CHAPTER I

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Sex ratio, females per 1000 males, is a significant indicator of the status of women reflecting the gender discrimination. In Tamil Nadu, the ratio has registered a continuous decline. Disaggregation into rural and urban missing women reveals an interesting picture. The sex ratio in the rural areas goes slightly up from 946 in 2001 to 947 in 2011. The absolute number of missing women rose from 28.35 million to 31.30 million, an increase of 2.95 million. This implies a decadal increase of 10.40 percent. However, the share of missing women declined from 7.9 percent to 7.7 percent, a decadal reduction of 2.53 percent. The sex ratio goes from 900 in the urban areas in 2001 to 926 in 2011, a decadal increase of 2.89 percent. Yet the absolute number of missing women increased slightly from 18 million to 18.42 million a decadal increase of 2.33 percent. This is a fraction of the much larger increase in rural areas. However, the share of missing women declined from 13.3 percent to 10.20 percent. This is considerably larger than the reduction in rural areas.

The sex ratio (girls per 1000 boys) in the age group 0-6 years fell from 927 in 2001 to 914 in 2011, a decadal reduction of 1.40 percent. The number of missing girls goes from 2.13 million in 2001 to 3.16 million in 2011, a decadal increase of 48.36 percent. The share of missing girls in surviving girls also goes from 2.7 percent to 4.2 percent, an increase of 55.55 percent. Both absolute and relative measure of missing girls shot up over this decade. The bias against girls goes so sharply is alarming.
In the rural area, the sex ratio under 6 years fell from 934 in 2001 to 919 in 2011, a decadal reduction of 1.60 percent. The number of missing girls goes from 1.23 million to 2.07 million, a decadal increase of 68.29 percent. The share of missing girls goes from 2.0 percent to 3.7 percent, an increase of 85 percent. As these rates are much larger than those at the all India level, it follows that the already more pervasive sex-selective discrimination grew more rapidly in the rural areas.

The reason for missing female children in certain districts of Tamil Nadu is due to the most widely accepted justification for female infanticide. The common belief that the male child is the eventual breadwinner and progenitor of the family name. Dowry expenses incurred in the education and upbringing of the girl child are the liability on the family having the female child, since the benefits shall be reaped by the girl’s husband’s family, after she “is given away in marriage”. It induced sex-selective infanticide.

Indian president His Excellency Pranab Mukherjee (2013) stated that Gender disparity in the country can be tackled only through proactive intervention in areas such as economic empowerment of women, building of adequate social and physical infrastructure and improving women’s role in governance. Also he pointed out that empowerment of women was the key to not only meeting the objective of gender equality but also to eliciting full participation in nation building.

In India, discriminatory attitude towards men and women have existed for generations and affect the lives of both genders. Although the constitution of India has granted men and women equal rights, gender disparity still remains. There is specific research on gender discrimination mostly in favour of men over women. Due to a lack of
objective research on gender discrimination, it is perceived that it is only women who are suffering. Both women and men are important for reproduction. The cultural construct of Indian society which reinforces gender bias against men and women, with varying degrees and variable contexts against the opposite sex, has led to the continuation of Indian’s strong preference for male children. Female infanticide, a sex-selective abortion, is adopted and strongly reflects the low status of Indian women. Census 2011 shows decline of girl population [as a percentage to total population] under the age of seven, with activists estimating the eight million female fetuses may have been aborted in the past decade. The 2005 census shows infant mortality figures for male and females are 56 and 61 respectively, out of 1000 live births, with females more likely to be aborted than males due to biased attitudes.

The demand for sons among wealthy parents is being satisfied by the medical community through the provision of illegal service of fetal sex-determination and sex-selective abortion. The financial incentive for physicians to undertake this illegal activity seems to be far greater than the penalties associated with breaking the law.

Education is not widely attained by Indian women. Although literacy rates are increasing, female literacy rate lags behind the male literacy rate. Discrimination against women has contributed to gender wage differentials, with Indian women on average earning 64% of what their male counter parts earn for the same occupation and level of qualification. Discrimination against women has led to their lack of autonomy and authority. Although equal rights are given to women, equality may not be well implemented. In practice, land and property rights are weakly enforced, with customary
laws widely practised in rural areas. Women do not own property under their own names and usually do not have any inheritance rights to obtain a share of parental property.

Indian laws highly favour women. If a husband commits adultery he will be failed, but a woman cannot be jailed for adultery and neither will she be punished by the courts. In most child custody cases the children are given to the wife. In most divorce cases the child is given to the mother even without enquiring the child’s appeal. Gender discrimination impedes growth; with lower female-to-male workers ratios significantly reducing total output in both agricultural and non-agricultural sector.

A decline in the child sex ratio (0-6 years) was observed with India’s 2011 census reporting that it stands at 914 females against 1000 males dropping from 927 in 2001 the lowest since Indian’s independence.

Gender discrimination is a practice which we faced when both the genders show the desire of substituting their duties without giving and due credit to each other. In such scenario the powerful became aggressor and other the victim of aggression. Gender discrimination can also be define as the thinking of men which convince them in their head that women are lesser than them and it’s their right to either not give them their rights or misuse them.

They broadcasted a research conducted in United States of America and result was really shocking when we consider the amount of development in the country. In that documentary it was revealed that females working in American media receive almost half the salary for the same amount of work as compared to men. Women are not allowed to work in men dominated environment because the families feary that their daughters or
sister may get victim of bullying. Women activists all over the world have begun to question political inequality among the sexes. The feminist movement even in a male dominated, socially conservative society like Pakistan has brought into sharp focus more or less the same issues about the social status of the women and their inadequate representation in the “Political Power and Participation in Politics”. (Rasul Bakhsh Rais, 2007).

An article was printed in San Francisco chronicle which beleaguered the problem of gender discrimination around the world. Starting from American wall-marts and stating how women were discriminated in that society.

World wide, a comprehensive 1989 survey of women concluded that in most countries women were “Poor, Pregnant, and Powerless”. In many countries, women are still regarded as the property of men, are denied access to birth control information, are not allowed to vote, and are prohibited from working with men. In patriarchal societies, being born female can be fatal, as male children are greatly preferred. In many countries, young girls (and some boys) are sold by their families into the prostitution trade. During the 1900’s the problem of trafficking in women and girls for forced labor, domestic servitude, or sexual exploitation had affected an estimated one to two million women and girls. The economic collapse in Asia (1997-98) exacerbated such trends.

In Pakistan women do not enjoy same sort of liberty as compared to west. Our society is just a place to exploit the women emotionally, physically of forcefully. When she is in her parents home she is bound to accept whatever is thrown towards her by her
family, infact it is considered to be her purpose of life to accept her family’s orders even if they are illogical and unjust.

No one can doubt on a fact that state of women is only getting worse day by day. More development brings new ideas to exploit women in every walk of life. Weather she is home wife, working lady or daughter she is being victimized and this is the time where we should revert back to our basic ideology and start giving the women the right of equality and respect they deserve.

“Discriminatory and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of over 165 million people in India has been justified on the basis of caste,” according to Human Rights Watch (HRW).

The divisive caste system in operation throughout India, “Old” and “New” together with inequitable gender attitudes, sits at the heart of the wide-ranging human rights abuses experienced by Dalit or “outcaste” women.

Caste refers to a traditional Hindu model of social stratification, which defines people by descent and occupation. It is defined as a system of graded inequality in which castes are arranged according to an ascending scale of reverence, and a descending scale of contemp. i.e. as you go up the caste system, the power and status of a caste group increases and as you go down the scale the degree of contempt for the caste increases, as these castes have no power, are of low status, and are regarded as dirty and polluting.

Indian society is segregated in multiple ways: caste/class, gender, wealth and poverty, and religion. Entrenched patriarchy and gender divisions, which value boys over
girls and keep men and women and boys and girls apart, combine with child marriage to contribute to the creation of a society in which sexual abuse and exploitation of women, particularly Dalit women, is an acceptable part of everyday life. Violence, exploitation and exclusion are used to keep Dalit women in a position of subordination and to maintain the patriarchal grip on power throughout Indian society. The cities are dangerous places for women, but it is in the countryside, where most people live (70 per cent) that the greatest levels of abuse occur. Many in rural areas live in extreme poverty (800 million people in India live on less than 2.50 dollars a day), with little or no access to health care, poor education and appalling or non-existent sanitation. It is a world apart from democratic Delhi, or Westernized Mumbai: water, electricity, democracy and the rule of law are yet to reach into the lives of the women in India’s villages, which are home, Mahatma Gandhi famously declared, to the soul of the country.

No surprise, then, that after two decades of economic growth, India finds itself languishing 136th (of 186 countries) in the (gender equality adjusted) United Nations Human Development index. When a boy is born in most developing countries, friends and relatives exclaim congratulations. A son means insurance. He will inherit his father's property and get a job to help support the family. When a girl is born, the reaction is very different. Some women weep when they find out their baby is a girl because, to them, a daughter is just another expense. Her place is in the home, not in the world of men. In some parts of India, it's traditional to greet a family with a newborn girl by saying, "The servant of your household has been born."
A girl can't help but feel inferior when everything around her tells her that she is worth less than a boy. Her identity is forged as soon as her family and society limit her opportunities and declare her to be second-rate. A combination of extreme poverty and deep biases against women creates a remorseless cycle of discrimination that keeps girls in developing countries from living up to their full potential. It also leaves them vulnerable to severe physical and emotional abuse. These "servants of the household" come to accept that life will never be any different. Discrimination against girls and women in the developing world is a devastating reality. It results in millions of individual tragedies, which add up to lost potential for entire countries. Studies show there is a direct link between a country's attitude toward women and its progress socially and economically. The status of women is central to the health of a society. If one part suffers, so does the whole. Tragically, female children are most defenseless against the trauma of gender discrimination. The following obstacles are stark examples of what girls worldwide face. But the good news is that new generations of girls represent the most promising source of change for women and men in the developing world today.

In developing countries, the birth of a girl causes great upheaval for poor families. When there is barely enough food to survive, any child puts a strain on a family's resources. But the monetary drain of a daughter feels even more severe, especially in regions where dowry is practiced. Dowry is goods and money a bride's family pays to the husband's family. Originally intended to help with marriage expenses, dowry came to be seen as payment to the groom's family for taking on the burden of another woman. In some countries, dowries are extravagant, costing years' worth of wages, and often throwing a woman's family into debt. The dowry practice makes the prospect of having a
girl even more distasteful to poor families. It also puts young women in danger: A new bride is at the mercy of her inlaws should they decide her dowry is too small. UNICEF estimates that around 5,000 Indian women are killed in dowry-related incidents each year.

The developing world is full of poverty-stricken families who see their daughters as an economic predicament. That attitude has resulted in the widespread neglect of baby girls in Africa, Asia, and South America. In many communities, it's a regular practice to breastfeed girls for a shorter time than boys so that women can try to get pregnant again with a boy as soon as possible. As a result, girls miss out on life giving nutrition during a crucial window of their development, which stunts their growth and weakens their resistance to disease. Statistics show that the neglect continues as they grow up. Young girls receive less food, healthcare and fewer vaccinations overall than boys. Not much changes as they become women. Tradition calls for women to eat last, often reduced to picking over the leftovers from the men and boys.

In extreme cases, parents make the horrific choice to end their baby girl's life. One woman named Lakshmi from Tamil Nadu, an impoverished region of India, fed her baby sap from an oleander bush mixed with castor oil until the girl bled from the nose and died. "A daughter is always liabilities. How can I bring up a second?" said Lakshmi to explain why she chose to end her baby's life. "Instead of her suffering the way I do, I thought it was better to get rid of her."

Sex-selective abortions are even more common than infanticides in India. They are growing ever more frequent as technology makes it simple and cheap to determine a
fetus' gender. In Jaipur, a Western Indian city of 2 million people, 3,500 sex-determined abortions are carried out every year. The gender ratio across India has dropped to an unnatural low of 927 females to 1,000 males due to infanticide and sex-based abortions.

For the young girls who escape these pitfalls and grow up relatively safely, daily life is still incredibly hard. School might be an option for a few years, but most girls are pulled out at age 9 or 10 when they're useful enough to work all day at home. Nine million more girls than boys miss out on school every year, according to UNICEF. While their brothers continue to go to classes or pursue their hobbies and play, they join the women to do the bulk of the housework.

Housework in developing countries consists of continuous, difficult physical labor. A girl is likely to work from before daybreak until the light drains away. She walks barefoot long distances several times a day carrying heavy buckets of water, most likely polluted, just to keep her family alive. She cleans, grinds corn, gathers fuel, tends to the fields, bathes her younger siblings, and prepares meals until she sits down to her own after all the men in the family have eaten. Most families can't afford modern appliances, so her tasks must be done by hand-crushing corn into meal with heavy rocks, scrubbing laundry against rough stones, kneading bread and cooking gruel over a blistering open fire. There is no time left in the day to learn to read and write or to play with friends. She collapses exhausted each night, ready to wake up the next morning to start another long workday.

Most of this labor is performed without recognition or reward. UN statistics show that although women produce half the world's food, they own only one percent of its
farmland. In most African and Asian countries, women's work isn't even considered real labor. Should a woman take a job, she is expected to keep up all her responsibilities at home in addition to her new ones, with no extra help. Women's labor goes overlooked, even though it is crucial to the survival of each family.

Women who have had some schooling are more likely to get married later, survive childbirth, have fewer and healthier children, and make sure their own children complete school. They also understand hygiene and nutrition better and are more likely to prevent disease by visiting health care facilities. The UN estimates that for every year a woman spends in primary school, the risk of her child dying prematurely is reduced by 8 percent.

"Short-changing girls is not only a matter of gender discrimination; it is bad economics and bad societal policy. Experience has shown, over and over again, that investment in girls' education translate directly and quickly into better nutrition for the whole family, better health care, declining fertility, poverty reduction and better overall economic performance"

(Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary General).

Gender discrimination and patriarchal domination has shown us today a case to be study in a wide range of scope. Many human rights institutes and other forth runner frontal organizations have taken many serious steps towards human dignity, including gender discrimination, for liberty and for human rights violation in the region a long time ago. Though a particular reflections in regarding the gender crisis has not been measured
in the region, despite peoples' local voices against the gender humiliation and so on, a wide spread discrimination has already been dominated the contiguous regions of the state. When we discuss the gender discrimination, we could never ignore the root cause of the matter, which is still remained in a negligible status, the girls' right. We all have gone through many known crisis and disputes, and moreover gender discrimination. But we left to focus the discrimination of girl rights, which is the basic case study of the gender discrimination.

We see, everywhere in each corner of the world, girls face discrimination. It is bitter that, they often receive less food than boys do, have less entrée to schooling, and in many countries of the world, works long hours when they are only 5 or 6 years old. It is a growing landmark, eighty million girls aged 6 to 11 do not even go to school. And why can't we see the helpless agony of the girl child around the world. Their ignorance will certainly beget to forget our cause, which is still fractured in the regions. We see, in societies where a male child is regarded as more valuable to the family, girls often are: denied the right of life; denied the right to name and nationality. And by being married off early or forced to stay at home and help in domestic chores, girls are often denied: the right to education and all the advantages that go with it; the right to associate freely; the rights accompanying unjustified deprivation of liberty. These all are the basic humiliation from the family to the girls when boys are regarded as the pillar of tomorrow. Neither they are allowed to go freely nor, they able to associate in the society as male boys do liberally. Only a few highly civilized countries don't face such discrimination extremely.
There are fractions of gender discrimination in the region, which is typically brought by the conflicts and fratricidal wars, ethnic wars and irritant communalism, indeed led the way to gender discrimination. It is not only the elite group or ruling government which are not orderly obeys the laws, neither they takes any alternate initiative for the gender crisis nor, any other institute or organization do. Many dissident groups in the contiguous region are also violating such girl rights internally. In our ethnically disputed regions, society itself is the vital anatomy that has shown how girls are less important than boys. The patriarchal society of the region has allowed the boys or man to be emphasized more than girls important. War, extreme poverty and other deprivations further endanger girls' lives because they may be raped and forced to work in extremely dangerous situations and environments as sex slaves, highly exploited domestic workers, or bonded workers in factories or on farms. These all make a strong case for the extra protection support from the international community to ensure that girls' rights are acknowledged and protected.

United Nations provides the low status of women and children which leads to their missing in the population:

- Of the more than 110 million children not in school, approximately 60 per cent are girls.
- By age 18, girls have received an average of 4.4 years less than education than boys.
- Of the more than 130 million primaryschoolage children worldwide who are not enrolled in school, nearly 60 per cent are girls.
In some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, adolescent girls have HIV rates up to five times as high as adolescent boys.

Pregnancies and childbirth-related health problems take the lives of nearly 146,000 teenage girls each year.

In sub-Saharan Africa, a woman faces a 1 in 13 chance of dying in childbirth. In Western Europe, the risk is 1 in 3,200.

At least one in three girls and women worldwide has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime.

An estimated 450 million adult women in developing countries are stunted, a direct result of malnutrition in early life.

Every year, two million girls and women are subjected to female genital mutilation.

The convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), adopted in 1989 and by now ratified by most countries of the world, provide an agenda for action in identifying enduring forms of inequality and discrimination against girls, abolishing practices and traditions detrimental to the fulfillment of their rights and defining an effective strategy to promote and protect those rights. But implementation is necessary to ensure positive changes in the region so far. Other than the CRC, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), ratified by 163 countries, is the most extensive and widely ratified international agreement promoting the rights of girls and women. This convention, while drawing on international human rights treaties, is a separate and distinct convention addressing the rights of women. It clarifies the negative consequences of discrimination and seeks full equality between men and women.
regardless of marital status, in all fields of political, economic, social and cultural life. States that have ratified the convention must take concrete steps, such as enacting laws, establishing women's rights commissions and creating conditions to ensure that the human rights of girls and women are realized. Their progress is monitored by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. India is also one of the thirdworld country that is extremely effected the women and girls discrimination, which is infact a hierarchal imposition of patriarchal nation. But, yet to be focus the views more effectively besides, empowering the women and girls in the preceding government. People of the country are proud of being one among the status of super power of the world while, millions of people are victimized by the money hunter baseless psychopolitical elite group. Millions of people are destitute, millions are orphans, millions of children are captivated in factories, thousands of children are performing goon works for a day bread, thousand are pursue to take arms for liberating the occupied territories and still our nation is more and more drawing attention and let flow billions of money in the name of defense and counter insurgency. We see elimination of discrimination against girls and women is far beyond horizon in this generation.

There are four main core principles that define girls' rights. The rights of girls apply equally to all children.

- Regardless of the background of the child, the parent or the legal guardian, children must not suffer discrimination.
- Children have a right to life and maximum survival and development in all aspects of their lives.
• The best interests of the child must be primary consideration in all decisions or actions that affect the child or children as a group.

• Children have the right to have their views heard and be taken seriously in all matters affecting their lives.

Refining these principles further, countries at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 agreed to:

• Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes of son preference, which results in harmful and unethical practices regarding female infanticide and sex selection before birth;

• Increase public awareness of the value of the girl child and at the same time strengthen the self-image, self-esteem and status of the girl child;

• Improve the welfare of the girl child, especially in regards to health, nutrition and education.

People are less aware that why we need our views to be focus to the girls more than ever. We are in a dying end of the hour, men are much more active many centuries old, than women and girls, their activeness and masculinity has dominated the women and girls in the regions for millennia, and still the consequences and impact is yet facing only by women or girls. We have seen how much women and girls are living in a shameful human dignity when men are actively play a part in everything legitimately though is illogical or irrational in reality. We should not make confuse or ambiguous in discriminating women, no doubt girls faces the same humiliation. We can't self-esteem by enunciating a few women, who took associates in society freely. It is not that, we are
living with dignity by remembering the women wars and women's contribution in the regions in fractions, but it is that we are miles to step forward against discrimination against women and girls.

Unlike conventional indicators, which capture inequality in outcomes like education and employment, the OECD’s Social Institutions Gender Index (SIGI) evaluates the underlying drivers of gang rapes of girls, comparing factors such as preferential treatment of sons over daughters, violence against women and restrictions on property rights. According to this metric, in 2012, India ranked 56th out of 86 countries for gender equality, lower than other major emerging markets like Brazil, China, Indonesia and South Africa.

But Indian society, which comprises more than 1.2 billion citizens, is hardly homogeneous. Indeed, India is a complex amalgam of 28 states with widely varying social indicators. For example, the nine states that the government has labeled “high focus” account for 62 percent of India’s maternal deaths and 70 percent of infant deaths, but contain only 48 percent of the country’s population.

Meanwhile, the southern states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh account for roughly 22 percent of the population, but less than 12 percent of maternal deaths. Similarly, while infant deaths account for less than 5 percent of all deaths in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, more than 20 percent of babies born in the northern states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan (all high-focus states) do not see their first birthday. So, given the limited value of countrywide generalizations, India’s leaders must focus on the differences between states in order to devise targeted policies.
The measures that the mission—India’s National Rural Health Mission has implemented since 2005 including free contraception, pregnancy tracking, prenatal care, compensation for hospital delivery and regular home visits to new mothers contributed to a 20 percent drop in fertility rates in the targeted states by 2010, and helped to reduce maternal and infant deaths. But this is not sufficient to address the gender inequality that characterizes Indian politics and society. Women comprise just 10 percent of India’s parliament, and only two of 35 ministers with full Cabinet rank are women. And, while the 33 percent quota for women in local government bodies has placed a million of them in elected positions at the grass roots, the extent to which this has actually improved women’s status has yet to be measured.

Moreover, discrimination in India often begins in the family. Indian families’ tendency to prefer sons has resulted in an adverse sex ratio, particularly in some northern states. Moreover, in the same region, more than 60 percent of girls are married well before the legal age, making pregnancies among anemic and malnourished teenagers a common occurrence. But, at the same time, most girls complete 12 years of schooling in the northern mountain state of Himachal Pradesh, demonstrating that the north-south distinction is no more conclusive than country wide generalizations.

Policies based on generalities will not work. To initiate a fundamental shift in citizens’ gender-related attitudes and behavior, India’s leaders must understand by the numbers the oftendramatic disparities between their country’s individual states.

In a “normal world,” the female population equals or slightly surpasses the number of males. Except in India, that is, where the situation is just the opposite, where
the gender ratio or the number of females to males is known to be among the most imbalanced in the world.

Although China has the most severe shortage of girls compared to boys of any country in the world today, in India, the 2001 census revealed disturbing news: the proportion of girls aged 0-6 years dropped from 945:1000 to 927:1000 since the previous census done 10 years earlier.

This means that 35 million fewer females than males were registered in India over this particular decade. The census also revealed that the phenomenon has reached high proportions in states which had no prior history or practice of female infanticide, or where forms of discrimination against girls were not strongly evident earlier.

A new study estimates that 10 million girls have gone “missing” from India’s population since 1985 because of the practice of selectively aborting female fetuses. Dr. Prabhat Jha year says the new calculation shows the need for a range of social policies to reverse a potentially disastrous future imbalance in the male/female ratio of India’s population.

India’s Census Commissioner Jayant Kumar Banthia’s First Report on Religion Data, 2001, first revealed the persistent bias against the girl-child, prompting discussion of this dramatic trend.

Some voices, such as India’s national newspaper, The Hindu, recognized the sharp decline as a national emergency. In its August 29, 2004 online article, “No girls please, we’re Indian,” reporter Kalpana Sharma wrote about sex selective abortion,
infanticide, and the neglect/discrimination of India’s girl child, calling it “…an epidemic that will have far-reaching social consequences.”

The reasons behind this mistreatment of girls crosses the spectrum of Indian regions, economic classes, and castes and are due to a complex mix of economic, social, and cultural factors.

While studies on the declining sex ratio have tended to be quantitative, looking at biological or demographic factors, there has been a lack of data on prevailing socio-economic and cultural aspects. The researcher investigated in five states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana states is that sex ratios varied in villages and urban wards, underscoring that local contexts were significant. Son preference was noted as being equally strong among different income groups and there was no significant correlation between caste and sex ratios where earlier research showed that sex ratios were better among lower castes and among the poor. (Action Aid India’s Gender Unit). The findings confirmed norms that have been part of India’s socio-economic fabric for centuries. Sons are considered pivotal to family welfare, as they are the ones who earn money, continue family lineage, and provide a form of old age security for parents. A daughter, meanwhile, is considered to be a “double loss” as she not only leaves her family when she marries, becoming an “asset” to her new family, but she is also a source of marriage expenses, including the payment of dowry to the groom’s family.

Generally, people want educated daughter-in-law, although the researcher states it “Is oriented towards the future family of the couple children will get proper guidance and
instructions from an educated mother marriage prospects rather than employment appear to drive education.” However, parents expressed the hope that more education for girls would result in them obtaining white-collar, regular, and secure work premarriage and a better choice of prospective husbands.

In rural areas, there may be a compromise in the duration of schooling. It is noted that girls are encouraged to complete as much education as they can but if a ‘good match’ is found, the girl is married off before she completes her studies.

Since the 1980s, technology widely available in India, such as amniocentesis and ultrasound, has permitted parents to predetermine the size and gender composition of their families through abortion.

Many informants told the researcher that they did not stop at one abortion, but had three or four sometimes more because a girl had been conceived each time. “Abortion,” says the report, “is the method of family planning par excellence to limit family size, to enable spacing between children, and also to regulate the sex composition of the family.”

Although sexselective abortion is illegal in India, it is rarely prosecuted. Women who are most aware of the official position the urban middle class usually denied the practice of sex selective abortions. At the same time, note the researcher, the urgency to have a son appears “with a greater and more universal tone in the urban settings, as compared to the rural settings.” And yet researcher noted that members of the older generation referred to children as nature’s or a divine gift, and of the sin of getting rid of a child. Women of reproductive age may agree with this view, and may protest, but the statistics show that they are not winning.
“Our informants spoke of arguments between spouses about a daughter’s birth. Women expressed a sullen resentment at repeated abortions, or sorrow at the loss of unborn daughters or sons (by mistake).”

Changes in work, education, marriage age, and marriage costs also seem to add up to a disaffection for daughters, to a greater extent than before. The factors causing this include: increased investment that has to be made in daughters in terms of education and marriage; the loss of their material and labour support; fears for their sexual safety and security; and worries about their future happiness in an appropriate marriage.

Neglect of girls, whether planned or inadvertent, also contributes to the lower child sex ratio.

While the researcher found that the degree of discrimination varied by location, there nonetheless was widespread evidence of lower levels of nutrition, health care, schooling, and emotional care, and high levels of underimmunization in general. “With nutrition and health, who may or may not take the decision is uncertain, but the discrimination is evident,” say the researchers. The research has shown a higher death rate among girls in the one-month to one-year age group, especially from gastrointestinal disease, pneumonia, and “miscellaneous” causes.

Among their observations, the researcher note that the most common cause of death is fever, although less so for urban males in this category; for rural males and rural and urban females, mortality due to fever is about 40%. “Don’t know” was often given as cause of death for all groups, apart from urban males but especially for urban females.
Observations in Rajasthan also point to infectious diseases as a common cause of death. Accidents and still births also contribute to mortality. “This brings into the picture the possibility of not merely biological, but also social causes of death, which would then affect female. Some states now experience a shortage of brides because of the adverse sex ratios. The study also notes that 20% or more men in some states, including Haryana and Punjab, may remain unmarried. There are already examples of brides being “imported” from poorer eastern states.

Trends to higher age at marriage, more so in urban settings, were also observed, possibly as a function of the emphasis on education. In urban Morena, Madhya Pradesh, an interview observed that the average age at marriage is now 20 for boys and 17 to 18 for girls, where earlier both were married at 14 years of age. This led the researcher to question if perhaps the rise in marriage age may be due to greater difficulty in finding an eligible spouse, with factors such as education, earning capacity, and dowries. On the other hand, the researcher report that the idea a woman may remain unmarried is “total anathema.” “All the informants made similar remarks that even the “richest person on earth” cannot take the financial responsibility of an unmarried daughter.” Also, ensuring a girl’s chastity is considered a great parental responsibility and is one of the arguments for promoting early marriage. For better or worse, some of the usual social, cultural, and economic norms in Indian society’s choice of mates may be swayed. In some regions inter-caste marriage, marriage with girls of tribal communities, and polyandry are now becoming more common. There are also reports of bride buying and forced remarriage of widows.
Some suggest that in the near future social tension could rise because of the challenge of finding female partners, and may lead to crimes against women. Others wonder if a shortage of women will lead to less violence. As the researcher note, the increasing imbalance in sex ratios is a sign of continued inequality between the sexes. The scarcity of females, they add, is symptomatic of their low value. The research team underscored the both longterm and shortterm measures to stem the declining female ratio. They recommend ensuring equal entitlements such as property rights, equal access to nutrition, health, education, and affection, and addressing the overall question of dowry and the necessity of marriage. In the short term, incentives to educate girls, financial support for girls, educating healthcare professionals and stopping incentives for sterilization. In July 2007 India’s Women and Child Development Minister, Renuka Chowdhury, proposed that all pregnant women register with the government and seek its permission if they wish to undergo an abortion, stating that this is aimed at stopping the aborting of unwanted female fetuses. However, critics warn that the new move could backfire and be misused.

The researcher offer the following conclusions and suggestions:

*It will not be enough to counter son-preference. Aversion to daughters has to be squarely confronted through policy measures that increase the economic worth and support of daughters through improved employment opportunities and recognizing that women’s health and education is tied to more than the mothering roles.*

The varying pattern of Sex ratio across the States in India and its associated socio-economic and cultural factors are outlined above. The gender discrimination is reflected
in the sex ratio of population. The sex ratio varies across the districts in Tamil Nadu. This pattern of variations in the sex ratio across the districts in two points of census i.e., 2001 and 2011. No Statistical model in the study of distribution of sex ratio at districts and taluks level has been undertaken can be captured by an appropriate statistical model used for future prediction also. Hence the present investigation is made with the following objective.

1.1 OBJECTIVES

General Objective

- To assess the pattern of Gender discrimination in terms of sex ratio in the rural and urban population of districts and taluks level of Tamil Nadu state using an appropriate statistical model.

Special Objective

- To test the suitability of Log-Normal, Markov- Chain and Truncated exponential models for the pattern of sex ratio across the districts and taluks level of Tamil Nadu census population at 2001 and 2011.

1.2 CHAPTERISATION

The present study consists of six chapters. The first chapter describes the importance of Statistical study on Gender Discrimination in Tamil Nadu State and it also contains the statement of the problem and objectives of the study. The second chapter presents the profile of Tamil Nadu State. The third chapter attempts to review studies on Gender Discrimination in terms of sex ratio. The fourth chapter presents the
methodology employed with operational concepts used. The fifth chapter deals with the
data analysis and discussion. The sixth chapter contains the summary, conclusions and
suggestions.