



Society without Women

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During the last few years we have all seen a huge furore over the declining sex ratio in the country at large and even worse for a progressive state like Maharashtra including a metropolitan city like Mumbai. There are of course multiple reasons for that, but chiefly the female foeticide and the Doctor's role in the same has come under severe criticism. NGOs, Media, Government, and Judicial bodies have all condemned the Doctor's role left right and center. The reaction has led to many of our colleagues facing bad music for simple mistakes in paper work while dealing with these patients. The doctors, including all their associations had to launch or promote the "BETI BACHAO ANDOLAN" voluntarily or otherwise, to be seen to the right side of the society and at the same time fighting for the legitimate rights of its members. Though probably a handful were involved, our entire profession has come under the moral scanner of being greedy, unethical and criminals of society. I sympathise with the society at the loss of the female child but equally also with the doctors who are being made scapegoat for the mistakes of a few. I would like to stress

on the "BETI BACHAO ANDOLAN" from our end too, not to safeguard our backs, but also as a responsible citizen who understands the importance of the sex ratio more than anyone else. We should in fact single handedly revolutionize the importance of the girl child explaining the scientific importance of the coexistence of the two sexes.

Though both sexes share more or less the same anatomy barring the reproductive organs and physiologically most of the functions are same too, its only and only the female body which can get impregnated by an ovum and therefore give birth to another human being. The male body, though important in the entire process of reproduction still lacks the capability to hold the ovum and give birth to another human. Having said that, there remains no doubts that the human race cannot exist beyond a certain present period if their reproducible body is not allowed to come into existence and grow to perform this function. This itself should be the most important scientific consideration of saving the girls today. However, like our nursing homes in the

housing society premises, everyone wishes the 'beti' in their neighborhood but not in their backyard.

Even though the female sex has been labeled a weaker sex and physically it is so, the modern woman is now shouldering all the responsibility as that of the males and can be seen in many roles as equal to males. Be it business, profession or any other aspect, they are traditionally no more confined to the four walls and therefore rightfully gaining their equality status in the society. They not only support the family by doing the household chores and bringing up the next generation but also emotionally and financially too. . Bringing up a child with moral and social values is not easy job but we take it for granted as all the mothers do it so beautifully and efficiently. Without this the child grows up into an antisocial element and a curse to the future society. It's not without reason that the word "motherless child" has been coined and the word itself has lots to explain. The role of housewife and at the same time also earns for the bread cannot be compared by the male counterpart at all. Women today have occupied all the top position and served on them effectively and successfully, be it a President, Prime Minister, Chairman of various Corporates, Heads of Institutes, Scientist, Doctors, etc., etc. Why is then the society not willing to accept them at the

inception itself? Why then the society still craves only for the male child? Why mainly the woman herself in the society like the mother in laws or mothers themselves prays for the male child only? Why are girls treated differently anymore, even though thousands of stories of female successes are aired every other day? Why does the society want a male child only, being fully aware that the same male child will one day play into the hands of their daughter in laws and in no ways remains theirs, whereas the female child even after marriages nowadays are proving to be bigger support to her parents than her brothers.? It is rightly said "A SON IS A SON TILL HIS WIFE BUT A DAUGHTER IS A DAUGHTER ALL HER LIFE." The biggest reason for this preference and craving for a male child is the urge to keep the family tree and the surname going in the form of these 'Vaaris'.

With the numbers of girl declining significantly compared to boys, a day will come when not enough girls would exists to marry all the boys and you as a doctor can imagine and understand the best what kind of anarchism a deprivation of physiological demand can lead too. Multiple partners and promiscuity can lead to resurgence of many sexually transmitted diseases which have been controlled after a lot of efforts and education. A time may come when it may become extremely

difficult for the woman to walk on the streets and escape the hungry eyes of the wolves. Girls would be kidnapped, sold or purchased like a commodity. Anti-social behaviour will be the rule of the day. The recent gang rape cases across the country will prove this point as many of the accused in such cases are either unmarried or are living alone in cities to earn a living and their wives in villages. Such epidemics of STDs can only make a very unhealthy society and a threat to the whole human race. To avoid such scenarios then, one girl will have to marry multiple boys to take care of the society needs and imagine the entire structure of the society changing like the husbands going to the girl's house after marriage as a single woman cannot live at multiple 'Sasurals'. Also the procreations under such marriages cannot be assured of the paternity and therefore the surnames and then 'Gotras' of the newborn child will all have to be that of the common factor i.e. the mother. The 'Vaaris' or the propagator of their family tree than would change and it would be the girls who would be sought after anyway, so why kill them now and disturb the whole equilibrium set up over millions of years.

The role of the girl is not limited to a sex symbol or reproductive object. Imagine your childhood without your mother. Forget childhood even grown ups can't think a world minus their mother and the

only person they miss in their adulthood, if staying away or if their mother is dead, is their mother and mother alone. Every silent moment or stressful situation immediately brings the memory of their mother to their heart and mind. 'Aaj ma hoti to aisa karti, yeh kehti ! ma ke haat ka khana yaad aa gaya !!' These are common sentences we hear. Because the first and the best teacher in anyone life is the mother alone. Imagine a neonate breast feeding from one breast and kicking the second breast by his small little legs while in the mother's laps. The power and the compassion to feed even while being beaten has been given only to a mother by the almighty and this mother is a female and no one else. Imagine a house without your ever fighting, but most loving sister. The world would be so dull without her 'nock jhok'. The undoubted trust that this human being will stand by my side in whatever condition, only next to my mother is however your sister –a female by sex too

Imagine your youth and your eagerness to make friend with the girls, talk to them, take them for a walk, movie etc. I am sure you never had the same feeling of pleasure with another boy. Remember the 'Shayari' and poem all centered around this beauty to your eyes, for whom you may have spent several hours just for a glance. The world seemed so beautiful then and all the

gardens full of roses. We may have fought with so many friends for her, even without her knowledge. You may have had episodes of suicidal tendencies at times without her. Without this 'Dil Ke Chen' the world would have not been so good to live in! This was also a female and not a male. Imagine your house without your wife. Lots and lots of jokes are shared nowadays on Whatsapp on husband and wives, making fun of their own plight, but ask anyone, if they are willing to get rid of this plight? This is probably the only cage one would not even imagine to come out of. The thought of living without her seems to be so frightening that even by chance, we don't utter a word where her existence is questioned or doubted. . So much so that you pledge to be together for seven lives. She fulfils all your needs happily and eagerly as her own. The best friend and companion one can get, who not only shares practically more than half your life, standing by you over all your thick and thins, is your wife and she is a female. Sadly enough our propensity to intolerability has given rise to few indecent cases which cannot be quoted as norms here.

Lastly, imagine the world without your daughter. Day in and day out, I see pictures on Facebook by father posting daughter's pictures as "angel of my eyes". I have seen sons photos labeled as "my son" but never mentioned as an "angel of my eyes". How can one kill an angel than? It is said that

"YOU CAN ALWAYS CALL YOUR DAUGHTER BETA BUT U CAN NEVER CALL YOUR SON BETI. "Are we ready to sacrifice the owning of our daughters?

We as doctors, who are the highest educated persons of the society, have unfortunately burnt our fingers on the wrong side on this issue, thanks to the greed of few amongst us. However the same can be corrected if we take upon ourselves to educate the society on this aspect. We should act as deterrents to those couples wanting female foeticide. I would go a word further and say that the couples should fear approaching us for this and we should collectively beyond friendships compulsions expose the culprits amongst us indulged in this as also the couple and their relatives approaching us for same. I propose we should hold multiple camps and awareness lectures on this issue in various forums, including those of NGOs and other social organization, highlighting the importance of the girl child. We should incentivise the birth of a girl child at establishment and help poor people to raise their daughters through various charities from our associations. Collectively and sincerely we can easily wash our stains of female foeticide and build a reputation as a saviour of the human race.

Jai Ma! Jai Beti!

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