

McDougall, Janette, David J. DeWit, and G. Edward Ebanks. 1999. "Parental Preferences for Sex of Children in Canada." *Sex Roles* 41(7/8):615-626.

Research and Theoretical

The researchers are using the 1984 Canadian Fertility Survey to measure the attitudes and behaviors of women in their reproductive years of 18-49 years old about sex preferences. Women preferred to have one child of each sex. Sons are preferred over daughters for the first born child, but 65.2% of women had no sex preference for their first born child. Women who have not reach one son and one daughter by their second child will have their three children faster than parents who have one son and one daughter. This shows a preference for one child of each sex. There is not a son preference, because parents who have a boy in their first parity do not wait longer than parents with a girl to have their second child.

Policy Implementations

It has been suggested that the more egalitarian the society is, then the sex preferences of children will be not existent or it will be equal between girls and boys. This study suggests that because of how egalitarian the society is in Canada, there is not a strong preference of sons as in other countries in the world like India. Canada could be used as a building block for other countries in order to pass government policies to create an equal society between men and women in other countries. The culture of Canada could be used to transform other societies that devalue women.

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