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Being a member of the larger social community, it isn't possible for me to limit myself as a spectator, even after being aware of the situation of women and girl children worldwide. I was always inspired to lead an initiative, beyond my comfort zone, but it was equally intimidating to approach other people and organizations, and convince them to relate to my Project's objectives. However my persistent belief in creating opportunities for young girls: opportunities which I personally have been fortunate to receive without much struggle; has made me stronger in my faith to make a difference. Today, I thereby make an attempt to lead a youth-led awareness Campaign against, what I consider the most discriminatory and oppressive practice in India- that of female foeticide and abandoning girls because of their sex and the social prejudice attached to it. I believe issues affecting the girl child are many, but to consider their inalienable right to be born and to live a dignified life is a pre-requisite to resolving every other situation of crisis. From research, to field intervention, interacting with girls at the shelter homes, to re-telling their stories to a wider network of young students, I consider my initiative as just a beginning- a prospective beginning, making me realize the need to do a lot more. Campaign Rebirth that I lead is truly special, since it stands testimony to how anyone who is sensitive about social issues of discrimination, inequality, violence and abuse indeed can mark a difference and initiate difference if they feel the need. The Campaign is an empowering process because it accommodates difference, appreciates and builds the ability to lead, learn, stand up and believe in optimism to initiate a change- a beginning, how small it may be. Further, it takes up a very challenging issue that often goes unnoticed or not publicly discussed extensively- the issue of missing girls. Challenging as it may be, the realization to take up this issue explains an attempt to weave a holistic approach of the cause of child rights where questions of neglect, abuse, unjust treatment and decisions made for the girl child without her permit stems from the very day she is decided to be killed in the womb. More than anything, I shall be grateful to my peer group- a fantastic bunch of such strong girls who have made me believe in the possibility of the most impossible things in the world.

