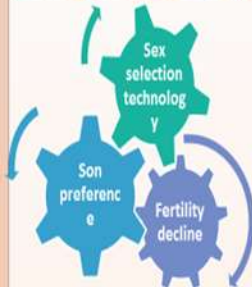


CARING FOR EQUALITY: WORKING WITH MEN, WOMEN AND YOUTH TO PREVENT GBV AND PRENATAL SEX SELECTION

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INTRODUCTION

Prenatal sex selection—choosing to continue or terminate a pregnancy based on the baby's sex—is the first and one of the most blatant forms of gender-based violence (GBV).

The practice of prenatal sex selection was first documented in Asia in the 1980s and has expanded in geographical range over the past three decades. In Armenia, skewed sex ratios at birth were first documented in the 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union and remain to be among the highest in the world. Countries where this phenomenon exists vary in socioeconomic, political, ethnic, religious or historic characteristics, but they all share three important preconditions: son bias, access to and use of prenatal sex determination technology, and a declining birth rate. In Armenia, all of these preconditions are met.

Sex ratio at birth is considered to be skewed when it exceeds the biological norm of 104-106 male births per 100 female births.

RESULTS

The study conducted in Armenia in 2016 documents high level of gender inequitable attitudes, including high levels of acceptance of violence, and a statistically significant correlation between childhood experience of violence and reported perpetration. Additionally, the intensity of inequitable norms related to male authority and female obedience are strongly correlated to higher level of male births, varying between regions.

CORRELATION BETWEEN RIGIDITY OF SOCIAL NORMS, INTENT TO SEX SELECT & SEX RATIOS AT BIRTH



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address factors underlying son preference and prenatal sex selection by addressing social norms that are detrimental to women and girls.
- Create safe spaces for men and women to interact and facilitate dialogues to transform rigid gender norms
- Engage male and female caregivers in child development activities and facilitate emotional connections between partners and children.
- Monitor changes, especially in regions showing strongly discriminatory attitudes and high levels of son preference.
- Include the following topics in community sensitization and dialogues: gender roles in the home and public spaces; the uneven burden of domestic work and child care on women; shared decision-making; the role of women in the labor market; and gender-based violence.

