

XXXII

TECMUN

United Nations Entity for
Gender Equality

Outline of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality was created by the General Assembly in the resolution 64/289 on July 2, 2010 in order to accelerate the achievement of the goals in gender equality by merging four different entities previously existing in the UN that had a more specific focus on achieving this, but had not the sufficient support and strength in order to approach the problem as expected by the Organization. The General Assembly decided that the faculties and functions of the Entity will be the same as those of the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), which are to support worldwide political negotiations in favor of gender equality, assist the Member States with financial aid and expert knowledge to implement the accorded rules, and to support other bodies of the UN in the promotion of gender equality. This Entity accepts, adopts and promotes the definition of gender equality given by the OSAGI (2001) in which is stipulated that the term refer to an equality between all humans, in matter of responsibilities, rights and opportunities, without relying on whether they are born male or female.

Topic A

Legal and social actions to implement for unattended cases of male rape, focusing on the United States, as a consequence of the “male chauvinism” culture

*By: Fernando Sánchez López
María Andrea Solís Galán*

Rape is unquestionably one of the biggest issues men and women face on a daily basis, and precisely: men also face this issue. Many boys and men have been victims of sexual assault. According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (hereinafter referred to as RAINN) it is estimated that 1 out of 33 men in the U.S. have experienced an attempt of rape or completed rape in their life. Statistics exist, and it is known that rape of males is true, yet most of them are unattended. Either because they never get to a court as a consequence of fear, because “men are not weak”, or once in court many of these stereotypes prevent law from being applied correctly.

One of the principal causes of this problem is the “machismo” or male chauvinism, a sexist belief that requests males to be always superior. It is spread generation after generation, parents teach boys to not cry, not play with dolls, show no emotions, be strong always, etc. This creates a stereotype, that men are strong and superior always, thus making people think that there is no such thing as male rape, and if it happens it is because “he is not strong enough” focusing more on his “lack of manliness” than in what is actually important.

Background

In our daily life, rape is considered a women's issue even though the nowadays existing cases of rape that are against men and that have generated an important discussion recently. In addition to this, research about male rape appears only approximately thirty years ago and it is more focused on male children. Previous research is only focused on female rape, which again shows a clearly gap between the importance given to female rape in comparison to the male rape.

Another fact is that only 2 of 50 women that suffer from any kind of rape report to the police, which means that only 2% of the cases are being reported and 98% of the cases are unattended because of the lack of reports to the corresponding authorities. From the other hand, different experts and authors like Brochman considers that the percentage of unreporting is even higher than the one that women has.

There exist many other examples that allow to see the gap that exist between the importance given to the female rape and the male rape, which is a gender problem because among its causes we can find the different genders stereotypes, the gender roles, and other similar facts that we can enroll in the male chauvinism culture that might be the main cause of this lack of importance, focus and attention to the cases of male rape.

It is also important to mention that according to data given by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime in the report of the 2013 about sexual assault, is informed that the top ten countries with the higher count of rape causes between the population are: United States of America, South Africa, Mexico, Germany, Australia, Sweden, India, Russian Federation, Thailand and Pakistán.

Defining rape

According to the United States Department of Justice, raped is defined as “The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.” (2012). The importance of this definition is that it includes any gender and therefore, it is not specifying that rape is only attempted by a men to a women but as any person of any gender can be either a victim or an aggressor.

Rape can be classified in four different types according to the rapist and the victim: female-female, female-man, man-female, man-man. There are other types of classification of rape, but it is used this because it englobes all the other types of rapes that may exist like: date rape, gang rape, spousal rape, rape of children, statutory rape, prison rape, senal rape, payback rape, war rape, rape by deception, corrective rape, custodial rape, just to mention some of them.

Causes and consequences of male rape

There are no exclusive existing causes for female rape nor for male rape, but according to the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, in general (for both male and female rape) the possible causes includes a wide range of topics. Examples of the previous mentioned causes includes the different factors that affect the background of the rapist and therefore creates a pathology of the aggressor, a different variety of social and cultural factor (this includes that different controls either allows, condones or ignores different sexual assaults, the status of the victim, the social context of the victim, among other similars), just to mention some.

Focusing now on male rape, it can have different effects or consequences in the victim. We can divide this effects and consequences in two different groups: physical consequences or effects and psychological consequences or effects. At first, as physical consequence we can find that males that have been raped present physical trauma which includes genital and nongenital injuries.

Some of the physical nongenital injuries are injuries caused by a weapon such a gun or knife, broken bones, lacerations, tissue injuries, headaches, ulcers, colitis, nausea, black eyes, and many others similar to the previous mentioned. This data gathered thanks to Stermac and colleagues in hospitals in which male victims of sexual assault have been treated.

On the other hand, we can find psychological consequences, and the more obvious is that males that have been victims of rape suffer of a trauma caused by the perpetrator. This trauma has collateral damage, and one of the most important and concerning things of it is that the trauma does not allow the victim, in most of the cases, to report their perpetrator to the corresponding authorities.

In addition to the trauma, other psychological consequences are that the victims have a higher chance of developing mental illness or mental problems, and the chances increases if the victim suffered from rape before the eighteen years old. Also, this can lead to other health disorders that can end in alcoholism, drug abuse, depression and even suicidal thoughts.

When the victim is older and has a relation, the psychological consequences can include problems with his intimacy with his partner, problems of his manhood, confusion of his gender identity, sexual problems, hate to other men when the rapist was a man, and even homophobia.

As is previously established, this problems become even more threatful thanks to the lack of social programs and social help in general to male rape victims, and also because of the different stereotypes that the male chauvinism culture dictates in the social context in which this male live nowadays.

Male rape in data

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center in its publication about information and statistics of rape in the United States shows the following data about rape:

- One in five females and one in seventy one males will suffer of rape or an attempt of rape at some point during their life.
- One in forty five males have been forced to penetrate an intimate partner or have been penetrated by force.

- Nine percent of the rape victims are men.
- In eight of ten cases the victim's perpetrator was someone he/she knew before.
- 81% of women and 35% of men report significant short-term or long-term impacts such as PostTraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
- One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18 years old.
- 34% of people who sexually abuse a child are family members.
- 27.8% of men were age 10 or younger at the time of their first rape/victimization.
- 96% of people who sexually abuse children are male, and 76.8% of people who sexually abuse children are adults.
- The average age at which girls first become victims of prostitution is 12 to 14 years old, and the average age for boys is 11 to 13 years old.
- Rape is the most under-reported crime; 63% of sexual assaults are not reported to police. Only 12% of child sexual abuse is reported to the authorities.

In addition to that data, the RAINN shows also the following facts about rape:

- Every 98 seconds an American is sexually assaulted.
- Ages 12-34 are the highest risk years for rape and sexual assault.
- About 3% of American men—or 1 in 33—have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime.
- 38% of victims of sexual violence experience work or school problems, which can include significant problems with a boss, coworker, or peer.
- 37% experience family/friend problems, including getting into arguments more frequently than before, not feeling able to trust their family/friends, or not feeling as close to them as before the crime.
- 84% of survivors who were victimized by an intimate partner experience professional or emotional issues, including moderate to severe distress, or increased problems at work or school.
- 79% of survivors who were victimized by a family member, close friend or acquaintance experience professional or emotional issues, including moderate to severe distress, or increased problems at work or school.

- 67% of survivors who were victimized by a stranger experience professional or emotional issues, including moderate to severe distress, or increased problems at work or school.

All of these data clearly supports and reaffirms all of the previously information that have been mentioned. But also, it lets to show some of the reasons why female rapes have been more attended than male rapes, and some of this are because of the huge amount of females been raped, because of the stereotype that women are likely to be less rude and strong than man, because male rape cases are fewer than female rape cases, just to mention some of them.

Even though all of this data and this possible reasons are true, there is no clear argument for not attending or giving the same importance to male and female rape cases, because in both we are talking about humans that have been deprived of their freedom, humans that have been forced to do actions that they do not want to, and also social context must not be a limitation because after all we all are humans and we all are likely to suffer an attempt of sexual violence.

Male chauvinism culture: gender stereotypes and gender roles

At first, we can define the male chauvinism culture as the belief that male are superior than women and therefore they have to provide a good quality life to his women and children, they are the ones that have to work, they are the ones that represent the strength of the family, and other similar situations. Thanks to this, women are been discriminated and lead to the stereotypes that women have to be taking care of the children or doing house chores, that women are not able to work, that women are weak, and many other similar.

This male chauvinism does not affect only women but also affects men to, this is because of the creation of this beliefs or stereotypes society starts thinking that they must do what this stereotypes dictate and if some action of the men is not inside the parameters that the beliefs dictates then this men is criticized and nowadays even accused of being homosexual because of this.

As we have previously mentioned, men are mostly seen as the strong ones, as the ones that fear nothing, the ones that have to protect women and children and must not show feelings. As a consequence of this, they are not able to be considered as victims. This has led them to hide their fears, their feelings and most important any trauma suffered, that in this case is been a victim of a rape.

Stereotypes about men have had significant consequences in society because nowadays it is not seen correctly that a man cries, that a man confesses something traumatic and because it is not usually seen, most cases are not believed or not given the correct and necessary attention. This stereotypes have gone so far that the responses men give to why they said nothing when it happened vary from “there was no one that would help me” and “they will not believe me” to “what would they say about me, a man, being raped”.

All of this previous information is linked to the gender roles, because if men are supposed to be the ones that represent the strength of the house and/or family, if they are discovered that are victims of rape it might lead them to affect this family at the moment the men is seen as a victim because the family loses its strength thanks to this belief and gender role that dictates that men cannot be victims but the support, strength and head of the family.

Non-governmental organizations main focus is female rape

Nowadays there are plenty NGO's that give a special focus on violations and abuses but still these are mostly focused on women as victims. This is a consequence of the image men are given and seen as strong and that they must not show their feelings. The idea that they are the strong ones has led to the conclusion that it can happen nothing similar to a violation or any kind of abuse to them. Even men have said about help groups that one of the reasons they do not say it out loud is because of the fear of not being believed or helped.

There are many NGO's which protect Human Rights, such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, among others. Each of these with the purpose of protecting Human Rights and each one with a different way of doing it. Amnesty International “help fight abuses of human rights worldwide”, Human Rights Watch defend the rights of people, “scrupulously investigate abuses” and protects human dignity. Still in most of the cases defended in these NGO's, their victims are women.

Attention given to male rape cases

As said before, due to established stereotypes and to the main focus of NGO's on women, men get either little attention or none when suffered any violation. This has led them to be afraid or do not convince themselves to confess what happened to them and look for any kind of help.

Another factor that has made men not wanting to look for help or raise a report to the corresponding authorities is the limited attention they get, the reduced programs for help specially for men, and also the few information that is spread between the population.

This lack of attention or importance can also be leaked to the stereotypes, gender roles and male chauvinism in general. This, thanks to a study made by Elizabeth Donovan, a psychotherapist, because she found that, in general, modern society does not believe that rape can be a male issue too.

And thanks to this beliefs that rape does not happen to a man in society, some myths or false thoughts or ideas are created between society, some of them are the followings:

- "Real" men can defend themselves against rape
- Only homosexual men are victims and/or perpetrators of rape
- Men are not affected by rape (or not as much as women)
- A woman cannot sexually assault a man
- Male rape only happens in prisons
- Sexual assault by someone of the same sex causes homosexuality
- Homosexual and bisexual men deserve to be sexually assaulted because they are immoral and deviant
- If a victim physically responds to a sexual assault, he must have wanted it.
- Males are not vulnerable
- Males always want sex
- Males are less traumatized
- Male victims are lucky if the perpetrator is a female

All of these thoughts are been created thanks to this gender stereotypes, gender roles and male chauvinism. And this thoughts principally are the ones that lead that a male rape victim feels terrorized to report the incident and also this thoughts cause that the attention goes only to the female rapes in a worldwide concept.

Conclusion

The lack of attention and importance of male rapes relies specifically in the society, because society is dictating that this issue is not happening or it is not likely to happen because of the male chauvinism culture that nowadays is existing in it. And United States of America as one of the most powerful countries and with more control worldwide is also one of the most important countries in which rape is happening, is one of the first countries in cases of male rape and also is in the top of the unattended cases of this type of rape and the principal reason is this male chauvinism culture that society is allowing. For the problem to be solved it is necessary to change this beliefs in society and also to politically give support to victims of both genders and not prioritize one gender over the other.

Suggested readings

Javaid, A. (2014). Male rape: the 'invisible' male. Retrieved January 7th, 2017 in *International journal of criminology*. Web <http://www.internetjournalofcriminology.com/javaid_male_rape_the_invisible_male_ijc_jan_2014.pdf>

National Sexual Violence Resource Center. (n.d.). Statistics about sexual violence. Retrieved January 7th, 2017 in *National Sexual Violence Resource Center*. Web <http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications_nsvrc_factsheet_media_packet_statistics-about-sexual-violence_0.pdf>

References

1. 1 in 6. (n.d.). The 1 in 6 statistic. Retrieved January 7th, 2017 in 1 in 6. Web <<https://1in6.org/the-1-in-6-statistic/>>
2. Javaid, A. (2014). Male rape: the 'invisible' male. Retrieved January 7th, 2017 in *International journal of criminology*. Web <http://www.internetjournalofcriminology.com/javaid_male_rape_the_invisible_male_ijc_jan_2014.pdf>
3. Jensen, L. (2014). 19 men share stories of being raped by a woman. Retrieved January 7th, 2017 in Thought catalog. Web <<http://thoughtcatalog.com/lorenzo-jensen-iii/2014/08/19-men-share-stories-of-being-raped-by-a-woman-nsfw/>>
4. National Sexual Violence Resource Center. (n.d.). Statistics about sexual violence. Retrieved January 7th, 2017 in National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Web <http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications_nsvrc_factsheet_media_packet_statistics-about-sexual-violence_0.pdf>
5. RAINN. (n.d.). Victims of sexual violence: Statistics. Retrieved January 7th, 2017 in RAINN. Web <<https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence>>
6. Rape crisis. (n.d.). Support for men and boys. Retrieved January 7th 2017 in Rape crisis. Web <<http://rapecrisis.org.uk/supportformenboys.php>>

7. Storr, W. (2011). The rape of men: the darkest secret of war. Retrieved January 7th, 2017 in The Guardian. Web <<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2011/jul/17/the-rape-of-men>>
8. Survivors UK. (n.d.). Male sexual abuse and the law. Retrieved January 7th, 2017 in Survivors UK. Web <<https://www.survivorsuk.org/question/male-sexual-abuse-and-the-law/>>
9. Whatley Mark A., Riggio Ronald E. (1993). "Gender Differences in Attributions of Blame for Male Rape Victims". *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 8 (4): pp. 502–511.

Glossary

A

Acquaintance: a person that you have met but do not know well. Used in some expressions about knowing or meeting people: ‘It was not until the trial that I first made the rapist acquaintance (= first met him).’

Amnesty International: an international organization that works to persuade governments to release people who are in prison for their beliefs and to stop the use of torture and punishment by death

Assault: a violent attack: ‘He was charged with sexual assault.’

C

Culture: the way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of a particular group of people at a particular time: ‘youth/working-class culture’

D

Deception: The action of deceiving someone: ‘obtaining property by deception’

Deceiving: Deliberately cause (someone) to believe something that is not true, especially for personal gain: ‘I didn't intend to deceive people into thinking I am not guilty’

Deprived: not having the things that are necessary for a pleasant life, such as enough money, food, or good living conditions: ‘She had a deprived childhood/comes from a deprived background.’

Distress: a feeling of extreme worry, sadness, or pain: ‘She claimed that the way she had been treated at work had caused her extreme emotional and psychological distress.’

G

Gender roles: The role or behaviour learned by a person as appropriate to their gender, determined by the prevailing cultural norms: 'women's traditional gender roles translated easily into caring for the sick, and nursing became a female profession'

H

Homophobia: Dislike of or prejudice against homosexual people.: 'homophobia is often a cause of suicide among young people'

L

Lacerations: A deep cut or tear in skin or flesh: 'he suffered lacerations to his head and face'

M

Male chauvinism: Male prejudice against women; the belief that men are superior in terms of ability, intelligence, etc.: "due to male chauvinism, women get payed less than men"

Myths: an ancient story or set of stories, especially explaining the early history of a group of people or about natural events and facts: 'The organization has peddled the myth that they are supporting the local population.'

P

Pathology: Mental, social, or linguistic abnormality or malfunction: 'the city's inability to cope with the pathology of a burgeoning underclass'

Perpetrator: A person who carries out a harmful, illegal, or immoral act: 'the perpetrators of this horrific crime must be brought to justice'

R

Rape: to force someone to have sex when they are unwilling, using violence or threatening behaviour: 'It's difficult to understand what causes a man to rape.'

S

Statutory rape: sexual relations involving someone below the "age of consent."
"Statutory rape is illegal in the United States since 21 is the minimum legal age"

Stereotypes: A widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing: 'the stereotype of the woman as the carer'

T

Traumatized: to shock and upset someone severely and for a long time: 'She was completely traumatized by the rape of her sister.'

V

Victims: someone or something that has been hurt, damaged, or killed or has suffered, either because of the actions of someone or something else, or because of illness or chance: 'She claimed to have been a victim of child abuse.'

Vulnerable: able to be easily physically, emotionally, or mentally hurt, influenced, or attacked: 'I felt very vulnerable, standing there without any clothes on.'

Violations: an action that breaks or acts against something, especially a law, agreement, principle, or something that should be treated with respect: 'He claimed that the way he'd been treated was a gross violation of his civil/constitutional/human rights. '

Topic B

Female infanticide in India and China due to its consideration as unproductive for the familiar economy

*By: Fernando Sánchez López
María Andrea Solís Galán
Aranza Hernández Andrade*

Through history society has established through gender stereotypes that men were the ones that give economical support to a family and the ones that represent the strength of it, and women were the ones responsible for the house duties. But nowadays, society has experienced an extraordinary evolution since that moment some women also an important factor in family's economy. Mainly developed countries, like the ones that are economic powers, are the ones that have had this change of mind in the society that lives in their territory.

The problem relies principally in some of the countries that are on process of developing but most important in India and China. This countries still have this mentality in which men are stronger and more able to maintain a family's economy and most important, they encore and accept the gender stereotypes that as a consequence, for example, generate the practice of female infanticide. This has led to people think this action is correct because females are unproductive, are just a burden of society and will be only an economical waste, preferring only men to live and develop well.

Parents that practice this infanticide to the females babies they may have, clearly violate the right to live of the baby. This, as a consequence of the preoccupying and harsh existing gender stereotype, in that areas, that men are the only ones that can represent the strength of the family or are the ones that are profitable to invest in because in the future they will be the only ones available to produce money for the family.

Background

There is existing evidence that female discrimination when they are infants has been practiced since ancient ages. Is possible to find that in ancient Greek and ancient Rome culture, parents practiced exposure to the baby if it was female. This practice (exposure) consists in leaving the child, which means that after the mother give birth, if the baby was a man the family will take of him, but if it was a women it will not receive any attention and will be left to die. As an evidence of this, is the letter from a warrior to his wife that was found in the year 1 b.C.:

“I am still in Alexandria. [...] I beg and plead with you to take care of our little child, and as soon as we receive wages, I will send them to you. In the meantime, if (good fortune to you!) you give birth, if it is a boy, let it live; if it is a girl, expose it.”

(Naphtali, Lewis., 1985)

Also, before middle age, in some European tribes this was still practiced but with the difference that in these tribes, parents abandoned their unwanted female children and babies in the woods with no shelter and no food, so they starved to death.

Through history, female infanticide or similar practices, like abandon or sacrifice, continued to be executed when families feel in the need to do it principally because of social and economical factors, that again rely on the gender stereotypes that existed more strictly in ancient societies all around the world.

In despite of the actual progress in general of society and the fight of equal opportunities, there is still existing countries in which women are considered as “useless” or not able to generate an income to the family. One of the factors that made this happen in India and China, is that there, mainly in rural areas, the ones that get the chance to study and work are only men so having a baby girl is considered as a disadvantage. Another reason that led to this in China were the laws of only having one child per family.

Female infanticide

Female Infanticide is the crime of killing a woman infant (usually under one year old) also known as gender-selective killing; Unfortunately not in all the countries is considered as a crime because of their beliefs, more about the culture than the religion, and other social, political and economical factors. Although it goes against the Right of human life, the female infanticide is still practised nowadays around the world, and the countries that most practice it are China, and India..

Female infanticide is not something new, that is why it so difficult to stop the problem or find a solution to it. It has been occurring for more than a hundred years ago, as it has been mentioned previously. Infanticide is not an abortion because in this practice the mother already gave birth to the baby, it is after the birth when the newborn is either killed or abandoned. When we talk about abortion is most common to name it female foeticide, which is other non-related practice.

Some of the causes that make parents to commit infanticide are the unwanted pregnancies and the control of the population (in some cases because the government does not allows more than an specific number of child). But they are also other factors that cause the practice of infanticide, some of them are thanks to the economy of the families who can not support the costs of another baby that will not have any refund in the future if it is female, so

it is easier ensuring a good future when having a boy because of the opportunities of this gender among those countries.

There are different ways of classifying female infanticide but the most general ones are the direct infanticide, in which the killer intentionally applies a killing technique such as suffocating the baby girl and the indirect infanticide, where they do not attend a sick baby or does not give her food, milk or water, which means that they do not take care of the baby, they leave it unattended and just wait until she dies alone.

Some long-term consequences predictions are that if this practice continues, there would be a lot of single men because of the lack of women to marry, and therefore this will cause that the infant population will decrease because of the lack of mothers to give birth to new children. This consequence, can also cause a lot of violence and frustration for them. And as in everything, as Isaac Newton states in his third law, "*For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction*". In addition to this, if the female infanticide continues it will also cause that rapes and assaults increase, and a population decrease, as previously mentioned, and an increase in women trafficking.

The female infanticide is still a reality and represents nowadays a challenge in part because of the lack of open mind and practice in these societies of the gender stereotypes that exist about women being less useful and capable than men. Unfortunately, the parents prefer killing baby girls rather than not having babies to avoid the situation.

It is important to mention, that around the world in the different countries nowadays there are existing laws that prohibit the practice of infanticide, to any gender, and if it is practiced the law also dictates a specific punishment to the people that do not respect this. Although, the problem is still in the rural areas, because it is here where these laws that the countries have are having a lack of enforcement, so the population living here continues practicing because, again as it was previously mentioned, cultural and social reasons that have an ancient background mainly in the supposed gender roles that men and women have in the family and in the society.

The economical side of female infanticide

As it has been previously stated, one of the reasons because of infanticide is practiced is thanks to the economical side and consideration in these societies that practice it. It is possible to divide these economical reasons in three for it to be understood better:

- The capacity of earn more: In this societies, where infanticide is practiced, men are considered the most capable human beings to work, and therefore they easily get a job and even get higher wages for the same work than a men do. From this point of view and mentality, it is more profitable to have a men that will give in the future higher income to the family than a women that will hardly get a job and represent only another expense.
- Future income: Principally in societies where infanticide to female child is practiced, is commonly that an older age parents depend on their children. This is another reason why parents prefer male boys rather than women, because when women get married, they will go with their husband family and therefore forget about maintaining their parents. On the other hand, men, even if they got married, will be able to maintain their parents in the future when they cannot work or have any resource they could obtain money from. This, gives the society a mentality that female children are just a drain of money, because in the future parents will not obtain any benefit of it.
- Dowry: The dowry is the patrimony that the family of the bride has to give to the family of the husband according to the culture of some societies. This patrimony is composed by a several amount of money and other goods that the bride´s family has in possession, in which we can found territory, cars, furniture, jewelry, just to mention some of them. The value of the dowry corresponds to the social status in which the future husband is located, the more rich the husband is the value of the dowry is higher. This dowry is given, according to the culture, as a symbol of contribution to the maintenance of their daughter in the future once they are married. Thanks to this, some of the societies that practice infanticide follow this tradition, causing parents to decide killing their female childs to avoid giving part of their economical beings when the girl gets married.

As it's possibly to see, this are the most important economical reasons that causes parents to practice female infanticide. The importance of this, is that they are provoked or are a consequence of the ancient culture that promotes traditions and customs that lead to a discrimination to the women placing the male gender as a superior one.

The situation in India

In India's patriarchal society female children are considered undesirable because they are seen as an extra load that someday will get married and go to another family. Female babies are

killed when they are still in the womb or when born but others are abandoned and only a few of them are rescued.

Besides its patriarchal society, India's tradition have also made women "less". Women's only role is to be a good wife and mother. This is because neither women nor girls are considered capable of earning money so they do not help family's economy. Most of the reasons why female infanticide is common in India is because of financial reasons. They are supposed to depend on men, either if it is their father or their husband.

Female infanticide rate has increased through years mostly because a marriage does not want a girl but the reasons for abandoning a girl vary. It may be because the family is not able to maintain a child that later will not help economically or that when she gets married she changes family and still provides not economical support.

According to an interview done by the magazine *Time* to the Minister of Women and Children Development of India, two thousand girls are killed daily in the country, and most of them are infanticides in which the mother put a pillow in the baby face until they die.

In the same article of *Time*, it is mentioned that an study made in 2011 by a british medical journal, the *Lancet*, found that since 1981 approximately twelve million girls were either killed after born or aborted in India.

In 1992 India created a program of baby hatches which consisted in safe places where people could live their babies if they were not wanted and the babies would be taken care of and eventually they would be placed for adoption. This program resurrected in 2007 but the problem that they still face is that not all women are aware about this program existence to they still turn to infanticide.

Infanticide of both genders is an official crime in this country, the problem relies in the reports people do, in other words, infanticide in the country is an unreported crime because of the reasons it has been practiced throughout the years.

The situation in China

The female infanticide in China started about the Third Century before Christ. Chinese girls are twice more likely to die in since they are born until they are one year old than boys, this has to be with their cultural beliefs but also because of government regulations. This has to be

a lot because of their overpopulation). In Hong Kong still the thought that having a girl brings “bad luck” to the entire family.

The one child policy is one of the most important causes of the infanticide in China. The one child policy in China was introduced in 1979 and started being outlawed in 2015. Its main purpose was to prevent a big growth in the population and to stop the overpopulation in the country. According to China's government around 400 million births were prevented with this policy.

This one child policy highly increase the female infanticide because if parents were going to be able to have just one child, they prefer to have a son rather than a daughter. This is, again, because of the opportunities males have in comparison to the opportunities women have, so parents before keeping a female baby think of the future and the different expenses they will have to cover and how it will be more profitable in the future to have a male because of the incomes he may be able to bring to the family when working.

Another important point of the one-child policy implemented was that in China it was a lot more expensive for parents with children to adopt, so the orphanages had an effect upon the numbers of children living in there. An effect this policy had is that the quality of woman life improved because they receive more support to get better education and therefore a better paid job. So the female infanticide was contradictory to the policy because of the ignorance.

As a way to contribute to eradicate the female infanticide, it is important the free sexual education for women, stop giving incentives to families who have boys and give incentives to families with girls and to encourage the marriage with educated woman.

Conclusions

Female infanticide is a socioeconomic problem in the rural areas of India and China principally. The causes of this practice have an ancient background in which gender stereotypes and gender roles are clearly involved causing this to also involve other cultural beliefs and factors that make harder the problem to be attacked and resolved.

Another factor that allows this to continue is the lack of reports the families do to the corresponding authorities about this, which means that no matter how many laws the country may have to prohibit the infanticide if they are no reports about it, people will continue doing it. The main and most important reason of why parents practice this, is because they want to

ensure a profitable future for their own, and thanks to the thought that men are the only ones available to give an economic support to the family, parents prefer to raise and keep a male child rather investing in a female child that will not be able to give any economical income to the family, according to this thought.

No matter because of what reason infanticide is practiced, is clearly violating the first Human Right of the female children, which is the right to live. And besides that, the causes of this are because of a lack of equality between the genders in the thought of the societies, this is because they superiorize the male gender as the one with the strength and with more opportunities when both genders have the abilities and capabilities to give the appropriate support to a family and doing the same things.

References

1. BBC. (2014). Ethics guide: Female infanticide. Retrieved January 13th, 2017 in BBC. Web <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/abortion/medical/infanticide_1.shtml>
2. FoxNews. (2007). Infanticide, Abortion responsible for 60 million girls missing in Asia. Retrieved January 13th, 2017 in FoxNews.com. Web <<http://www.foxnews.com/story/2007/06/13/infanticide-abortion-responsible-for-60-million-girls-missing-in-asia.html>>
3. Hatters, S. (2007). Child murder by mothers: patterns and preventions. Retrieved January 13th, 2017 in United States National Library of Medicine National Institutes Health. Web <<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2174580/>>
4. Iyengar, R. (2015). Indian minister says 2,000 girls are killed across the country everyday. Retrieved January 13th, 2017 in Time. Web <<http://time.com/3830874/2000-girls-killed-every-day-india-minister/>>
5. Iyer, R. (2012). Trash bin babies: India's female infanticide crisis. Retrieved January 13th, 2017 in The Atlantic. Web <<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/05/trash-bin-babies-indias-female-infanticide-crisis/257672/>>
6. Jimmerson, J. (1990). Female infanticide in China: An examination of cultural and legal norms. Retrieved January 13th, 2017 in UCLA Pacific Basin Law Journal. Web <<http://escholarship.org/uc/item/80n7k798>>
7. López, N. (n.d.). Infanticide. Retrieved January 13th, 2017 in Humanium. Web <<http://www.humanium.org/en/infanticide/>>
8. Majewski, V. (n.d.). Female infanticide in China & India. Retrieved January 13th, 2017. Web <<http://majewski-infanticide.weebly.com/historical-background.html>>
9. Mudaliar, A. (2016). What are the causes of female infanticide in India?. Retrieved January 13th, 2017 in Quora. Web <<https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-causes-of-female-infanticide-in-India>>
10. Naphtali, Lewis, ed (1985). "Papyrus Oxyrhynchus 744". In *Life in Egypt Under Roman Rule*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp. 54.
11. Parkinson, J. (2015). Five numbers that sum up China's one child policy. Retrieved January 13th, 2017 in BBC. Web <<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34666440>>

12. The Hindu. (2016). India loses 3 million girls in infanticide. Retrieved January 13th, 2017 in The Hindu. Web <<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/India-loses-3-million-girls-in-infanticide/article12551293.ece>>
13. Wall, W. (n.d.). China's infanticide epidemic. Retrieved January 13th, 2017 in University of Denver. Web <<http://www.du.edu/korbel/hrhw/researchdigest/china/InfanticideChina.pdf>>
14. WikiGender. (n.d.). History of infanticide. Retrieved January 13th, 2017 in WikiGender. Web <<http://www.wikigender.org/wiki/history-of-infanticide/>>
15. Wordie, J. (2016). Female infanticide: the dark side of China's obsession with luck. Retrieved January 13th, 2017 in Post Magazine. Web <<http://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/short-reads/article/2044770/female-infanticide-dark-side-chinas-obsession>>

Glossary

A

Ability: Possession of the means or skill to do something.

Abortion: To Stop the development of a baby that has not been born, usually by having a medical operation.

B

Belief: The feeling of being certain that something exists or is true. Something that you believe.

Burden: Something difficult or unpleasant that one has to deal with or worry about.

C

Capability: Having the ability, power, or qualities to be able to do something.

Custom: A way of behaving or a belief that has been established for a long time.

D

Drain: To reduce or cause something to reduce.

Dowry: In some societies, an amount of money or property that a woman's parents give to the man she marries.

E

Encore: call for a repeated or additional performance; once more.

Encourage: give support, confidence; to make someone more likely to do something; give confidence to.

Eradicate: to get rid of something, destroy completely, put an end to.

Exposure: the state of having no protection of something harmful. Physical condition resulting from being outside in severe weather without adequate protection.

F

Foeticide: The Crime of killing a baby that has not yet been born.

H

Baby Hatch: A bin at a hospital where a mother not able to care for an infant can anonymously leave the infant so that it can be safely cared for until it can be legally adopted, typically after two months.

Human Right: Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.

I

Incentive: Something that encourages a person to do something.

Income: Money that is earned from doing work or received from investments.

Infanticide: The crime of killing a child.

P

Patriarchal: A system of society or government in which the father or eldest male is head of the family and descent is reckoned through the male line.

Patrimony: Property inherited from one's father or ancestor; heritage.

Policy: A set of ideas or a plan of what to do in particular situations that has been agreed to officially by a group of people, a business organization, a government, or a political party.

O

Orphanages: A home for children whose parents are dead or unable to care for them.

Outlawed: To make something illegal or unacceptable.

R

Refund: pay back money to.

S

Socioeconomic: Related to or concerned with the interaction of social and economic factors.

Stereotype: A widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing; a set idea that people have about something, especially an idea that is wrong.

Suffocating: Die or cause to die from lack of air or inability to breathe.

Superiorize: Place something or someone as a figure of superiority.

P

Plea: An urgent, emotional statement or request for something.

Profitable: beneficial, useful, likely to result in a yielding profit or financial gain.

U

Unreported crimes: not reported or recorded.

W

Wage: Particular amount of money that is paid, usually every week, to an employee, especially one who does work that needs physical skills or strength, rather than a job needing a college education.

Womb: Organ in the lower part of the body of a woman or female mammal where offspring are conceived and in which they gestate, before birth.

Women trafficking: The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.