

The psychosocial impact of cultural preference for sons

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ABSTRACT

Parental preference for sons means that parents prefer sons rather than daughters for economic, religious or social reasons. Parents who have this preference have found to use sex-selection techniques to ensure the unborn baby is a boy. The unbalanced sex-ratio of birth (SRB) in some countries with cultural preference for sons, such as India, China, Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam, are found to be relevant to the abuse of sex-selection techniques. Though the SRB in Malaysia is found to be neutral, but Malaysian Chinese were found to be higher in SRB than Malays and Indians. This report shares the findings from a serious of study conducted by the author regarding the psychosocial impact of cultural preference for sons among Malaysian Chinese adolescents. The negative consequences of high SRB have been discussed in different areas, but it is surprisingly to find that the psychosocial impacts of cultural preference for sons are seldom been explored. To tackle the psychosocial impacts of cultural preference for sons, a joint effort from science and social science studies is clearly needed.