



# Let's Girls Play: Stop- Female Feticide



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When a boy is born in most developing countries, all the well wishers exclaim congratulations. A son means precious asset on the other hand 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.

Gender discrimination is been long associated with Indian culture. Discrimination against girls and women in the India is a devastating reality. Female Feticide is the act of aborting a fetus because it is female. This is a major social problem in India. Still our nation is troubled with problematic social issues such as gender discrimination and female Feticide.

Women's participation in sport has a long history. It is a history marked by division and discrimination but also one filled with major accomplishments by female athletes and important advances for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It is common to see now a day's women have taken up top leadership positions in sport, such as Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Olympic Committees. More and more women have also taken up employment opportunities in all areas of sport, including as coaches, managers, officials and sport journalists.

Today Indian women have excelled in each and every field from social work to visiting space station. There is no arena, which remained unconquered by Indian women. Whether it is politics, sports, entertainment, literature, technology everywhere we can hear applauses for her.

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Indian Sports women have created numerous milestones in last couple of years which proved that women's are performing smart job in the field of games and sports reflecting changes in modern societies that emphasized gender parity. Indian women have achieved great laurels for the nation in every sport. Whether it is cricket or hockey India have national women team for every game. Indian women cricket team has won Asia Cup of 2004 and 2005 and made country proud. Some important Indian sports women's milestones are as follows:

1. **Asian Cricket Council's Twenty20 Asia Cup:** This is one of the recent milestones of Indian women cricketers, the Indian women's cricket team lifted the inaugural Asian Cricket Council's Twenty20 Asia Cup, on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2012.
2. **2012, XXX London, U.K. Olympic:** This Olympic has been rightly lauded for its efforts towards gender equality. This has been the first Games in which women could compete in every sport and there are 262 women in all the teams – more than ever before. As far as concern for the India performance it was India's most successful Olympics based on the medal standings, winning a total of 6 medals (2 silver and 4 bronze), and doubling the nation's overall record in 2008 Beijing Olympic. India also set a historical milestone for the female athletes who won two Olympic medals. Badminton player and world junior champion Saina Nehwal became the first Indian athlete to win an Olympic bronze medal in the women's singles. On the other hand, boxer Mary Kom, bronze medal in the first ever women's flyweight event.
3. **India clinch women's Kabaddi World Cup championship:** The Women's Kabaddi first played World Cup was won by India in 2012 in Patna, Bihar, India.
4. **Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal signs up a 40-crore deal:** India's badminton queen and Olympic bronze medalist Saina Nehwal has signed up a 40-crore deal with Rhiti Sports Management Company, making her the country's highest paid sportsperson outside cricket. She has placed India on the world map for badminton and changed the outlook of people in India towards the gender discrimination.
5. **World number 1 Deepika Kumari:** Deepika Kumari is a young Indian athlete who competes in the event of Archery and is currently ranked World No. 1. Deepika Kumari won her first World Cup individual recurve gold medal at Antalya, Turkey. Later in the year 2012 she became world no.1 in the Women's Recurve Archery. She won gold medal in the 2010 Commonwealth games in the women's individual recurve event. She also won gold medal in the same competition in the women's team recurve event. She was conferred with Arjuna Award in May 2012.
6. **2010, XIX Commonwealth Games:** India's unprecedented success and largest ever medal haul at the CWG and Olympic Games is the rise of its women athletes. In 2010, XIX Commonwealth Games which were took place in New Delhi, India. India has won 101 medals in total. For the first time in the history of the CWG India won over 100 medals in total. The women played significant role for this outstanding achievement of India out of 101 medals 36 medals were won



by Women's Athletes. (13- Gold, 11- Silver and 12- Bronze). It was after a gap of 52 years that India won a gold medal in athletics when Krishna Poonia won gold medal in Women's discus throw.

The first Indian shuttler to win a medal in the London Olympics, Saina says her success should be an inspiration in a country not known as being the ideal place for girls to grow up. “In India I feel the girls are a little shy. They don’t come out and play a lot of sports, “But I hope that my success will change that and more and more girls will come forward to play. I can already see the change in my academy [where I trained]. A lot more girls are coming in and they all want to play like me.

Nehwal, along with a whole host of women athletes including the London bronze medal winner boxer Mary Kom, represents a breed of new, aggressive and ambitious athletes who are forcing many in India’s traditionally stodgy middle class to think differently about gender discrimination and women sports. In a country where as many as 50 million girls and women are “missing” — the result of female Feticide and high mortality of girl children — and where even now 300 women die every day due to childbirth and pregnancy related causes, role models like Nehwal have the potential bring about a long-lasting change.

Haryana, a northern Indian state is home to the nation’s worst male-to-female ratio and infamous for its legacy of female Feticide and honor killings. But it now produces many of the nation’s most well-known female athletes. These include Krishna Poonia, a champion discus thrower and gold medalist at the 2010 Commonwealth Games, Gita Phogat and Babita Singh, two sisters won silver and gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi. Geeta Phogat, is the first-ever Indian woman wrestler to have qualified for the Olympics Haryana’s state government has introduced various incentive schemes and promises of employment to medal-winning athletes. It also recently made it compulsory for school children to play at least one sport. These measures, analysts say, have affected the state of women in Haryana as a whole. Last year, Haryana reported a rise in the sex ratio to 877 females per 1000 males – it’s best in the last 110 years. Haryana’s attitude to women is changing and that is reflected in the rise of its women athletes.

Sports & Education are the tools that can help break the pattern of gender discrimination and bring lasting change for women in India. It is high time to stop female Feticide because women’s are proving their important existence in every field of life. Many Indian sports women have advanced in life by sustained effort, skill and performance. They are well respected in positions of power. Their performance speaks for itself and also speaks female various roles.



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