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WITH every death of an unborn girl child, nature trembles as it fights to maintain harmony on the planet. The ethics of patriarchy, capitalism, and consumption as the post-modern social ethos appears like a monster that consumes everything -- even itself.

With the death of every girl child, we die, nature dies. With the unnatural preference for boys, there is already an imbalance of the genders in Bangladesh, India, and China. With more boys than girls new socio-psychological problems will come to be -- worse than we can imagine. The ugliest form of patriarchy is murder of the unborn girls and the ugliest form of capitalism is the modern day slavery of women and children -- trafficked for sex.

In an integrated and interdependent world of nations, problems do not belong to isolated countries -- they belong to us all. We affect each other and therefore cannot turn away from one another. There is a global socio-economic value system that creates a conducive environment for violence on the girl child. There is a market and there is a seller and a buyer for the product. To bring humanity to modern market mechanisms, only a global approach will work; only a global approach will meaningfully contain violence against the girl child.

The story of a little girl

This is the story of Rose, a little girl in a far away village in Bangladesh. When she was born her father refused to see her or take her in his lap. He wanted a son. He was furious with his wife. The shy little girl grew up taking care of her little brother. Brother came first. She loved him. When the family sat to eat, father and son would eat first and the little girl and the mother would eat the remainder afterwards, sometimes only rice with salt.

A frail little child, she began going to school. Rose was a bright and intelligent girl. She loved school. Then one day that too stopped because the boys in the neighbourhood would tease her. And father had to cut costs to make ends meet, and, of course, Rose's education would be the first logical cost to cut. Rose was sad and silent.

The poor parents soon decided to marry the child off as if that would solve all the problems. That, too, was not easy. The parents of the unemployed boy, Karim, asked for dowry so that he could start a business. Where would they get the dowry money? The father took a loan from a village money lender at an exorbitant rate of interest -- that, too, only half the amount -- the rest to be paid later. The child was married.

Soon Karim demanded the rest of the money. He began to abuse and beat Rose. She knew her father