— an Arabic word meaning, "illicit" or "prohibited by Islam". Also marginally used as an abusive term, the word "*Harami*" labels illegitimate children as well as the parents with disrespect and makes it impossible for them to lead a dignified life in the society. Thus, people who actually want to hide their sin and keep respect in the society kill their children born out of wedlock or because of sexual violence.

The abortions of the female-babies whether legal or illegal are on increase. According to the health survey findings by the non-profitable Guttmacher Institute, almost 200,000 are being hospitalized in Pakistan each year because of complications due to illegal abortions. The Edhi Foundation has established four-hundred locations in order to save the illegitimate children from death and to bring such children up in good and home environment on humanitarian basis. However, in 2014 until now, only 18 illegitimate children are dropped live at Edhi centers while about 1300 female baby corpses were buried by the Foundation in 2013. In this regard, the Edhi Foundation seems to have a minor success because of the strong conservative beliefs on society that rarely asks support rather than killing sinless babies. Pakistani society in general does not accept the illegitimate children as social connections and family dignity are two important points gauging one's position in the society.

In Pakistan, no strict law exists to stop the female infanticide, killing of illegal children. Such crimes are not reported because such incidents are not harming the people and consider as a disgraceful and shameful act. Even the police do not bother to investigate such crimes, firstly for them it is difficult to catch the guilty persons among so populated areas and secondly the police is taking bribes from the guilty people.⁵

Yet another ruthless trend that hits the headlines is the killing of women on giving birth to a baby-girl. No doubt, such acts are based on ignorance of those who do not realize the fact that it is not in a woman's hand to shape the genes of a baby in her womb. According to the human rights reports in Pakistan, almost fifty-six women were killed on giving birth to a baby-girl rather than a boy-child.⁶ Likewise Pakistan, in Afghanistan where Islamic culture and traditions exist, an Afghan woman was killed in the north-east province of Kunduz by her husband and mother-in-law on giving birth to a third female-baby child. The incident was condemned by the religious leaders of the Kunduz area. For Afghans, the birth of a female-baby is equal to death; yet over there, ratio of female infanticide, selective abortions and killings of women on giving birth to female-baby is relatively low or do not exist. Interconnected in tribes, having large families and being a conservative Islamic society, Afghans consider killing women with such a pretext against Islamic education and believe on having more children.⁷ In Afghanistan, there is a great lack of health facilities for women that resulting by providing one out of eleven chances of dying in childbirth. The rate of illiteracy and ignorance is very high in the country. According to the Afghan law, the authorized age for a women marriage is 16 and 60 to 80 percent marriages are forced marriages.⁸ India, teeming with significantly conservative and populated rural and town societies, hits the headlines more recently with abusive practices towards women. For instance, the husband and his parents burned his wife on giving birth to a baby-girl in 2012⁹ and a similar incident happened in the city of Bandra, where the husband killed her wife with the help of his parents on giving birth to a baby-child.¹⁰

South Asia is a geography of developing countries where women are discriminated for the same reasons like in Pakistan. This is because the countries in the region are predominantly conservative in terms of culture,

³ Infanticide is on the Rise in Pakistan <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/1/14/infanticides-on-the-rise-in-pakistan.html>

⁴ Killings of infants on Rise in Pakistan <http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/asiapcf/07/20/pakistan.infanticide/>

⁵ Infanticide is on the Rise in Pakistan <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/1/14/infanticides-on-the-rise-in-pakistan.html>

⁶ <http://www.lifenews.com/2013/11/26/56-women-killed-in-pakistan-in-2013-because-they-gave-birth-to-girls/>

⁷ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-16787534>

⁸ <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/poll-five-most-dangerous-countries-for-women/>

⁹ <http://defence.pk/threads/indian-woman-burnt-to-death-for-giving-birth-to-girls.168245/page-5>

¹⁰ <http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/upset-over-girl-child-man-assaults-wife/>

traditions and beliefs. Even though, Islam does not define social conservatism in the geography, social conservatism in various forms – even with the pretext of religion – is witnessed at large.

Similar to Pakistan, India and China too show high rates of discrimination towards women and their rights, female infanticide, and female fetus abortions. Sharing an extensive border and past with Pakistan, India displays common culture, values, language, mind setup, traditions, conservatism, and extremism in thinking and actions with Pakistan. To illustrate, a number of Hindu religious, cultural and traditional groups consider females as disgraceful and as a bad sign to their fortune and financial burden. Today still, in many backward and uneducated parts of India, the newborn girls are buried alive in earthenware pots or graves often immediately after their birth. Extreme poverty and high dowry are other reasons behind female-infanticide. Poverty drives majority of people to killing their own daughters as newborn or young, as they are financially not able to spend in their daughters' marriages in the face of high demands of dowry from suitors. India also quoted as a superstitious country where women are killed with the pretext of bringing bad luck.¹¹ Numerous Indian rural women believe that killing a daughter would guarantee a son in their next pregnancy.¹² The ratio of women killings through domestic violence and sexual violence is very high. Indian women are subject to abuse and extreme beatings, as well as substantially deprived of good health, adequate education and literacy, proper standard of life, comfortable domestic life and high and valued social, political and economic position. India is socially and religiously divided into a caste system that distributes people into different superiority categories on racial basis. In this hierarchy, women are considered inferior and weak units of the Indian society while the country itself is termed as the largest democracy on earth and an emerging economic giant. According to the United Nations, India is the fourth in the world in terms of women rights violations and discriminations. In India, due to much poverty and societal traditions the majority women are taking meals after their husbands and children have finished, often they are passing with hunger and malnutrition.¹³

The selective abortion of the female fetuses is common in India in order to reduce the number of females comparatively to the male child mainly in order to not establish the marriage problems that can affect the society negatively by increasing different crimes rates. For instance, German Government offering nationality to those who marry German women, since in Germany females are in majority over males. Similar to almost all other countries of Europe, the ratio of the female population in Germany is higher than the male population; while in South Asia the growth rate of females is being controlled by killing them through abortions, domestic and sexual violence, insufficient health facilities and killing them on giving birth to baby-girls. Because in the South Asia the sons are preferred over the daughters due to the existed conservative social and political system where man is highly dominant over women.¹⁴

Besides India, female killings through abortions, female infanticide are common in China and North Korea as well. In both the countries, the baby-boys are preferred over the female girls due to traditional values and culture. In case of China, the other reason of female infanticide is to get control over the growing population by adopting the "one-child" policy.¹⁵ In China, "the policy of one child" was adopted in 1979 in order to develop the population in certain limits to overcome the challenges resulted by natural disasters and to provide better and sufficient food and better life facilities to the people. Being having an ancient civilization and traditions in China, the Chinese people are giving preference to the baby-boys over the female-girls as they are supposing the baby-boys as best supporters of their old age. While at the government level, the Chinese government has introduced

¹¹MIL Pushed DIL Off A Balcony – For Daring To Give Birth To A Baby

Girl <http://www.mommyish.com/2013/02/12/discrimination-of-women-india/#ixzz32F0oLqVb>

¹²THE BURDEN OF WOMANHOOD: THIRD WORLD, SECOND CLASS, Washington Post , April 25, 1993

By JOHN WARD ANDERSON AND MOLLY MOORE

<http://acc6.its.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~phalsall/texts/chinwomn.html>

¹³MIL Pushed DIL Off A Balcony – For Daring To Give Birth To A Baby

Girl <http://www.mommyish.com/2013/02/12/discrimination-of-women-india/#ixzz32F0oLqVb>

¹⁴Census of India: Provisional Population Totals 2011: India: Census 2011. (2011). doi:http://censusindia.gov.in/2011-prov-results/data_files/india/pov_popu_total_presentation_2011.pdf

¹⁵UNFPA. Report of the International Workshop on Skewed Sex Ratios at Birth: Addressing the Issue and the Way Forward. doi: http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2012/Report_SexRatios_2012.pdf

the Marriage Law and the Women Protection Law in order to prohibit the female infanticide.¹⁶

The trend of female infanticide exists almost in all the countries of the world but it is tremendously high in China and India. Almost 60 million to 100 million female children are missing in the South Asia region. As 30.5 million females are "missing" in China, 22.8 million in India, 3.1 million in Pakistan, 1.6 million in Bangladesh, 1.7 million in West Asia, 600,000 in Egypt, and 200,000 in Nepal. The data of missing females is so alarming that heralds a potential unbalanced demographic change in the South-Asian region with so many social and political problems.¹⁷

3- WOMEN KILLINGS IN MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM SOCIETIES

When divided into the Muslim and the Non-Muslim societies, the world demographics display two different religions, cultures, traditions and social beliefs. In spite of differences between these two societies, the female infanticide exists in both but with less or more rates. Even the most liberal, modernized and educated societies who propagate their belief in human and democratic values as well as dignity and equality fail to protect themselves fully from female infanticide.

Among the Muslim countries, Pakistan and Somalia are prominent in the female infanticide. Other than these two countries, quite rare infanticide cases occur in the Muslim world. In Pakistan, majority of female infanticide cases are through abortions for removing illegitimate children and due to the social conservativeness; yet in that context, the ratio of female-baby killings is less compared to India and China. The Punjab province of Pakistan comes to the fore in such incidents; Punjab shares a long border as well as common traditions, beliefs and culture with India's Rajasthan province. Before the 1947 Partition of India and Pakistan, the Muslims, Sikhs and the Hindus had lived together for almost hundred years that deep affected one another in culture, traditions and thinking. Thus, women killings on giving birth to the baby-girl in majority hit the headlines originate from the Punjab province of Pakistan.¹⁸ In Somalia, the decades long civil war brought along extreme poverty and an immense ratio of illegitimate sexual relations that result in abortion of children including female-girls. Other than these reasons, especially in the Pakistani conservative society, the birth of girls are deemed as sign of bad-luck and disrespect; yet very few opt for abortion for this purpose.

In non-Muslim societies, the illegal sexual relations and illegal childbirth are the main reasons behind the female infanticide mainly through abortion – even though in the name of family planning, abortions are 'legally' conducted in various countries; otherwise, the reasons for killing infants is not because of beliefs, cultural, traditional, financial problems like the closed and conservative Islamic societies. Non-Muslim societies differ from Muslim societies in the manner of openness and personal, social, and financial freedom as well as future perspectives. In Muslim and Eastern societies, parents bring up their children with the hope that in old age their children will support them. Ranking as the eleventh in the world regarding the homicide rate in the twenty-first century, United States classifies infanticide equal to homicide¹⁹ While female infanticide is common in all societies be they Muslims or non-Muslims with different reasons. As an example to how social development would reflect on lowering female infanticide may be shown from Europe of Middle Ages when female infanticide was the most common crime until to the eighteen century; with the advancement of the modern technology, this is no longer the case.²⁰

4- REASONS AND IMPACTS

1-Women play a pivotal role in the society being a mother, sister, daughter and a wife. Without her, a society cannot grow and extend its generations. The childbirth, children's upbringing, their moral and school education as well as safeguarding their good health are among the basic responsibilities of mothers that they are fulfilling in almost each society in a satisfactory way. Besides the children responsibilities, women are playing an

¹⁶http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/abortion/medical/infanticide_1.shtml

¹⁷<http://www.infanticide.org/history.htm>

¹⁸<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/poll-five-most-dangerous-countries-for-women/>

¹⁹<http://www.infanticide.org/history.htm>

²⁰<http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/infanticide.aspx>

important in organizing and running the household. The question is: With the realization of women's importance in our societies, what are those complexes, beliefs, cultures and traditions on which basis men suppress, discriminate and kill women in a violent way and how can these violent elements be overcome?

As aforementioned, the South-Asian countries are more religious, conservative, and have closed and restrictive cultures and traditions. Almost all the countries have male-dominated societies where the birth of a baby-boy is deemed as a sign of good luck and cause great happiness. In the meanwhile, baby-girls are killed by adopting different methods of female infanticide such as abortions, live burial or by physical torture. Mothers are put to death for giving birth to a baby-girl. Western points of view consider the reason behind these as religious conservatism; however, all the religions including Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Sikhism educate and preach their followers for not killing the females, rather to treat them kindly and sustain happy families. Islam terms infanticide as a habit of the dark ages before the revelation of the Holy Qur'an and the prophet hood of Muhammad (PBUH); and it strictly prohibits the killing of children with the pretext of poverty or any other reason. Thus, the social conservatism to kill a female child or women for giving birth to a baby-girl do not come from the tenets of Islam or any other religion; rather, it originates from the norms of society and the people's beliefs. This also springs from lack of religious knowledge, overall ignorance and sometimes from having no other choice in the face of social or economic hardships.

Such violent and discriminatory incidents against women widen the gender gap, causing negative effects on asociety freedom, democratic and equality norms, accelerating the active role of human-rights supporters and organizations resultantly that is actually infuriating a country's wrong image abroad, negatively affecting the efficiency, work and role of women who actively work in social and political level. Moreover, such incidents that are not reported to and investigated by the police penetrate in the culture and traditions of the society and may result in more dangerous consequences in the future.

It is very hard to change the minds of the people who are in favor to kill women for any reason, yet the problem of women killings can be overcome by initiating job opportunity programs, income and beneficiary allowances, providing free or inexpensive medical and education facilities, providing religious knowledge and by increasing the role of the law.

2- As far as the Pakistani society is concerned, four different cultures are represented in four different provinces i.e. Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan and KhyberPakhtoonkhwa. The cultural impact is visible on the ratio of crimes committed against women. The Punjab that is the most populated province where Punjabis live in majority have a culture that similar to the Indian culture by asking heavy dowryfrom girls on marriages, celebrating the baby-boy birth by drumbeats and songs. Killing of women by domestic violence, on giving birth to a baby-girl and through abortions are in high ratio in Punjab as compared to other provinces. In the province of Pakhtoons, namely KhyberPakhtoonkhwa, the culture is similar to Afghanistan where women is killed in the name of honor and respect, but hardly any or no case is available of women killed through domestic violence, dowry issue, for giving birth to the female-child and abortions because of poverty, dislike, feeling of burden; but due to a child's birth out of wedlock. In Sindh and Baluchistan where the tribe system and the feudal system are common, women killings are in the name of honor and few or no killings are found on domestic violence, on giving birth to a baby-girl. Therefore, all the provinces of Pakistan should adopta balanced approach towards public knowledge, religious and scientific education, lessen the effects of external culture on the society like in case of the Punjab province and should developa Muslim and socialculture that conveys the message of equality, peace and love. Now that the world is dynamically globalized, keen to moderation and openness, basic human virtues which are common to all faiths and traditions such as love, tolerance, reconciliation, family ties and sanctity of life should cherished by all. This is especially important to streamline and rehabilitate male-dominated cultures and understandings in all geographies be they in the East or the West; in the same vein with cherishing universal human principles, human dignity and self-respect should be promoted by religious beliefs to disseminate these across various lifestyles.

3- In India, social conservativeness, ignorance and less or no education and to the great extent poverty plays an important role in female infanticide and in killings of women on giving birth to a baby-girl. India's high population growth rate brings along problems of adequate resource allocation to all segments of the society which has caste system –obligingmajority of people to lead lives based on a uniform pattern, poor standards and devoid of

basic facilities befits a dignified human being. In case of China, behind female infanticide, the population control policy, poverty and the cultural preference to boys, exists. In both the countries the female infanticide causes a great demographic change that makes an imbalance shift in gender population that in long future can cause a problem of generation expansion.

The problems of poverty, lack of education and illiteracy can be removed by constant struggle; this will spell difficult for countries like India and China which are constantly haunted by the overpopulation problem. Just as these countries introduce various strategies to tackle with the issues, however, reducing the female infanticide will necessarily come by delving into the reasons why the trend of female infanticide has been prevalent.

4-Female infanticide also exists in other countries of the South-Asia including Nepal, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Indonesia. As compared to the European and the non-Muslim societies, South-Asian female infanticides, women killings through domestic violence and sexual violation and on giving birth to a female child are more in ratio. The reason behind the extensive gap between the Muslim and non-Muslim societies is not religious beliefs but the nature of poverty and disturbed social circumstances. As predominantly underdeveloped or developing nations, South Asian countries follow on the path of domestic and regional cultures and norms shaped through centuries in a restricted way to maintain overall peace, filial respect and life. With such a backdrop, in countries like Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, women bear the brunt of every kind of violence since they do not wish to be public shamed by the 'stigma' of divorce. Divorced women face various social problems, especially in getting married for the second time. Women prefer tolerating violence for the benefit of their children's future. Women of South Asia are non-violent and often make sacrifices throughout their lives for their husbands and children as well as the other family members in a joint family system, just to maintain the integrity of their homes in love and peace. On the contrary, family ties in the West are swiftly eroded as the concept of a strong and united family is not so well flourished.

5-In the backdrop of the idea of the clash of civilizations, women are treated differently by Muslim and the Non-Muslim societies. However, women are extensively victimized in both the societies in a variety of ways; in both societies male dominance does not project the gender equality. Yet, urban scenarios in both societies and from the past decades, women are getting stronger, self-sufficient and progressive in society, politics, and economy. They get more educated and in the future their increasing social involvement as well as the awareness disseminated by the media and human rights and other social organizations possibly will assist overcoming all discriminations and violence against women.

5- CONCLUSION

The growing number of female infanticide and women killings on giving birth to a female child, women killings in the name of honor, by domestic violence, sexual violation, and forced marriages starkly cause socially, democratically, and politically unbalanced demographic and gender population problems. Moreover, the societies where gender unbalances exist tend to become more disturbed in social and political aspects as well as may register slower progress with extreme social stress. Currently, countries with gender inequality records are marked as democratically immature and high rates of human and women rights violations stain the country's name abroad. While discrimination against women and their killing happen all around the world, the rates of violations set the difference. Discrimination against women should actually be tackled as accompanied with strict laws and practical implementation, active political role of human and women rights organizations, free or inexpensive delivery of education and medical facilities to especially the poor, women and men alike.