

The Challenges of SEX SELECTION



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Gender Planning



OLD

- Keep having children to achieve the desired number of boys and girls
- Adoption, abandonment, infanticide

NEW

- Sex selective abortion w/ ultrasound and amino
- Genetic screening (pre-pregnancy)
- Sperm sorting (pre-pregnancy)

Spectrum of Gender Discrimination



- Gender discrimination & son/boy preference
- Limiting/pressuring women about reproductive decisions
- Violence against women and girls
- Eliminating women and girls

It is not just son-preference



- Model 1: Population control policies
 - One or two child norm

- Model 2: Economic pressures
 - Dowry
 - Inheritance
 - Carrying on the family name/business

It is not just son-preference



- Model 3: Reproductive autonomy
 - Desiring smaller families
 - Choosing the gender balance within the family
- Model 4: Supply driven
 - Available technology
 - Marketing

History of Sex Selection in US



- Fear of restrictions on abortion -- no regulation
- Individual choice and autonomy frame --25-35% of Americans say they would select for sex
- Problem “over there” or “others” do it -- “Wait to see the impact before we regulate”
- Practiced in and marketed to the Asian American community in the US -- veil of silence

“You can choose the gender of your baby”



A BOY OR A GIRL

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Using the Ericsson method of Sperm Separation and intra-uterine insemination.
“75-80% OF COUPLES PARTICIPATING IN GENDER PRE-SELECTION HAVE A
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ਪੇਟ ਅੰਦਰਲਾ ਬੱਚਾ ਮੁੰਡਾ ਹੋਵੇ ਜਾਂ ਕੁੜੀ ?**

Today, a Technique Developed by Dr. Ronald Ericsson of California for sex selection is being used extensively. The method is presently offering couples a chance to pre-determine the sex of their Baby before conception.

The Ericsson Method for Male Selection Produces 75% to 80% Male Infants. Techniques for Female Selection are also available.



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Mainstream Marketing



- “Pink or Blue?” and “Family Fun”
- “Baby Gender Mentor: For the Woman Who Can’t Wait to Open Her Christmas Presents”
- “Knowing the gender of your unborn baby helps prepare for your baby’s birth: you can decorate the nursery, choose your baby’s name, and make gender-specific purchases during your pregnancy.”
- “Do you want to choose the gender of your next baby?”
- “Family Balancing” and “Gender Variety”

Options



- Decrease demand for sex selection
 - Working with domestic violence groups
 - Community forums and education
- Decrease supply
 - Regulate mis-use of the technology
 - Stop the marketing -- IBPW
 - Many countries in the world prohibit sex selection
- Reclaim the language of choice

At the intersection of



- Gender discrimination
- Technology
- Marketing
- Reproductive autonomy & choice