



*Rajendra Pratap Gupta
President & Member
Board of Directors*

Mr. Narendra Modi
Prime Minister
Government of India.
7, RCR, New Delhi – 110001.

June 22, 2015

Reference: Possibility of 'sex selection' in the guise of AI / IVF treatment

Dear Hon'ble Prime Minister,

Am sure this finds you doing good.

I am writing this on behalf of the Disease Management Association of India (DMAI - The Population Health Improvement Alliance - www.dmai.org.in). DMAI was founded by leaders from the Global Healthcare industry to bring all the stakeholders of healthcare on one platform. DMAI has been successful in establishing an intellectual pool of top healthcare thought leaders, to become an enabler in building a robust healthcare system in India. India is on the verge of building its healthcare system, and it has a long way to go. DMAI over the past several years has conducted studies and made recommendations to contribute & convert 'Ideas' into 'Reality', for healthcare in India. DMAI is the only not-for-profit organization focused on 'population health improvement' in India. Considering the fact that your Government has focused on its national campaign, 'Beti Padao, Beti Bachao', it is important that this note is attended to immediately and a special investigation team / committee is set up to bring out the facts for corrective actions.

'Artificial insemination (AI) and **'In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)'** treatments are popular across the country. There is a distinct possibility that these treatments could have been 'misused' for 'sex selection'. Sex selection is almost 100 percent guaranteed by such methods.

It is a medical practice to use the preimplantation genetic testing during IVF to remove one or two cells from an embryo and test them for genetic or chromosomal disorders. There are two types of tests – preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) and preimplantation genetic screening (PGS). Both these tests can be used to screen embryos for sex determination. PGD and PGS are almost 100 percent accurate at determining the sex of the embryo, and so, once the sex is determined, the embryo can be implanted in the womb for the chosen gender / sex.

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Disease Management Association of India

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AI & IVF treatments are being widely used in India and of late, these treatments are being promoted via advertisements in media as well. Given the seriousness attached to sex selection, and the skewed male:female ratio, it is time to conduct a national study on all IVF / AI specialists, as to how many males were born after the IVF / AI treatment and if majority of the births have been males through AI / IVF or there have been cases of a sex selection ? Findings of the study could be a good starting point for deciding on the future course of action / corrective measures.

Looking forward to a positive action at the earliest

Thanks with best regards

(Rajendra Pratap Gupta)

CC:

Shri J.P.Nadda, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India
Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Union Minister for Women & Child Development, Govt. of India
Chairperson, Women Rights Commission
Chairperson, Child Rights Commission

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