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WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTRE

MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY, ROHTAK-124001
HARYANA

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No. WSC

Dated

National seminar
On
Eliminating Daughters: Paradox of Development in India
Organized by
Women's Studies Centre, M.D University, Rohtak
In Collaboration With
Indian Council of Social Science Research, North-West Regional
Centre, Chandigarh
On December 15-16, 2010

Dear

It gives me immense pleasure to inform you that Women's Studies Centre, M.D University, Rohtak in Collaboration with ICSSR, North-West Regional Centre is organizing two days **National Seminar on 'Eliminating Daughters: Paradox of Development in India' on 15-16 Dec, 2010.**

You are requested to participate in the seminar by contributing a paper on any of the sub themes of the Seminar. Last date for submission of Abstract is 30th November, 2010. You are requested to send it through email address given below. Looking forward to positive reply. Please find enclosed brief note for seminar.

Regards
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Eliminating Daughters: Paradox of Development in India

Unusually masculine sex ratio of India's Population remains a matter of grave concern today. Earlier it was attributed to higher mortality levels among females than males. However, since the 1990's, the juvenile sex ratio shows massive declines in each censuses. The 2001 census was a disheartening and what 2011 census would reveal is yet to be seen.

Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen once remarked while discussing the "missing women phenomena" that with its present population of one hundred crore people, we have to make an account of some 25 million 'missing women'. If western standards were applied, India too should have had about 105 women for every 100 men today. Thus, there should have been 512 million women in India. Instead, the 2001 census shows that there are only 489 million women in the Indian Population today. This declining sex ratio is perplexing the minds of social scientists, demographers and policy planners. In recent years, the deficit of daughters or decline in juvenile sex ratio has become much more pronounced and stark. The juvenile sex ratio for the country as a whole, dropped from 4.5 per cent between 1981 and 2001 or from 971 to 927 girls per 1000 boys. The phenomenon has dismal picture in north-West States of India which include Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

The issue of unfavorable sex ratio in India is not a recent one; it gained the attention of colonial rulers during British time as well. The historical evidences of female infanticide and infant mortality in North and North-West India have very well been recorded

In post-independent India, the phenomenon was brought forward in late 60's and 70's by demographers who witnessed a declining trend from the turn of 20th century onwards. The deficit of daughters, which was not evident in 1981, except in historically masculine states such as Punjab and Haryana, became quite evident by 2001 in states like Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

The overall socio-economic development in India in terms of better standard of living, improved health care specially maternal and infant and child health, increased life span, narrowed literacy level gaps between male and female, growing opportunities for work particularly for women, has not resulted into equalising sex ratios in general and gender

relations in particular. Rather the child sex ratio declines are not only getting worse but taking newer forms and manifestations. Despite economic advancement of the society, the mind set of the people particularly in the north has not changed in favour of daughters. Rather preference for 'Son' is gaining all time high momentum everywhere. It infers that during the last two decades, with the advent of new sex-selective technologies, it is now easier for people to decide the elimination of girl child at an early stage. Despite the implementation of PCPNDT and PNDT Act banning sex determination and selection procedure, there is enough evidence to show how vigorously these sex selective technologies have been used imbalancing already low sex ratio; what is happening now is the replacement of age old practice of killing daughters with pre-birth elimination with the help of medical technologies. We have selectively adopted modern technology and information while at the same time holding tightly age-old prejudices and practices. There are well known facts and data but what less is known is that this trend is now spreading to less developed regions of India.

Keeping in view the focus of the seminar, following sub-themes have been chosen for 'Two days' seminar to be organized in Women's Studies Centre, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak on 15th and 16th December, 2010.

Sub- Themes

- **Development and Gender Inequality: Theoretical Perspective**
- **Social, Economic and cultural Dimensions and Girl Child**
- **Sex-Selective Technologies and Foeticide**
- **Regulation and Responsibility: Role of State and Civil Society**

Apart from sub-themes, Symposium will be held on Development and the Girl Child with particular reference to North-west India.
