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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>LESSON PLAN : SA 11</u></b>  <b><u>SOCIAL EVILS : FEMALE FOETICIDE, DOWRY</u></b>  <b><u>AND CHILD ABUSE / TRAFFICKING</u></b></p> <p>Period - One</p> <p>Type - Lecture</p> <p>Code - SA 11</p> <p>Term - II (SD/SW)</p> <p><b><u>Training Aids</u></b></p> <p>1. Computer, Projector, Charts, Pointer, Black Board &amp; Chalk.</p> <p><b><u>Time Plan</u></b></p> <p>2. (a) Introduction - 05 Min</p> <p>(b) Female Foeticide - 10 Min</p> <p>(c) Dowry - 10 Min</p> <p>(d) Child Abuse - 10 Min</p> <p>(e) Conclusion - 05 Min</p> <p><b><u>INTRODUCTION</u></b></p> <p>3. India is a large heterogeneous society with varied castes, cultural, religion and economic strata. Due to various customs, a large no of myths and beliefs are prevalent in the society. These have given birth to various kinds of social evils like dowry, female foeticide, gender bias, child abuse and trafficking etc.</p> <p><b><u>AIM</u></b></p> <p>4. To acquaint the cadets about the various types of Social Evils and their Prevention.</p> <p><b><u>PREVIEW</u></b></p> <p>5. The lecture will be conducted in following parts:-</p> <p>(a) Part I - Female Foeticide.</p> <p>(b) Part II - Dowry.</p> <p>(c) Part III - Child Abuse.</p>

(a)

## **PART I : FEMALE FOETICIDE**

(h) Definition. Female foeticide is the selective abortion / elimination of the girl child in the womb itself, done deliberately by the mother, after the detection of the child's gender through medical means. This is usually done under family pressure from the husband or the in-laws or even the woman's parents.

(i) Causes of Female Foeticide. The main causes / reasons for female foeticide are:-

(a) Fanatic Desire / Preference to Have a Male Child. Elimination / removal of girls from the family tree, even before they are born, clearly indicates the vehement desire for a boy child. The core factor is the need to continue the family line, through the male born into it. Sons are seen as the main source of income and the belief that they will look after the family and the old age parents.

(j) Unwanted Pregnancy. Though most people cite this as an excuse for medical termination of Pregnancy (MTP) but, it is generally the course taken after sex determination test proves of a female foetus.

(k) Foul Medical Ethics. This process began in the early 1990s, when ultrasound techniques gained widespread use in India. There was a tendency for families to continue producing children, until a male child was born. Also, the unethical sex determination and selective abortion of female infants has become a booming US \$224 million industry, with lucrative incentives.

(l) Dowry System. In India, the age old custom of 'dowry system' puts a damper on the parents' spirits who are 'blessed' with a girl child. Right then and there, begin the calculations associated with marriage expenses, which may happen after a couple of decades, following the child's first breath. Girls are seen more as a burden and some think that it would be so much better to get rid of them, with just a fraction of the amount.

(m) Deteriorated Status of Women. Centuries of repression has made 'inferiority' second nature to most women. They willingly embrace the role of the meek, submissive, docile wife, who works relentlessly to cater to the whims of her husband. Female foeticide happens with the explicit consent of the mother.

(n) Effects of Female Feticide.

(a) Skewed Sex Ratio. In India, the number of girls per 1000 boys is declining with each passing decade. From 962 for every 1000 boys in the years 1981 the sex ratio had plummeted

to an all time low of only 914 girls for 1000 boys in 2011.

(b) Female / Women Trafficking. The steep decline in the number of girls makes them scarce for the teeming number of males eligible for marriage. As a solution to this issue, illegal trafficking of women has become commonplace in many regions. Women, often young girls who've just crossed the threshold of puberty, are compelled to marry for a price fixed by the groom-to be.

(c) Increase in Rape and Assault. Once women become an endangered species, it is only a matter of time before the instances of rape, assault and violence become widespread. The legal system may offer protection, but as is the situation today, many cases might not even surface for fear of isolation and humiliation on the girl's part.

(d) Population Decline. With no mothers or wombs to bear a child (male or female), there would be fewer births, leading to a decline in the country's overall population.

9. Measures to Prevent Female Foeticide. Of the numerous steps taken to curb the matter, the prominent ones are:-

(a) Cancellation / permanent termination of the doctor's license who partakes in fulfilling a client's demand to do away with her girl child.

(b) Heavy penalty imposed on companies like GE, that specialize in marketing medical equipments used for illegal sex determination and abortion in unlicensed clinics and hospitals. High fines and judicial action against 'parents' who knowingly try to kill their unborn baby.

(d) Widespread campaigns and seminars for young adults and potential parents to enlighten them about the ill effects of female feticide. Ignorance is one of the major causes for the increase in the selective sex abortion cases. Spreading awareness can go a long way in saving our future sisters, mothers, girlfriends and wives.

(e) High incentives for the girl child in education, employment etc.

(f) Equal rights for women in the property of the parents / husband.

(b)

## **PART II : DOWRY**

10. General. In India, dowry is the payment in cash or some kind of gifts given to bridegroom's family along with the bride. Generally they include cash, jewellery electrical appliances, furniture, bedding, crockery, utensils and other household items that help the newly-wed set up her home. As per the book "Genocide of Women in Hinduism" authored by Sita Agarwal, over the last 65 years, more than 50 million female children have been murdered as a result of Vedic dowry and infanticide laws. The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 states that: "If any person, gives or takes or abets the giving or taking of dowry, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years, and with fine which shall not be less than fifteen thousand rupees or the amount of the value of such dowry, whichever is more."

### 11. **Causes of Dowry System.**

(a) Devine Sanction. Dowry is one of the most ancient practices of India. The Vedas prescribe that a dowry be given by the bride's family to the groom. Thus, in order to marry Sita to Rama, her father had to supply her with 100 crores of gold mohurs, 10,000 carriages, 10 lakh horses, 60,000 elephants, 100000 male slaves, 50000 female slaves, 2 crores of cows, 100000 pearls, and many other items. Thus most people think that it is legal as per the vedic rights.

(b) Growing Economic Inequality. This fuels the desire to ask for more and more cash or gifts to pursue a lavish life style or other ventures. Increasing Unemployment of Males. In order to prove their status, unemployed males are growingly demanding more and more dowry to fulfill their desires.

(d) Parental Compulsions. In order to find a good match for their daughter, well to do parents are offering huge dowry. This adds fuel to the growing demand for dowry.

### 12. Effects of Dowry System.

(a) Increase in Domestic Violence.

(b) Increase in Mortgage and Loans.

### **Female Feticide.**

(d) Female Trafficking.

(e) False Dowry Allegations.

13. Prevention of Dowry. Society and we as a member of the society can do a lot to prevent offences related to dowry by taking the following steps:-

(a) Start practicing dowry prohibition in your family. Don't take or accept dowry.

(b) Educate the members of your family with the provisions of law - that demanding and accepting or giving dowry is an offence. A woman is an important member of family and is entitled to all the rights and privileges a man enjoys. Educate the members of your family and your neighbors to respect a woman's rights and privileges.

(d) Encourage women folk to raise their voice about their rights and to fight against dowry system.

(c)

### **PART III : CHILD ABUSE**

#### **14. General.**

(a) India is home to almost 19 percent of the world's children. More than one third of the country's population, around 440 million, is below 18 years. According to one assumption 40 percent of these children are in need of care and protection, which indicates the extent of the problem. In a country like India with its multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious population, the problems of socially marginalized and economically backward groups are immense. Within such groups the most vulnerable section is always the children.

(b) Child abuse is a state of emotional, physical, economic and sexual maltreatment meted out to a person below the age of eighteen and is a globally prevalent phenomenon. Child abuse is a violation of the basic human rights of a child and is an outcome of a set of inter-related familial, social, psychological and economic factors. Child abuse has serious physical and psycho-social consequences which adversely affect the health and overall well-being of a child.

15. Definition. According to WHO: "Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of

physical and / or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

16. **Forms of Child Abuse.** Child Abuse can be of following forms:-

(a) **Physical Abuse.** Physical abuse is inflicting physical injury upon a child. This may include hitting, shaking, kicking, beating, or otherwise harming a child physically.

(b) **Emotional Abuse.** Emotional abuse (also known as verbal abuse, mental abuse, and psychological maltreatment) includes acts or the failure to act by parents, caretakers, peers and others that have caused or could cause serious behavioural, cognitive, emotional, or mental distress/trauma. **Sexual Abuse.** Sexual abuse is inappropriate sexual behavior with a child. It includes fondling a child's genitals, making the child fondle an adult's genitals, sexual assault (intercourse, incest, rape and sodomy), exhibitionism and pornography. To be considered child abuse, these acts have to be committed by a person responsible for the care of a child or related to the child (for example a baby-sitter, parent, neighbor, relatives, extended family member, peer, older child, friend, stranger, or a day-care provider).

(d) **Child Neglect.** Child neglect is an act of omission or commission leading to the denial of a child's basic needs. Neglect can be physical, educational, emotional or psychological. Physical neglect entails denial of food, clothing, appropriate medical care or supervision. It may include abandonment. Educational neglect includes failure to provide appropriate schooling or special educational needs. Psychological neglect includes lack of emotional support and love.

(e) **Unreasonable Deprivation.** Unreasonable deprivation of his/her basic needs for survival such as food and shelter, or failure to give timely medical treatment to an injured child resulting in serious impairment of his/her growth and development or in his/her permanent incapacity or death.

(f) Any other act, deed or word which debases, degrades or demeans the intrinsic worth and dignity of a child as a human being.

17. **Child Abuse in India.** A National Study on Child Abuse conducted in the year 2005 by the Ministry of Child and Women Welfare. This study, which is the largest of its kind undertaken anywhere in the world, covered 13 states with a sample size of 12447 children, 2324 young adults and 2449 stakeholders. It looked at different forms of child abuse: Physical Abuse,

Sexual Abuse and Emotional Abuse and Girl Child Neglect in five different evidence groups, namely, children in a family environment, children in school, children at work, children on the street and children in institutions. The major findings of the study are as under:-

(a) It is the young children, in the 5-12 year age group, who are most at risk of abuse and exploitation.

(b) Physical Abuse.

(i) Two out of every three children were physically abused.

(ii) Out of 69% children physically abused, 54.68% were boys.

(o) Over 50% children were being subjected to one or the other form of physical abuse.

(iv) 88.6% children were physically abused by parents.

(v) 65% of school going children reported facing corporal punishment i.e. two out of three children were victims of corporal punishment. 62% of the corporal punishment was in government and municipal schools.

Sexual Abuse.

(i) 53.22% children reported having faced one or more forms of sexual abuse.

(ii) 21.90% child respondents reported facing severe forms of sexual abuse and 50.76% other forms of sexual abuse.

(p) Out of the child respondents, 5.69% reported being sexually assaulted. Children on street, children at work and children in institutional care reported the highest incidence of sexual assault.

(iv) 7. 50% abuses are persons known to the child or in a position of trust and responsibility.

(v) Most children did not report the matter to anyone.

© Emotional Abuse and Girl Child Neglect.

(i) Every second child reported facing emotional abuse. Equal percentage of both girls and

boys reported facing emotional abuse.

(ii) In 83% of the cases parents were the abusers.

(q) 48.4% of girls wished they were boys.

### **CONCLUSION**

18. Social Evils are mostly born due to poor education, misplaced beliefs, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth. Social Evils are a disease on the society and have disastrous long term effects. We need to take concerted action to eradicate these evils from society.

Although many laws / legislations presently exist to prevent the social evils, but the wholehearted participation of the people will only force their implementation. Hence we must all educate ourselves, as also our family and neighbours to take all necessary steps to eradicate all types of social evils from society.