

“BETI.. HAMARE JEEVAN KAAADHAAR..HAMARE DESH KAAADHAR..

“BETI-AADHAAR”

PROTECT OUR GIRL CHILD BEFORE AND AFTER BIRTH”

*K. Narasimha Rao

The PC-PNDT Act, 1994:

Noble objective, but are we heading in the right direction? According to Government statistics, the period between the Census nearest to the enactment to the Act, 1991 to the most recent Census in 2011, show a dismal drop in the girl Child Sex Ratio (CSR) across most States in our country.

Possible Reasons:

- o Unethical Doctors, Illegal ‘Doctors’ – “Quacks”, Unscrupulous Relatives
- o At the Crux of the problem is that the PNDT Act focuses on Sex Determination (“abetment”) rather than Female Feticide (“perpetration”), which allows the crime unabated, as reflected by the CSR. (This is akin to focusing on the rope, rather than the crime of suicide in a person attempting the same!!)

Proposal Suggested:

A Simple, Accurate, Retrievable, Cost-effective, Environment friendly and above all, Effective AND also brings the State, Judiciary, Technology, Ethical Doctors, All Law abiding citizens on one page to fight this shameful crime:

The Two Steps of the Proposal :

a) Linking to Aadhaar Card :

We could have a tie up of the “Beti Bachao”¹⁷ scheme and “Aadhaar” links with the same Objective of PNDT Act. Once both are linked, we could have a new icon (merging “Beti Bachao” scheme and “Aadhaar” link) and possibly call it “**BETI- AADHAAR**”



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- b. Declare & Document Gender : We could go a step further and revolutionarily declare and document the gender (was suggested by H'ble minister, Mrs. Maneka Gandhi, which was then not felt feasible, in the pre-digital era). However, we could now rethink the idea, considering the evolution of “Digital India”.

Thus, Patient's Aadhaar details are linked with the Basic (taking care to protect right to Privacy, which is possible in the said software) USG-Scan details. **Every Subsequent Scan, Eventual Delivery / MTP** (medical grounds) HAS to be entered. Thus, only that which is legal and ethical would be entered into the data-base, which **instantly** dissuades the illegal and unethical players. Further, if someone still dares not to enter subsequent scan details and/ or proceeds with termination of pregnancy on ‘non-medical’ grounds, he/ she can be easily tracked and severely punished. The ‘at-risk-girl child’ can easily be tracked with the genuine contact details from Aadhaar.

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Precedence:

JIO has tied up with UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India), and one needs to just provide his/her fingerprint/Aadhaar number and a “SIM is activated instantly or within max. 15 minutes” after all due verification. More recently, the PAN card/Bank Account/Insurance/Death Certificate are linked to Aadhaar to achieve greater compliance/transparency with state administration. While, these tie-ups check corruption and help nation's economy, the proposed tie-up checks crime (feticide) and saves the girl child.

Further Gains:

1. Easy and Accurate Census and 'Trackability' and 'Retrieveability' of any past record for purpose of medical research or litigation is made easy.
2. More purposeful utilization of Government resources and personnel and the tax- payers' money in the proposed digitalized format.
3. Saves Paper and, therefore, trees. For the given paper work per conception and given birth rate, full compliance with the PNDT would imply sacrificing more than 1,04,029.02 trees annually!
4. A mobile App (say, “Beti–Aadhaar” App) can help implementation of the government's “Beti Bachao” scheme.
5. Further – “Beti–Aadhaar” would TRULY act as a tool in improving the CSR by addressing the issues in not only PNDT Act but also, The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 – wherein any abortion would compulsorily be documented under “Beti–Aadhaar” and therefore, minimize / eliminate gender-based crime and also, help implementing The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (by mandating declaration of marriage), because the age of the child cannot be manipulated (once entered into the data base) to facilitate child marriage.

By following this “INCLUSIVE” approach of win-all situation rather than the erstwhile “CONFLICTORY” approach, we aim to:

- SAVE OUR GIRL CHILD not just BEFORE BIRTH but also AFTER BIRTH, making use of our government's achievement of 99% coverage of Indians aged 18 and above, as on 31.03.2017 by the UIDAI's Aadhaar card.
- By making the proposed “Beti – Aadhaar” part of “Digital India”, the much needed impetus in protecting MOTHER NATURE is also addressed.
- Last, but not the least, with little electronic documentation with no threat of frivolous litigation, the ethical Doctor is allowed to FOCUS ON PATIENT CARE and help in securing the safety of our girl child.

SLOGAN:

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