

Prenatal sex-selection among the Asian Diasporas in Europe/Western Countries

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Demographic manifestations of son-preference

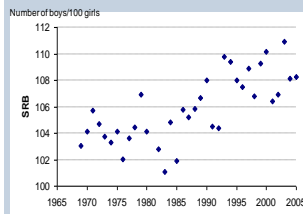
Traditionally

- **Childbearing: Differential stopping behaviour**
 - Parity progression: girls are more common at lower birth order
 - e.g. Arnold et al. 1998; Larsen et al. 1998; Basu and Jong, 2010
- **Excess female child mortality**
 - Due to female neglect, abandonment and infanticide
 - Bias in the sex-ratio of children
 - E.g. Visaria, 1967; Das Gupta, 1987; Muhuri & Preston, 1991; Mutharayappa et al. 1997; Croll, 2000; Pande, 2003.
- **Prenatal sex-selection**
 - Prenatal sex determination techniques
 - Bias in SRB in Asia, especially at higher birth orders
 - e.g. Zeng et al. 1993; Park and Cho, 1995; Bhat and Das Gupta, 1996.

Asian Diasporas within Western Countries

- Accumulative quantitative evidences of prenatal sex-selection in the Asian diasporas
 - In the UK (Dubuc and Coleman, 2007)
 - In the USA (Almond and Edlund, 2008; Abrevaya, 2009)
 - In Canada (Almond et al., 2009)
 - In Greece (Verropoulou and Tsimbos, 2010)

Prenatal sex-selection in the UK



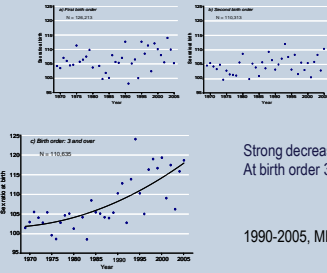
Average SRB to Mbi

1969-89: **104.1** (99%CI: 103-105.2)
 1990-05: **107.9** (99%CI: 106.3-109.6)
 1995-05: **108.3** (99%CI: 106.3-110.3)

Trend in the sex ratio of births to India-born mothers

Data sources: Annual live births in England and Wales 1969-2005

Sex-ratios by birth order, mothers born in India, 1969-2005



Strong decrease in the proportion of girls
At birth order 3 and over

1990-2005, Mbl (χ^2 : 18.45, $p < 0.001$)

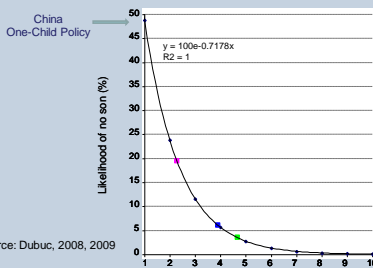


Evidence for prenatal gender-selection

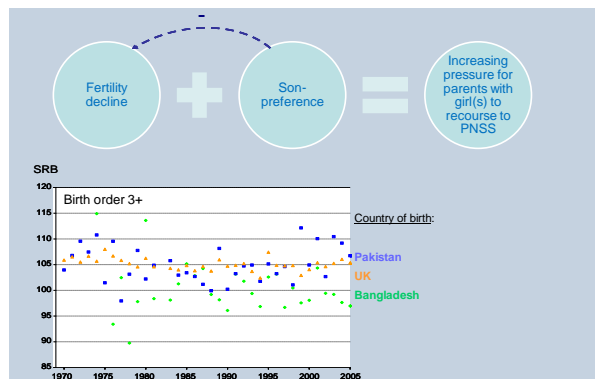
- Strong increase in the SRB over 1990-2005 (4 points)
 - Especially at higher birth order (above 2)
 - Concomitant with availability of prenatal sex-determination techniques
 - Mirroring findings in India
- ➔ Indirect evidence for PNSS (female-selective abortion) among Mbl
- reveals parental preference for **at least one son** among Indian immigrants



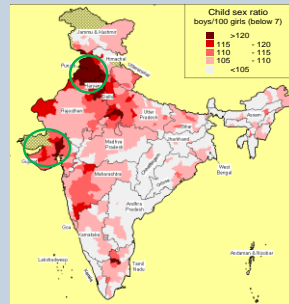
Probability curve for having no son depending on the number of children and total fertility rate (TFR) of the India-born (pink) Pakistan-born (blue) and Bangladesh-born (green) mothers in 2001.



Source: Dubuc, 2008, 2009



How strong is son-preference among India-born parents?

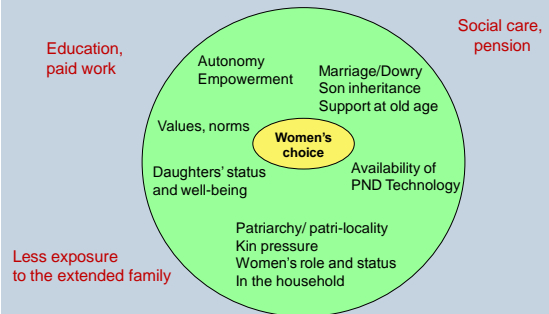


Child sex ratio in India census 2001

Source: Guilmoto, 2007
<http://www.unfpa.org/gender/docs/studies/india.pdf>

What can we learn from the Indian Diaspora?

Women under pressure to have son(s) and factors of change



Ongoing and future research

Quantitative evidence of PNSS

- Monitoring SRB trends (most recent years)
- Chinese Diaspora
- second generation
 - Differences in fertility and education (Dubuc, in Press, Pop and Dev Review)
 - Trait of Patriarchy among South Asian women in the UK (Kalwant Bohpal, 1997)

Understanding differences in characteristics and circumstances of women in the Diaspora and in the CoO, will help

- to highlight factors curbing son preference
- to inform policy



Addressing-preventing gender bias sex-selection

Communication, informing the debate



Community-based women's group initiatives

<http://challengingsocialnorms22.blogspot.com/2011/10/from-beginning.html>



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Thank you

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States	Sex-ratio		
	1981	1991	2001
India	102.7	105.4	108.3
Punjab	107.3	116.2	127.2
Haryana	107.8	114.7	124.2
Delhi	106.1	109.1	116.5
Gujarat	104.6	107.4	114.3

Sex-ratio for young children (0-2 years old)
Sources: Bhat and Zavier, 2007.

