

Larsen, Ulla, Woojin Chung, and Monica Das Gupta. 1998. "Fertility and son preference in Korea." *Population Studies* 52:317-325.

Research and Theoretical

The researchers are attempting to understand the factors that predict son preferences in South Korea. The data source they use is the 1991 Korea National Fertility and Family Health Survey. Women are more likely to have another child if the previous children were girls than if they were boys. There is an association between son preferences and patriarchy for women married after 1985 when controlling for the occupation of the women. Modernization is associated with a decrease in fertility, because women have to deal with the demand from working in the workforce, and those of childbearing and childrearing. Sex-selection abortions are being used especially during the birth of the third child in order to make sure it is a boy if the previous children were girls.

Policy Implementations

The government could regulate sex-selective abortions more closely, especially when parents have two girls and are pregnant with their third child. The government could create programs to protect and financially support girls who are born as the third child. The government needs to address cultural ideology that values men over women, like that men carry the lineage of their families, they have the right to perform ancestor worship rites, and that they provide for their families in old age. Programs need to be created that will help women to work and to take care of their children. Campaigns need to be created to encourage men to help with childrearing in Korea.

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