It's a Girl-Could Be a Death Sentence

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Families lose money by having a daughter—for example, the dowry system in India (the bride's family must pay a fee to her husband's family). This practice had been illegal since 1961. In many Asian and African countries, women tend to live with their husbands family, leading parents with no sons to fend for themselves in their old age. Families lose money by having a daughter—for example, the dowry system in India (the bride's family must pay a fee to her husband's family). This practice had been illegal since 1961.1 In many Asian and African countries, women tend to live with their husbands family, leading parents with no sons to fend for themselves in their old age.1,2 Families lose money by having a daughter—for example, the dowry system in India (the bride's family must pay a fee to her husband's family). This practice had been illegal since 1961. In many Asian and African countries, women tend to live with their husbands family, leading parents with no sons to fend for themselves in their old age. In China males are preferred because they can perform manual labor on the farm and are able to carry on the family name. Due to these cultural practices and traditions, men are seen as much more valuable than women.

History and Background

- Worldwide, gender equality is a serious issue.
- The combination of new technology, old cultural practices and economic inequality, gender discrepancy has skyrocketed. In many Asian and African countries, women tend to live with their husbands family, leading parents with no sons to fend for themselves in their old age.1,2
- Families lose money by having a daughter—for example, the dowry system in India (the bride's family must pay a fee to her husband's family). This practice had been illegal since 1961.1 In many Asian and African countries, women tend to live with their husbands family, leading parents with no sons to fend for themselves in their old age. In China males are preferred because they can perform manual labor on the farm and are able to carry on the family name. Due to these cultural practices and traditions, men are seen as much more valuable than women.

Technology: Hurting or Helping?

There has been much controversy regarding the use of technology to determine the sex of an unborn baby. A tool after the 14th week in almost every country can detect the sex of a fetus, although this law is difficult to enforce. There are several European countries have very strict laws to determine the sex of a fetus, although this law is difficult to enforce.2 There are many grass root organizations, as well as IGOs working to solve these problems.

‘It’s a girl’ Could Be a Death Sentence

Is Female Feticide Culturally Contingent?

by: Reinie Thomas, Hayley Schultz, Xiaoyu Fang

The Global Effects of Female Feticide

Female feticide causes numerous implications within a society. One of the most dyer problems is that men in these countries will not be able to get married, causing more men to lead single lives, which may lead to an increase in depression, suicide rates and crime.1 Rape, sexual harassment and prostitution enhance the spread of diseases such as AIDS and tuberculosis.11 According to Hindustan Times, young girls from Assam and West Bengal are actively being sold into marriages in neighboring Haryana.11 A study done by CNN reported that “30 million more men than women will reach adulthood and will enter China’s mating market by 2020.”12

---|---|---|---
Nigeria (2006) | 107 | 186,000,000 | $327,000,000
El Salvador (2007) | 107 | 6,193,000 | $24,000,000
Philippines (2007) | 107 | 93,261,000 | $179,000,000
Ive (2002) | 107 | 5,305,000 | $10,000,000
Jamaica (2000) | 107 | 3,856,000 | $6,000,000
Austria (2000) | 107 | 8,398,000 | $10,000,000
Gaza (2008) | 107 | 11,258,000 | $12,000,000
Ive (2001) | 107 | 60,551,000 | $12,000,000
Forgy (2006) | 107 | 5,310,000 | $6,000,000
Can (2000) | 107 | 10,676,000 | $8,000,000

Table 1. Sex ratio discrepancies in countries throughout the world.5

Europe

- Several European countries have large discrepancies in their boy to girl ratios.5,11
- "Abortion tourism" exists in Sweden because terminating a pregnancy is legal until the 18th week, whereas abortion is illegal after the 14th week in almost every European country.8
- Several of the Asian immigrant groups have higher gender imbalances, especially among a second or third child.8

Asia

- In Asia, specifically China and India, this is an epidemic that severely impacts the societies and could lead to drastic implications if not addressed.

Africa

- Countries in Africa still have problems with abortion, but they have abortions for alternative reasons— for example, parents not being able to afford their future child or provide he or she with adequate healthcare.3

It’s Everyone’s Problem

North America

- Female Feticide is a problem in Canada and the US in Asian and Indian minority groups.6,10
- "It happens enough to distort the male to female ratios in several ethnic groups" (Canadian Medical Association Journal).6

Latin America

- Although many Latin American countries have very strict laws prohibiting abortion, this has had an adverse affect since it has lead to the creation of many illegal underground abortion systems.7

Conclusion

In conclusion, female feticide is a problem that occurs everywhere around the world. With new technological advances, underground abortions systems, and cultural preferences for males, millions of females will never be born solely due to their sex.

Works Cited

3. Derek, Abma and Robert Hiltz, "Concealing Sex of Fetus Could Curb Abortions; Medical Journal Notes 'Female Feticide' trend," Edmonton Journal,01/17/2012, p. A.1
6. Kale, Rajendra. ‘‘It’s a girl!‘‘— Could Be a Death Sentence.”
11. "Abortion tourism" exists in Sweden because terminating a pregnancy is legal until the 18th week, whereas abortion is illegal after the 14th week in almost every European country.
12. "Abortion tourism" exists in Sweden because terminating a pregnancy is legal until the 18th week, whereas abortion is illegal after the 14th week in almost every European country.

Figure 2. Child sex ration in India for sub-districts based on data from the 2006 census.5
Figure 3. Sex ratio imbalances in China based on data from the National Bureau of Statistics of China.5