



www.girlsrights.org

SON PREFERENCE

The belief or actions that the lives of daughters are not worth the same as boys, which result in the abuse of the girl child through negligence in any form, including feticide.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- In many parts of South, East and Central Asia ratios as high as 130 boys for every 100 girls have been reported.
- In Haryana, India, the sex ratio has been reported to be 830 females for every 1000 males.
- In China, there are 120 boys for every 100 girls between the ages of 0-4.
- By 2020, the Chinese Academy of Science predicts that China will have 30-40 million more men and boys than girls under the age of 20.
- In some provinces in China, the sex ratio for third-order births is 200 boys for every 100 girls.

CONSEQUENCES

- The “missing women” leave many men unmarried, increasing the likelihood of trafficking and kidnapping to create viable wives.
- Son preference can lead to the malnutrition of girls that is associated with increased risk of childhood illnesses and death.

PROMISING PRACTICES ALREADY IN PLACE

- South Korea has normalized its sex ratio and changed social norms surrounding girls by both laws and social action, including employing more women in the workforce and awareness campaigns through media.
- Many countries, including India, China, and South Korea, have programs that make it illegal to do sex-selective abortions while keeping abortion safe and legal.

- **Payment in money or food to the families that send their girls to school has proven effective.**

ACTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN TO PREVENT SON PREFERENCE

UN:

- **Collect more data on the magnitude of the problem and its consequences**
- **Ensure and monitor the implementation of CEDAW and NCRC**

Governments:

- **Promote policies concerning inheritance laws, dowries and social protection for older people that reflect a commitment to gender equality and human rights**
- **Consider easing the one child law (China)**
- **Make payments for sending girls to school a widespread policy, or give incentives of food or money**

Communities:

- **Stress gender equality in youth programs**
- **Contact community leaders directly to discuss the consequences of son preference**
- **Talk to women in existing groups about the importance of the girl child**
- **Raise awareness through social media, radio, and tv dramas**
- **Religious rites united to ease gender segregation**

NGOs and Individuals:

- **Organize awareness-raising activities that structure discussion about the equal value of boys and girls**

RESOURCES:

<http://www.who.int/genomics/gender/en/index4.html> and
<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/gpr/15/2/gpr150218.html>

