

**PATRIARCHAL FAMILY TENDENCIES AND SOCIO-
ECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS**



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APPROVAL SHEET

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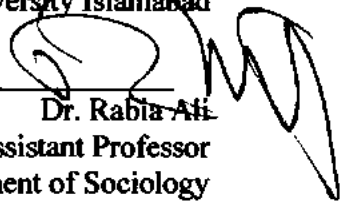
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FORWARDING SHEET

This thesis entitled, PATRIARCHAL FAMILY TENDENCIES AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS submitted by Farrah Ilyas in partial fulfillment of the requirement of PhD in Sociology has been completed under my supervision. I am satisfied with quality and originality of the research work. I allow the researcher to submit the dissertation to the concerned authorities for further process as per rules and regulations.

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STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

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Date _____

Signature _____

Farrah Ilyas

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Farrah Ilyas

DEDICATION

To my daughters Hareem & Maheen
For whom
Mama wanted to set an example that
The sky's the limit

Abstract

Pakistani families are now tended to have more sons than daughters to stable their future economic condition. This research aims to assess the reason that set into motion this phenomenon of sex selection and its consequent impacts in the social, economic, and psychological realms. The prime concern is to comprehend how certain cultures manufacture and perpetuate gender roles in general and patriarchal tendencies in particular that are created by individuals within a society who choose to imbue a particular structure with meaning. Hence, such tendencies are constantly toyed with and negotiated by actors subscribing to and questioning them. The study yields a theoretical impetus to understand the medico-social attitude regarding reproductive health that is affected by patriarchal family tendencies in the Pakistani social fabric. The central research question was to explore the various determinants of sex selection and how those are located within the family balancing approach? The method that the researcher used to collect data is a constituent of two parts. The first part explained the rationale of the study design while the second part comprised a detailed description of each sub-part of this design including a description of the questionnaire of the study as an approach of the study was quantitative research. The data was collected through the simple random probability sampling technique. The tool was a Face-to-Face structured interview schedule and lastly, analysis was done through SPSS. The study has novel operations in its entirety especially the analytical treatment of the data which introduced new dimensions to the existing body of knowledge concerning the patriarchic system and its inclination towards male child selection. The major findings of univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analysis revealed that the young married has the highest percentage of participation in the study as well as the respondents with at least a master's level education (31% and 29%, respectively). Through the multivariate analyses, the relationship of male sexual preference with psychological, social, and economic factors was also explored. Psychologically, the preference for a male baby is associated with internal pressure as well as external. The study denotes that son preference is the product of psychological, social, and economic causes. It can be concluded that there are psychological, social, and economic causes as well as impacts that comprise some factors which have more importance for the nuanced interpretation of the son preference than the overall factors themselves.

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Human population distribution on earth presents irregular patterns in general within a specific region and in particular sex composition also differs. Sex ratio data in the West region shows a normal sex ratio as compared to Asia, which overall presents an imbalanced sex ratio where there is more man as compared to women. The higher sex ratio is especially prominent in two of the most popular countries in the world, China and India. Data from other Asian countries like Taiwan, South Korea, Pakistan, and Bangladesh also signify an imbalance in sex composition. According to a survey (2005) per 100 girls, there are 107.5 boys in India, next is 106.8 in China, then 106.0 in Pakistan, and lastly 104.9 in Bangladesh (Almond,2009, p. 75-95). This estimated ratio shows the prominent difference in sex prevalence and dominance of son preference exists especially in developing countries. In contrast, western states revealed no prominent difference in sex composition of the population in most of the developed countries; people appear to favor a balanced sex composition for their families. On the other hand, in Asian states there exists a pronounced gender-biased attitude. In other words, sex preference attitude is prevalent in Asia. Son preference relatively increased in Pakistan from 1990 to 2007 with a percentage of 10. From 1990-1991, the son preference ratio was 38.3 percent which increased to 47.5 percent in 2006-2007 (Saeed, 2005 p. 118). Pakistani families are now tended to have more sons than daughters to stable their future economic condition.

This attitude results in gender-biased sex selection intending to balance sex composition as per the desire of the family. Hence, this research aims to assess the reason that set into motion this phenomenon of sex selection and its consequent impacts

in the social, economic, and psychological realms. There are significant premises that impact the family's desire for son preference in developing countries.

Gender-biased sex selection is a discriminatory practice against girls which is deeply embedded in a complex web of socio-economic and cultural factors, but due attention has been thwarted on the issue in recent years, particularly in Asian countries and in Pakistan as well, due to the significantly skewed child sex ratios. According to the Population Survey of 1998 of Pakistan (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 1998), the sex ratio was 108.5 (male = 68873686, female = 63478593). In urban areas this ratio was 112.2 (male = 22751926, female = 20284478) and in rural areas it was 106.8 (male = 46121760, female = 43194115). According to this evidence, there is the existence of male child preference not only in rural but in urbanized areas of south Asian countries. People or couples usually try to plan for their desired offspring or try to balance their offspring as desired sex which they want at an early stage.

Sex selection denotes an attempt to control the sex of the offspring to achieve a desired sex. It can be accomplished in several ways, both pre-and post-implantation of an embryo, as well as at childbirth. It has been titled family balancing too in the academic discourse. Family Balancing is the term for gender selection done to achieve a more balanced representation of both genders in a family. Moreover, couples do practice some exercises for desired sex, family balancing, and ideal family.

Sex selection can be exercised at any of the three stages:

- Preconception (selective fertilization with enriched fractions of X- or Y-bearing sperm),
- Preimplantation (selective transfer of male or female embryos),
- Prenatal (sex-selective abortion).

Above mentioned sex-selective practices are prohibited in some regions but sex selection for medical reasons is widely regarded as acceptable (to avoid the transmission of disease to the next generation). However, sex selection for non-medical reasons (because of a sexual preference that the prospective parents would want to see fulfilled) has been the subject of recurrent ethical and public policy debate in many countries for the establishment of a just and humane social fabric.

Throughout the 20th century, the discourse on women's rights and their roles in society has been embedded with a nation's fate. Women not only carry the burden of symbolizing the honor of the family but often are seen as embodying the national honor as well. Throughout the dawn of mankind, all societies emphasized childbearing and child-rearing as women's pivotal goal and their utmost function in life. Along with tasks such as food production and preparation at home, rarely did the women enjoy the leverage of seeking education. Resultantly, a significant number of them are viewed as second-class citizens and this view is justified by the biological dissimilarities between the two sexes. Adding to it, girls receive less food, health care, and education than boys in most developing countries (Mazurana & Mackay, 2001). Families dissuade young girls from acquiring an education, seeing it as unnecessary leverage hence their primary goal is to prepare for a life of caring for a husband and children after marriage. This causes parents to see the education of females as a waste of money since investment in female children is viewed as unimportant. It seems to be equated with investing in someone else's family (Togo, 1996; Nigeria, 1997). Families tend to invest in male offspring because they think that their investment will guarantee a profit when their child attains a financial career. That is why sons are preferable among families rather than daughters.

Son preference is one of the ancient paradoxes in most societies, where males were given preferential treatment over females. Despite the rapid advancement in education and communication, the desire and quest for a son continue to remain uncontested (NIPS, 1992). Sons are customarily preferred as they manifest and perpetuate prestige for the families they are born in as they are an embodiment of bloodline and lineage. Although, son preference may differ in magnitude from place to place and society to society and is relatively proportional to the cultural fabric, beliefs, literacy level and economic conditions, etc.

Son preference is the attitude that a male baby is more valuable and more important than a female baby within the home so when boys are considered much more important than girls and everyone showers love and care more towards boys as compared to girls, it is called son preference and the marital adjustment is also connected with this approach. There are a lot of reasons why people preferred sons which may be religious, economic, traditional, and social. Son preference and marital adjustments are deeply connected. In Asian countries, son preference is a big issue because the status of women is dependent on it. In Asian countries, most families generalize that woman's reproductive health depends on the gender or sex of the child which is why it is huge to address stressing issues among women to balance their family as per the demand of their spouse or family system.

Son preference is most common in Asian countries. In these countries even highly educated people having daughters describe it as a tragedy from which they cannot turn their face. The concept of people about daughters is that they are ought to be married away from home and they are going to their in-laws' home for being permanent members of their husband's house. The different perception of peoples in different areas leads to having more and more sons in their life. Among the Asian countries China,

South Korea, and Indian parents have the greatest pressure to bear sons. The local reason for son preference in these countries is the dowry system in India, China, and South Korea the patriarchal family system, and confusing values, that are deeply rooted in the son preference. The different traditional values lead to son preference in these areas. The women are also very possessive and conscious to have sons in their life for their satisfaction (Hesketh & Xing 2011). Women also stress the peaceful ideal life in developing countries. They are influenced by the societal patriarchal system as well and try to secure their future by having more sons.

1.1 Son Preference across the World

In Western states there is no prominent discrepancy in the sex composition of the population in most developing countries; people appear to favor a balanced sex composition for their families. On the other hand, in Asian states there exists a pronounced gender-biased attitude. Sex preference is prevalent in Asia and the preference for a son has increased in Pakistan from 1990 to 2007 significantly. Almost a 10 percent increase in son preference was witnessed in Pakistan from 1990 to 2007. From 1990-1991, the son preference ratio was 38.3 percent which increased in 2006-2007 to 47.5 percent (Saeed, 2005, p. 118). Western countries do not show sex preference desire as compared to Asian countries because they are not patriarchal societies. Couples reproduce any child sex if they want offspring, either it could be a daughter or son.

Support and quest for boys is a sign of insidious social, cultural, political, and economic discrimination against women, and obvious disobedience of women's fundamental human rights. In a society, the clearest point of its dominance is an indistinct gender relation at birth. Abortion of girls is also very common in Asian countries like India, where mostly women abort their baby girls because their families only preferred sons.

Son preference is strong enough to result in substantial levels of excessive female child mortality which is manifested in the motivation that leads people to discriminate between the sexes in very different ways:

- i. Before conception: This motivation is manifested by continuing childbearing until reaching their desired number of sons and stopping after that. This is reflected in decisions to use contraception or to have an additional child, contingent on the sex composition of the children already born. This may have relatively little impact on the overall sex ratio of the population since families with no sons will tend to have several daughters. Couples practice different exercises during and after pregnancy methods to attain their son's preference desire.
- ii. During pregnancy: This is done through sex-selective abortion. This is reflected in sex ratios at birth which is more masculine than the normal biological range of around 105- 106 boys for every 100 girls born.
- iii. At birth, through sex-selective infanticide: This is often difficult to distinguish empirically from sex-selective abortion since a high proportion of infanticide cases are unlikely to be reported as births. Thus, this is also largely reflected in elevated sex ratios at birth, rather than in sex differentials in recorded child survival.
- iv. During early childhood: This is exercised through neglect and other mechanisms, as reflected in the higher mortality of girls than boys during infancy and early childhood.

The above-mentioned practices to attain a male child exists in different regions as per couples' requirement. In a country like Pakistan, if the first two babies are born girls so parents think that it is not a good sign for their cultural standing. Mostly girls are not allowed to take any important decisions for their families. As brothers, when born, are only allowed to study to quench their academic thirst and enjoy everything but the girls

are responsible to do everything in their houses and help their parents at the domestic level (Hatlebakk, 2012).

There exist so many factors behind preferring sons over daughters that reflect a broad assortment, like the offering arrangement, the rule of exogamy, the traditional law, restriction on married daughters' recourse to their natal family, the cast and the class system, the legacy rules, the significance of giving birth to a son for protecting a good eternal life and the superior position associated with mothers of sons than to mothers of daughters. Women are considered and hence dealt with much lower than men, mostly women are dependent on their male family members and their economy and security rely on men. Sons play a pivotal role in society because they are responsible to their parents to give financial support in their old age and, they have the cultural endorsement to earn an income than daughters. Therefore, it is significant to have at least one son at one time. Additionally, Robitaille (2013) stated that men prefer sons for religious and educational reasons. Children fit into their fathers' families in a patriarchal society like India. The significance of a son in the maintenance of the family's name animates - by fathering sons, by maintaining the ancestor's property in the family and supporting their parents in their old age, a substance for the fathers' birth family, but not for the mothers'. Consequently, striving for at least one son for men is significant. (Robitaille & Chatterjee, 2018). Lastly, sons are considered breadwinners too in patriarchal societies for cultural recognition in the society.

In a patriarchal society, son preference is a law of inspection like a commonly inflexible injustice, quest for a male child who has the cultural recognition, customary rareness, familial prestige, and economically viable. This preference cyclically endorses actions and may well produce and perpetuate gender prejudice so when to unnecessarily engage the welfare, health, and fortitude of girls and women. As a result, favoritism can show

the way to injustice. Offsprings are sexually divided in Asian countries for the betterment of the kin system as well. They want more sons to mark them as powerful kin and enhance their fear and pressure on women also to get more sons. But in developed and powerful regions this concept of having sons is lower than in developing countries.

Sex biases in Egypt have recognized reserved attention, possibly as in common gender relation at effort is like the feasible accusation. On toting up, Egypt is in an early position of prosperity beg off; just because of this, gender-discriminating abortion is strange. (Gilany & Shady, 2007).

1.2 Patriarchy

The phrase 'patriarchy' emerged from the Greek *πατριάρχησι* (Rule of a father over a family) and carries connotations of power, family relations, and social hierarchy. Patriarchy denotes a form of political organization that distributes power unequally between men and women to the detriment of women to an extent that the patriarchal construction of the difference between masculinity and femininity is the political difference between freedom and subjection. Instead of it, patriarchy is a system of social structures, and practices in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women. Patriarchal societies influence family balancing and endorse the idea of male dominance and women's dependency.

In a patriarchal system, family systems or entire society endorses the idea of father rule, hence perpetuating males as the primary authority figures. In such societies, men hold immense power as compared to women, and often, women are deprived of their rights because of men's superiority over them. Patriarchy is particularly prevalent in South Asia, where men are considered superior to women in almost every aspect of life. This

patriarchal mindset makes it difficult for women to excel and utilize their true potential. In south Asian regions males are considered dominant, superordinate, and decision-makers on each level of life span. Women are supposed to depend upon men over sex preference, family planning, reproductive health concerns, and family balancing. Women do not decide on any kind of work or thing alone, they are somehow socialized in such a way to obey their patriarchal system, their spouse, or their house-owner. The prime concern here is to comprehend how certain cultures manufacture and perpetuate gender roles in general and patriarchal tendencies in particular that are created by individuals within a society who choose to imbue a particular structure with meaning. Hence, such tendencies are constantly toyed with and negotiated by actors subscribing to and questioning them.

1.3 Son Preference

Preference for sons is the attitude that sons are relatively more important, viable, and hence pursued than daughters. This attitude is deeply rooted in most patriarchal societies and its consequent impacts are manifested in almost every sphere of life; be it social, economic, or political in the form of unequal treatment meted out to men and women. This attitude of preference for sons as compared to daughters is more pronounced in Asian societies as compared to the Western world. This assertiveness towards preference of one sex, mostly male sex to the female sex results in a biased attitude towards the women, and hence this discrimination can range from hostile behavior towards women to extremely biased allocation of resources in favor of men. (Elmer, 1974, p. 169-174).

Son preference is also a key to balancing family and slowing the unsustainable population growth of developing countries. Under developing and underdeveloped

regions focus on consumption and working hands, therefore male preference in such regions can be seen as prominent among different cultures, families, or communities. People desire more sons than girls not only in rural but in urban or semi-urban areas also to get financial support in the future from their male offspring. They assume that having more sons leads to an effective or bright future and may influence on positive economic development of one's family or society. In Asian countries, such as Pakistan, India, China, Nepal, and Bangladesh people have now come to know that sustainable family development depends upon more working hands of family members, they do not shock after hearing modern and traditional ways of getting less and qualitative childbearing methods. There are some instrumental and medication treatments to cure women's health and to attain the desire of having more sons, which usually couples apply while having pregnancy or after delivery. Now people in Asian regions accept family planning, family balancing, and child spacing concept for having healthy male offspring. It has been now accepted in south Asian countries that modern practices to avail son offspring is something beneficial from which family can get an idea and peaceful life.

The large family's traditional concepts, rules, and values, kin system, or religious facts regarding the patriarchal system in Pakistan is common rather than in Western countries. The developed countries only focus on sustainable economic and modernity development of the whole country and do not get concerned or depend on a family, kinship or male offspring of citizens, such type of kin or generation enhancement values are less in western regions, they do not even interest to develop citizens' population or to attain male offspring, they feel it as a burden or people link with each other by cohabited relations and not interested to share and bond with other members of the house by enhancing family members. In contrast, Asian couples take an interest to

enhance their generation after marriage to safeguard their kinship system, stabilize their economic development, provide protection of their females by homeowners, to take decisions for any kind of problem or custom in common culture or a family. Unfortunately, women are dependent and have lower social status in Pakistani or in patriarchal societies, but they have pressure to provide male offspring to their husband's family and they seem also in favor of having more sons than girls because they are aware of their cultural customs regarding having more girls. Having more girls among couples is generalized as a burden in developing societies because girls are only consumers and not permanent members of the family. Parents stress about educational and other expenses of daughters initially then for marriage expenses like dowry. So, families prefer sons because they protect their family and parents after getting their financial career, they are not only consumers, but they later return consumption with profit and are held responsible as well culturally accountable for their whole family be it financially, emotionally, and in several conditions.

1.4 Reasons for Gender Biased Sex Selection

In a patriarchal society, male hegemony further subordinates women's position in society which is already on the brink of subjugation and exploitation. Patriarchal society encapsulates the mindset of people in such a way that people consider male dominance as a natural factor. This mindset is engineered and nurtured by various facets of patriarchy that ends up creating its vicious cycle. Hence, men develop, and their women endorse a persistent mindset in a patriarchal society where sons are preferred over daughters and daughters are perceived unwanted. Women's minds, bodies, desires, and freedom are channelized and controlled by the men of the family (father, brother, or husband). Each family is dependent upon male members and women are socialized to

accept the dominancy of male members in a patriarchal society. But some such families have no existence of male members in a family, and they feel insecure, unprotected, or face hurdles for their survival.

Patrilineal inheritance exists in a patriarchal society. In patrilineal inheritance, lineage is traced from the male line of ancestors. Inheritance of property and rights are related to male kin only. People prefer sons because they think their property and name can only be protected through a son. Only son will continue their legacy and carry forward their name in the world after them. Having no son is considering the death of a whole generation because after their death no one will continue their name and bloodline in the world. Daughters are the property of in-laws. It is thought that once the daughter gets married and moves out, there would be no one to carry the name of the family in absence of a son. This fear of dying without any male child and carrying forward the family name makes parents opt for family balancing techniques and methods.

As the general custom of patriarchal society, daughters have to leave their house after marriage and sons live with their parents. Parents expect help, care, and protection from their sons when they get old and need support of their sons. Daughters are supposed to be the property of their in-laws and only their husbands and in-laws have right over their mobility, agency, time, etc. At old age when parents are not able to cater to their own needs, they look to their sons for protection and care. Economic, social, and physical support is expected from the male child. These expectations increase the importance and value of the sons as compared to daughters. Not having a male child is considered unfortunate and adds to the insecurity of parents in their old age regarding their expenses and need for care and protection. Among many other reasons, this expectation from the male child for economic, social, and psychological support from parents is a fundamental cause of biased and discriminatory attitudes towards

daughters, especially in underdeveloped regions. Asian countries also generalize such types of thinking and practices for female offspring and take them as a burden now because of the economic conditions of the male partner or house owner. Male spouses demand a male child to enhance their socio-economic stability in society because they assume that daughters are not their permanent property.

To justify the biased preference of parents towards sons, they channel this through dowry-giving to their daughters at the time of their marriage. Initially, the dowry was supposed as a gift from parents to their daughter but as time passes, the dowry becomes a symbol of oppression and a burden on parents (Johnson & Johnson,2001). In this era of capitalism, when everyone is after money and money is considered the most significant and powerful tool of modern time, dowry is used by grooms' families to be financially stable. Previously, dowry was gifted by the daughter's parents, but now it is demanded by the groom's parents. Dowry adds to the misery of the parents as having daughters is considered a burden on the pocket of the parents. On the other hand, parents of the sons are considered fortunate to receive dowry upon the marriage of their son. It is expected that upon the marriage of the son, his wife will bring a dowry, and this will add to the financial stability of the family. For these reasons, parents wish to have a male child instead of the female child. Moreover, in contemporary days, this culture of receiving dowry has led to many cases of domestic violence. Women are treated badly for their failure to provide the groom's family with the desired dowry and this quest for dowry is unprecedented and limitless. Many cases of violence against women; stove-burning, acid attacks, and murders have been reported in many parts of the world under this pretext.

In India, heavy dowry is also a factor considered daughters' disadvantage and prefer a male that considers old-age support in poor families (Oldenburg, 1992, p.2657-2662).

As daughters are considered an economic burden for the responsibility of dowry provision at marriage for parents, sons are considered as a source of economic benefit as their wives would bring a dowry to their parents' home upon marriage. This perspective puts men on a higher status in the economic realm as compared to women, as their marriages would fill up their house with luxuries, in another case they must give some goods to the outsiders. The concept of dowry influences underdeveloped countries' families to grab more materials with the bride at home. Families of male offspring feel superordinate while making marriage relation with other's daughter and they pretend that they are signing the contract for the responsibility of one's daughter for rest of her life. On the other hand, female family members try to fill the groom's house with different materials to ensure that they are depending on them to shift their economic burden (daughter) to them. There are a lot of instances and evidence of dowry and problems associated with it. Murder owing to the dowry has been the most painful evidence in Indian society (Rud,2001)

In a patriarchal society, where property, lineage, rights, and name everything is related to male members of society, the birth of a son creates a sense of pride and prestige in minds of parents. They proudly announce and celebrate the birth of a son and the presence of a son in the family gives those proud moments and a superior position in society. Parents consider sons to be the ones who carry forward their family name and thus add to the prestige of the family. The household with more sons is fortunate in terms of economical wealth as well as social status and prestige. These ideas of men being superior and a source of pride further lowers the social status of women. Consequently, a biased attitude and behavior are meted out to the women in society. Sons perform death rites in Hindu traditions and ancestors worship in the Confucian tradition (Gupta, 2010, p.153- 187). Religious traditions are also male-dominated, and

some religious rituals can only be performed by male members of society. In Muslim culture, at funerals, only males can perform burial rituals. In Eid-ul-Azha, only males can participate in the activity of sacrificing and slaughtering animals. In Hindu culture, sons perform the death rites of parents. All these rituals and traditions signify how much a son is important in our society and the absence of a son creates many hurdles in the life of parents. Moreover, these traditions further reinforce the notion that males are more valuable than women. Unfortunately, religious scriptures are also misinterpreted in such a manner that subordination of women is implied in various forms due to the patriarchal mindset. These misinterpretations are one of the most influential factors that propagate gender-biased attitudes. In South Asian countries, people are influenced by cultural events in families because males manage all cultural events, and rituals, and tackle the family's economic management. So, people desire to apply such practices as family planning and medication to acquire less quantity and more quality children. In today's world, notions of family planning are echoed in almost every state's policy. These family planning policies have also intensified the gender-biased sex selection practices. In presence of family planning policies, parents are faced with the issue of achieving the desired number of sons while keeping the number of children limited. This results in their selecting the gender of their child before birth, preferring a son child in most cases. This case can be effectively substantiated with the example of China's One-Child policy and its outcomes; more males as compared to women. Moreover, since the inception of sex selection techniques, gender-biased sex selection is mostly practiced in the states which are active in family planning programs. Thus, the situation represents a dilemma.

The phenomenon of gender-biased sex selection is more prominent in societies where there are unequal power structures for both genders. In such societies, women are

mistreated by men and are not provided equal opportunities and power. This attitude is passed on from generation to generation in form of customs and practices. The unequal power structure is probably the most prominent example of patriarchal thinking. Biased gender relations, customs, and attitudes are further reinforced in the society through these biased power structures which form the essence of the society. Hence, such power structures and gender relations are evident in the participation of men in politics as compared to women. In patriarchal societies, men are also preferred because of their role and influence in political spheres of life. The participation of men in factional politics of the village adds worth to the name of the family to which he belongs. Although this phenomenon is not limited to village politics, it is more pronounced there. Sons are also preferred as compared to daughters because of this reason, among others. Patriarchal thinking is deeply rooted in such societies and these unbiased attitudes and mindsets influence every sphere of life, either implicitly or explicitly. Political life is highly influenced by this patriarchal mindset. Sons are the runner of political systems and add to the prestige and political standing of the family. Thus, sons help the family in factional politics, mostly in villages. Men manage all expenses of political and economic patterns in villages and urban areas also.

In the economic sphere, men are awarded more value as compared to women in almost every society. This fact is supported by the wage gap differentials between women and men. In patriarchal societies particularly, sons are considered a source of economic prosperity while daughters are considered an economic burden because of the perceived notions of their being useless in the economic sphere. More strength is added to this notion because of the prevalence of practices like dowry at marriage, which is considered an economic burden on the parents of the bride. In old life, parents become dependent on the male children. This dependence on males is a significant factor

contributing to the biased attitude towards women. Men are considered more valuable as compared to women, while women are treated as an economic burden.

In addition to being power-holders, men are also considered a source of monetary support to the family, as they are the ones who are supposed to live with their parents throughout their life. They are expected to earn a livelihood and provide for a family. Sons are considered more valuable as compared to daughters for the expectation that sons will support and ultimately deliver recourse to their parents in their old age and for this motive, the majority of people prefer a son as their offspring rather than a daughter. Sons run and support their family expenditures and protect their parents at the old stage. They are considered a qualitative member of the family to uphold and upgrade the economic condition of the family rather than daughters.

Daughters are also considered a burden on the family given the inheritance rulings. The division of family assets upon the marriage of the daughter by her share as per religious injunctions makes daughters more of a burden for parents. To avoid property distribution, women are preferred to be married within the family so that property is not awarded to outsiders. In extreme cases, in certain remote areas of Sindh particularly, women are not married off at all and some are even married off to the religious scriptures, just so that the property does not get lost by the family.

Gender-biased sex selection is not only motivated by social or economic factors, but psychological factors also play a vital role. The childbearing woman is the most affected individual in this realm. The rewards and perks attached to the birth of a son as compared to daughters put intense psychological pressure on the woman to produce sons. Moreover, the fear of mistreatment that is meted out to the mother of a daughter strengthens this psychological pressure. Women are under pressure to produce a male child by husbands and my husband's family as well. Some couples try short-term child

intervals because of the desire of having more sons. Such practice also influences the psychological, emotional, and physical health of women badly, as well as the impact on the newborn and prior child of the couple.

To fulfill the desire of producing a son, a woman in many cases, experiences implicit or explicit threats of use of force (both psychological and physical). In extreme cases, a woman suffers from violent beatings for her failure to produce sons. These threats (implicit or explicit) leave a substantial impact and devastate the mental health of the mother. These effects also became a cause of the distant and less loving relationship between mother and daughter child, which ultimately ends up with the daughter growing up with inferiority complexes.

One of the most pronounced psychological effects on the mental health of a woman in this situation is the fear of her husband's remarriage in case of failure to produce a son. To prevent this from happening and to save her marriage, the woman even agrees to gender-biased sex selection, despite knowing the fact that it would kill her daughter and it might risk a woman's health. Some studies find that husband blackmailed their wives into re-marriage with another woman if there will be no birth of the male child. These sorts of factors prevail in a patriarchal society (Ganatra, 2001, p. 90-98). Women also believed in the concept of having more sons refers to having more economic development and a happy family in the future, and men are a source of financial development and family protection.

In the whole world, qualities like bravery and physical strength are considered manly features. Men are considered the source of physical protection for the family. A household where there are relatively more men is considered more safe and secure as compared to that with female members only. This idea of men as a provider of physical strength and protection increases their status, thus making them more desirable as

compared to daughters. The provision of physical security also puts up man in a higher position than a woman. There is a wide conflict between women's rights and their value in Asian countries and in developing families; they are considered as a burden, subordinate, consumer, and others' property than men. That is why families intend to provide all opportunities to their male offspring.

The attitude of son preference is not only limited to the male section of society. The rationalization of unequal status and rights by women is also a prominent feature of patriarchal societies. Women in such societies themselves acquire the patriarchal biases and award more value to the mothers of sons as compared to the mothers of daughters only. Moreover, the taunting attitude toward the woman who fails to produce a son by women themselves further aggravates the situation. This attitude ultimately provokes women's liking to have baby boys instead of baby girls.

1.5 Socio-Economic and Cultural Aspects of Son Preference

Son preference refers to the desire for a higher number of male children as those are more valuable than daughters. In Southern Asian and eastern societies, the birth of a male child is celebrated and hence is considered economically, religiously, and socially advantageous. The sex structure of children born is not visible at the national level, but the ground reality reveals that the higher proportion of male children in small families looks strange while this proportion is low among large families. Two pertinent factors affect the actual proportion of sex ratio: one is the couple's fertility and the second is the mortality of offspring; this is just because of son preference behavior among couples that ends up providing poor health care and food to their daughters. Parental investment is usually more concerned with sons because they are valued socially, economically, and religiously as well in developing countries.

One of the crucial factors is the demand for the son because of cultural, social, and economic factors as leveled (Kilani, 2002, p. 67-70). He further added that traditional and culturally rich societies have their value system that perpetuates the quest for sons with their kinship structure.

The cultural aspect of reproductive behavior is vehemently demonstrated by Gupta et al. (2003, p. 186-197) in the Indian social fabric. The agrarian societies therein maximize their both economic as well as non-economic activities to gain more benefits and considered old age support in rural parts of the subcontinent which is why their desire for a male child remains higher than it is vice versa. The male child is culturally more acceptable and economically beneficial because he can help on farms, increase economic activity, hold the wealth, and support a family in all fears while it is not possible within cultural values with their daughters because they are more suppressive and ultimately migrate to their husband house and burden of dowry also become the cause of reduction in wealth. Therefore, it is not strange to say that the value system affects reproductive behavior in society overall. Especially in south Asian regions patriarchal families now focus on the increase in wealth, increase in family protector and caretaker later for parents. These all premises may be present and provided by sons to their family by the passage of time on different levels of life.

A year earlier Ooman (2002) investigated societies with patriarchal structures and hence opined that the cultural and economic value of the son is significant. In the 1980s, the technology of ultrasound was introduced and the sex ratio was imbalanced in the country. Now, technology becomes fruitful to those patriarchal minds to have a choice of the child at the parental stage.

1.6 Family Pattern and Marital Adjustments

There is general literature on marital adjustments and parental preference more than a child's sex. In South and East Asia, the preference for a male is very common. The new generation is also very involved in son preference. Gender biases diffuse everywhere especially our youth internalize and perpetuate this approach. Henceforth, many women are missing because of sex-selective abortions and the neglect of female children in Asian countries. The family structure and especially marital adjustments are deranged and devastated by it. The economic literature on son preference infrequently alerts sub-Saharan Africa which is regularly observed as a state with little or missing gender preferences. In a recent study, a disintegration of the surplus female deaths by age and by reasons of death in the different division of the world has raised eyebrows. Different from previously held insights, a huge bulk of women are not lost at birth, but during the whole age range and particularly through their reproductive years. Gender bias is possible not to be established at birth in the sub-Saharan African background wherever high fertility is ethnically respected and a minor expense for families that at rest rely on the hold from the comprehensive family system. This shows that in Asian countries, families are facing a lot of problems regarding their economic positioning; mostly girls are not allowed to work in other places, so the male is responsible to give them everything. The key concern is to look at whether the societal pressure for bearing sons is related to a specific example in fertility performance and family structure. It constructs two novel paradigms to the accessible literature. First, while making use of combined humanity data and find that several women are absent in sub-Saharan Africa and look at son preference in fertility assessment in a perspective where slight is recognized about parental gender preferences. Secondly, to discover how gender preferences can show the way to the development of customary societal institutions.

Especially, by viewing that the preference for genetically son's affects contribution to child development and polygyny, it gives an unusual clarification for their dominance. More specifically, this piece set further two channels during which grown women might be lost in several countries. In south Asian regions death ratio of female children is more than boys because parents somehow do not show concern about nutrient food or physical health stages for daughters as compared to sons.

The demand for sons is increasing day by day and that causes the death of women rapidly, the pressure on their in-laws and the poor health of women is the main reason for maternal depletion. The connection among parental sex preferences and specific marital effects and living adjustments in which women are frequently made to be particularly helpless and deprived (i.e., female headship and polygon). This is all about that how people face unintentional consequences of son preference to adjust their family. A lot of families are involved in this, and they try to make their standard high in front of others, their reasons may be traditional, culturally, institutionally, and economically vary usually in every society (Gupta et al., 2003).

In short, in the sub-Saharan African perspective, demographic and anthropologic proof stress the main part of males in usual patrilineal societies in which decline, and legacy is conveyed in the course of the male line. Moreover, male children support the association between the husband and his wife's family (i.e., by undertaking the extension of his family) and safe (the mother's) entrance to home and birthright the husband's death (Annamaria & Carlo, 2012).

1.7 Role of Patriarchy in Marital Adjustment

In patriarchal societies, men hold immense power as compared to women, and often, women are deprived of their rights because of men's superiority over them. Patriarchy

is particularly prevalent in South Asia, where men are considered superior to women in almost every aspect of life. This patriarchal mindset makes it difficult for women to excel and utilize their full potential. Men have seemed like powerful owners of the house in Asian families, and they also perform their responsibilities in that way, but they also use their power over women for their desires and to show their physical, economical, and decisional power against women in our society.

Son preference reflects the attitude that sons are relatively more important and valuable than daughters. This attitude is deeply rooted in most patriarchal societies and its consequent impacts are manifest in almost every sphere of life, social, economic, and political in the form of unequal treatment meted out to men and women. This attitude of preference for sons as compared to daughters is more prevalent in Eastern and South Asian societies as compared to the Western world. This attitude of preference for one sex, mostly the male sex to the female sex results in a biased attitude towards the women. This discriminatory attitude can range from hostile behavior towards women to extremely biased allocation of resources in favor of men.

1.8 The Determinants for the Rise of Male-Dominated Sex Ratios

The latest pointed enhancement of sex ratios is the result of this old aspiration prepared by new tools in an innovative position: the son preference has been marked in the fertility constraints by the one-baby policy and the accessibility of prenatal sex-selective technology. In Asia, the subsistence of son preference to relatively proportional to three means: sons are favored for the following reasons (Purewal, 2010)

1. The capacities of earnings of the male are much privileged than female
2. The qualities to give old-age support to parents
3. The qualities to maintain the family lineage.

From the rational-choice perception, the family favor sons as sons can carry improved benefit than daughters. Sons are always preferred over daughters due to their earning capacities, especially in agrarian economies which are dependent on their substantial strength. This state is maintained by the reality that male-dominated sex ratios at birth turn down by financial progress in further Asian societies that join the associated cultural legacy. Furthermore, the fear that son preference may get compromised if the woman progresses and her quest for education turn the table. Sons are considered a powerful social strength in Asian or developing countries because they can protect their parents financially, emotionally, and religiously.

Secondly, sons are preferred because sons are responsible to take due care of their parents when they get old. After marriage, daughters are taken away by their in-laws, away from their parents but sons keep on living with their parents and provide every recourse to them. Most people are dependent on their pension if they have no sons and have better savings than parents through sons. Bhattacharjya and his colleagues (2008) propose that people who live in China, are always expecting their sons that they would marry, and their wife is supposed to take care of them when they grow old. Furthermore, there are patriarchal kinship systems in rural China, and the desire for sons is positively associated with patrilineal family structures and practices (Tian et al., 2014).

1.9 Significance of the Study

Sex preference attitude is deeply embedded in a complex web of socio-economic and cultural factors that result in gender-biased sex selection intending to balance sex composition as per the desire of the family. Hence, the study explores the reasons that set into motion this phenomenon of sex selection and its consequent impacts in the social, economic, and psychological realms. The study yields an impetus on any/ all of

the three stages wherein sex selection is made possible due to prevailing patriarchal mindsets: preconception (selective fertilization with enriched fractions of X- or Y-bearing sperm), preimplantation (selective transfer of male or female embryos), and lastly, prenatal (sex-selective abortion).

Present research would help to identify social, psychological, and economic reasons for which people get involved in gender-biased sex selection. This study will also indicate the impacts of the absence of family balancing in people's lives. Research is pivotal at this wee time as it would contribute to understanding the reasoning of phenomena of whether gender-biased sex selection is increasing or decreasing when family patterns are changing in urbanized society.

To successfully address the underlying issue of sex preference is no doubt hugely challenging as it is interwoven and deeply embedded in diverse arrays of patriarchal minds set and tendencies and hence, requires a multifaceted approach.

1.10 Statement of the Problem

The supremacy of the male child is engineered and hence knitted well into our patriarchal socio-cultural and religious structure from which one cannot be aloof to escape from this labeling, and to support the practice of non-medical gender selection, 'family balancing' has taken the position (Malpani, Malpani, & Modi, 2002). The desire for gender selection is not a novel practice, historically, discriminatory attempts based on diet, prenatal and postnatal care, care from the husband/ in-laws, social prestige, etc. are directly relative to the number of sons a mother gives birth to.

As New Reproductive Technologies (NRTs) grasp the market share in a vicious cycle of the political economy of reproductive health, the debate on sex selection or family balancing will remain a contested topic. The study will yield a theoretical impetus to

understand the medico-social attitude regarding reproductive health that is affected by patriarchal family tendencies in the Pakistani social fabric.

Lastly, to assume a world full of sons is a global nightmare with countless consequences. Neither nations nor cultures can afford to rest in the face of gendercide. In place of it, there is a dire need to understand the socio-economic and psychological causes and impacts it carries in gender-biased sex selection at both the micro-level (family) and macro-level (Society).

1.11 Objectives of the Study

1. Explore the socio-economic and psychological causes that result in strengthening patriarchal family tendencies
2. To analyze the socio-economic and psychological impacts involved in patriarchal family tendencies.
3. See the decline in fertility and preference for sons in educated women, especially in urban societies
4. Impact of technological advancement that allows the early detection of the sex of the fetus for sex selection in urban societies
5. To analyze the impacts of the son preference approach at a micro-level (women) meso level (at family) and macro-level (Society).

1.12 Research Questions

1. What are the causes other than medical that people adopt sex selection?
2. What kind of social factors lead people to get involved in sex selection?
3. What are the psychological factors involved in sex selection?
4. What are the economic reasons for which people go for sex selection?

5. How is sex selection covering family in a "balancing" approach?

1.13 Hypothesis

Urbanized and educated women have more tendency to have a sex selection approach.

Higher the inclination to live in joint or extended families, the higher the tendency of gender-biased sex selection.

Chapter 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In most developing countries, especially in South Asia, the preference for sons in families is persistent (Williamson, 1976; Arnold & Kuo, 1984; Bairagi & Langsten, 1986; Kent & Larson, 1982; Ali, 1989; Vlassoff, 1990). According to Sheps (1963), every couple wishes for at least two sons. In India, people want at least one living son (Das, 1989). In Pakistan, the desire for a son cannot be overlooked. Different research on son preference shows that the number of living sons is an indicator of complete family size in Pakistan (Khan & Sirageledin, 1977). Research shows that the number of additional children is influenced by the presence of sons (Ali, 1989; Clark, 2000; Croll, 2002; Bhat & Zavier, 2003).

2.1 Male Dominance

The ultimate consequence of son preference is the frustration of women due to males' preferential treatment. In the aftermath, they often feel disregarded and undervalued compared to the males who are usually privileged in a male-dominated society (Hussain et al., 2000; Gupta, 1987). In Pakistan, it seems that a widespread strong desire for two or more sons contributes to a continuing high pregnancy rate (Sathar, 1994; Ali, 1989; Chowdhury, 1994). The probable reasons for a son's preference over the daughters seem to be subject and a byproduct of the males' dominance, their status as earning heads of the households, and intact/shared relations with the son's family as compared to the daughter's (Ali, 1989). Son preference can also result in sex differentials in infant and child mortality. Since female children are biologically less vulnerable than males

(Waldron, 1983), female children typically have lower mortality rates (Fuse, 2008). Gupta & Bhat (1997) estimate that 1.3 million additional girls aged 0-6 went 'missing' as indicated by a rise in excess mortality of females between 1981 and 1991, a period when India experienced a rapid decline in fertility. Since sex ratios in child mortality have remained unchanged during this period, this could indicate that these additional missing girls have emerged from unreported infanticides and sex-selective abortions due to the spread of sex-selection technologies. Because men are the sole breadwinners, the role of women has been relegated to that of childrearing. All decision-making is in the hands of the husband. Moreover, the freedom of women becomes more restricted as families are extended.

In Pakistan, male members of the family make all the decisions and women's participation in any type of decision-making is very low (Sathar & Kazi, 1990). Government and private organizations encourage women to have increased participation and status in society by providing them with education (Saira et al., 2005). Pillai & Sunil (2003) posit that fertility decision-making within the family is molded by the relatives' influence and the heavily weighted power distribution between husband and wife.

To conclude, male dominance is a concept that is coming for many decades in several communities. They are regarded as superior in different societies because they can provide financial support to the whole family as well as enhance their generation by the desire of producing male offspring through women. Child mortality rates among female children are higher than in male infants because families are more concerned for sons' basic needs and later for education and socio-economical career. Male domination prevails to enhance their working hands and to make well decisions in the future for the betterment of the family. Fertility or reproductive health practices are also decided by

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male partners or by relatives of women and mostly male child preference is a high requirement because of the male dominant society.

2.2 Girls as Economic Burden

Cultural history such as dowries and restrictions on economic activities for women give parents an incentive for sons (Lundberg, 2005). Dowry and wealth flowing from the bride's family to the groom's family have become a common practice in all casts and communities. This has put a heavy burden on the girl's family in arranging for a dowry demanded by the boy's family, in addition to meeting increasing marriage expenses (Sekher & Hatti, 2006; Hussain et al., 2000; Ali 1989, Safder et al .,2007). If a family is unable to provide the required dowry to the groom's family, then the bride's parents may face undesirable consequences. The costs of daughters' weddings are a major drain on household resources in India, and there is growing evidence of dowry inflation (Rao, 1993).

Nag (1991) and Ali (1989) report that a daughter's birth in Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan is regarded as bringing neither benefit nor prestige to the family. Rather it is considered an economic liability because of the dowry system and the high cost of a female's wedding. In India and Pakistan, the birth of a boy brings about an occasion for celebration, whereas a birth of a daughter is often viewed as a time of crisis. In India until recently, billboards messages promised "Invest rupees 500 now, save 50,000 later" encouraging prospective parents to abort female fetuses to avoid dowry expenses (Westley & Choe, 2007).

Beginning in the 1950s, Pakistan, one of the most populated developing countries, was a pioneer in supporting and implementing family planning activities (Qureshi & Adamchak, 1996). Total fertility rates, however, remained high at or near 7.0 births per woman until rates began to decline; in 1994 the fertility rate was 5.4 births per woman

(Curtis & Arnold, 1994). The results of the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) 2006-2007 show that there has been a decline in the total fertility rate from 5.4 to 4.1, a drop of over one child per family in the past 16 years. This recent decline is unusual, particularly because the traditional social structure largely supports a natural fertility state in which most women do not use any method of birth control (Qureshi & Adamchak, 1996).

To sum up, in countries where family planning programs are primarily focused on reducing the number of children per woman, son preference becomes paramount (Gu, 1994). This is especially true in countries where couples are restricted from having one child. In societies with a strong preference for sons, couples who plan to have three children may ideally want two sons and one daughter. But as fertility choices narrow, couples may plan to have only two children and will likely want one of each gender. Similarly, couples who only have one child (e.g., China) will most certainly want that child to be a son (Westley & Choe, 2007).

In the nutshell, female children are considered an economic burden in different societies for many decades. The developing countries have a significant role of male offspring in families or different areas of stages of life one of the most is the economic stability of male offspring for their parents and family. Having a female child refers to finance consumption and raw expansion like education and dowry. Girls are a dependable product in Asian regions because they are depended on their parents for their all expenses before marriage and depended on their husbands after marriage. The couple usually performs family planning and sex preference instrumental and mediational techniques to have fewer girls or to have no girls. But in some countries, couples are restricted to having some specific number of children, and such couples plan for more

boys rather than girls, and some plan for having only sons because they are restricted by state or by family.

2.3 Economic Dependency of Women

Male members within families have a definite preference for sons, practically speaking and South Asian women face the same fate. This is primarily associated with the economic dependence of women on men (Bairagi & Langsten, 1986; Kabir et al., 1994). Economic dependency and subordination continue to frustrate most women. Conversely, a small number of women who are encouraged to be independent suffer less sex discrimination, and are allowed to participate in family, economic, and social decision-making processes. They have more favorable attitudes toward every aspect of life in general and in family planning. Pakistani wives are subordinate at all levels of society, and they are subject to their husband's rule, particularly in contraceptive use (Zaman & Wahid, 1978; Shah, 1986; Manzoor, 1991; Zafar, 1993).

Financial autonomy and the working status of women significantly influence the way women think. Women who have a sound financial footing and an equal share in family income are more independent and able to control their reproductive decisions than those women who are dependent on their husbands or in-laws. Women with careers and better education are more likely to require their husbands to wear condoms to avoid unwanted pregnancies and to de-emphasize the importance of having several pregnancies to produce a son (Morrison, 1995). Tavakoli (1993) also reports those women who have good jobs and do not depend on men, influence the decision-making regarding family planning and gender preference (Sathar, 1986).

Hence, the above debate sheds light that a huge ratio of females or women is dependent economically on the male members of the family. In South Asia or in developing

regions women consider it as fate that they are born female so they cannot do anything or work independently. This economic dependency stress women who they also abuse verbally and sexually in underdeveloped regions. But in western culture and those women who are economically strong by their profession, can easily decide their life span goals or also can take decisions for reproductive health practices or sex selection in presence of their relatives and spouse.

2.4 Delayed Marriages

Recent studies in Pakistan have found lower levels of fertility in women with higher levels of education and wealth. The total fertility rate is 2.5 children (PDHS, 2007-2007). Higher education may be attained through the postponement of marriage. Marrying at a later age is associated with a lessening of gender inequality (Sathar et al., 1988). Summing up, fertility is declining among urban educated women for all the usual reasons: (1) later age at marriage, (2) formal sector employment, (3) increased contraceptive prevalence, and (4) unclassified effects such as value and attitudinal changes (Sathar & Mason, 1993).

Delayed marriage in many South Asian countries is sufficient to make a considerable difference in lowering fertility rates. Given the stress of quickly having a child after marriage, delay in marriage could in many cases be motivated by reluctance to start a family by those who are worried about the many problems of bearing and raising children in these societies (Gavin, 2010). Female education can affect fertility in several ways and may not even be directly connected to a woman's status. Those females who postpone their marriages due to educational and economic reasons have more pressure to have their first child right after the first year of marriage. The average age of marriage has been rising in South Asian countries. Ages have risen almost two-and-one-half times in India, and twice as much in Bangladesh between the years 1970-2000. The

ages in Pakistan rose three-and-one-half times between 1970 and 2007 (Gavin, 2010) Females who marry late receive even more pressure to have a son (Sathar et al., 1988). To summarize, the late or delayed marriage practice now prevails in urbanized or in developing countries because of a higher ratio of literacy concern and wealth among women. Late marriage results in a fertility decrease among married couples in south Asian countries. Furthermore, delayed married couples try to plan for early pregnancy and short interval gap between children, as well as for having desired sex in presence of low fertility rates. Late marriage is an ultimate pressure for having fewer children because of their socialization and upbringing problems and for having sons also.

2.5 Consanguineous Marriages

In societies where interaction between young women and men outside close kin is restricted, the level of consanguineous marriage tends to be high, usually with first cousins. This type of marriage is very common in Islamic societies. According to Gavin (2010), Pakistan does have one of the highest rates of consanguineous marriages in the world. These marriages are more common among the rural and less educated population (Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey [PDHS], 2006-2007), but even among those with secondary education, 44% are married to first cousins, and among territory educated, 37% (National Institute of Population Studies et al, 2008). Among currently married women ages 15-49, only one-third are married to non-relative or out of the family (PDHS, 2006-2007). When parents want their children to marry within the family, it is probably because of their increased desire for a son so they can keep their assets within the family (PDHS, 2006-2007).

Consanguineous marriage is one of the most common practices in Asian regions, be it semi-urban, urban, or rural areas. Families focus on enlarging the kin system by marrying their both (son/daughter) children in their baradari or with relatives. Some

societies believe in consanguineous marriages because they are aware of the number of male children in their ancestors' generation, or they are known about the fertility rate of females among relatives. So, they usually prefer to marry their child within the kin system to enlarge their community by the production of more sons from their prior relative wife.

2.6 Urbanization

Urbanization plays a significant role in changing ideas and behavioral approaches of people regarding son preference. In urban areas, people have better access to hospitals, health centers, nearby markets, educational institutions, and media. These advantages influence the higher rate of adopting contraception. Aside from established infrastructure and available facilities, the congested population in urban areas also forces couples to consider limiting family size. Ezeh et al.(1996) associate lower fertility rates and higher contraceptive use with urban residents in West and East Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

Urbanization alone, however, is not that meaningful if women are unable to exercise power in their birth control and contraceptive use. Even though women who live in urban areas have higher family incomes and access to health services, the lack of decision-making power is still the primary cause of lower contraception rates in Southern India (Ravindran, 1993).

In the rural population an overall negative association with contraception is found to be predominant (Robinson, 1997; Sabazwari, 1974; Hafeez, 1975; Barnet, 1982; Rogers, 1990, Sathar & Kazi, 1990). However, to make reproductive health decisions and contraception more adoptable, efforts should be made to universalize it and develop social packages for rural populations. Extending health and family planning services to remote areas, creating awareness about its safe and easy use, providing doorstep

services, and addressing the misconceptions in a better way would increase the contraception rate.

With the emergence of urbanization, people are more demanding and focus on profit maximization regarding their family members. It is common to use modern contraceptives by couples to fulfill their desire for fewer children and to have desired sex. People are adopting better and more advanced innovations regarding reproductive health practices, which prevails in urbanized areas. But in rural or semi-urban areas, some families or couples do not use contraceptives normally, because women are not the decision-maker and male partners are strong economically, so they are not comfortable using contraceptives. Many couples have a misconception regarding modern methods of contraceptives, having desired sex, taking care of reproductive health, and family planning in Asian regions but policymakers are trying to undo their stereotype conceptual values and rules.

2.7 Sons mean Old Age Security for Parents

Couples in Asia strongly desire more sons than daughters because sons provide old age security and continuation of the family name. In Pakistan, boys are expected to support their parents in old age, while girls, due to their transitory role in the family, are not assigned this obligation. In Pakistan, sons are regarded as economic assets for old age (Ali, 1989). In south Asian societies especially in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, parents live with their sons in old age. This is the reason sons are considered more precious than girls. In Hindu culture, only sons can perform the funeral ritual of parents. Data from Pakistan confirms their continued desire for sons (NIPS, 1992). The Pakistan Demographic and Health survey of 1990-1991 shows that, of the women with no children, one-third desire to have a son, while the preference for having a daughter is negligible. Among those who have two daughters and no son, almost all (93%) wanted

their next child to be a boy (Safdar et al., 1986). Parents invest in their children in the hope of yielding returns for themselves during old age, and to do so they encourage a high fertility rate. This is the primary motivation for Pakistani males to have sons, and they do not require any input from their wives. In addition, there is a demand for a large number of boys, as this strategy increases the likelihood of support from almost all the sons.

To conclude, the conception of having male offspring refers to old age protector and caretaker of parents in Asian countries. On contrary, western countries build old age homes for parents and children are free from the responsibility of taking care of their parents, they are supposed to be independent individuals in the state at the age of eighteen. In Pakistani and Hindu cultures males are dominated in the sense of providing care and financial support to their parents in old age. Religious and cultural rituals are usually performed by males like funerals and animal sacrifices in Asian and Muslim countries. That is why Asian families rely on sons rather than daughters; those are dependent, consumers, and an economic burden for the family.

2.8 Male Dominance in Family Planning

Men and women are the two integral parts of society. Men's involvement is a direct target in reproductive and family planning programs and is the major factor that affects the success of these programs. In most societies in general and Muslim societies in particular, men are mostly the predominant figures influencing the roles of women. Research in Pakistan indicates that the husband's approval is the major determinant in reproductive health programs and contraceptive usage (Joesoef et al., 1988).

A husband's approval is the most limiting factor in using contraceptives (Population Council of Pakistan, 1997). Reproductive decisions, acceptance, choice, and use of contraception, are a direct influence on husbands. Family planning in the Muslim world

in general, and in Pakistan in particular, could be practiced if the Islamic concept of contraception were to be properly addressed (Desilva, 1993). The rate of fertility decline in Pakistan could be enhanced by helping the society, particularly the males, to better understand Islamic teachings on the subject. Family planning would be the result, with men still playing an important role.

A lack of useful information and services, rather than a lack of interest, has kept men from taking a more active role in family planning (Finger, 1992). Despite this, men still play a major role in supporting a couple's reproductive health needs (Herndon, 1998). Women are of the view that it would be more helpful if males would be more responsible for birth control (Henry, 1997). Further, He found that 65% of the women wanted to select contraceptives for themselves while 75% suggested that men should ensure effective use of contraceptives.

Green & Danforth (1996) reported on males' dominating involvement in family planning programs in twenty developing countries. As stated above, providing male-friendly programs about parenthood and service delivery would help to increase men's understanding of women's reproductive health and family planning.

Although it has been established that men play a major role in economic and reproductive health programs, historically very few efforts have been made to directly involve men in what is available (Decarlo & Campbell, 1996). This could be because of limited funds for information about male services, or perhaps of the predominantly female staff in family planning clinics, negative staff attitude, or lack of staff training to work with men in reproductive and family planning health programs (Forrest, 1987). In addition, males may not be fully aware of their role in birth control programs or recognize the traditional female responsibilities of women coping with raising the children (Desantis et al., 1999). The exclusive focus on women has led to overlooking

males in family planning in Uganda, Kenya, and Ghana. This suggests that educational programs in these countries could be accelerated through the active involvement of men (Blanc et al., 1996; Carty, 1996; Dodou, 1997).

Family planning is now common in many regions but the decision for performing this practice depends upon male partners, especially in South Asian countries. Husband approval is influential in to use of contraceptives and modern instruments. Men play a vital role in reproductive health practices but unfortunately, men are illiterate or misguided in Asian regions which is why they do not prefer any kind of medication or instrumental treatment regarding the reproductive health of women. Male informational services are less in Asian regions they are not well aware of family planning, but they came to know several roamers about family planning which is why they do not feel comfortable taking risks with contraceptives and modern techniques.

2.9 Early Marriages and Age Differences

Pregnancy at a very young age is the leading cause of death and depression among these women (WCW, 1995). Women in developing countries have an average of 6-7 children due to early marriages, lack of contraception, and other circumstances (PCC, 1988). Park (1995) wrote that early marriage and the lack of family planning services result in early pregnancy and repeated pregnancies. In most impoverished countries 1 out of 10, and sometimes 1 out of 5, women die in childbirth under the age of 50 (PCC, 1988). For some women, this motivates unsafe abortions (WCW, 1995). The high birth rate is partially due to a lack of birth control and desire for a boy child, and also because couples feel they need to make up for the high infant mortality rate to ensure they will be supported in their old age (Miller & Dubois, 1976). Men usually claim the right to determine the family size and leave it up to women to prevent pregnancy (Behrman et al., 2002). If a girl is married at an early age and the age difference between husband

and wife is great, the pressure for a boy child increases. Women feel insecure in the family until they bear a son, and then she feels secure for life (Mahmood, 1977).

Multiple studies have taken place on the preferred sex selection and its various dynamics of it have been deeply covered in different contexts. A literature review is a significant part of the research to understand the topic of the research and to elaborate on the importance of the study to have an effective understanding of the research topic different authors and scholars give their views. The study in the following section is related to "exploring son preference and its impacts on marital adjustment among women. Son preference is viewed as the oldest issue in most societies, which may be defined as that female child is disadvantaged from birth. Sons are usually preferred as they are considered a symbol of prestige for the families. If there is a strong son preference in society it tends to be discriminatory practices against daughters. Son preference exists in most countries like South Asia, East Asia, and North Africa. The son preference was noted as extreme in this area of the world. The people in these areas have a strong preference and strong attitudes toward sons and they need the son in their life due to different socio-cultural factors. Some of the Asian nations having strong son preference are Pakistan, China, India, Nigeria, and North Korea. There is patriarchy in these nations, so they are having solid grounds for son preference (Atif et al.,1994)

Son preference is deeply rooted in the structure of society traditionally. Son preference is said to be present when an individual or couple indicates a preference for sons over daughters. In a patriarchal society, sons enjoy social prestige. Sons are considered the future head of the family, cultural features, religious values, and the traditional system subsidizes strong son preference. Son preference is due to the cultural spread of beliefs that a son is more valuable than a daughter and the spread of beliefs about marriage

practices. Son preference is prevailing in many parts of the world mostly in South Asia, East Asia, and parts of the Middle East and North Africa (Hesketh et al., 2011).

A society with a large fertility rate is having a smaller number of a son than a daughter. When there is a greater demand for sons the daughters have noticed the fertility declines, and to have a son, couples continue to achieve family size. The parents have given birth to more and more children for having more sons. Due to this perception, the couple gives birth to a high number of children and the population growth also increase day to day rapidly, then it influences urbanization, health problem as well as poverty. The people affected by these problems are worse. The son is considered the problem solver for their parents because the son lives all his life with their family members, especially with his parents. They help them in every step of their life and give them support till the old age of their life. Women do not satisfy to have a smaller number of male children in their life, for this, they don't want to have family planning and play with their life sons in her life (Nath & Singh, 2012, p. 26).

Son preference may differ from society to society and place to place depending on the economic behavior, literacy belief, and cultural setup. There is no apparent son preference in western countries like Belgium, the USA, Britain, etc. but son preference prevalent in Asian countries. In these countries, there are a lot of belief systems and traditional values that lead to a partiality for a son (Bharati, 2011).

Marriage pattern is also related to son preference because most people have believed that marriage at 18 years is very suitable for a girl. In our rural areas mostly, girls are getting married at the age of 18. That is why many groups are calling child marriage in those cases, so we can observe its effects on girls about 10 million every year. Despite the connection of child marriage to high maternal and child morbidity and mortality such because imposing low-birth-weight newborn and multiparty. In South Asia, before

the age of 18 years, women are married 48 percent. In indigent areas, women are living with high gender discrimination and low opportunities for education an enlarged threat of child marriage, especially for girls. According to the Millennium Development Goals report 2011, ample focus has been rendered in South Asia in order to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and women empowerment by supporting gender equality, but the objective seems far to attain. So, this objective emphasized the need for reducing child marriage and its effect on child health and maternal in the United Nations.

In Pakistan, girl-child marriage is practiced commonly, in rural regions excessively concerns the socioeconomic status of the girls is very low. In Pakistan, for women, the mean age for marriage increased significantly, only from 13.3 years during 1950-1959 to 23.1 years during 2006-2007 with a stable increase over time (16.8 years during 1960–1969; 17.8 years during 1970 –1979; 18.6 years during 1980–1989; 21.7 years during 1990–1991) as contrasted to the developed countries, the normal age at marriage is immobile minor. The birth of women in Pakistan has cultural disadvantages because a woman is judged by the birth of the children based on sex. In our society, the male is always preferred over the female. Everyone wanted a baby boy in their families because they perceived social utility and an economy in families because of the currency victor of the house. In Pakistan, the discrimination of gender can be further judged based on birth inequalities. But if we compared this approach of son preference with developing countries (91 women of every 100 men), where in Pakistan, the males are enjoyed and exploit all the benefits and family resources and on the other hand female childcare is given a smaller amount of care, as a result, in Pakistan the mortality of females are high because they are ignored from the basic needs of life like food and medicines. In Pakistan, the girls are always ignored and neglected from the basic needs of life, and

this neglect is continuously progressed in their later life and they would be able to complete their studies at least at the primary level with only 25% of the girls while contrast to 49 % of men. (Nasrullah et al., 2014).

In Pakistan, there is a high population growth rate as compared with other developing societies. This growth is due to the large family size. The desire for sons is to lead to low contraceptive prevalence. The strong son preference has been noted, so Pakistan is the most populous country with a population of 149.03 million as compared to 32.5 million at the time of independence (Safdar et al., 2007).

The custom of dowry is always prevailing in Pakistan; girls are usually considered an economic responsibility to a family. Most people have considered women are a burden to their parents as well as the whole society. In Pakistan, the custom of dowry is practiced at a high level, which is an exchange of assets, moreover in the type of gifts and money, in the marriage ceremony, both the sides of bride's and groom's family before and after the marriage and is frequently distorted by the family of the groom, mostly in those cases when the bride is older than the groom, so the demand of the dowry become very at a high level. In those cases, the parents of the girls are trying to marry their daughters at a very young age because if the age of a girl becomes older the demand for the dowry becomes much higher, so the parents are preferred to marry their daughter's inappropriate age due to increasing demand of dowry that composed them socially and economically reliant to support their family. Eventually in Pakistan, despite the stable boost in the time for marriage, the relationship between childbearing and marriage is shown at the national level. In Pakistan, during 2001-2002, generally, 42 % of women got pregnant before the age of 20 years 2001– 2002. Auxiliary, surrounded by, the women who are married and their age are 20-24 and only 89 % of women had pregnant, and childbirth of women had at least 24.5%. On the other hand,

the situation of Pakistani husbands demand their wives for more children especially sons and the married couples have the desired sons only these couples have been recognized for low contraception use and high fertility among women but whether these experiences influenced only that women who are a mother at young age younger than adults are not identified.

In those cases, mostly girls become pregnant at a very young age and this pregnancy leads to maternal mortality, newborn mortality, and prenatal, all this happens when both parents have very fewer healthcare services with very low right to use and little antenatal services guide to deprived health production. In Pakistan, especially in rural areas, this unbalanced threat of mortality and high motherly morbidity, on the other hand, looks as if it is associated with social vulnerabilities such as lack of education, increased poverty, and cultural and structural obstruction. As a result, the status of women is dependent on their education, civilization, and economic status and the most important thing is its low fertility outcomes and high fertility that is important to understand. In Pakistan, we can observe the relationship between early marriages and their consequences because women's status is dependent on the birth of sons, so those women are considered superior that have sons, and they are treated well in front of the family and their hand the mothers of daughters are considered very bad not only the family but also as a whole society. This study determines the connection between early marriages and their effects, as it is basically about why people marry their daughters at a very young age and why people quest for sons in their family, and how the status of the women is dependent on the birth of the son. The most important and current data is available for the years 2006–2007 in the Pakistan of Demographic and Health Survey. (Nasrullah et al., 2013)

Every society is predominantly patriarchal where son preference is more common. Women and men are traditionally divided into two separate worlds. They define the different roles of both genders. They place women as a reproductive unit and hence end up playing the role of wife and mother within the home. Whereas males as the supreme authority of the house, so, the male prefers to have a son which is why most females are not satisfied in their cultural domain if they have no male children (Naz et al., 2011, p. 80).

To summarize, early marriages and age differences among couples influence and distress reproductive health practices among women. Early marriage exists in rural Asian regions, male partner at an early age do not acknowledge healthy and beneficial reproductive practices which is why the female partner suffer badly in her fertility time. Coupled with it, the age difference among couples usually exists in south Asian regions. Due to cultural values, the male is considered powerful and superior to the female partner, so the woman is treated by them as a subordinate. Asian society demands a large number of sons despite the fact that the fertility rate is high or not among women. They are only concerned to enlarge their power and decision-making by producing male offspring by perpetuating pressure on their women.

2.10 Major Causes of Son Preference

In Pakistan, the desire for a son cannot be ignored. Boys are expected to support their parents in old age. Also, sons are considered assets worthy of investment for their parents. Daughters, on the other hand, are to be 'other people's property (Saeed, 2015). The lack of exposure leads to the norm of son preference in remote areas, the parent in remote areas depends on their sons for protection and services due to the shortage of water and fuel the male members must carry it from distance, and in the case of protection that remote areas do not depend on public authorities to protect them from

intruders, so male members play a role of protector for their family. Moreover, with few income-earning opportunities, people do not perceive any other alternatives than a son as a source of income and support (Li & Lavelly, 2003, p. 94)

In Pakistan, the likely reason for a son's preference over a daughter is the male dominance and to become economic assets for the family as they are considered a strong member of the family and their status as earning head of the households and shared relations with the son's family as compared to the daughters. Only the male member is considered the head of the family, and he has importance in society also (Ali, 1989).

Some countries have a rigid patrilineal joint family system, the people favored the son deliberately, like in South Korea, Northwestern India, and China. These countries have a strong patrilineal family system, where the people want to have sons with three main functions that strongly lead to son preference in these areas that may be the socio-cultural utility, the religious and economic utility of a son in their life. It, in Pakistan, the male dominance and patriarchal institution structures are the grounds for son preference, sons make their parents economically satisfied, provide the facilities, support their parents in old age, and the son makes their parents strong within society to give them social status. As a result of all these concepts, it leads to a lack of social status for women and gender inequality (Saeed, 2015).

We are living in a patriarchal society and male hegemony subordinates women's position in society. Patriarchal society influences the mindset of people in such a way that people consider male dominance as a natural factor. Mindset does not come from beyond the society, patriarchy builds a patriarchal mindset. Men develop a persistent mindset in a patriarchal society where sons are preferred over daughters and daughters

are still inferior to sons. Women's minds, bodies, desires, and freedom are controlled by male figures may be in the form of a father, brother, or husband.

Patrilineal inheritance exists in a patriarchal society. In patrilineal inheritance, lineage is traced from the male line of ancestors. Inheritance of property and rights are related to male kin only. People prefer sons because they think their property and name can only be protected by sons only. The only son will continue their legacy and carry forward their name in the world after them. Having no son is considered the death of the whole generation because after their death no one will carry forward their name in the world. Daughters are the property of her in-laws. It is thought that once the daughter gets married and moves out, there would be no one to carry the name of the family in absence of a son. (Gray, 1972, p. 91-92).

However, in the context of the socio-cultural utility of the son, within the patriarchal or patrilineal family system, the son is important for the continuation of the family line, living the name of the family in society, and having a son provides status to the family. Additionally, the economic utility of a son means the son provides labor to the family and supports parents during old age. Sons make their parents economically satisfied and provide them with all the facilities regarding the economy.

Men make the social order, and they produce themselves, because of sons, the social order of society becomes strong, and people are close to each other due to strong social order. Women are the biological reproducer but through the father, children get a social identity and survive in a society within the social order. Only boys make family lineage. When women marry, they leave their lineage and home to be in their husband's lineage (Gupta et al., 2003, p. 160).

Historically, the agricultural economy was dominated in every country and every society, and the son preference was considered an important labor force in agricultural

production. Son provides labor in the agricultural system and supports their family in the production of the agricultural production. Similarly, son preference over a daughter is noted high in Pakistan. As it is an agricultural country where there is no system of provision for old age pension to provide support for the parents, nor there is a social security system that can support families, the couples respond to such conditions to have one surviving in their life to protect and support them at any time and where (Rukanuddin, 2014, p. 298).

However, the men and women both want sons in their life for their own satisfaction. Men want sons for the economy, mostly men share their all matters with their sons like their friends and end up finding recourse and satisfaction by sharing with their sons and women prefer to have sons for maintaining their status in the family and their economic security. In society, women with a high number of sons, are considered of high social value within the home as well as in the society (Saeed, 2015).

The first choice for sons is demonstrated in many societies, while mostly so kind since to be almost invisible. On the other hand, son preference is sufficient to affect extensive stages regarding female child death is obvious in South and East Asia including India, South Korea, and China. In all three surroundings surplus, female child transience is venerable. In India and China, the performance of female infanticide was distinguished one century ago, and in India and Korea, a high infantile sex percentage has been recognized as the first contemporary censuses were in use. On the other hand, in Southeast Asia, son preference seems to be undersized or in mainly other divisions of the rising world. That situation should be related to conditions of son preference is particularly unusual, particularly the broad diversity among them in urbanization, social development, and industrialization, resultantly, the causes of son preference, particularly change. The basic issue of son preference is due to dowries for girls in

India. In the environment of China, it has been suggested that severe productiveness instruction is accountable for delicate unfairness against daughters. In the South Korean patriarchal family system, son preference is recognized coupled with low female sovereignty. Son preference is occasionally also credited to Confucian morals in China and South Korea. The previous is the process resorted to by people exclusive of financial or physical contact to sex-selective technology and the latter is the technique of option for that type of people who have the ability. The highest level of sex-selective abortion prevails in South Korea because they have the technology, and they only prefer sons for their family.

China is also responsible for the abortion of girls because in South Asia especially in India and Pakistan the bulk of discrimination takes place either before or at birth, but at rest viewing some surplus female mortality along with details births. In India, the abortion of the girl is very common because they only wanted a boy for their family who supports them in their old age. The sex-selection technology supported the people of these three countries to get rid of this responsibility of daughters, and in fact, they show less interest towards daughters and only desire for the son. Most missing girls are reported in these countries because the abortion and the death of the age five or six years of the girls show the discriminatory behavior of the family as well as the whole society. Sex-selective technology started to develop to great extent in China which adopted the one-child policy in their country, which shows the discrimination against female children because with the help of sex-selective technology most people preferred sons in China. (Gupta et al., 2015).

The desire for sons leads to a psychological disorder among pregnant women, revealed in a lot of reports that were published about pregnant women and its connection to psychological science. As we know that pregnant women try to make themselves

happy, full of joy, and relaxed, in South Asia, it is related by means of cultural stigmas turning about gender intolerance, genetic abnormalities, and abnormal births. It is furthermore related to some psychiatric troubles in women, particularly nervousness and depression. Antenatal depression has related to low social support, domestic violence, low income, and social conflict. Antenatal nervousness particularly unnecessary pregnancy account for depression and earlier prenatal defeat as antenatal nervousness has been related to a smaller amount of optimistic approach towards pregnancy. Mostly this situation happened when someone has low status and they can face a lot of problems like a low source of income, low level of education, low marital status, no social support, and less money to take care of their wives. That is why there are a lot of reasons for infertility reported in Pakistan.

In the world different developing sections because of the socioeconomic and cultural environment, and in these regions, numerous distinctive parts give to depression and antenatal anxiety. In the world, South Asia is along with apparently poorest and most populated regions, and it looks vast economic and social, health challenges. Societies are patriarchal and distinguished by the favoritism of women mostly in South Asia. In generally measured as more attractive to contain male children than female children. Due to gender inequity and cultural stigmas, the sons are facilitated with a better environment like education, healthcare, and employment. (Qadir et al., 2011).

In fact, in Pakistan, the occurrence of stress and depression has been established to be extremely huge level. But in Pakistan especially in south Punjab gender discrimination and the desire for sons contribute to psychological depression and mental sickness among pregnant women because when a woman is pregnant everyone openly expressed their desire for a baby boy, and this will make women mentally upset and depressed. In South Punjab, the people who are mostly uneducated always welcome a baby boy;

they felt pride to be the father or mother of a son and are feeling much happy being a parent of a baby girl. (Waqas et al.,2015)

It is clear that everyone desires sons instead of daughters, so this approach of son preference leads to women's anxiety and depression during pregnancy. Less family support, ignorance, and emotional disturbance of a pregnant woman resulting from usual or manmade failure and continual interpersonal problems or poor situations in the home or workplace have been related to an improved occurrence of behavioral confusion in the kids. These consist of the destruction of language development and academic activity, deceits, schizophrenia, depression, and anxiety disorder. (Weinstocks, 2007).

In Pakistani society, the status of women is frequently disputed to be the main determinant. We can imagine women as wives and mothers. On the other hand, the responsibility of her everything is given by men and then women have to earn their status in society by marriage and then execute their domestic roles and responsibilities. An organization among upper levels of education along with mothers and a lesser level of production have been found in Pakistan in current studies. While the education of women is very important because women play an important role in society and they can be aware others about contraceptive methods, it is much hard to review its also related to a stronger relationship place of women inside the domestic and a better right to be heard infertility evaluation make. Women particularly observed that to maintain their status with the help of participation in the job market. Working women can take part in their household decisions and be aware others about the world if they can earn money and if she is independent and also can control reproductive decisions.

A multivariate mold integration of the four factors- father's education, mother's education, location, and gender are also studied. Every aspect had an important

association with school presence behind taking the further three into the version. In distinguish with the investigation of fertility over, the education of the father was at slightest as essential a judge of school presence as the education of the mother. This is possibly not shocking as school presence is estimated to be much burly connected to the domestic socioeconomic position. Remarkable is the important communication between residence and gender. In rural areas, boys are considered to be a blessing from God, so they gave them every facility instead of girls. (Sathar et al., 1988).

In India, the enduring occurrence of son preference is determined by a mixture of interconnected and commonly emphasized economic sociocultural factors. The custom of dowry, the cash payment, property, and other valuable things disbursement from the family of a daughter to the family of the son upon marriage is shown the low status of women in front of society. This is the main reason that people consider daughters a curse or a burden for their parents because of the high payment of dowry. But the educated women who perform a vital role in their family and gave them social and financial support to their parents and after marriage to their husbands become a source of social security and not a burden to society. (Behrman & Duvisac, 2017).

In a patriarchal society, men hold control over women and performed all its cultural and traditional rituals. Only a son can perform all the rituals and family ancestry "According to Confucian belief, one of the three grave unofficial acts is to fail to have a son, and in pre-revolutionary times, this was grounds for a man to divorce his wife". In customary China, daughters are considered a less economic asset because they will leave the house permanently and be a burden to their family, but the boys are considered a blessing of God and they are very lucky economically and financially. Daughters are only responsible for all matters of a house like being good wives and performing their duty like good and social and financial care of the house. Women are not allowed to

take part in any big decisions for their family only men have the power to take any step for their women and any other thing. The particular gender involves the behavior of daughters and sons. (Wang, 2005).

In Pakistan, most people are engaged in consanguineous because they believed that type of marriage becomes long-lasting. This type of marriage is particularly perceived causes; cultural, economic, and religious because most people preferred to marry in their own family. Rural areas of Punjab are famous for marriage endogamous because they less allow women to take a decision in their personal life. In rural Punjab and Sindh, the people are strictly following their customs and traditions and they preferred to marry their own families because they do not allow others to share their property. On the other hand, there are a lot of facilities to marry in consanguineous are sociocultural instead of economic benefits, consolidation of family land and less costly dowries. In (DHS) Demographic and Health Survey proved that of two-third in marriages are favored crossways all religious and ethnic groups to an unstable amount, and only parents have the authority to take the decision for their children both sons and daughters. In the midst of Muslims, subsequent religious civilization is the smallest amount normally referring to the motive for such marriages. In spite of the account socio-cultural compensation of endogamous marriages, such a combination is supposed to be manipulative as they achieve the obtainable power structures in the family (Hassan,1999).

Son preference is a trans-cultural phenomenon, and the son preference popularity varies from one society to another. Asian has a proverb "good politics and good economics, essential as talking food at one a day to have a son".In Asian countries, the celebration is taking place at the birth of a boy. People considered a son a lucky charm for themselves and make a good celebration for the son. The parents serve a lot of their

time on their sons as compared to daughters to make the sons happy and safe. So, the parents prefer sons more than daughters. However, son preference is due to a number of social, religious, and economic reasons including security in old age, property, inheritance financial support, power and prestige, death and birth rituals, and finally salvation. The reasons to have sons are different from society to society. All individuals have different perceptions and desire to have a son in their life. Consequently, female is accorded lower status in society (Yasmin et al., 2013, p. 345).

Similarly, in Pakistan, there is a patrilocal kinship system in the households. The kinship system leads to son preference. Sons were favored because they were considered chief breadwinners and intra-household allocation of resources. As Pakistan has a traditional culture, there are traditional expectations of families which also leads to son preference that son is that person in their parents' life who support and care for them all their life. And become their old age support (Khan & Ali, 2005).

In addition, the son has a higher social status than a daughter; the concept of people being the only son could continue the family lineage. However, Taiwan is a society where people have an extreme and pervasive preference for having sons in their life and the Confucian exist in the society which leads to son preference mostly. The people all think that they have needed more sons than daughters. Which make them a prestige person in society and they show their power using the company and helpmate of their sons in their life (Lin, 2009, p. 379).

Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey, according to this report 1990/1991 the result of 26408 births to 6611 women, through mortality rates considered at definite age gap during the primary 5 years. Multivariate and bivariate logistic deterioration examinations were engaged to observe the relative roles of endogamous marriage and a figure of socioeconomic and demographic factors, including gender, motherly age,

tender education, birth order, and birth interval, as determinants of the early hour's death. This is socially constructed that marriage is endogamous and produces a male boy in the family but in the result, even following, calculating first cousin marriage adverse effect on children. Family pressure and the desires of elders make women's life so difficult most of the time, not only for the mothers but also for the children too. (Grant & Bittles, 1997).

The important utility of a son in the life of parents is of religious importance. The concept as traditional or religious some societies have a different concept about son. That only son can handle and kindle the funeral of their parents and help in their soul salvation. Only the male members of the family play an important role within his family during death ceremonies and also in birth ceremonies (Jin et al., 2007, p. 518)

Son preference is linked with religious belief. Chinese ritual defined that the ancestry of the family only is done by male adherents in the family. The perception of peoples about daughters is that she is considered to be the members of their husband's house after marriage, not the father's family members (Chen et al., 2015).

Similarly, according to Hindu traditions, sons only within the family kindle the funeral pyre of their parents, and hence only he can help in the salvation of his parent's soul after death. These are the different concepts in various societies which have their values as a member or as part of society. People must obey the societal rules and regulations as members or as part of society (Nath & Singh 2011, p. 26-27).

Son provides social security and supports to their parents during old age and forwards the family name. Parents increasingly prefer to have sons in their lives. They think the sons in their life are important for their survival and their social status in society. This increase in the son preference is due to different reasons which lead to son preference in the life of men and women in their life and make them a perfect couple in society. If

there is no son in the life of men and women that desire to have no sons affected the fertility attitude and behavior (Ali, 1989, p. 399).

In addition, most Asian women have health problems, and they have depression problems in their life due to a preference for the male gender. The female wants the son in their life for their satisfaction, to accomplish the desire of family members towards to have sons in the family; the female has to give birth to children according to their husband and family desires, and due to son preference and the female must possess unplanned pregnancy, depression, and physical health issues. These all-troubles women have to tolerate family preference for desiring sons in her life. Most women get mentally disturbed and they are unable to do anything in their life (Dhillon et al., 2008, p. 228).

Similarly in Nigeria women are sent back to their father's house if they have no sons in their life. If she has no son then she must go back to her father's house, she can't survive in her husband's house without having a son in her life. The concept of the people of those societies is the birth of a son in her life is a support to her and it is her passport to content in their matrimonial home. So, the son gives a strong status to the female within her husband's house. In another hand, son preference in Nigeria is rooted in the structure of the society. Like the Kola rite in Nigeria can perform only by men, omens are totally excluded. In the community, only sons can inherit the land, while women have only farming rights (Nnadi, 2013, p.137).

If there is son preference, then they're also the negative impact of it on society as well as on people. So here is the negative impact of son preference as, it leads to damaging the welfare and health of women, in many societies women are under extreme familial and social pressure to bear sons and go through repeated pregnancies until they birth to a son child in her life. In India, women are also tortured by their husbands and their

families due to don't have sons in their life and giving birth to baby girls. They are subjected to physical abuse due to having no son in their life, similarly, son preference also leads to neglect of women and girls' babies. Female members of society face different problems due to not having sons in their life. (Mitra, 2014, p. 1022).

Additionally, women from wealthy or rich families have weaker son preference as compared to poor families' women because there is an alternative source of economic support existing. The women within the poor families want sons in their life for their status within the family and for their support. The son provides them with social security and gives them economic support. So, the women in poor families want sons for their help and support (Pande & Astone, 2007).

In South Asian countries son preference is a big issue because the status of women depended on that. Moreover, the son's preference is a social factor that relates to tradition, culture, social customs, and so on. Pakistan is an agricultural society where the majority of the people live in rural areas. The literacy level is low as compared to urban areas; the rural population is engaged in agriculture. They demand labor input from having more sons in their life. In rural areas where traditional culture is well preserved. It is the social norm that the duty of women is giving birth to a son. At the point when the daughter gets married, she is a piece of an alternate arrangement of family relationships and should be a piece off and deal with her new arrangement of relations. It is the son who is currently looked upon as one in charge of taking care of their aged parents.

In southern areas of Punjab, the people have preferred sons in their families because the adjustments of marital life are dependent on sons. The mothers of the sons have a high status in their families; on the other hand, the mothers of the daughters have very low status. They are always ignored; they have no right to take any decision in their

life. Our society also gives respect and special care to the mother of their sons. In our society daughters are considered a burden to their parents so women are always preferred to be a mother of a son and not of a daughter.

People have always thought the male child is better than a female child and this means the nature of man has also been described in the entire place. Son preference occurs in the research focal area where high poverty rate, low literacy rate, low-income growth, and low female status occur. Additionally, tradition, patriarchy, and culture also make the people more conscious of having sons in their life.

In rural areas economic factors as another cause of son preference. Sons have strong earning capacity. They work anywhere at any time, and they provide family labor in the family business or on the farm and support their parents in old age, similarly, the marriage of a son provides additional help to the parents in the form of bringing daughter law to home. She helps the family of sons perfectly in every step of her life. Secondly, the son is considered a form of economic reward as dowry payments. In the context of the patriarchal family system, men are considered one degree higher than women, and the adjustment of the family is depended on the birth of the son, they would feel superior if they become the father of the boy and also feel ashamed as a father of a daughter. So, their marital adjustment is totally dependent on their sons.

To conclude, the desire for having more sons refers to the upcoming support, care, and protection of parents and other family members emotionally, and economically and to provide other advanced luxuries in South Asian countries like Pakistan, India, Nepal, China, Bangladesh, and in South Korean regions. Importance of having sons is also a requirement in underdeveloped countries because of the sustainable development of economic products, labor, and cost-benefit maximization. A female child is considered others' property and an economic burden in Asian regions because of their basic and

secondary expenses which parents bear for their future career and for settlement in others' homes. The male dominance and patriarchal society also influence women which is why they perceive them as powerful, independent, and decision-makers regarding every step of life. Sons enlarge agricultural economy, attend Islamic and cultural rituals, increase patrilineal inheritance, maintain family economic expenditures, are physically more powerful, and are protectors of their parents including whole kin relations.

2.11 Socio-Economic Aspects of Son Preference

The term son preference refers to the desire for a higher number of male children who are more valuable than daughters. In eastern and southern Asian societies, the birth of a male child is celebrated and considered economically, religious, and socially advantageous. Clark (2000, p. 95-108) argues sex structure of children born is not visible at the national level but the study shows a higher proportion of male children in small families looks strange while this proportion is low among large families. The trend of the higher number of male children in small families was observed in the northern region of India. Two factors affect the actual proportion of sex ratio, one is the couple's fertility and the second is the mortality of offspring this is just because of son preference behavior among couples, and those are providing poor health care and food to their daughters.

There are different methods to define differential stopping behavior that can measure the potential of son preference among families on an ordinal scale. It does not only identify the preference of a son but also can measure how much several children can bear to achieve their desired number of male children Coombs (1975, p. 273-298). (Clark, 2000) worked on differential stopping behavior (DSB) as well at the family level by using the national family health survey 1992-93 and concluded, that there is an

inverse relationship between the proportion of sons and actual family size. The reason behind a larger number of daughters in larger families is that these families desire to birth to male children so their fertility rate increased to attain their desired number of male children. Previously, demographers assumed that there is no relation between socio-economic characteristics with son preference and sex composition of children, but the study finds couples having less educational level belonging to the northern region of India of any tribe, caste, or religion desire a greater number of male children. Their economic status and educational level are comparatively lower than those having no son preference in the study. It means that socio-economic characteristics significantly impact son preference as the author discusses the case of India.

There are different issues raised by the author in the study in gender biases, family balance and size, social harm, and religious views. Family balance is defined as a family with both sexes while the preference of one gender child to another is called gender biasedness in the study and the case of Jordan, the average family size is 4 children, but gender biasedness increased from dozen children to attain the goal. Assistance in reproduction and practice of prenatal diagnosis is significantly predisposed by Islamic or Quranic doctrine. Therefore, the choice of the male child is significantly greater in respective regions and Islamic rules of inheritance are interpreted in the favor of the male child and it is observed as important for continuing financial security of the family in the future. At the end of the article, the authors concluded convenience of sex selection by PGD for non-medical reasons ensures to have a supportive social effect and maintains harmony and concentrated financial problems.

Vietnam is another example with higher gender biasedness according to the study by Guilmo (2012, p.32-54), the numbers of male births are higher than in India. It is interesting to make India the baseline because the rise in sex ratio has started 20 years

ago from the current situation of the country. The author has reexamined the regional differences in birth masculinity perceived in Vietnam with perspectives of gender bias and kinship institutions as done by Gupta (2003, p. 153-187) by using China, Korea, and India as case studies. The objective of the study follows the progress of prenatal sex selection at the regional level and then links to the local kinship system. The sample of the study is 15 percent of microdata from the census 2009 that provide 3.7 million households to explore the framework. Supply and demand-side factors elaborated in the study by the author, in which sex ratio is higher in different regions of Vietnam despite lower fertility rate than observed more in educated females of the country confirmed by census data. It is also interesting that no birth imbalance happened in poor families or households in the country. From the supply side, access to technology and induced abortion in Vietnam caused sex selection. The private health care system also played a vital role as happened in the case of Jordan identified by Kilani (2002, p. 67-70). On the demand side, one of the crucial factors is demand for the son called son preference in demographic or sociological terms as a factor. Son preference is because of cultural, social, and economic factors as Kilani (2002, p. 67-70) expressed in his study as well but adding religious perspectives that are missing here but the rest of the factors remain the same in all these developing countries. Gender experts also raised marginalities of women in Vietnam that is also caused by son preference and the author describes the factors from the demand side in the study.

Traditional and culturally rich societies have their value system that is described by the author with perspectives of sex preference and kinship structure. In Vietnam, son preference is based on patriarchal family institutions and value systems that ultimately resulted in gender discrimination and male dominance in society. Overall, different studies in the literature of article and authors said, there are a large number of ethnic

minorities Analysis of the study shows, that South Vietnam differs from North Vietnam's patrilineal norms. Overall, there are three variables identified in the study in which sex selection is related to a low lower fertility rate, socio-economic development, and an immediate increase in the sex ratio of birth levels observed.

Another study by Almond (2013, p. 75-95) describes the son preference of South and East Asian immigrants in Canada. The author argues in his study that China has experienced a sex ratio of 120 males and 100 females and the same happened in India with different proportions. While in India, heavy dowry is also a factor considered daughters disadvantage and prefer a male that considers old-age support in poor families Oldenburg (1992, p. 2657-2662). As per last studies indicated supply-side factors like advanced technology and institutions of immigration are high and abortions are publicly funded that is not in Vietnam and India. It is also interesting that the sample population is urbanized and economically better than the majority of Asian countries. In the case of Jordan, they have higher per capita while Indian and Vietnam citizens have comparatively lower incomes than Canada but having technology of PGD and publicly funded abortion institutions are more helpful for sex selection. Sex-selective abortion in Canada is considered unethical and discriminatory. According to the author, the ban on infanticide is the ban on sex selection in Christianity and Islam and sex selection institutionally comes from before the introduction of ultrasound.

Douglas et al. (2008, p. 5681-5682) selected two-parent families with children subject to three selection criteria from Canadian census data. The first one is, the youngest 3 children born in Canada, the oldest child is 12 years old and the last criteria are those parents with sequential births parity in the study. For analysis, the author has used multivariate regression analysis in the study. There are higher sex ratios among immigrants in Canada same as happened in China according to study results while sext

selection is not only practiced in Asia where Islam dominates but also practices in the west. Aggregate data also suggest sex preference for offspring among Indian residents in Canada and especially Sikh families is significantly higher.

Pande (2005, p. 1-29) has done work on explaining son preference in rural India in which the author argues for the independent role of structural and individual factors. This study, analyses determinants of son preference in rural India, and they have eliminated relative effects of characteristics of individual women and their households and analyzes socio-economic and socio-cultural factors Pande (2005, p. 1-29). The objectives of the study are differences in son preference and family size. For analysis, the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS) data of India has been used in the study. The number of respondents in the study is 50136 households ever-married women aged between 13 and 49 years. According to data analysis, there are 88.6 percent of respondents gave valid responses, educated women and those having access to media have less likely to have a son preference. Women living in joint families or from middle or high castes have a higher preference for sons according to the study. Northern and central states of India have higher son preference than the south and eastern states of the country according to data. Even, there is the majority of northern states have more than 60 percent sample population respond about having son preference according to the study in which Utter Pradesh and Bihar are top of the northern states. Overall, the desired number of male children is higher in the first and third birth while the desired number of female children does not increase significantly till 6th birth. The dependent variable in the study is categorical so the author has used the logit model technique to analyze the results. The final model of logit in the study that measures social and cultural norms suggests that employed women and household wealth are not important,

but caste and religion significantly impact the son preference in the study Pande (2005, p. 1-29).

It is interesting in literature to find out patriarchal society and religious factors play a vital role in son preference in the Middle East or Muslim majority countries and Southeast Asian countries. Even, though there are different practices in the rich cultural region of Asia but the case of son preference; they have similarities in the behavior as observed in literature and case studies of different Asian countries. Gender stratification occurred from Women's understanding of their house and features of the people with whom she resides, local communal and macro societal norms Malhotra (2005, p. 71-88). The study does not support the argument of economic empowerment's impact on gender preference Pande (2005, p. 1-29).

The imbalance of sex ratios ultimately resulted in son preference highlighted by decreasing birth rate. This behavior is observed in China after the one-child policy, India, Korea, and Vietnam significantly after the ultrasound technology. The provision of technology is one of the factors of abortion and son preference in different countries. Advocates and government seek to change the trend or reverse the trend that is now called imbalance sex ratio but such types of policies are difficult to enforce. According to the author, maintaining access to safe abortion and decline in sex ratios both are important, and this shift can be addressed by addressing conditions that drive son preference Ganatra (2008, p. 90-98).

Naturally, the sex ratio at birth remains between 104-107 boys to 100 girls as the demographic transition is observed in different parts of the world. If the sex ratio changes that is ultimate because of sexual preference. Ganatra (2008, p. 90-98) analyze the link between sexual preference and imbalances in sex ratio in Asia and how government and non-governmental organizations responded? There are some

approaches to balance the sex ratio like banning the sex detection tests as adopted in India, limiting safe access to abortion, and altering the circumstances that cause son preference.

These methods often exist in the cycle. According to the author, China has started the project to aware the citizens and provides incentives to those parents having girls and educating them. India is also providing benefits to those sending girls to schools and not marrying their daughters till 18 years old. The individual decision ultimately leads to collective societal injustice in the form of imbalanced sex ratios. Correcting the imbalance of sex ratio at birth is so difficult. There is the use of prenatal technology and selective abortion regulation is not an easy task without controlling root causes according to the study.

Son preference in Vietnamese societies prevails as much as in India, Pakistan, and China because literature found significantly about the country after India. The study assesses the strength of son preference in the country as observed in birth behavior. The author of the study has used 2636 ever-married women sample population from Vietnam aged 15 years to 49 years old with at least one living child. Son preference is found significantly as researchers observe it at the world level and it has a higher impact on fertility Hughton (1995, p. 325-337). Old age security is a factor found significantly in Vietnamese parents because the daughter migrates after children so the male child lives in their house and he can support economically Murray (1993).

It is interesting in the case of Vietnam that women are significantly contributed to the country's economy and participate labor force and well educated as well but they desire at least one male child to continue their ancestral line but not desire many boys' children according to study findings of Vietnam Hughton (1995: 325-337).

Education was found negatively associated with son preference in the study and its reduced son preference but positively associated with gender indifference in Taiwan Lin (2009, p. 377-402). Younger cohorts were well educated than older ones later they were more unbiased about the sex preference or selection and less advocated the traditional male preference. There was a worldwide intra-cohort program toward gender impartiality and away from son preference. So, when younger cohorts progressively substituted the older ones as the main child carriers in Taiwan. At the communal level, son preference declined and gender indifference rose Lin (2009, p. 377-402).

An empirical study in Korea by Park (1983, p. 333-352) investigates the impact of son preference on sex composition and fertility behavior at the household level by using world fertility survey data for Korea. According to study findings, the population is identified to have a strong preference for sons and an equally high level of contraceptive use. The sex composition of male offspring is relatively higher among small families than in larger families as study findings suggest.

In well-developed countries, the population seems to favor the balanced sex composition of their families Gray (1972, p. 91-92) and Elmer (1974, p. 169-174). In Korea, it has been estimated that 5 percent of the population of women used contraception before 1974 and then it increased to 37 percent after the program and 49 percent contraceptive prevalent rate observed Byun (1979). The situation changed after the introduction of amniocentesis which can detect the sex of the fetus at the prenatal stage Hong (1976).

In the nutshell, sons are socio-economic protection providers in western and in eastern societies. Asian people celebrate male childbirth especially because they considered having sons to be beneficial economically, socially, and religiously. Sex structure is

influenced by fertility rate and by the mortality of offspring among couples. Couples provide their female offspring poor food and care this is a common practice in developing countries. But people show concern for sons' health, education, their career development and they also enjoy extra activities at different stages of their academics. The ultimate sex ratio difference is because of higher son preference by decreasing birth rate in developing countries. Families believe in having more sons is cause for an ideal, happy, peaceful, and wealthy life rather than girls.

2.12 Cultural Aspects of Son Preference

The study by Gupta (2003, p.186-197) emphasizes the cultural aspect of reproductive behavior taking the case study of Indian society. The author explores the impact of son preference as a strong cultural value on the reproductive behavior of married women belonging to different religions and castes in his study. Study findings suggest son preference behavior ultimately resulted in higher fertility in all religious communities of India, but value operates differently. There are two hypotheses of the study. One is son preference has a positive impact on the reproductive behavior of different religious communities. The second one is a preference for male issues influenced differently. The study was conducted in Patna in the early 1990s.

Gupta (2003, p. 186-197) explains the background of the geography in which the study was conducted. He explains, that agrarian societies maximize their economic and non-economic activities to gain more benefits and considered old age support in rural parts of the sub-continent that's why their desire for a male child remains higher than vice versa. The male child is culturally more acceptable and economically benefit because he can help on farms, increase economic activity, hold the wealth and support the family in all fears while it's not possible within cultural values with their daughters because they are more suppressive and ultimately migrate to their husband house and burden of

dowry also become the cause of reduction in wealth. Therefore, it is not strange to say about value system affects reproductive behavior in society overall.

The study has used qualitative questions converted into quantitative categorical variables using the Likert scale model of 10 items. 1-5 scale considered lower son preference and 6-10 scale considered higher son preference in the model of study. Population with a 3 and above fertility rate have higher son preference than those having 1-2 children while lower fertility rates have a higher rate of low son preference according to results. Within Muslim couples in India, there is a higher number of percentages of high son preference among those having 3 or more children while the proportion of high son preference remains less among Christian and Sikh couples.

Overall, Hindu couples have comparatively higher son preference than the rest of the sample population belonging to different religions and the second-highest rate of proportion among Muslims found of high son preference according to study results. Kilani (2002, p. 67-70) observed higher fertility and high son preference among Muslim couples in Jordan because society is not heterogeneous, but this is one significant study to say Hindus have more preference for a son than the rest and the same behavior can be observed among Canadian Indian immigrants couples Almond (2013: 75-95). The study also endorses the results of Rangmuthia (1997, p. 25-26).

In societies, with a patriarchal structure, the cultural and economic value of the son is significant Ooman (2002, p. 184-188). Authors argue in the study that with the introduction of ultrasound technology in the 1980s, sex ratio imbalance in the country. In India, neglect of female children from household resources is culturally practiced. Now, technologies become fruitful to those patriarch minds to choose the gender of the child at the prenatal stage.

Literature also suggests that women also have a desire for male children not because of their free choice but it is the fear of husband behavior that abuse and misbehaving if the female childbirth occurred. Even, some studies find that husband blackmailed their wives into re-marriage with another woman if there will be no birth of a male child. These sorts of factors prevail in patriarchal society Ganatra (2001, p. 90-98).

Several expectations have developed about the effects of the male excess on these men who are incapable to marry. First, it is an assumption in the study that the absence of opportunity to achieve traditional and cultural prospects of marrying. Having children will result in low self-confidence and increase vulnerability to a range of psychological problems. It has also been supposed that a grouping of psychologic susceptibility and sexual prevention may lead to hostility and violence in these men. There is good experimental support for this hypothesis in the study of the author. Cross-culture of the world in different parts indication illustrate that there is a devastating majority of vicious crime is committed by young, unmarried, lower-status males. In China and parts of India, the absolute numbers of men are a further cause for worry because they may result in absence of a pole in the current social order, it is worrisome that they will develop certain traits together in an outsider culture, revolving to disruptive behavior and planned crime, thereby bullying social stability and safety. There is an incomplete indication of these theories. The authors' continuous research in this area in China proposes that most of these men do undeniably have little confidence, are motivated to despair, and incline to be inhibited. There is no evidence that they are disposed to hostility or strength, nor are reports of crime and complaints any advanced in areas where there are recognized to be extra men. This may be because there is not yet a large adequate serious frame of unmated men to influence. After all, the expectations about male anger do not smear in this background, (Therese, 2011, p. 1374-1377).

There are a lot of socio-cultural factors that impact the son's preference like benefits and costs of their children that ultimately design the preference for the gender of the child. A cross-sectional study was conducted in India by using a sample of 385 ever-married women in the age of 15-49 years reproductive age group. Rural areas are a qualitative factor in which son preference prevails more than urban areas regardless of their education because 68 percent of women with graduation educational level prefer son birth in Gujrat and Ahmedabad according to to study findings Chavada (2009, p. 184-189). Possession of the family line active was the main factor for a fondness for a son tailed by old age safety. The leading reason for non-preference for a daughter was the element that girls do not reside at the father's house after the marriage Commissioner (2003).

According to the thesis of Ellis (2008), there are three dimensions of son preference. First, there is an impact of cultural value system on fertility behavior as migrants come from higher fertility rate countries having a higher desire for son preference. The second one is dowry culture which is still in the mind of the immigrant while considered an economic factor, but it is a cultural more than an economic factor in the case of gender preference according to study findings. The last one is missing women; patriarchal societies never express the real number of women in the family, so they underestimate and do not tell the real figure even in the vital registration system, so the author argues that there are more missing women and observe the behavior in the cultural aspect among eastern societies.

According to Caldwell (1976, p. 321-366) fertility theory, there are two types of family structures upward and downward economic flows. In traditional societies, they desire a higher fertility rate to obtain rationale economic choices from younger ages to old age while in the developed society, they choose a smaller number of children to increase

children's welfare at an early age Kaplan (2001, p.5557-5561) and theory proposed fertility decisions are all economically rationale because there is a relationship between the cost of children and fertility choices Caldwell (1976, p. 321-366). According to study findings from Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa, the reason behind the higher number of children is the upward wealth resources perception that is practiced in respective countries (1990, p. 115-130).

From the Chinese perspective, there is an abnormal sex ratio in the country as indicated by Almond et al. (2010). It is suggested that parents of male children have a higher desire for son preference than parents of female children. It means child sex becomes a significant determinant of parental sex preferences over some time. There was no effect found on the gender difference in post-delivery investments per study. The study has concluded that prenatal investments for girls supported to tenure may have dropped compared to boys once fetal sex was exposed.

To summarize, there are several cultural aspects regarding son preference in South Asian countries. There are also several religious aspects of higher fertility rate that cause more sons in Indian or other Asian regions. Sons perform religious rituals like animals' sacrificing, God's prayer in prayer buildings, and funeral customs. Women also desire for having sons in our society because of the pressure of relatives and fear of husbands. Asian husbands and their families have a cultural custom that if women are not capable to produce male children, then the husband will remarry another woman, which hurts women psychologically and mentally. Several couples plan for sons to avoid cultural practices such as dowry expenses, higher education expenses, and emotional blackmailing of daughters and in-laws. So, people are interested to have more male children to stable them in their kin system and the community more powerfully.

2.13 Technological Aspects

Throughout history, humans have tried to interfere in pregnancy to choose their own desired gender of their children by using injections, infanticide, and neglecting an infant per inborn (2003). Reproductive technologies introduced in the later 20th century in the world could detect the gender of a child at the prenatal stage. The abortion method is still practiced in southeast Asian countries to discard a female fetus during pregnancy to attain their desired child as the literature suggests. Now, prenatal genetic diagnosis and DNA-weighted Siemen are applying tools for gender selection in the world. There are ethical issues like the right to life are also debated in the whole world to regulate illegal abortion and balance the sex ratio at birth as well. There are a lot of studies in the literature that describe technological factors significantly in the case of gender selection more than socio-economic and cultural nowadays.

As discussed in the literature son preference or sex selection is observed in India, Vietnam, Korea, and China, and among Canadian immigrants as well. There are different aspects and reasons in which social, economic, cultural, and religious availability of technology are the main determinants. The United States is another example to justify the argument through literature that immigrants play a vital role, and their son-biased sex ratios are greater than even white parents at the prenatal stage Almond et al. (2008, p. 5681-5682).

Accessibility of prenatal sex determination and induced abortion were found to be important factors in the study by Almond et al, (2008, p. 5681-5682). The author has presented figures of Asian immigrant parents' data with their household sex ratio. Indian parents with two girls have a higher sex ratio while lower among mixed and two boy children's parents while the same pattern is observed among Korean parents having a daughter. There is no significant evidence of white parents having a girl with a higher

sex ratio but parents with two boys have a higher sex ratio among white parents according to the study. In this study, the author used a 5 percent public sample to extract results from the US census 2000 and choose only those parents whose race origin was Chinese, Korean and Indian.

Asian countries like India, China, Vietnam, and Korea observed by researchers with higher sex ration that is not natural, and studies show that biasedness in sex ratio happened after the introduction of technological advancement Pande (2007, p. 1-29) and the same happened in Jordan Kilani (2002, p. 67-70). It means, that our literature suggests supply-side determinants of son preference also play a significant role in socio-economic and cultural aspects that is ultrasound technology which can detect gender and parents choose to abort or not according to prenatal gender.

Another study by George (2002, p. 190-192) says the decline in child sex ratios happened in India due to abuse of medical technology. The author discussed the results of the census 2001 and a petition filed in the supreme court of India about enforcement and implementation of the prenatal diagnostic techniques act 1994 because the census 2001 shows a decline in child sex ratios, especially in north and west states of India. From the perspective of court orders, there is utmost need to regulate ultrasound machines sold to registered sellers and buyers must be registered as well, George (2002, p. 190-192).

Malpani (2002, p. 7-9) argues why should not couples be free to choose the sex of their babies. She argues, that it has the right of women to choose the gender of their offspring and they can easily have terminated unwanted pregnancies. If couples have the freedom to terminate an unwanted pregnancy, then it must be right to choose the gender of their baby. The author argues that couples desire to balance the gender of their family.

In the debate above, technological aspects are examined as parents can attain desirable gender biologically with the help of modern instrumental and mediation techniques such as injections, infanticide, and neglecting of the infant. In the late 20th century new technological instruments, contraceptives and medicines are introduced for couples who want to have a son and to change the infant's gender. This technological advancement is accepted in western areas but in developing countries, people have different mindsets and practices regarding reproductive practices and son preferences.

2.14 Son Preference in Pakistan

It is interesting to study literature about son preference and its determinants separately because this study is also conducted from Pakistan's perspective. This study focuses on the widespread culture of son preference and suppresses and neglect of daughters, and the influence of these on males and females. It also explores the impact of son preference on fertility partialities, trends, and policymaking as well dire need to focus on regulations of abortions in Pakistan. It is also a sign regarding abortions, including sex-selective abortions. Data from past censuses and sample surveys were likened. Non-governmental and governmental involvements aimed at avoiding gender biases and promoting and protecting female rights. The Pakistan Demographic and Health Surveys and the national censuses were also large sources of information. Sathar (2015) has done a great job to analyze evidence of son preference in the country by using the PDHS data set despite lacking census data that is more appropriate and more useful. In the report, there is a higher son preference among uneducated women according to PDHS data than those are literate married women. The low-income group sample population has higher son preference or who want 3 or more sons than those who fall between the middle- and higher-income group sample population. There is a higher son

preference in Baluchistan than rest of the provinces but within the province, the proportion of the KPK sample population is higher than the rest those women need more than 3 male children according to study results.

After analyzing the results of the study, it is clear that education, wealth, and region have a significant impact on son preference in Pakistani society. It is also noted that the desire for male children increased proportionally and remain higher after the birth of female childbirth Sathar (2015). Every family must have observed gender unfairness of numerous degrees in Pakistan. Therefore, such topics in the country remain the talk of the town. Still, it is slightly explored and recognized. Son preference is a very composite issue when talking about the case of Pakistan. It is the way a parent reflects on their children who are not yet born. In many countries, prenatal and antenatal murder of girls is done, or if born. Female children face the dilemma of discrimination till death not just because they do not like although overall, it is against their values to raise a female child who cannot continue their ancestral line. Son preference is so widespread in Pakistan that stresses to be lectured at the grass-root level of the society Atif et al. (2016, p. 994-998).

Although the sample population expressed more desire for both daughters and sons, son preference behavior is significantly higher than daughters. Parents' perception of the wanted gender of children to be born must be floated in favor of daughters and the author argues girls must be given equivalent chances to be wishfully born. They must live with equal rights, and this would ultimately support family planning of a lesser number of offspring and would decrease the female discernment in maturity as well in the society of Pakistan.

Pakistan is experiencing the second stage of demographic transition with a higher fertility growth rate likened to many other developing societies and countries. Higher

fertility and population growth rate mainly are because of the large family size. That is well-defined within the socio-cultural aspect of the society. The huge population growth delays the social and economic development in the country. The author argues, that the study mainly explores the social and economic development and cultural characteristics of family size and son preference Safdar et al. (2007, p. 83-86). The author has concluded at the end of the study by using qualitative data that those socio-economic features in the time of women's education, family income and demographic factors, and age at marriage have been on the family size.

There is an association of desire for a son with a low contraceptive prevalence rate found in the study while it has been also noted, that the value of a son is one of the major interference factors to following family planning. There is some indication of a variation in attitude in this respect. Attitudinal change is dominant to re-design the family planning program per the needs of people Zafar (2002, p. 1044-1049).

Saeed (2015) has done research on Pakistani society with the perspective of son preference and their socio-cultural and economic impact. The author has used the theoretical framework of Caldwell's (1976, p. 321-366) fertility theory to analyze the results. Study findings suggest upward wealth resource factor significantly plays a role to increase the fertility rate in Pakistan specifically in rural parts of the country. Hussain (2009, p. 379-388) has done work on surviving children and fertility behavior in case of gender biasedness in Pakistan by using data from Slums of Karachi. This is a cohort study and analyzes the reproductive behavior of a sample population of women aged between 15 and 49 years old. They found surviving children as the primary determinant of the reproductive period of women. The number of unwanted or unplanned pregnancies increased as the number of sons increased in the family per study results. The gender of living children was found strongly correlated with succeeding fertility

and contraceptive behavior. Couples choose at least one or more surviving children with one daughter in the family per study results.

Having said all that, Pakistani cultural and religious customs have a significant influence on the concept of son preference and are led by men or relatives of women. Pakistani population is up surging rapidly in an uneven way because of the desire of having more sons among couples. In Pakistani rural areas, women's fertility ratio is still high, but they also want a higher number of sons because of the pressure of family and husbands. But in urban areas fertility ratio is decreased as compared to the rural and 19s era because of higher education and late marriages among women, but couples still desire more sons and less or one daughter in urbanized Pakistani overpopulated areas. The usage of contraceptives and traditional techniques depends upon the number of sons in Pakistani families. Women's education, cultural customs, family income, demographic factors, and age at marriage influence the childbearing practice and son desire in Pakistan. Some couples resist modern ways of reducing family members because of overpopulation because they argue that Islam does not permit such types of practices. But some couples use contraceptives and plan family balancing techniques to gain less quantity of children and to produce more sons for the betterment of their economic stability.

Author/Year	Hypothesis/Research Question	Sample	Operationalization
Khan, M. A., & Sirageldin, I. (1977).	To examine the extent to which the desire to have addition	2910	Son preference is a reason for demand for additional child.
Gupta, M.D (1987).	Discrimination against girl child is not generalized, but rather is closely related to individual parents' family building strategies. Why son preference is strong in Punjab society	2400	Parents states clearly that wants son rather than daughters
Chowrhury, M.K. (1994)	In a society with strong son preference and its effect on fertility would be conditional on the level of contraceptive use	22819	Bangladesh fertility son preference and maternal education
Pillai, V.K (1999)	To explore the similarities and dissimilarities in reasons provided by husband and wives with regard to achieving the next parity. To explore the reasons wife and husband offer for practicing family planning when they	20	Decision to have next child is in hand of husband

	decided not to have the next child.		
Safdar, S. Shrif, M., Hussain, S., Arasheed, S	To find out association of socio- economic factors with family size To know the perception and motives for preferring sons over daughters To explore the effects of religion affiliation in family size and son preference.	150	Desire for son. Use of contraceptive. Religion affiliation
Khan, A. , Fikree, F.F., Pasha, O., Hussain, T., Snow, C. (1995)	To explore the issues in family planning	18	Population explosion, religious and societal perspective
Hardee, K., Amal, S.H., Novriaty, S., Hull,H., Eggleston,E (1999)	To explore women's economic and social autonomy in the household, as well as to describe the effects of contraceptives and working outside the home on women's autonomy	770	Reproductive decision making. To use family planning products some time in their life. And working women use more contraceptives as compare to non working women.
Hussain,S. (2001)	To analyzed the reproductive pattern and practices prevalent	200	Reproductive Decision. Definition of Oxford English

	among migrants of two religious communities, Hindus and Muslims, Living in the slum of Delhi		Dictionary
Bairagi, R. (2001).	To analyze the relationship between contraceptive use, fertility intentions and actual fertility.	Data from the Matlab Demographic Surveillance system	Use of contraceptives and son preference
Pillai, V. Sunil, T.S (2003)	To analyzed the effect of membership in demographic innovator class on fertility related variables.	Demographic and health Survery(DHS) 1991/92 and 1997	Social changes such as fertility decline result from modernization Yemen.
Ali, M, Bhatti, A, Ushima, H	To explore reproductive health needs of adolescent males in Pakistan	78	Reproductive needs of males
Zafar, S. Batool, Z. Bano, S. (2005)	To assess a sociological study of female participation in decision making process in family matters in District Faisalabad.	120	Educated women are more likely to participate in economic decision making in the family.
Safdar, S., Sharif, M., Hussain, S., Arasheed, S. (2007).	To explore the socioeconomic and cultural aspect of family size and son preference.	150	Social economic cultural aspect effect son preference and family size
Pillai, V.K.,	What is the role of	5687	Women level of

Sunil, T.S. (2007)	modernization on the current use of contraception in Republic of Yemen		education and its effects on contraceptive use. Modernization that brings economic development.
Agrawal, S., & Unisa, S. (2010).	To examine son preference and disfavor of daughters among women in rural Haryana during the prenatal and postnatal periods.	2,646	Sex selective discrimination by active elimination of female fetus and passive elimination of female child leading to their death.
Begum, M., Singh, C. (2010)	To Identify factors determining the status of the girl child and son preference at regional level- Madurai district in Tamil Nadu	300	Women anatomy in decision making power , and socio – economic matters.
Bhatt, P.N., Zavier, A.J. (2010).	To Analyze the effect of large set of factors from a fairly sizable sample of births using multivariate technique.	India' National Family Health Survey	Sex selective abortions in India
Shudha, A., Khanna, S., Rajan, I., & Srivastva, R. (2010).	To examine the cultural context of Nair community of Kerela state in southern india, that has experienced socio- economic development and how these changes link with	215	Socio economic development and its effect on son preference in southern India

	son preference		
Samaiyar, P., & Joe, W.(2010).	To examine how the declining sex ratio can intensify male marriage squeeze India	Socio-cultural survey 1991 and 2001	Males are now required to prolong their marriages because of shortage in the availability of never married females.
Pillai V.K., Teboh, C. (2010).	Does modern contraceptive use increase overtime	CDHS 1991= 3871 CDHS 2004= 10,656	Husband attitude towards family planning. Effect of education on contraceptive use

Chapter 3

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

All thinking involves theories because they significantly influence how evidence is collected, analyzed, understood, and used. As an imperative, the philosophical and theoretical basis of the study is explored in a theoretical framework, which helped outline the phenomenon being studied. Accordingly, in a critical but flexible and creative way, the present study has attempted to incorporate theory into central research questions. All researchers have progressed in their work from the recognized theories that have been deduced from the work of classical sociologists or they inductively have framed a new theory based on their research. Instead of it, a conceptual framework has been developed from diverse arrays of paradigms and theories to synthesize the propositions with the primary data.

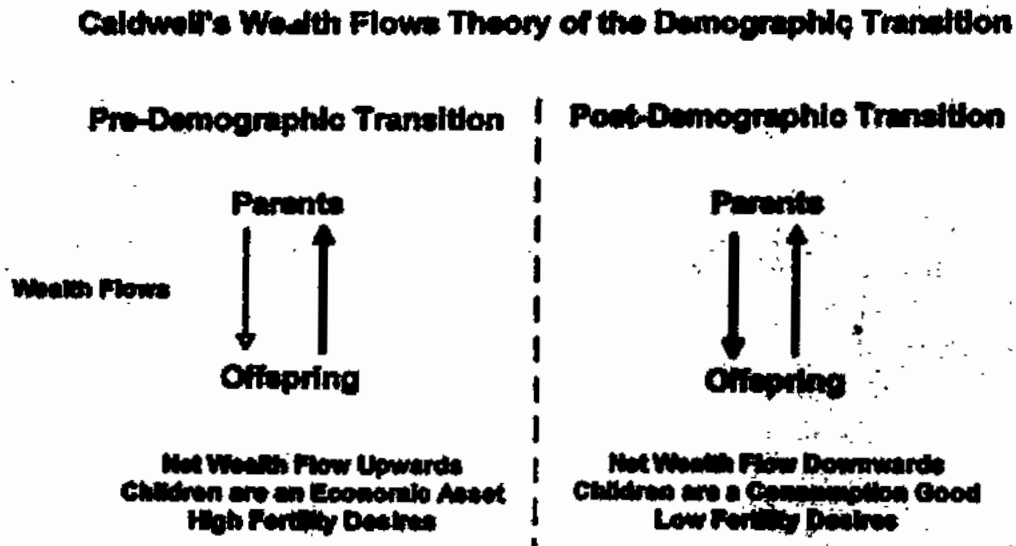
The chapter synthesizes the five major theoretical debates namely: Fertility Theory by John Caldwell, Theory of Culture, Fertility and Son Preference by Jas Ellis, Foucauldian Discourse Analysis, Objectification framework proposed by Fredrickson and Roberts, and lastly the Human Capital Theory by Gary Becker.

Contributions from these theoretical perspectives highlight various dimensions relevant in the analysis of the research problem that assists the researcher in the construction of a middle ground perspective, which brings macro societal forces and processes, as well as individuals' experiences together. The concepts inherent in propositions assisted the researcher in studying why and how respondents sought sex selection due to certain patriarchal tendencies. By discussing these theoretical approaches, the broader social, cultural, political, and economic conditions which contextualize respondents' experiences of family balancing are thematically analyzed.

3.1 Fertility Theory: Caldwell's Theory of Intergenerational Wealth Flows

John Caldwell's wealth flows theory proposes a direct link between family structure and fertility (Caldwell, 197). According to the theory, there are only two major forms of family structure, differing principally in the direction of wealth flows among generations. In 'primitive' and 'traditional' societies, net wealth flows are primarily upward from younger to older generations, and individual interests are subjugated to corporate interests. In developed nations, family structure is organized in terms of downward wealth flows where parents are expected to provide for children's economic well-being. The theory proposes that fertility decisions in all societies are economically rational responses to familial wealth flows. In societies with net upward wealth flows, the economically rational decision is to have as many surviving children as possible (within the constraints imposed by biology), because each additional child adds positively to a parent's wealth, security in old age, and social and political well-being. In societies with net downward wealth flows, the economically rational decision is to have no children or the minimum number allowed by a psychological disposition that derives pleasure from children and parenting. The worldwide transition from high to low fertility is the result of a change in family structures from upward to downward wealth flows. This change in family structure was due to the spread of new values that placed a premium on individual satisfaction and achievement (Caldwell, 1980). Those values emanated from the educated, middle-class in the west and are now being exported to the developing world through mass formal education.

Figure 1 Caldwell's Theory of Intergenerational Wealth Flows



This chart displays the basic principles of Caldwell's wealth flows theory. In traditional societies, wealth flows from the offspring to the parents. Because of this, adults can have high fertility. In developed countries, the flow of wealth is reversed, and parents cannot afford many children, thus reducing fertility.

3.2 Theory of Culture, Fertility, and Son Preference

The theory of culture, fertility, and son preference was given by Jas Ellis in 2008 in London in his research he proved his theory. According to him, culture has an influence on parental sex preference. When the fertility plan is taken by the parents back-to-back till and at any instant the sex of an upcoming family member is pre-planned. Then if parents want the desired sex of their children, the current composition will decide the chance of having another child. This concept is known as the "stopping rule model". Which states that the parents will not stop re2-producing until they get their desired child; to have a son Ellis (2008, p. 174).

The culture has an influence on parental sex preference for their child either male or female of Ellis's preposition. Society has a lot of impact on any person where he lives. In our society, there is more prevalence of joint or extended family system as compared

to the nuclear family system, and due to this, the parents have to carry a lot of burdens given by their family members or relatives regarding the sex-selective approach. In the joint or extended family system, people used to compare a lot regarding the sex of the offspring if someone has more sons or has a balanced family, they have to face the comparison with their own family.

Nowadays parents or the newly married couple mutually decide their family size that how many children they want, and what sexes are preferred to make their ideal family or a balanced family in which both sexes child. With the scientific advancement of medical science now they have such methods have been founded or made through which what parents desire for their upcoming child sex they can get through different sex selection methods.

Ellis has given the stopping rule model in which he describes this concept as parents will not stop reproducing the Childs till they get their desired child which is maximum chances to have a son. This preposition of Ellis is there in our society parents if want a baby boy their desire to have a son they reproduce children till they get their desired child they will not stop producing. By this, the sex ratio affects our societies.

As our society is a patriarchal society, the preference for males is found everywhere so the preference for males is more there. In our society the importance which is given by the parents to their children, they give more importance to son as compared to the daughters. They believe that daughters are more economically dependent on them as compared to sons. They feel more dependency on their daughters at the time of marriage and they feel dowry as a burden for their daughter whereas the parents expect dowry at the time of their own son's marriage. They think sons are more important for wealth flow between generations and sons will be more able to support parents in old age. Sons make them more economically secure whereas because of the daughter's marital status

she cannot support her parents in old age. For such reasons, the parents give more weight to sons as compared to their daughters. Ellis has given this assumption in his work that parents considered sons as an effective number of children.

The basic prepositions which are used by Jas Ellis are summarized below:

The culture has an influence on parental sex preference for their child.

Parents pre-plan their family size and their desired preferred sex.

Parents will not stop reproducing the Childs till they get their desired child which is the maximum chance to have a son.

A boy or a male child is considered more weighted as compared to a girl or a female child. Many or more than one boys is considered an effective number of children increase in the family

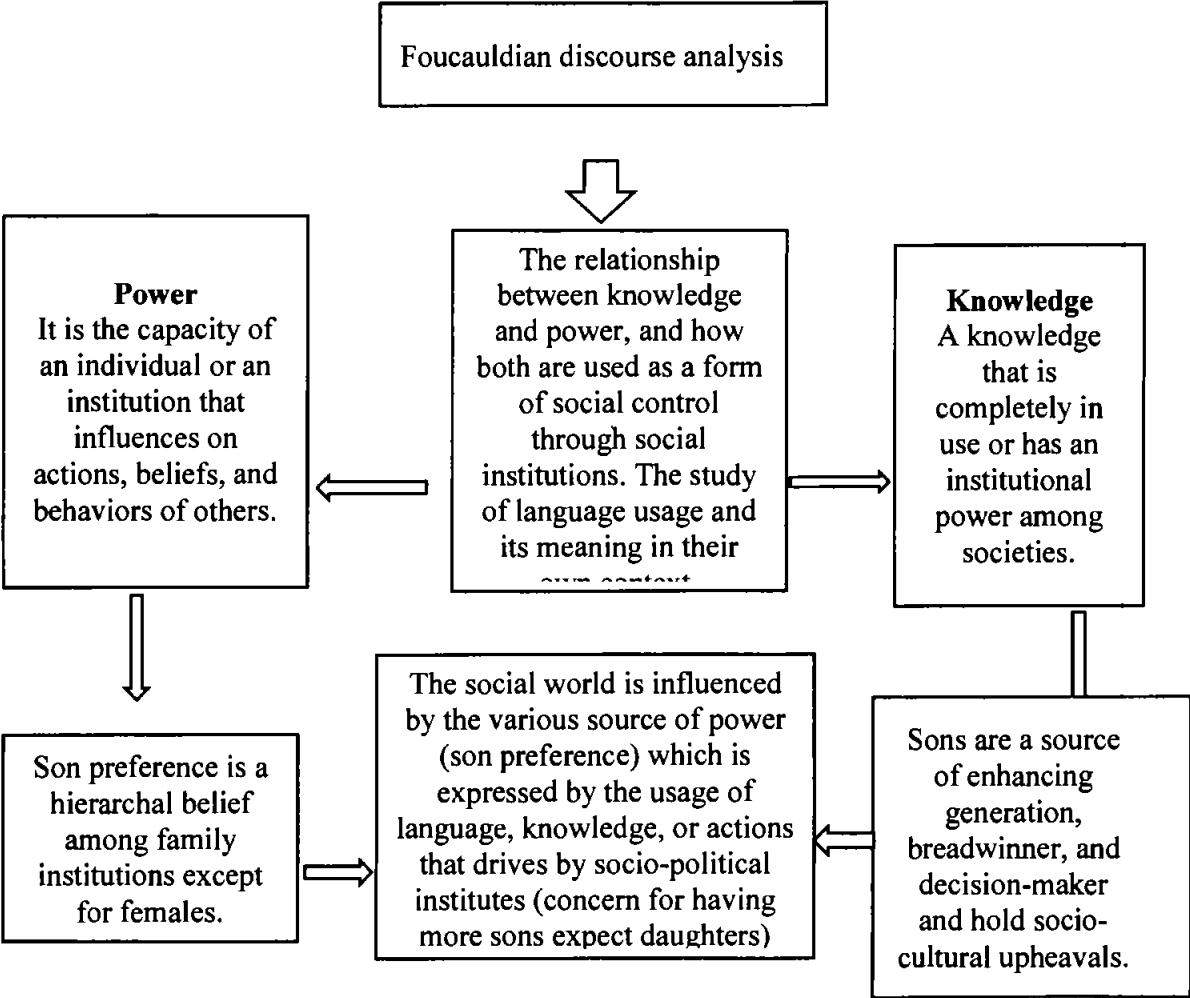
3.3 Foucauldian Discourse Analysis

The philosopher Michel Foucault's theories mainly talk about the relationship between power and knowledge and how both are practically implemented as a form of social control through social institutions. Discourse is a term used by James Gee in 1990, that refers to talking about language in use or the way of language which is used in a social context to enact the activities and identities by hierarchy. His work is influenced by Michel Foucault. Discourse analysis by Foucault in the 19s is linked with human expressions in form of their language or knowledge. According to Foucault power is the capability of an individual or institute to influence the actions, beliefs, and behaviors of others. It may refer to how expressions are linked with human knowledge. Discourse theory deals with power questions and often institutional classification or hierarchal questions. Discourse analysis is extensive for the study of language usage among people and its meaning in their related languages or context. Critical discourse analysis is generally brief as CDA, which is an analytical discourse as a research study to study

the social sustainability of abuse of power, dominated by text and speech in a socio-political context.

Foucault explains in various books about discourse, he himself justified that discourse is neither a statement nor a hypothesis. Though, it is a combination of both knowledge and power. Knowledge should be based on scientific knowledge, for instance, that knowledge that has a complete process, publishers, or professors. A knowledge that is completely in use or can be practiced and also have institutional power as well as diffused to everyone. While applying the concept of sex preference by using Foucauldian belief it is assumed to expand in all societies and all over the world, and the same body of knowledge prevails for it. Similarly, the son is prestigious as compared to the daughter and they are keen to hold responsibilities of the generation and also answerable to the rest of the disturbances that are present in society, same discourses exist regarding the son preference in our society. It is claimed by different societies also that the son carries the name of parents, but the daughter is made for other's home after her marriage she will go to somewhere out, and man is rigid who is breadwinner too, because of this hold power in all society as well as an expert in making decisions these all characteristics are linked with only male, therefore, giving birth to a male child is very high as compared to a female child. The method analyzes how the social world is affected by the various source of power expressed by language or actions. Son preference is assumed as power in the family institution and people show concern for sex preference for having a son to enhance their generation by their knowledge, action, and attitudes.

Figure 2 Foucauldian Discourse Analysis



3.4 Objectification Theory

Objectification theory was proposed by Fredrickson and Roberts in 1997. It is a framework for understanding the concept of women that women are considered as an object in others' minds and the experience to be a woman in culture sexually objectifies the woman's biological body. The concept of theory suggests that girls and women are socialized more than boys and men to internalize an observer's point of view as their primary view of their physical selves. The meaning of being sexually objectified is imposing a social meaning to being a female that explains how to use your body sexually, according to the desired use, and then treats you that way.

If we see the concept of dehumanization and objectification that is linked with physical violence against women and the objectification is further linked to the accusation of sexual assault. The effect of objectification on the victim of rape extends beyond the victim's negative perceptions. Objectification theory suggests that girls and women are typically socialized to internalize an observer's point of view of their physical selves and that can lead to habitual body monitoring, which increases women's chances for shame and anxiety, and decrease chances for ultimate motivational states that weaken awareness of internal bodily states. Accumulations of such practices may increase mental health risks like unipolar depression, sexual dysfunction, and eating disorders that excessively affect women. Objectification theory also highlights why changes in these mental health risks among women appear to arise in step with life-course variations in the female body. Psychologists understand the ways of contextual factors such as sexual objectification influence women's lives and enhance the problems that bring them to therapy, and psychologists try to manage their problems, cope with women's psychiatric problems, and resist these sexually objectification experiences. In addition, it can be seen that psychologists are encouraged to observe diversity and

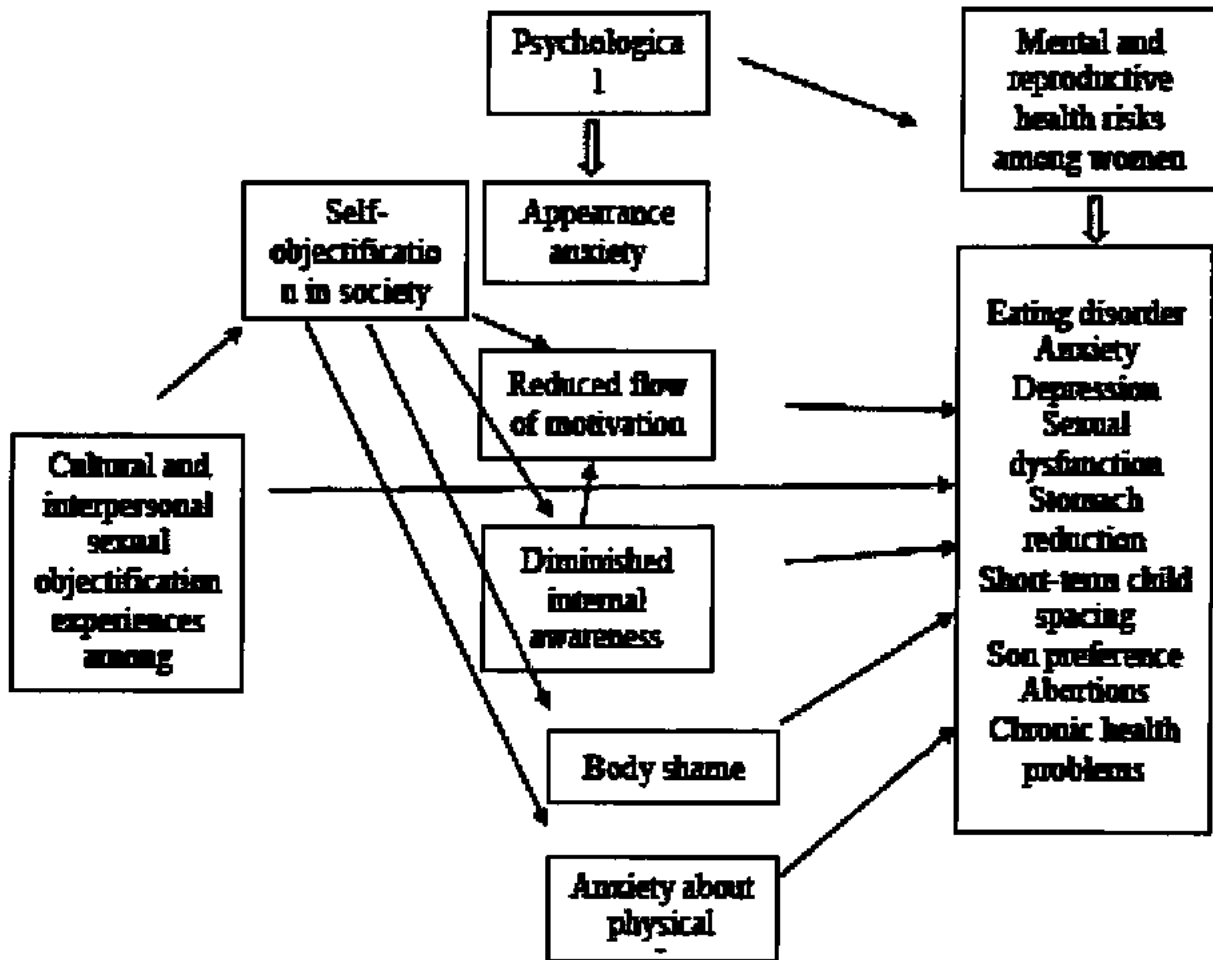
oppression issues under the patriarchal system at interpersonal, environmental, and institutional levels. They try to advocate for social justice for exploited women and communities.

Objectification theory applies in our society that people assume many women are sexually objectified by society and used as an object to be valued for their use by others. When a woman's or female's body or body portions are singled out and separated from her as an individual and she is viewed as a physical object to male or men's sexual desire, then sexual objectification occurs in a patriarchal society. The theory also suggests a mediation model that explains how self-objectification causes mental health risks for women because of the negative psychological outcomes from society. More specifically, self-objectification may arise women's anxiety about physical appearance. Like fear about when and how women's body will be looked at in front of people and how it is evaluated, that decreases opportunities for highest motivational conditions among women and reduce awareness of internal feelings of their body like hunger, arousal of sexual relation, stomach reductions among women. The increased body shame chances among women like the emotion that results from measuring a female against cultural standards and the growth of women's anxiety about their physical safety consciousness e.g., the fear of being raped which can lead to eating disorders, depression, and sexual dysfunctional consequences.

While applying the concept of objectification theory to women's reproductive health and the biological appearance of women, it is evident that external sexual objectification can influence negatively women's mental health and enhance psychological consequences of mental health risks because of self-objectification appearance in a patriarchal society, anxiety increases by body shape and women are conscious about physical safety. It can find that women consider an object everywhere

practically, from women's interpersonal experiences to media and to specific environments to subcultures in the world. For example, the women's representations in the media including commercials, television programs, movies, music lyrics, videos, magazines, sports media, and video games, and on other internet sites discovered that women are shown in sexualizing and objectified manners as compared to men. Women dressing in revealing and provocative clothing in different fields portray in such ways that highlight their body parts and the sexual willingness of men, which is considered decorative object for men. So sexual violence, rape, damaged reproductive health issues, and psychiatric problems may occur and a higher ratio of son preference influences women's reproductive health also. In addition, women bear the target of men's sexual remarks, annoying, taunting comments, and deprecating words to describe women can affect women's mental health.

Figure 3 Model of Self- objectification theory



3.5 Human Capital Theory

Gary Becker was an economist and social scientist. He conceptualized his work by using human capital as a key factor. He explained the concept of human capital in 1964 as such activities that affect future monetary and cognitive income by collectively increasing resources among people. Although, its chief methods were schooling, on-the-job training, medical care, migration, and searching for information about objects' cost, prices, and incomes. Becker claimed that many diverse types of human behavior can be seen as rational and utility-maximizing for their economic cost-benefit analysis. The human capital theory explores how educational attainment raises the productivity and efficiency of employees by increasing the level of economic cognitive stock of productive human competence, which is a product of inborn skills and investment in human beings. Basically, human capital is considered as the stock of behaviors, informational knowledge, and social and personality attributes like creativity alive in the ability to perform intellectual labor to produce economic value. During the 1970s in Chicago, Becker mostly focused on the family, birth rates, and family size. He develops his understanding of how economics works within a family specifically my family covered issues during his time marriage relations, divorce, altruism to other family members, and investments of parents in their children. Throughout all his, researchers applied basic economic assumptions such as maximizing behavior, preferences, and equilibrium to the family. He examined several determinants for marriage, divorce, family size, parents' provision of the period for their children, and deviations in wealth over several generations.

While applying the human capital approach to the cost of a child, parents invest in their children by considering them a capital source of economic stability in the future. In Pakistan parents' thoughts are rational; they think that their son will be the helper and

caretaker for investment and costs which they are investing in their male child to maximize their utilities in the future. However, the cost of a female child considers a high wastage of utilities because a female child will not stay with their parents always and she would suppose to go to another home after marriage with expenses. They estimate that Investment or cost of education, technical abilities, health well-being and other utilities will not provide benefit to parents later from daughters. So the parental investment is a rational base in which parents favor the one gender who can share and enhance their capital and generation as well. Furthermore, son preference has a significant role in determining the number of children among couples. The discriminated quality of male and female children may influence the economy of parents and their investment also, so they mostly prefer less quantity of children with quality-based gender i.e., son preference except for daughters. As parents believe that female costs are higher than a male child because the female is a consumer but not a permanent member of their family, will move to another home, and the son may enhance the generation and provide cost-benefit later when he will set his economic career. In South Asian regions female children obtain a lower level of education as compared to male siblings following son preference, the son consider a house owner, decision-maker, and breadwinner in the future. It is also assumed by families that having more female childbirth increases the probability of having more children, which costs more capital expenditure on their health, education, and other needs. People invest more in sons to get future monetary and intellectual income as compared to the female child.

Figure 3 Human Capital Theory

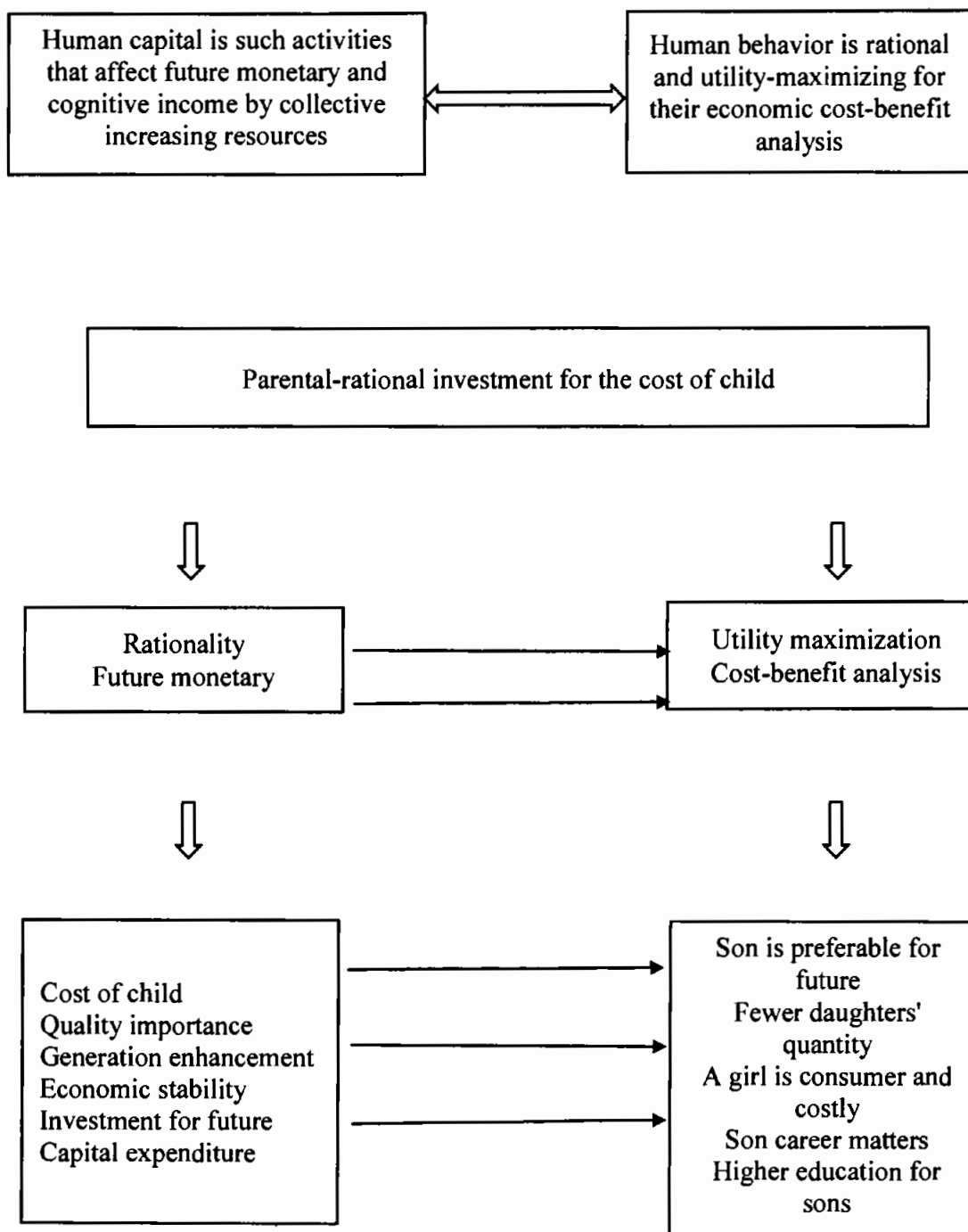


Table 1
Conceptual Framework (Reasons)

Psychological reasons	Social reasons	Economic reasons
Motivation to control family size Psychological pressure to produce a son	Patriarchy Family structure Power relations differences in family Male attitudes towards sex selection Spouse Ages differences Residential settings urban/rural Spousal education Exposure and access to sex-selective methods Family planning practices Fertility decline trend in society Marriage patterns Decision-making power in the family Delay marriages Career-oriented approach Choice of alternative sex/gender preference Social support in old age Prestige is linked with sons in society Misogynistic attitude towards girls Religious beliefs	Wealth flow among generations Economic dependency Sons as Economic support in old age Girls as Economic burden approach Cost of child Reward gap

Table 2
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK (Effects)

Psychological Effects	Social Effects	Economic Effects
Psychological pressure on woman to produce son	Space to exercise more Patriarchy Threat to Family breakdown Power relations differences in family	Wealth flow/Land transfer from father to son
Communication gap between spouses	Discrimination in nutrition Discrimination in education	Economic/Shelter/care dependency of parents on son
Marital/sexual dissatisfaction	Reduce in Family planning practices till birth of desired sex	Girls as Economic burden approach
Blaming/playing mind games	Changing in Marriage patterns Shift in Decision making power in family	Cost of child
Guilt in women	Reinforce discriminatory and sexist stereotypes towards women by devaluing females	Reward gap
Alienation in couple	Increased Male Ratio in crime	Increase in Bride buying
Aggression in behavior of couple	Increase in Sex trafficking	
Development of strong patriarchal mind-set and rigid gender roles divisions	Violation of Women rights It gives rise to the unequal distribution of power between women and men, where access and control over resources of women is much lesser than men.	

The current chapter can be summarized through the theoretical foundations laid on the theory of wealth flow by John Caldwell's . in addition to this The theory of culture, fertility, and son preference was given by Jas Ellis that articulates culture has role in the sex preferences. The nexus of power and the knowledge have been unveiled by the Michel Foucault's theories. In addition to this Objectification theory was proposed by Fredrickson and Roberts in 1997 that depicts women are considered as an object in others' minds and the experience to be a woman in culture sexually objectifies the woman's biological body. Lastly Gary Becker's human capital theory. He conceptualized his work by using human capital as a key factor. Various activities that affect future monetary and cognitive income by collective increasing resources among people.

Chapter 04

METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction of the chapter

This chapter comprised a detailed description of the methods that the researcher selected to ensure compliance between theoretical assertions and methodical suitability. The researcher aimed to measure the psychological, social, and economic causes and effects of sex selection in Pakistan. Therefore, the methods of the study were designed accordingly. The chapter is a constituent of two parts. The first part of the chapter explained the rationale of the study design. The second part of the study comprised a detailed description of each sub-part of this design including a description of the questionnaire of the study.

4.2 Study Design

Similarly, Almond, Edlund & Milligan (2013) preferred the quantitative method to understand son preferences among Asians in Canada. Another advantage of quantitative methods is the possibility of making a comparison across countries because it is directly linked with population studies and economics that use statistical modeling. Therefore, the prior studies, largely, used quantitative methods to understand son preferences in Asia. Table No. 3 comprised the list of some studies that used the quantitative research method in the son preference domain.

Table 3**Quantitative studies on son preference in Asia**

Author (year)	Method	Area
Hesketh, T., & Xing, Z. W. (2006)	Quantitative	Asia
Almond, D., Edlund, L., & Milligan, K. (2013)	Quantitative	South and East Asia
Edlund, L. (1999)	Quantitative	Asia
Arnold, F., Choe, M. K., & Roy, T. K. (1998)	Quantitative	India
Li, J., & Lavelly, W. (2003)	Quantitative	China
Brunson, J. (2010)	Quantitative	Nepal
Hussain, R., Fikree, F. F., & Berendes, H. W. (2000)	Quantitative	Pakistan
Saeed, S. (2012)	Quantitative	Pakistan
El Gilany, A. H., & Shady, E. (2007)	Quantitative	Egypt
Bairagi, R., & Langsten, R. L. (1986)	Quantitative	Bangladesh

Previous studies on family balancing and son preference have different research designs, even in South Asia. However, the preferred method to understand the causes and effects of son preference is the quantitative research design. For example, World Bank (2002) used quantitative methods to explore the reasons behind the high son preference in South Asia because the structural understanding of an issue is inadequate without statistical methods.

As for the context of Pakistan concerns, there are a bulk of studies on son preferences. However, some researchers preferred qualitative methods instead of quantitative ones. The researcher reviewed these qualitative studies as well to develop a comprehensive

questionnaire for the study. Sathar, et al. (2015) studied son preference and its plausible effects on the demographic and health outcomes in Pakistan. They preferred qualitative methods in order to comprehend a detail of such preference rooted in the cultural context of the country. Similarly, later, Agha (2018) attempted to explore the reasons for son preference that exists in Pakistan and used in-depth semi-structured interviews along with focus group discussion of young married women. Although, qualitative studies contributed a lot to understanding the practices of son preference rooted in socio-cultural and religious values and beliefs, respectively, nevertheless, the quantitative research methods also signify such preferences as well as their causes and effects at the structural level of the country.

Therefore, national (e.g., Sanauddin & Chitrali; Zaidi & Morgan, 2016) and international studies (Bongaarts 2013; Ebenstein 2007; Garenne 2008; Arnold, Kishor & Roy 2002) used secondary data analysis e.g., Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey, to explore the patterns of sex-selective births in Pakistan. Moreover, several studies used firsthand data collection using quantitative research methods. Hussain, Fikree, & Berendes (2000) piloted two rounds of the survey in 1991 and 1995 of married women to collect data about the role of son preferences in the reproductive health of women in Pakistan. Atif, et al. (2012) focused on rural and urban settings to conduct a survey on fertility behavior in Pakistan. Sanauddin & Chitrali (2015) also used survey methods to understand the son preference among educated men in Pakistan. Considering the use of research methods in previous studies, the researcher devised the research design of this study as such:

1. Approach of the study is Quantitative Research
2. Sampling of the study is Probability Sampling Technique

3. Data Collection method of the study is Face to Face interview schedule of survey Technique using a structured questionnaire.
4. Data Analysis of the study is Statistical Data Analysis Techniques.

4.3 Sample size and sampling of the study

Sampling is one the most important process in the quantitative study because without including true representatives of the population, the results would not be considered appropriate and would suffer technical fallacies. Therefore, the researcher selected the most suitable process of sampling for the present study. The research used a multistage sampling technique in the study. However, before the sampling, the researcher devised inclusion and exclusion criteria for the study which are as follows:

Inclusion criteria

- The respondents must be married without the compulsion of the date of marriage so that the trends of sex selection can also be described.
- The respondents must be consulting hospitals specifically in Islamabad for sex selection procedures
- As the study focused only on women, therefore, the respondent must be female.

Exclusion Criteria

- All males ever married or even not married are not part of this study.
- All respondents consulting sex-selection procedures outside Islamabad are not part of this study.
- All respondents who do not desire family balancing are not part of this study.

The researcher visited all the hospitals in Islamabad where the sex selection process is available. In each hospital, the researchers collected information about whether the hospital is providing the facility of sex selection or not. Those hospitals which did not offer a sex selection process were excluded from the sampling criteria.

After visits to all the hospitals, public and private, in Islamabad city, the researcher prepared a list of the hospitals which were providing the sex selection information and procedures. The list of these hospitals is as follows:

Table 4

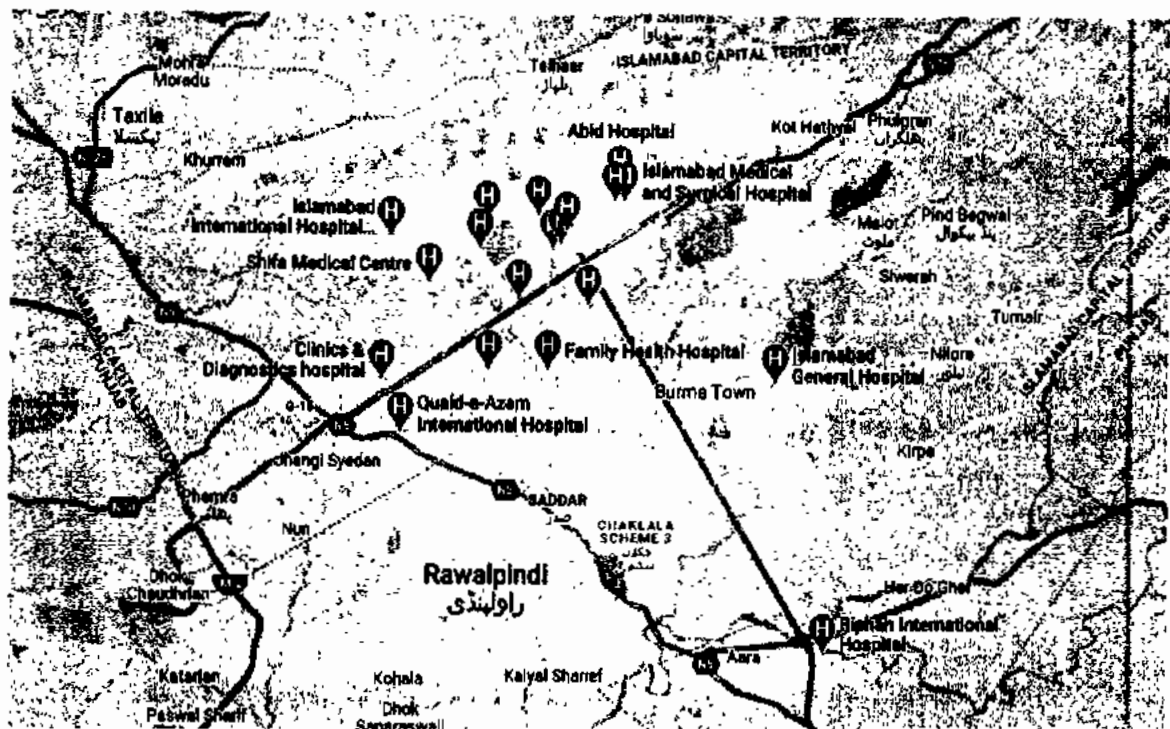
List of the hospitals/clinics which are offering sex selection process in Islamabad

Sr #	Clinics/Hospitals
1	Afshan Medical Centre – 930B 4th-B Rd, Block B Satellite Town, Rawalpindi – 03005139482
2	Kulsum Intl. Hospital – Kulsum Plaza, Jinnah Avenue, G-7/3, Blue Area, Islamabad – 03005384628 + 051 8446666
3	Homeo Health Clinic – Shop No. 6, Quaid-e-Azam Avenue, Gulrez III, Rawalpindi – 03005127903
4	Nasim Fertility Centre – 64, East Masco Plaza, Blue Area, Islamabad – 0512348086 + 03004577606
5	QAU Intl. Hospital – Peshawar Road, Rawalpindi – 0518449100
6	Concept Fertility Centre – Plot No. 952, Airport Service Road Near Benazir Intl. Airport, Rawalpindi – 0515162703 + 03219202639
7	Shagufta Siyal Fertility Clinic – 6 th Road, Block F, New Katarian Satellite Town, Rawalpindi – 03223478888
8	Aziz Medical Centre – Street 16, F-6/3, Islamabad – 0512873191
9	Medisci II – Chaudary Plaza Basement, Bhattas Road, F-7, Islamabad – 051111111128
10	Shifa Fertility Centre – Sector H-8/4, Islamabad – 03105847521

11	Dr. Syeda Batool Clinic – House No. 4A, Street 5, F-8/3, Islamabad – 0512261418
12	Dr. Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital – Main Murree Road, Bhara kahu – 0518153000
13	Maryam Memorial Hospital – 2-311, Main Peshawar Road, Rawalpindi – 0515464680
14	Al-Khidmat Raazi Hospital – 24B-1, Chadni Chowk Flyover, Asghar Mall Scheme, Rawalpindi – 0514906401
15	Medicsi – 1 st Floor, Low Rise, Saudi-Pak Towers, 61-A, Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area, Islamabad - 05111111125
16	Azam Clinic – Block 68/2, I&T Centre, G-9/4, Peshawar Morr, Islamabad – 0512808488 + 03335124058
17	Australian Concept Infertility Medical Centre – 3 rd Floor, Aklas Plaza Behind Babri Mosque, Sawan Road, Islamabad – 03041112229
18	ICSI Clinic – Saudi Pak Tower, 1 st Floor, Plot 61-A, Jinnah Avenue, Block L, F-7/4, Blue Area, Islamabad – 05111111125
19	American Fertility Centre – 161 Race-Course Road, Westridge 1, Rawalpindi – 0515174149 + 03315565570
20	Salman and Kafeel Medical Centre – House No. 11, Street 54, F-7/4, Islamabad – 0512655510
21	Dr. Ajmal Memorial Health Services – Opposite Bilal Hospital, Sadiqabad Road, Rawalpindi – 0514573728 + 03330533253
22	Al Arsalan Clinic – Satellite Town Plaza Near Sweet Palace, Rawalpindi – 03335117509

23	HBS General Hospital – Lehtarar Road Near Taramri Chowk, Islamabad – 0512243322-23
24	Dr. R. Y Jalali – 1 st Floor, Satellite Town Plaza Near Sweet Palace, Rawalpindi – 0514573728 + 03330533253
25	Holy Family Hospital – Block F, Satellite Town, Rawalpindi – 0519290321
26	DHQ Hospital – Kashmir Bazar Road, Raja Bazar, Rawalpindi – 0515556311
27	Bilal Hospital – Street 38A, Sadiqabad, Rawalpindi – 0518094534
28	Sara Hospital – Simly Dam Road, Bhara kahu – 03111222398
29	Dr. Azeem Alam Khan – F-8, Islamabad – 03335384628
30	Gynae and Fertility Clinic – PWD Housing Society, Sector B, Islamabad – 0515194409
31	Agha Khan Health Centre – Street No. 32, G-9/1, Islamabad – 0512255623
32	Dr. Ghazala Mehmud Clinic – G-8 Markaz, Islamabad – 0519334111
33	Al Harmain Hospital – Murree Road, Barakahu – 0512321700
34	Ali Medical Centre – Kohistan Road, F-8 Markaz, Islamabad - 0518090200
35	Life Homeo Clinic – National Arcade UGI, Main Commercial Market, Pakistani Town, Phase I, Police Foundation, Islamabad – 03335104017
36	Life Care Intl. Hospital – Main Double Road Opposite G-11 Markaz – 0512355501
37	Maroof International Hospital – 10 th Avenue, F-10 Markaz, Islamabad – 051111644911
38	Imran Clinic – Suite 9, 1 st Floor, Twin City Centre, I-8 Markaz, Islamabad – 03335203161 + 0518314351 + 0518314361

Figure 4 Geographical Demarcation of Fertility Service Providers



The next important step was to select true representatives of the population from each hospital. In order to do so, the researcher had to visit the medical staff that is responsible for sex selection services. The researcher arranged a meeting with the concerned staff/authorities/doctors and briefed them about the research purpose. It was explained that the collected data would not be used other than for research purposes and the name of any of the staff members would not be disclosed except his/her permission where necessary. The staff was also described that the research would not cause any harm to the dignity of the hospitals and the professionalism of the staff.

After taking permission from the concerned staff/authorities/doctors who are responsible for sex selection services, the researcher arranged the above-mentioned time framework for data collection while considering the availability of doctors and the respondents.

The next important step was to select the true representatives of the population. However, before the selection of a sample, the sample size determination is important. Thus, the researcher selected Taro Yamane sample size equation which is as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Where:

N = Population size

l = Constant number

e = Margin of Error

As the target population of the study was married women having the tendency of sex selection, the population size of the married women was required, which we acquired from Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017-18. Cross-tabulation of the marital status of women and region is given in table no. 5. The married women following the survey were 6277 in Punjab. The researcher used the number of married women number in Punjab because the number of married women in Islamabad capital (103) produced a very small sample size i.e., 82 respondents. Even reducing the margin of error to 0.01, the resulted sample size was 101 which the researcher believed is small sample size for her study. However, using a larger population size provides higher chances of a big sample size and a higher number of representatives from Islamabad. Thus, the researcher determined the sample size of the study using a number of married women in Punjab which is as follows:

$$n = \frac{6277}{1 + 6277 (0.0025)} = 376$$

$$n = 376$$

As the confidence of internal is 95%, therefore, the margin of error in the equation is 0.05. The resulted sample size for the study was 376. However, considering the

resources and to improve the validity of the generalization, the researcher increased the sample size to 390 respondents.

Table 4
Cross tabulation of marital status of women and region in Pakistan

Region	Current marital status				Total
	Married	Widowed	Divorced	No longer living together/separated	
Punjab	6277	208	94	51	6630
Sindh	2750	66	22	12	2850
KPK	1846	36	9	9	1900
Balochistan	627	12	3	0	642
ICT	103	3	1	0	107
FATA	229	5	0	0	234
Total	11832	330	129	72	12363

Source: Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017-2018.

After accomplishing the prerequisites for selecting true representatives of the selected population, the next important stage was how to include the target population in the study. The researcher used simple random sampling for the selection of the respondents. The respondents present on the day of the interview to consult with the doctor were, randomly selected for interview for data collection.

4.4 Tool of the Study

The tool of a study is one of the most important parts of research because without a tool, especially in quantitative research, the study would be unable to collect desired information correctly. However, developing a tool for data collection only is not a big

deal because it deals with the validity of the tool and well as the data. Therefore, the vital question regarding the tool of a study is that it must measure the issue at hand. In other words, to ensure the validity of a tool, the tool must be substantively and measure the questions/objectives of a study. To ensure such validity of a tool, the research has to consider the objectives and statements made to measure them. Therefore, the tool of this study was constructed while meticulously focusing on the objectives of the study which will ensure the validity of the tool.

However, the researcher also included some other questions to collect as much information as possible from the respondents so that this information could be used in the interpretation or comparative analysis of the study e.g., the research measured the demographic information of the respondents which is not directly dealing with the prime objectives of the study, but this information can be used for comparison of family balancing across age cohort, duration of the marriage, education, etc.

As the study stated that the prime objective of the study was to explore the causes and effects of family balancing, this tool was designed to measure this prime objective comprehensively. The tool of the study was divided into four sections. Each section was aligned with the conceptual framework of the study which was constructed to deal with the objectives of the study quantitatively.

The first part of the tool measured the demographic and socioeconomic dimensions of the study. The second part measured the psychological, third-social and the last part dealt with economic aspects of gender-biased selection of couples concerning its reasons and effects on various life aspects of the respondents. The major part of the tool and its description are given underneath.

4.5 Demographic variables

The first part of the tool measured the demographic information of each respondent such as age, income, education, etc. As it is stated earlier, this information was collected to make a comparison regarding family balancing or gender-biased selection. However, this information was also important to comprehend the overall trend of the gender-biased selection while relating it to the socioeconomic status of the respondents.

The education of the respondents was measured on an ordinal scale that ranged from illiterate to MA/MSc and above. The age of the respondents was also measured in age intervals. With the age interval of five, the question ranged from below 20 years of age to above 41 years of age. The occupational categories of the respondents were broadly measured such as a job in the private sector, government sector, self-business, etc. The purpose of such measurement was the lack of labor force participation of women in the labor market. Although most of the females were paid working women, the sex selection process was very costly which automatically excluded the labor or working women. Therefore, the occupational status of women was categorized in this way.

The income was also ordinally measured which ranged from no income at all (as was the case of housewives), to above 100000 PKR per month. The income of the spouse was also measured using the same categories. The nature of marriage was dichotomously measured with the response categories of exogamy – marrying out of family – and endogamy – marrying inside a family. The researcher also measured the type of family i.e., nuclear, joint, and an extended number of family members, and the number of earning family members. The family member question was categorized from less than two to above ten, and the number of earning family members was ordinally categorized from one to six. The religion was given the label of Islam, Hindu, and

Christian. Lastly, years of marriage were categorized with the interval of four which ranged from 1-4 to above 20.

4.6 Psychological causes

This factor comprised various structured questions. The first question of the said part measured the preferable family size of the respondents. The second question measured the reasons for the given preferable family size. The last structured question dealt with the gender bias in controlling family size in which the respondents were asked what gender they prefer for controlling the family size, and the size they prefer for their family.

However, the study was not restricted to such restricted questions because it demanded detail and reasoning of the given answers. Therefore, a probing question was also entered in this section which reads, “Why do you consider it as your reason to control family size?” The respondents were given the options of social, psychological, economic, and all of them. The respondents were also asked about different types of pressure they feel due to the absence of family balancing. Apart from these questions, some other important questions were also added in this section such as the attitude of the husband towards family balancing and the threat of family breakdown that a woman feels due to the absence of family balancing.

The psychological causes of sex selection are comprised of nominal and ordinal measures. To explore latent factors of the psychological causes, the researcher used exploratory factor analysis which yield two latent factors of these causes (see table 6). The first factors were named as personal psychological causes consisting of those factors which are directly related to the inner self or feelings of herself about the absence of family balancing such as the feeling of guilt and aggression. The second

factor was named interpersonal psychological causes consisting of the perception and attitude of the husband regarding family balancing which was psychologically related to the respondents who are facing an absence of family balancing.

Further, the questions of each psychological cause were computed to form a composite variable of each cause to use in regression analysis as a continuous variable. The mean, standard deviation, and other descriptive statistics of each of the factors are given in the following table.

Table 5
Description of the psychological causes of sex selection

Statistics	Personal Causes	Interpersonal Causes
N	390	390
Range	14	6
Minimum	4	3
Maximum	18	9
Mean	10.16	5.22
Std. Deviation	3.171	1.546
Variance	10.057	2.391
Skewness	.289	.357
Kurtosis	-.516	-.399
Mean (S.E)	.161	.078
Skewness (S.E)	.124	.124
Kurtosis (S.E)	.247	.247

4.7 Psychological Impacts

The psychological impacts were measured on likert scale, but the scale has some variations such as some questions were measured on three-point likert scales. The psychological impacts of sex selection on personality and confidence were measured on three-point likert scale that ranged from positive, negative, and neutral effects.

Two questions were measured on four-point likert scale which dealt with the effects on self-esteem and mental health. The scale of the former question ranged from 4 = extremely to 1 = not all, however, the scale of the latter question ranged from 4 = to great extent to 1 = not all. Rest of the question were measured on five-point likert scale of 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. These questions comprised statement regarding psychological pressure in social gathering, exclusion from decision making and increase in misogynistic behavior.

Table 6

Description of psychological impacts of sex selection

Statistics	Psychological Impact
N	390
Range	17
Minimum	5
Maximum	22
Mean	12.50
Std. Deviation	3.730
Variance	13.911
Skewness	.252
Kurtosis	-.792

Mean (S.E)	.189
Skewness (S.E)	.124
Kurtosis (S.E)	.247

Similar to the psychological causes, exploratory factor analysis was also applied on the items of psychological impacts of sex selection. However, the analysis produced only one latent factor. Thus, the researcher decided to compute these values to form a composite variable of the psychological impacts of sex selection among married women. The description of the psychological impacts is given in the preceding table:

4.8 Social Causes

The social causes were measured using different variables of the social aspects such as the effect of family structure, residential areas, education, spouse education gap, marriage, etc. The researcher used ordinal and nominal scales for the measurement of all of these effects. The family structure effect was measured on five points Likert scale ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agreed. Another question related to family structure measured what type of family demands sex selection. The respondents were given three options to answer these questions i.e., nuclear, joint, and extended family.

The effect of residential areas was not measured on a nominal scale with the options of urban, rural, and both. Concerning the effect of urbanization on sex selection, four points Likert scale were used which ranged from 1 = Not at all to 4 = to great extent. The educational effects were measured using five points on Likert scales that ranged from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly disagree. Further, the respondents were also asked about whether family structure affects their importance in the family which was also measured on five points Likert scale.

To measure the effects of marriage, the researcher used nominal and ordinal scales such as a question that reads, “what type of marriage highly practices sex selection”. The respondents were given the options of love marriage, arranged marriage, or both. Further, the linkage of marriage patterns and the effect of delayed marriage were measured on an ordinal scale. The former question used a three-point Likert scale ranging from 3 = extreme linkage to 1 = no linkage at all, and the latter question used a five-point Likert scale ranging from 5 = strongly agree to 1 = strongly disagree. The research applied exploratory factor analysis to the social causes of sex selection to explore the latent factors of these causes (see table 5.1.4). The factor analysis produced four latent factors namely son preference, religious impositions, spouse education gap, and daughter or both sex preference. The items of each factor were computed to develop a composite variable of each social cause. The description of the computed social causes is given in the following table.

Table 7
Description of social causes

Statistics	Son Preference	Religious Imposition	Spouse Education Gap	Daughter / Both Sex
N	390	390	390	390
Range	17	6	8	6
Minimum	5	2	2	2
Maximum	22	8	10	8
Mean	11.72	5.00	4.16	3.94
Std. Deviation	3.589	2.054	1.577	1.421
Variance	12.879	4.219	2.485	2.019
Skewness	.483	.152	1.053	.827

Kurtosis	-.315	-1.227	1.555	.662
Mean (S.E)	.182	.104	.080	.072
Skewness (S.E)	.124	.124	.124	.124
Kurtosis (S.E)	.247	.247	.247	.247

4.9 Impacts

The social causes were measured using different variables of the social aspects such as the effect of family structure, residential areas, education, spouse education gap, marriage, etc. The researcher used ordinal and nominal scales for the measurement of all of these effects. The family structure effect was measured on five points Likert scale ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agreed. Another question related to family structure measured what type of family demands sex selection. The respondents were given three options to answer these questions i.e., nuclear, joint, and extended family.

The effect of residential areas was not measured on a nominal scale with the options of urban, rural, and both. Concerning the effect of urbanization on sex selection, four points Likert scale were used which ranged from 1 = Not at all to 4 = to great extent. The educational effects were measured using five points on Likert scales that ranged from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly disagree. Further, the respondents were also asked about whether family structure affects their importance in the family which was also measured on five points Likert scale.

The measurement of social impacts of sex selection included important effects such as patriarchy, importance in the family, and nutritional discrimination in the family. The patriarchy effect was measured using an ordinal scale such as the question about the sustainability of patriarchy and survival in patriarchy without family balancing using a

five-points Likert scale ranging from 5 = strongly agree to 1 = strongly disagree. The effect of family structure on importance in family was also used on the same scale. The question regarding fertility such as the declining fertility with a follow-up question of its reason was also asked. The former question used a five-point Likert scale and the latter was a nominal measure with the options of social, psychological, economic, and all of them. Concerning the nutritional practices, the respondents were asked whether they are facing any nutritional discrimination due to the absence of family balancing which was measured on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 5 = strongly agreed to 1 = strongly disagree. A follow-up question about the views of the respondents on the justification of such discrimination was also asked which was measured on a four-point Likert scale ranging from 4 = to great extent to 1 = not at all. The researcher used exploratory factor analysis to find latent factors of social impacts. The exploratory factor analysis resulted from two factors of these impacts. The first latent factor was named patriarchy as an important effect of family unbalance in society. The second factor was labeled nutritional discrimination. The description of each latent factor is given in the following table.

Table 8

Description of the latent factors of social impacts

Statistics	Patriarchy	Nutritional Discrimination
N	390	390
Range	11	6
Minimum	3	2
Maximum	14	8
Mean	7.13	4.84
Std. Deviation	2.475	1.852

Variance	6.126	3.431
Skewness	.521	.209
Kurtosis	-.220	-.905
Mean (S.E)	.125	.094
Skewness (S.E)	.124	.124
Kurtosis (S.E)	.247	.247

4.10 Economic Causes

The economic causes of sex selection are primarily related to the financial benefits of the male child and the financial dependency of the female child. Therefore, the researcher vitally focused upon these factors of economic causes. The respondents were asked about their views regarding the economic dependency of daughter and their lack of financial support to parents in their old age. These questions were measured on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. Further, the respondents were also asked about sex selection methods which are directly related to the financial status of the respondents as this process is highly costly. The researcher gave the options of the methods of sex selection that are available in Pakistan. These methods are the Timing method, Sperm sorting method, Ericsson, and IVF/PGD technique.

As far as the importance of a son in a patriarchal structure, the researcher asked the respondents about their views on son selection. The respondents were asked about wealth inheritance and economic security. These questions were measured on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree.

The researcher used the exploratory method to explore the latent factors of economic causes which yield one latent factor only. Therefore, the researcher decided to compute the ordinal factors to form a composite variable of economic causes of sex selection which is composed of both, the economic benefits of the son and the financial dependency of the daughter. The description of composite economic causes of sex selection is as follows:

The social causes were measured using different variables of the social aspects such as the effect of family structure, residential areas, education, spouse education gap, marriage, etc. The researcher used ordinal and nominal scales for the measurement of all of these effects. The family structure effect was measured on five points Likert scale ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agreed. Another question related to family structure measured what type of family demands sex selection. The respondents were given three options to answer these questions i.e., nuclear, joint, and extended family.

The effect of residential areas was not measured on a nominal scale with the options of urban, rural, and both. Concerning the effect of urbanization on sex selection, four points Likert scale were used which ranged from 1 = Not at all to 4 = to great extent. The educational effects were measured using five points on Likert scales that ranged from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly disagree. Further, the respondents were also asked about whether family structure affects their importance in the family which was also measured on five points Likert scale.

The measurement of social impacts of sex selection included important effects such as patriarchy, importance in the family, and nutritional discrimination in the family. The patriarchy effect was measured using an ordinal scale such as the question about the sustainability of patriarchy and survival in patriarchy without family balancing using a

five-point Likert scale ranging from 5 = strongly agree to 1 = strongly disagree. The effect of family structure on importance in family was also used on the same scale. The question regarding fertility such as the declining fertility with a follow-up question of its reason was also asked. The former question used a five-point Likert scale and the latter was a nominal measure with the options of social, psychological, economic, and all of them. Concerning the nutritional practices, the respondents were asked whether they are facing any nutritional discrimination due to the absence of family balancing which was measured on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 5 = strongly agreed to 1 = strongly disagree. A follow-up question about the views of the respondents on the justification of such discrimination was also asked which was measured on a four-point Likert scale ranging from 4 = to great extent to 1 = not at all. The researcher used exploratory factor analysis to find latent factors of social impacts. The exploratory factor analysis resulted from two factors of these impacts. The first latent factor was named patriarchy as an important effect of family unbalance in society. The second factor was labeled nutritional discrimination. The description of each latent factor is given in the following table.

Table 9

Description of latent factor economic causes of sex selection

Statistics	Economical cause
N	390
Range	23
Minimum	7
Maximum	30
Mean	16.91
Std. Deviation	4.690

Variance	21.992
Skewness	.360
Kurtosis	-.254
Mean	.237
Skewness	.124
Kurtosis	.247

4.11 Economic Impacts

Daughters have been perceived as a financial burden in a patriarchal society as arrangement of dowry brings forth serious financial crunch on the family. Although, other financial returns may also be considered such a financial return in terms of employment but in Pakistani society, such returns are a kind of taboo especially in rural areas in which female are religious, socially and culturally are not considered to be naturally qualified employee. Nevertheless, females go to job, support their families and themselves, but families have intrinsic belief their daughters are not born for them but for other's family where she will be married. Thus, such financial benefit of a daughter has been considered a temporary benefit and even in her in-laws where an employed bride could be stigma of a family that her in-laws are not able to feed the bride, so they are allowing her to do job. Thus, dowry is the only kind of financial benefit which is socially accepted.

Considering these points, the researcher primarily focused on dowry as an economic impact of sex selection of her parents. The researcher asked the respondents about the expectation of dowry, bride buying, burden of dowry etc. These questions were measured on four-point likert scale ranging from 4 = to a great extent to 1 = not at all.

The researcher used exploratory factor analysis to explore the latent factors of economic effects of sex selection in patriarchal society which produced only one factor. Therefore, the researcher decided to compute the items of the factor to construct a composite measure of this factor. The description of the computed variable is given in the following table.

Table 10
Description of the economic impacts

Statistics	Economic Impact
N	390
Range	17
Minimum	5
Maximum	22
Mean	12.85
Std. Deviation	3.517
Variance	12.370
Skewness	.174
Kurtosis	-.565
Mean (S.E)	.178
Skewness (S.E)	.124
Kurtosis (S.E)	.247

4.11 Reliability and validity of the tool

Other than the construct validity of the tool, the researcher also opted for some alternative measures in order to ensure the reliability as well as validity of the tool. The measures included the experts' opinions on the tool and reliability test of the tool.

The tool was sent to the two external experts in the field for the review with a written request to review the tool and brief literature about the study which included brief introduction, objectives, hypotheses, etc. Their comments on the tool were received and the tool was modified considering the recommendations of the expert. The modified tool was again sent to the experts and their approval was received.

Secondly, the reliability statistics were acquired for the tool. The reliability statistics showed that the tool of the study is reliable as the Cronbach's Alpha values are acceptable. The Cronbach's Alpha has the rule of thumb which states that the value of alpha between 0.6 and 0.7 is acceptable. The following table shows that all the alpha values are above 0.6 which revealed the reliability of the questionnaire.

Table 11

Reliability Statistics of each major scale of the questionnaire

Scale	Cronbach's Alpha
Psychological Causes	0.639
Psychological Impacts	0.602
Social Causes	0.732
Social Impacts	0.633
Economic Causes	0.707
Economic Impacts	0.65

4.12 Pilot study

After constructing the tool of the study, determining sample size and sampling method, the researcher conducted a pilot study in order to explore whether the respondents feel any hesitation or problem while responding.

The researcher visited the selected hospitals and selected ten respondents from each hospital for data collection. The respondents explained the purpose of the study while stating that it's a pilot study. The respondents also requested the respondents to mention any problem or query they found while responding to the questions.

Three out of ten respondents in the first hospital i.e., Ali Medical Hospital, said that they did not want to answer their exact income. The same issue was reported by five respondents in the second hospital i.e., Medicsi Hospital. Considering the sensitivity of this information, the researcher modified the question on interval measure. No other issue regarding responses was reported.

4.13 Data Collection

Social research methods defined various methods of data collection which are closely related with the approach of the researcher. Neumann (2014) and Maxfled and Babbie (2009) asserted that quantitative method has defined set of methods to approach the objective truth about the issue in hand. These methods begin with defining an issue to explore its reality such as qualitative method would use survey method for data collection and statistical analysis.

The present study selected quantitative approach. Therefore, the researcher chose survey method for data collection. There are different methods of data collection through survey techniques such as telephonic survey, mailing the respondents and face to face interview. The researcher preferred face to face interview schedule because it

reduces the risk of validity as the researcher can be consulted at once in case of any query or problem in responding.

In this regard, the researcher visited each hospital as per defined schedule which was designed after the consultation of concerned authorities and doctors. At the day of the interview of the respondents, the women who had appointment with doctor and waiting to consult the doctor were interviewed. However, the researcher abided by the research protocols. The researcher followed the following protocols of interviewing:

The interview introduced herself and briefed the purpose of her visit,

The purpose of the research was briefed to the respondent,

Their oral consent to participate in the study was taken,

They were told that they have no compulsion to answer the questions they felt is highly personal.

Further, after following the protocol including the consent of the respondents, the researcher handed over questionnaire of the study to each respondent while stating that they could consult the researcher in case of any query. Each questionnaire took almost 20-25 minutes for completion.

Using this method, the researcher distributed 390 questionnaires, 10 in each selected hospital. One hospital was repeated due to the good availability of respondents (Medici Islamabad, with 20 respondents).

4.14 Data Analysis

The data analysis of the study is divided into two parts. The first part of the study comprised of the univariate analysis, the second part of the study dealt with bivariate and multivariate analysis of the study.

In the univariate analysis, primary aim was to organize and summarize the collected information by using percentage and frequency distribution. In the analysis the

researcher organized each major variable under one caption and their frequency and percentage mentioned within the corresponding table.

The bivariate analysis used Pearson Correlation of the major variables which constructed through the exploratory factor analysis and computation of each explored latent factor.

In the multivariate analysis the researcher used different statistical analysis according to the nature of the data and with respect to the objectives of the study. These analyses are as follows:

Exploratory Factor Analysis

Linear Analysis

Multiple Analysis

The exploratory factor analysis is a method to explore the latent factors in the data. It explored the latent factors through the exploration of the shared variance among the variables. The researcher used this analysis in order to explore sub-scales of each of the major variable such as psychological causes of sex selection was divided into personal and interpersonal causes which was derived from the exploratory factor analysis.

Simple linear regression was used to find the relationship of psychological, social and economic causes and corresponding effects. The regression equation of the analysis used in the analysis is as follows:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + e_i$$

Where:

Y_i = Dependent Variable

β_0 = Population Intercept

β_1 = Population Slope Coefficient

X_i = Independent Variable

e_i = Random Error Term

The population slope coefficient can be measured through by another equation which is as follows:

$$\beta_1 = \frac{\sum(x - \bar{x})(y - \bar{y})}{\sum(x - \bar{x})^2}$$

And the intercept can be computed through:

$$\beta_0 = Y - (\beta_1 X_i)$$

Considering the nature of the nominal variable, the corresponding analysis was used in order to explore the relationship between several variables. Such as to explore the relationship among psychological causes of sex selection and preference of gender, the researcher applied Multiple Correspondence analysis. This analysis does not measure the effects of one variable on the other because it does not assume any of the variable as dependent or independent variable same as the exploratory factor analysis is independent to the dependent or independent variable. Therefore, it only measures the associations among variables.

4.15 Construction of Socioeconomic status index

Socioeconomic status is one of the controversial concepts because it has cultural laden propositions. However, researchers do agree that it comprised education, income and occupation. There are several studies that focused on socioeconomic status to construct its index statistically. Some of the methods are simple such the ad hoc coding of the selected variable and their division or distribution by the cut point of mean value. However, such construction of the socioeconomic index has been criticized as the coding of occupation cannot be ordinal with respect to the specific region where a study would be conducted. In other words, no universal pattern of socioeconomic status is

established yet. On the other hand, some of the researcher agreed upon its vital indicators which are directly related with economic returns such as Goldthrope considering the status model of Max Weber considered occupation as prime element of social class. However, Eric O Wright build his model on Marxian Theory of class and proposed income as one of the prime elements of social class. However, constructing classes in his research he did not used income or measured income directly rather he developed model which asked the respondents about their control over means of production such as labor.

Further, occupational index has also been used as a proxy of socioeconomic index in which occupational categories are codified and ordinally organized. Although, Park also consider occupation as one of the major indicators of class but education cannot be neglected because in this modern ear, classes cannot be directly inherited but an individual has to accumulate all the required resources that values in the market. Therefore, a person without having qualification cannot assume the statue of CEO of a company.

Considering these perspectives, the researcher preferred to use education, occupation and income in the construction of socioeconomic status of respondents. In order to construct this index, suitable statistical models cannot be neglected. Previously, researcher used various methods such as ad hoc coding. However, this method has been criticized as Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) preferred Principle Component Analysis on ad hoc. Similarly, the researcher also preferred Principle Component Analysis for the construction of socioeconomic index.

At the first stage, education, income, and occupation of the respondents were inserted in the Principle Component Analysis. The researcher used Varimax Rotation Method with Kaiser Normalization. The cut point of eigenvalue was set to 1. The regression

scores of the first dimension of the Principle Component Analysis were saved. This dimension explained 58.3% variance in the data. The eigenvalue of this dimension was 1.752. The saved scores were then inserted in the K-Means analysis in order to explore the clusters of the data. The researcher used this analysis in order to avoid any bias and mean value as cut point for cluster construction. The K-Means analysis distributed the saved regression scores into three clusters. These clusters were given the title as High, Middle and Low socioeconomic status. A cross tabulation of the constructed index with education, occupation and income of the respondents is given in table 13a, which affirmed the constructed index as majority of the high income and education categories were found in the high socioeconomic status cell. Further, private job holder and businessmen were also found in the high socioeconomic cell. However, the housewives, low occupation and low education categories were found in their corresponding socioeconomic status.

Overall, the current chapter can be summarized in a glimpse that it opted the quantitative research design. The researcher has employed the multistage sampling technique in order to select the targeted sample in the capital territory. The tool for the study has been structured interview guide to assess the son preference among the women. The inclusion criteria of the respondents have been that they must be married without the compulsion of the date of marriage so that the trends of sex selection can also be described. While the exclusion criteria were all males ever married or even not married are not part of this study. The researcher collected the data from 390 respondents. The analysis have been performed through the spss.

Chapter 5

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

5.1 Univariate Analysis

The univariate analysis comprises the organization, summarization and description of the data. However, considering the length of each table which restricted comprehending the data, the researcher decided to divide the measures of major category into two or more tables. In lieu of it, the researcher distributed the measures of demographic profile of the respondents into table 1a and 1b. Furthermore, the measures of each prime variable were composed under its caption, and they were all described likewise.

5.1.1 Demographic Profile

Table 12a

Percentage distribution of demographic profile of respondents

Variable	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Age	less than or equal to 20	9	2.3	3.65	1.330
	21-25	70	17.9		
	26-30	121	31.0		
	31-35	89	22.8		
	36-40	50	12.8		

	more than or equal to 41	51	13.1		
Education	Illiterate	33	8.5	4.13	1.647
	Middle	40	10.3		
	Matric	74	19.0		
	FA/FSc	51	13.1		
	BA/BSc	79	20.3		
	MA/MSc and Above	113	29.0		
Occupation	Housewife	159	40.8	2.01	.970
	Government Job	93	23.8		
	Private Job	115	29.5		
	Business	23	5.9		
Income per month	Nil	177	45.4	2.52	1.729
	Less than or equal to 20,000	38	9.7		
	20,001-40,000	67	17.2		
	40,001-60,000	51	13.1		
	60,001-80,000	27	6.9		
	80,001-100,000	19	4.9		
	More than 100,000	11	2.8		

The low standard deviation values of occupation (.970) explains that there is not much diversity among occupations as women are unlikely to be contributing to household

income and even if they do, their contribution is rarely recognized. Secondly, due to cultural constraints females are not allowed to work and usually end up adopting the role of housewives.

High SD value (1.729) explains variations among monthly income level of the respondents as they were mostly in the higher and middle-income groups. The reasons behind these variations are relatively proportional to the income level of the husbands of the respondents. As occupations of husbands vary, so does their income level and lastly, as women were usually economically dependent on their husbands, hence their attitude towards information regarding sex selection also varies as some bear the cost of such an information and methods from their own pocket money and some rely on the financial support rendered by their husbands.

On the other hand, desired fertility does vary with education, income level and region, as now in urbanized settings and with the passage of time, women attitude towards large family is changing due to more inclinations towards education, career and profession. Hence in order to limit their family size, quest for sons is persistently increasing due to patriarchal family demands that remain constant.

Similarly, the SD values (1.330), and (1.647) explains variations among age and education respectively. As women with lower fertility, better education or socioeconomic status, and more exposure to media are more likely to pursue the deliberate desire to control the sex of their next child.

Moreover, table 13a comprised of the some of the prime demographic variables of the respondents which showed that very minor percentage of the respondents (2.3%) had the age less than or equal to 20, whereas almost 18 % of the respondents had the age cohort of 21-25. The table also revealed that the percentage of the respondents with the age cohort of 26-36 is high comparing with all other age cohorts' percentage

distribution. The age cohort of 31-35 comes at second in order as 22.8% respondents from this age cohort participated in the study. However, similar percentage of the respondents from the age cohort of 36-40 (12.8%) and more than 41 (13.1%) participated in the study.

The table also revealed the frequency along with the percentage distribution of qualification level of the respondents wherein the percentage of the respondents with sixteen years of education or above is highest (29%) whereas 8.5% of the participants were illiterate. The table also showed that 10.3% of the respondents had middle, 19% of the respondents had matric and 13% of the respondents had secondary level education. The percentage of the respondents who had B.A/B.Sc. is second in order as 20.3% of the respondents secured this level of qualification. In the nutshell, age as well as education variables were almost similar.

The table further showed that most of the respondents reported themselves as housewives (40.8%) whereas, only 5.9% of the respondents said that they had their own business. However, 23.8% of the respondents were government employee and 29.5% of the respondents were working in private sector. As the employment distribution of the respondents showed that most of the respondents were housewives, the percentage and frequency distribution of their income affirmed it as a slightly lower than the half of the respondents wherein 45.4% reported that they have no monthly income. Interestingly, the percentage distribution of income categories manifested that only 2.8% of the respondents were earning more than 100000 PKR per month. However, 17.2% and 13.1% of the respondents reported that they were earning 20,001-40,000 PKR and 40,001-60,000 PKR per month respectively.

Table 13a

Percentage distribution of demographic profile of respondents

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Spouse Income	Nil	51	13.1	3.29	1.593
	Less than or equal to 20,000	75	19.2		
	20,001-40,000	116	29.7		
	40,001-60,000	66	16.9		
	60,001-80,000	39	10.0		
	80,001-100,000	24	6.2		
	More than or equal to 100,001	19	4.9		
Marriage type	Exogamous	205	52.6	1.47	.500
	Endogamous	185	47.4		
Family type	Nuclear	133	34.1	1.78	.649
	Joint	208	53.3		
	Extended	49	12.6		
Family members	Less than or equal to 2	42	10.8	2.87	1.224
	3-4	136	34.9		
	5-6	98	25.1		
	7-8	62	15.9		
	9-10	49	12.6		
	More than 10	3	.8		

Earning Hands	One	160	41.0	2.02	1.120
	Two	121	31.0		
	Three	66	16.9		
	Four	32	8.2		
	Five	6	1.5		
	Six	5	1.3		
Religion	Muslim	356	91.3	1.15	.514
	Hindu	8	2.1		
	Christian	26	6.7		
Years of marriage	1-4	137	35.1	2.40	1.425
	5-8	104	26.7		
	9-11	61	15.6		
	13-16	46	11.8		
	17-20	29	7.4		
	More than 20	13	3.3		

Table 13b consisted of the frequency along with the percentage distribution of the demographic variables. The low standard deviation values of marriage type (.500) explains that there is not much diversity among marriage types as well as in family type (.649), religion (.514). The reasons behind less variation in marriage type is that most of the marriages were endogamous and hence arranged. In case if there were urbanized nuclear families, the decisions to apt fertility choices are proportionally influenced by the family elders living in the native towns. Moreover, saturated responses in family type were due to the fact that respondents were mostly living in joint family system.

Lastly high SD value (1.593) explains high variations among spousal income as well as years of marriage (1.425) that still lies in the fertility age cohort of marriage. Similarly, the SD values (1.224), and (1.120) explains variations among Family members and earning hands respectively. The variation is linked with the birth of the sons as the proportion of women preferring three or more sons remains two to three times higher than that of women who desire as many daughters as possible in all categories.

It reflected that most of the spouses per month income was lower than or 40000 PKR per month as 19.2% of the spouses' income was less than 20000 PKR per month and 29.7% of the spouses' income per month was 20001-40000 PKR. Interestingly, 13.1% of the spouses did not have income at all. However, 21.1% of the spouses had greater than 60000 PKR income per month (60, 0001-80,000 = 10%, 80,001-100,000 = 6.2% and more than or equal to 100,001 = 4.9%).

Interestingly, it was also found that exogamous marriages are increasing as slightly higher than the half of the respondents (52.6%) reported that they had exogamous marriage. However, the endogamy was competing the former marriage type by 47.4% of prevalence.

Although, exogamy was increasing yet the joint family type prevailed as 53.3% of the respondents were living in this family type. Astonishingly, almost 13% of the respondents reported that they are living in extended family system. However, the nuclear family system surpassed the former family type because 34.1% of the respondents were living in this family system.

Furthermore, the family size cannot be neglected when it comes to the family and marriage type. Therefore, the table also showed that very little percentage of respondents that they their family size was less than or equal to 2 (10.8%) and more

than 10 (0.8%). However, almost 35% of the respondents reported the family size of 3-4 which ideal family size of a nuclear family. Nevertheless, the percentage of 5-8 family size was greater because 40% of the respondents had such big family size (5-6 = 25.1% and 7-8 = 15.1%). Interestingly, almost 13% of the respondents reported the size of their family as 9-10.

The table also showed that the dependents in each family was higher as the number of earning hands are lower which can be viewed through the percentage of the families who has only one earning hand (41%). However, a very minimal percentage of the respondents reported four (8.2%), five (1.5%) and six (1.3%) earning hands in their families. The table also showed that 31% and 16.9% of the families have two and three earning hands, respectively.

The table also showed the frequency and percentage distribution religious affiliation of the respondents which affirmed the national distribution of religions. The table showed Muslims are majority in the country as 91.3% of the respondents were Muslims. However, the Hindus (2.1%) and Christians (6.7%) were minorities in the country.

The table also revealed the total years of marriage of the respondents which showed that 3.3% of the respondents were married for more than 20 years. However, 35.1% of the respondents' years of marriage was 1-4 and 26.7% of the respondents' years of marriage was 5-8. The table further revealed that those respondents whose years of marriage are between 9 and 11 years, are 15.6%, whereas the respondents who married for 13-16 years are 11.8%.

5.1.2 Psychological Causes of Sex Selection

Table 13a

Percentage distribution of psychological causes

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Ideal family size	2-3	146	37.4	1.97	1.020
	4-5	158	40.5		
	6-7	50	12.8		
	8-9	23	5.9		
	More than 9	13	3.3		
Reason of ideal family size	Social	63	16.2	2.97	1.123
	Psychological	63	16.2		
	Economical	88	22.6		
	All of them	176	45.1		
Sex preference	Male	254	65.1	1.50	.801
	Female	94	24.1		
	Both	25	6.4		
	None	17	4.4		
Pressure due to absence of son in family	Social Pressure	102	26.2	2.94	1.541
	Psychological	80	20.5		
	Economical	38	9.7		
	All of them	81	20.8		

	None	89	22.8		
Source of Pressure	Own self	83	21.3	2.62	1.349
	Relatives	140	35.9		
	In-laws	74	19.0		
	Spouse	27	6.9		
	None	66	16.9		
Absence of son as an obstacle in family balancing	Extremely	123	31.5	2.04	.817
	Very moderately	130	33.3		
	Slightly	137	35.1		

The low standard deviation values of sex preference and absence of son as an obstacle in family balancing respectively portraying (.801) and (.817) that explains that there is not much diversity. Majority of the respondents have indoctrinated this belief that their family is not balanced until there is a presence of son amongst their children, hence absence of son is indeed an obstacle to the family balancing approach. While high SD value (1.541) explains high variations in the variable of pressure due to absence of son in family. This pressure is due to persistence of patriarchal norms for instance if they already had two or three daughters, they sometimes started crying. The unhappiness and depression were attributed by respondents to pressure from in-laws and relatives who are displeased and behave poorly with women when they conceive a girl. In lieu of this pressure, as an aftermath, her mobility also becomes restricted by her own self due to the fear of public shaming, as she remains constantly fearful of probing queries from the people around her regarding the birth of son.

Similarly, the SD values (1.020), (1.123), and (1.349) explains variations among ideal family size, reason of ideal family size, and source of pressure respectively.

Moreover, table comprised of the percentage and frequency distribution of the measures of psychological causes of sex selection as well as some morphological measures such as ideal family size which revealed that majority of the respondents considered an ideal family size between 2 and 5 family members (77.9%). However, a minimal percentage of respondents reported that 8-9 and above family members was an ideal family size (9.2%). The table also showed the 12.8% of the respondents were of the view that a family comprising 6-7 family members was an ideal family.

Further, it the reason for reported ideal family size was measured in which respondents which showed that, interestingly, the percentage of social and psychological reason of ideal family size was identical (16.2% each), whereas 22.6% of the respondents considered economical reason for the reported ideal family size. More interestingly, the percentage of the category which read, "all of them" was highest as 45.1% of the respondents reported that they consider social, psychological and economic reasons for a specific family size as ideal.

When it comes to the preference of sex, majority of the respondents preferred male sex (65.1%) even the respondents of the study were married females. Nevertheless, 24.1% of the respondents preferred female children. However, only 6.4% of the respondents said that they prefer both male and female children. It was also found that 4.4% of the respondents reported that they neither prefer male children nor female children.

The respondents were also asked that what kind of pressure they feel due to absence of son in family as they do not have male children. The table showed that social pressure (26.2%) was a little higher than the psychological pressure (20.5%). However, only 9.7% of the respondents felt economical pressure. On the contrary, 22.8% of the

respondents said that they did not feel any sort of pressure, whereas 20.8% of the respondents said that they felt social, psychological and economic pressure related with the absence of male children.

The pressure was further probed by a follow up question which intended to measure the source of the reported pressure a respondent is facing. It showed that relatives of the respondents are the one of the most major pressure generators as almost 36% of the respondents said that they are feeling the pressure due to their relatives. However, 21.3% of the respondents said that they are themselves the source of the pressure they are facing. Further, a minimal percentage of the respondents (6.9%) also said that their spouse was source of their pressure. The table also showed that 19% of the respondents believed that their in-laws are the source of the pressure they are struggling to deal with. The table further showed the frequency and percentage distribution of absence of son as an obstacle in family balancing which revealed that 35.1% of the respondents were of the view that absence of son was a minor obstacle of family balancing. However, 31.5% of the respondents consider it an extreme obstacle. The table also showed that 33.3% of the respondents were of the view of very moderate obstacle.

Table 14b

Percentage distribution of psychological causes

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Psychological pressure is because of communication	Strongly agree	64	16.4	2.47	1.087
	Agree	177	45.4		
	Undecided	66	16.9		

gap between spouses	Disagree	66	16.9		
	Strongly disagree	17	4.4		
Absence in family balancing approach causes any blaming between spouses	Strongly agree	47	12.1	2.83	1.194
	Agree	141	36.2		
	Undecided	65	16.7		
	Disagree	104	26.7		
	Strongly disagree	33	8.5		
Absence of son producing any kind of guilt in your mind	Strongly agree	52	13.3	2.87	1.251
	Agree	134	34.4		
	Undecided	57	14.6		
	Disagree	105	26.9		
	Strongly disagree	42	10.8		

The Standard Deviation values of 1.087 denote psychological pressure is because of communication gap between spouses, 1.194 in absence in family balancing approach causes any blaming between spouses and lastly 1.251 in absence of son producing any kind of guilt in the mind explains variations among them.

Table 14b comprises of the percentage and frequency distribution of the measures of psychological causes of the sex selection. The table showed that 45.4% of the respondents agreed that they are facing psychological pressure of the absence of son

due to the lack of the communication with their spouse, whereas 16.4% of the respondents strongly agreed with this reasoning. However, a minimal percentage of the respondents (4.4%) were strongly disagreed with this reason and 16.9% of the respondents disagreed with this reason. On the contrary, 16.9% of the respondents were undecided about it.

It was also asked to the respondents that whether spouse was blamed for such absence of family balancing? In response, 48.3% of the respondents were strongly agreed (12.1%) and agreed (36.2%) that such blaming occurred due to absence of son in family. However, 8.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed with such blaming, whereas 26.7% respondents disagreed with such blaming. On the contrary, 16.7% of the respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with such blaming. It was likely to assume that within the patriarchic structure, mothers are to feel guilt for not giving birth to a son. That was why it was asked about such guilt from the respondents but, interestingly, almost 38% of the respondents were disagreed (26.9%) and strongly disagreed (10.8%) that with the statement of feeling guilt. However, a slightly lower than the half of the total respondents (47.7%) were feeling guilt as they were strongly agreed (13.3%) and agreed (34.4%) with the statement of feeling guilt while not giving birth to a male child. However, 14.6% of the respondent were undecided about their response.

Table 14c

Table 14

Table 15 **Percentage distribution of psychological causes**

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
	Strongly agree	66	16.9	2.82	1.285

Absence of son causes aggression in you	Agree	122	31.3		
	Undecided	64	16.4		
	Disagree	94	24.1		
	Strongly disagree	44	11.3		
Developing trend of sex preference due to patriarchy	Strongly agree	74	19.0	2.32	1.022
	Agree	193	49.5		
	Undecided	62	15.9		
	Disagree	48	12.3		
	Strongly disagree	13	3.3		
Attitude of husband towards family planning techniques	Good	141	36.2	1.82	.718
	Acceptable	177	45.4		
	Poor	72	18.5		
Husband's attitude towards wife in terms of family balancing approach	Good	139	35.6	1.57	.702
	Acceptable	180	46.2		
	Poor	71	18.2		
Consideration of husband towards family balancing approach	Very Important	217	55.6	1.83	.714
	Moderately important	125	32.1		

	Not important	48	12.3		
Type of threats you faced for family breakdown	Internal	69	17.7	2.66	.974
	External	66	16.9		
	Both	183	46.9		
	Not at all	72	18.5		

The low standard deviation values of husband's attitude towards wife in terms of family balancing approach (.702), consideration of husband towards family balancing approach (.714) and attitude of husband towards family planning techniques (.718) respectively. These values signify that there is not much diversity among aforementioned variables. Similarly, the relatively high SD values (1.285) is witnessed in absence of son causes aggression in you. Standard Deviation values of (.974) in type of threats you faced for family breakdown and (1.0222) in developing trend of sex preference due to patriarchy explains variations among these two variables respectively.

Table 14c also reflect the frequency as well as percentage distribution of the psychological causes of the sex selection. The table showed that slightly lower than the half of the total respondents (48.2%) were strongly agreed (16.9%) and agreed (31.3%) that absence of son produce aggression in their personality. However, 35.4% of the respondent responded contrary as they were of the view that they strongly disagreed (11.3%) and disagreed (24.1%) with such reason of aggression. On the other hand, 16.4% of the respondents were neither agreed not disagreed with such reason of aggression.

The researcher also asked whether patriarchy is the producing the trend of sex preference? It was revealed that majority of the respondents agreed (49.5%) and strongly agreed (19%) that patriarchy is the reason sex selection. However, the ratio who disagreed with this statement was 3.3% and 12.3%, respectively. Further, 15.9% respondents were undecided about it.

The attitude of husband towards family planning techniques was also measured which revealed that a slightly lower than half of the total respondents (45.4%) were of the view that such attitude of husband is acceptable, whereas 36.2% of the respondents said that such attitude of husband is good. However, 18.5% of the respondents reported poor attitude of family planning technique of their husbands. It was further probed that whether the attitude of husband toward his wife in terms of family balancing approach is good, acceptable or poor which revealed that 46.2% respondent were facing the acceptable attitude and 35.6% respondents said that the attitude is good. However, 18.2% respondents reported that it is poor.

The table also showed that 55.6% of the respondents highly value the consideration of husband towards family balancing approach, whereas 32.1% of the respondents said that it is moderately important. However, 12.3% of the respondents were of the view that the consideration of their husband is not important.

It is highly likely that within the patriarchic structure of society in which male children are highly important, the family without male children could be distorted. Therefore, it was also measured that what kind of threats about family breakdown the respondents are facing in the absence of male children. It was found that there was substantial percentage that was facing both internal and external threats for the family breakdown. However, 17.7% of the respondents were facing internal threat, whereas 16.9% of the

respondents were dealing with external threats. Interestingly, 18.5% of the respondents reported that they are not facing any kind of such threat.

5.1.3 Psychological Impacts of sex selection

Table No. 15

Table 16 Percentage distribution of psychological impacts

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Effects due to absence of son puts on your personality	Positive	117	30.0	2.02	.787
	Negative	149	38.2		
	Neutral	124	31.8		
Pressure it puts on your self-confidence	Positive	106	27.2	2.08	.783
	Negative	140	35.9		
	Neutral	144	36.9		
Psychologically self-esteem is getting lower in your family	Extremely	100	25.6	2.45	1.123
	Very moderately	113	29.0		
	Slightly	80	20.5		
	Not at all	97	24.9		
Effect of psychological pressure in social gathering	Strongly agree	62	15.9	2.62	1.179
	Agree	165	42.3		
	Undecided	47	12.1		
	Disagree	93	23.8		

	Strongly disagree	23	5.9		
Exclusion in decision making power in family	Strongly agree	58	14.9	2.77	1.191
	Agree	132	33.8		
	Undecided	69	17.7		
	Disagree	105	26.9		
	Strongly disagree	26	6.7		
Sex selective attitude increases misogynistic behavior	Strongly agree	130	33.3	2.46	1.399
	Agree	97	24.9		
	Undecided	73	18.7		
	Disagree	34	8.7		
	Strongly disagree	56	14.4		
Affect your own mental health	To a great extent	128	32.8	2.22	1.090
	Somewhat	120	30.8		
	Very little	72	18.5		
	Not at all	70	17.9		

The low standard deviation values of pressure it puts on your self-confidence and effects due to absence of son puts on your personality respectively portraying (.783) and (.787) that explains that there is not much diversity while high SD value (1.399) explains high variations in the variable of sex selective attitude increases misogynistic behavior. Although Fatmi and Avan (2002), Fikree and Pasha (2004), Royan and Zaidi

(2011) have simultaneously worked against sex selection through reduced desire for sons.

Similarly, the SD values (1.191), (1.179), (1.123) and (1.090) explains the variations among exclusion in decision making power in family, effect of psychological pressure in social gathering, psychologically self-esteem is getting lower in your family, and lastly, affect your own mental health respectively. These all variables affect the preference on fertility decisions.

Moreover, table 15 comprises of the frequency as well as percentage distribution of the psychological impact of the sex selection. It showed that 30% of the respondents were of the view that absence of son positively affected their personality, whereas 38.2% said that it negatively affected their personality. However, 31.8% of the respondents remained neutral about this opinion.

The table further showed that absence of son in the family had positive effects on their self-confidence (27.2%). However, the percentage of negative effect is higher (35.9%) than the positive effect. On the other hand, 36.9% of the respondents reported neither positive nor negative effect.

As the birth of son in a family is also an honor in a patriarchic family, it could possibly increase the social status of women. However, its absence, as it affects the self-confidence, can also affect the self-esteem. Therefore, the self-esteem measure was also taken into account which showed that the self-esteem of a little higher than a quarter of the total respondents (25.6%) extremely decreased due to the absence of son, whereas 29% of the respondents reported that their self-esteem in family was extremely depleted. On the contrary, the depletion in the self-esteem of 20.5% was slight, however, 24.9% of the respondents reported that their self-esteem was not decreased at all.

It was also measured that if the absence of son put some pressure on the respondents in social as gathering as the relatives are to be asked about the pregnancy in each gathering being the traditional norm of Pakistani society. It was found that a little higher than the half of the total respondents (58.2%) felt this pressure (strongly agreed = 15.9% and agreed = 42.3%). On the contrary, almost 30% of the respondents did not report this pressure as 23.8% were disagreed with the statement of pressure in social gathering and 5.9% strongly disagreed.

The effect of absence of son in family was also measured on the decision making or participation in decision making in family, hence few respondents strongly agreed (14.9%) and agreed (33.8%) that absence of son leads to exclusion from decision making power in family. On the contrary, 26.9% and 6.7% of the respondents were disagreed and strongly disagreed with this statement, respectively. Further, 17.7% of the respondents remained neutral.

Generally, it is wife to blame for not having male child that may lead to further misogynistic attitude. Therefore, the researcher also measured likelihood of such attitude which revealed that 58.2% of the respondents agreed (24.9%) and strongly agreed (33.3%) that absence of son produce misogynistic attitude among males. However, 14.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed with such increase in the misogynistic behavior as well as 8.7% of the respondent disagreed. Moreover, 18.7% respondents remained neutral.

Cumulatively, the absence of son in the family may ultimately affect the mental health of the women as the previous measures also showed. Therefore, it was asked if the absence of son affect the mental health of respondents which showed that 32.8% were strongly mentally affected, 30.8% were somewhat effected and 18.5% were very little

affected mentally. On the contrary, 17.9% of the respondents were not affected mentally at all.

5.1.4 Social Causes of sex selection

Table 16a
Percentage distribution of social causes

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Family structure affects sex selection	Strongly agree	77	19.7	2.21	.964
	Agree	217	55.6		
	Undecided	39	10.0		
	Disagree	50	12.8		
	Strongly disagree	7	1.8		
Any sort of discrimination in absence of family balancing approach	Strongly agree	60	15.4	2.53	1.082
	Agree	172	44.1		
	Undecided	61	15.6		
	Disagree	86	22.1		
	Strongly disagree	11	2.8		
	Nuclear	97	24.9	1.95	.667

Demand of family structure for sex selection	Joint	216	55.4		
	Extended	77	19.7		
Residential settings determine sex selection	Urban	115	29.5	1.75	.529
	Rural	257	65.9		
	Both	18	4.6		

The low standard deviation values in residential settings determines sex selection and demand of family structure for sex selection respectively portraying (.529) and (.667) that explains that there is not much diversity while relatively high SD value (1.082) explains high variations in the variable of any sort of discrimination in absence of family balancing approach. Lastly, the SD value (.964) explains the mere variations in family structure affects sex selection.

Table 16a comprised frequency and percentage distribution of the social causes of sex selection. The table showed that 55.6% and 19.7% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that family structure effects sex selection, respectively. On the contrary, 12.8% and 1.8% of the respondents were disagreed and strongly disagreed with this relationship, respectively. However, 10% of the respondents remained undecided in this regard.

The table also depicts that 60 % of the respondents agreed with the statement that they faced discrimination in the absence of family balancing approach. On the other hand, 22.1% and 2.8% of the respondents were disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement of such discrimination. However, 15.6% of the respondents were neither agreed and nor disagreed with this statement.

It was also measured that which family system demands sex selection of male. The table showed that the demand of male children in sex selection is highest in joint family system (55.4%). The nuclear family system is second in order with 24.9% and extended family system is at the last because the demand 19.7% of the respondents reported it has such demand.

The researcher also measured the effect of residential areas on the selection. The table showed that rural areas have the highest demand of male children. However, 29.5% of the respondents said the urban areas effects on the sex selection. However, 4.6% of the respondents said that both urban and rural areas determined sex selection.

Table 16b
Percentage distribution of social causes

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Influence of urbanization on sex selection trend	To a great extent	76	19.5	2.23	.899
	Somewhat	196	50.3		
	Very little	71	18.2		
	Not at all	47	12.1		
Spousal education affects sex selection	Strongly agree	93	23.8	2.09	.907
	Agree	212	54.4		
	Undecided	50	12.8		
	Disagree	27	6.9		
	Strongly disagree	8	2.1		

Education gap matters in difference of opinion regarding family planning	Strongly agree	94	24.1	2.07	.910
	Agree	220	56.4		
	Undecided	38	9.7		
	Disagree	30	7.7		
	Strongly disagree	8	2.1		
Role of education in awareness regarding sex selection	Strongly agree	130	33.3	2.02	.993
	Agree	175	44.9		
	Undecided	42	10.8		
	Disagree	35	9.0		
	Strongly disagree	8	2.1		

Table 16b comprised of the frequency and percentage distribution of social causes of selection in a patriarchal society. The table showed that almost 50% of the respondents were of the view that urbanization affects sex selection to somewhat extent. A little percentage (12.1%) of the respondents said that it has no effect on sex selection. However, 19.5% of the respondents were of the view that urbanization affects sex selection to great extent. It was also found that only 18.2% of the respondents reported a very little effect of urbanization on sex selection. The reliance on sons is stronger in urban areas more advanced in its fertility transition; more urbanized and educated; and has greater access to basic facilities, including antenatal healthcare and use of ultrasound services, as well as cutting-edge technologies. These factors are linked with

a greater risk of prenatal sex selection by Guilimoto (2009). As a matter of fact, boys receive a disproportionate share of their parents' resources, and the nutritional, health, educational and psychological needs of girls are usually neglected or compromised.

Due to non-egalitarian gender roles and consequent son preference; sons are preferred because they are seen to confer social value upon their family, carry the family name, inherit, and can shoulder economic responsibility. Sex selection in favor of boys is a symptom of pervasive social, cultural, political and economic injustices against women, and a manifest violation of women's human rights

As it has been asserted in the previous research that education has some effects on the sex selection, the researched aimed to measure this effect in this study as well. Therefore, the respondents were asked about the effect on the sex selection. In response, majority of the respondents (78.2%) were strongly agreed (23.8%) and agreed (54.4%) with the statement that spousal education affects the sex selection. Only 9% of the respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this effect. However, 12.8% of the respondents were neither agreed nor disagreed.

Related with education question, the research also measured the role of spousal education gap in difference of opinion about family planning. It was found that majority of the respondents were either strongly agreed (24.1%) or agreed (56.4%) with this role of educational gap. However, a little percentage of the respondents were disagreed (7.7%) and strongly disagreed (2.1%) with the role. Similarly, a little percentage of the respondents (9.7%) were neither agreed nor disagreed.

As the role of education and education gap was probed, the role of education in awareness about sex selection was also measured. Therefore, the researcher asked the respondents that is there any role of education in awareness regarding sex selection.

Majority of the respondents were of the view that it an important role (agreed =

44.9%, strongly agreed = 33.3%). On the contrary, a little percentage of the respondents have opposite point of view as they strongly disagreed (2.1%) and disagreed (9%) with this role of education. However, 40.8% of the respondents preferred remaining undecided.

Table 16c
Percentage distribution of social causes

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Sort of difference you feel it puts on decisions regarding family balancing	Very good	58	14.9	2.38	.870
	Good	161	41.3		
	Acceptable	140	35.9		
	Poor	25	6.4		
	Very poor	6	1.5		
Linkage of marriage pattern with sex selection	Extreme	155	39.7	1.80	.748
	Moderate	157	40.3		
	Not at all	78	20.0		
More practicing type of marriage in sex selection	Love marriage	72	18.5	2.18	.760
	Arrange marriage	189	48.5		
	Both	117	30.0		
	None	12	3.1		
Delay in marriages affects family balancing approach	Strongly agree	107	27.4	2.10	.962
	Agree	186	47.7		

	Undecided	52	13.3		
	Disagree	40	10.3		
	Strongly disagree	5	1.3		

Table 16c reflect that 41.3% of the respondents felt very good and 41.3% felt good difference in decisions regarding family planning puts on the sex selection. However, 35.9% reported an acceptable difference about it. Contrarily, 6.4% and 1.5% of the respondents reported that it put poor and very poor difference on decisions regarding family planning.

The table also depicted the association of sex selection with marriage pattern. The responses of the respondents revealed that 39.7% were of the view that it has extreme association with marriage pattern but 40.3% said that it has moderate link with such pattern. However, 20% of the respondents were of the view that it has not association at all.

The research also measured that percentage of sex selection across marriage type which showed that its prevalence is highest in arrange marriage (48.5%). However, 30% of the respondents said that it prevailed in both, love and arrange marriage. Interestingly, 3.1% of the respondents marked the “None” option.

Furthermore, the relationship between delayed marriage and family balancing was also measured which showed that majority of the respondents strongly agreed (27.4%) and agreed (47.7%) this relationship. On the other hand, a little percentage of the respondents said that they disagreed (10.3%) and strongly disagreed (1.3%) with this relationship but 13.3% of the respondents remained undecided.

5.1.5 Social impacts of sex selection

Table 17a

Percentage distribution of social impacts

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Patriarchy is not going to be changed in next many years	Strongly agree	105	26.9	2.39	1.198
	Agree	134	34.4		
	Undecided	69	17.7		
	Disagree	59	15.1		
	Strongly disagree	23	5.9		
It is difficult to survive without family balancing approach due to patriarchy	Strongly agree	91	23.3	2.36	1.116
	Agree	153	39.2		
	Undecided	78	20.0		
	Disagree	49	12.6		
	Strongly disagree	19	4.9		
Family structure affects your importance in family	Strongly agree	68	17.4	2.58	1.164
	Agree	158	40.5		
	Undecided	54	13.8		
	Disagree	91	23.3		

	Strongly disagree	19	4.9		
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Table 17a reflects that 26.9% strongly agreed while 34.4% agreed that patriarchy is not going to be changed in the next many years. However, some respondents had opposite point of view and they strongly disagreed (5.9%) and disagreed (15.1%) with this statement. Some of the respondents (17.7%) did not show any opinion on this statement. Regarding patriarchy, the researcher also measured that whether the survival of a woman depends upon family balancing in patriarchy? More than half of the total respondents (62.58%) were agreed and strongly agreed with difficulty in surviving without family balancing in patriarchy. On the other hand, some of the respondents had opposite point of view as 12.6% and 4.9% were disagreed and strongly disagreed with this statement, respectively, whereas 20% respondents said that they have not yet decided anything about such survival in patriarchy.

The researcher also measured the effect of family structure on the importance of a woman in family. It was found that 40.5% and 17.4% of the respondents were agreed and strongly disagreed with the effect of family structure on their importance in family, respectively. It was also found that 23.3% and 4.9% of the respondents were disagreed and strongly disagreed with this effect of family structure on their importance in family, respectively. However, 13.8% of the respondents were undecided about it.

Table 17b

Percentage distribution of social impacts

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Sex selective approach is creating gender imbalance in society	Strongly agree	74	19.0	2.38	1.044
	Agree	176	45.1		
	Undecided	66	16.9		
	Disagree	65	16.7		
	Strongly disagree	9	2.3		
Modern era fertility trends are declining in society	Strongly agree	70	17.9	2.34	1.014
	Agree	190	48.7		
	Undecided	68	17.4		
	Disagree	50	12.8		
	Strongly disagree	12	3.1		
The major reason(s) behind fertility decline	Social	56	14.4	2.85	1.064
	Psychological	87	22.3		
	Economical	108	27.7		
	All of them	139	35.6		
Any nutritional difference being practiced in family with the difference of sexes	To a great extent	95	24.4	2.41	1.109
	Somewhat	138	35.4		
	Very little	60	15.4		
	Not at all	97	24.9		
Discrimination in nutrition is justified	To a great extent	99	25.4	2.43	1.101
	Somewhat	113	29.0		
	Very little	89	22.8		
	Not at all	89	22.8		

Table 17b consisted of the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents with respect to the social impacts of sex selection. The table showed that more than half of the total respondents (64.1%) said that they strongly agreed (19%) and agreed (45.1%) with that sex selection creating imbalance in society. The table also showed that 16.7% and 2.3% respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively with such imbalance, respectively. However, 16.9% of the respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with this imbalance.

The respondents were also asked about the declining trends of fertility of modern era. It was found the majority of the respondents were agreed with this declining trend (strongly agreed = 17.9%, agreed = 48.7%). However, a little percentage of the respondents held opposite view as 12.8% and 3.1% of the respondents were disagreed and strongly disagreed with such declining trends, respectively. It was also found the 17.4% of the respondents remained undecided.

The researcher asked the respondents to give their opinion about the major reason of declining fertility. Interestingly, 35.6% of the respondents were of the view that social, psychological and economic reasons are behind the declining of fertility. However, 14.4% said only social reasons are behind the declining of fertility. It was also found that 22.3% and 27.7% respondents were of the view that psychological and economic reasons are behind the declining fertility, respectively. As a matter of fact, fertility rates are declining: as families begin to have fewer children, their desire to determine the gender of the child increases and also when fetal sex determination technology is available and permitted. Hence clearest indicator of its prevalence in a society is a distorted sex ratio at birth. Lastly, the technological advances that permit the detection of the sex of the fetus.

The researcher also asked the respondents about any nutritional discrimination they are facing in the family about sexes. 24.4% respondents said that their family is practicing such discrimination to some extent. Some of the respondents said that their family somewhat practiced this discrimination. However, 24.9% said that such discrimination did not exist in their family. Close to the “not at all discrimination” response, 15.4% of the respondents reported a very little nutritional discrimination of sexes in their family. The researcher further probed the question about nutritional discrimination by asking that was that discrimination justified. Interestingly, a little higher than a quarter of the total respondents reported it justified to great extent and 29% of the respondents reported it somewhat justified. Further, 22.8% of the respondents said that it is very little justified in their families. However, same percentage of the respondents said that it is not justified in their family.

5.1.6 Economic Causes of sex selection

Table 17a
Percentage distribution of economic causes

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Types of methods you know regarding sex selection	Timing method	118	30.3	3.05	1.693
	Sperms sorting	61	15.6		
	Ericsson	27	6.9		
	IVF/PGD Technique	51	13.1		
	None	133	34.1		
	Timing method	113	29.0	3.19	1.737

Sort of method for attaining sex selection	Sperms sorting	61	5.6		
	Ericsson	13	3.3		
	IVF/PGD Technique	46	11.8		
	None	157	40.3		
Variation of affordability for particular method for you	To a great extent	75	19.2	2.66	1.137
	Somewhat	114	29.2		
	Very little	68	17.4		
	Not at all	133	34.1		

The low standard deviation values in affordability for particular method for respondents portray (1.137) that almost majority of respondents sought knowledge regarding available sex-selective methods and their cost while relatively high SD values (1.693) and (1.737) depicted high variation for the types of methods regarding sex selection available at peculiar fertility center as well as sorting of method that might be suitable for the respondents, both in regard of success and affordability. Information regarding such methods were directly proportional to those fertility centers and geographical regions which were technologically advanced. Greater access to knowledge and services enabling prenatal sex selection was also relative to such centers.

Table 18a comprised the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents with respect to the economic causes of sex selection. The respondents were asked about the sex selection methods which related with economic capacity of individuals. It found that 30.3% of the respondents said that they knew about trimming method, 15.6% of the respondents were aware of sperm sorting methods, 6.9% of the respondents understand the Ericson method, 13.1% of the respondents recognized IVF/PDF

technique and 34.1% of the respondent did not know about any of these sex selection methods.

The respondents were also asked that which sort of method they are like to practice of selection. Interestingly, 40.3% of the respondents said that they would not select any of the methods. On the contrary, 29% selected trimming method, 15.6% chose sperm sorting method, 3.3% preferred Ericson method and 11.8% of the respondents were in favor of IVF/PDF technique.

The respondents were further asked to report about the variation in the affordability of a method for them. It was found that 19.2% and 29.2% of the respondents said that the variation in affordability for them occurred to great extents and somewhat extent, respectively. It was found that 17.4% of the respondent said such variation affected very little to their affordability. However, 34.1% of the respondents said that it did not affect their affordability at all.

Table 18b
Percentage distribution of economic causes

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Variation of effectiveness which you feel about the method you chose	To a great extent	69	17.7	2.66	1.137
	Somewhat	130	33.3		
	Very little	53	13.6		
	Not at all	138	35.4		
Information regarding the particular method	Family	51	13.1	3.11	1.406
	Doctors	107	27.4		
	Relatives	87	22.3		

	Spouse	39	10.0		
	None	106	27.2		
Sons are more important for wealth b/w the generations	Strongly agree	109	27.9	2.19	1.084
	Agree	177	45.4		
	Undecided	38	9.7		
	Disagree	54	13.8		
	Strongly disagree	12	3.1		
Having sons make you economically secure	Strongly agree	103	26.4	2.19	1.056
	Agree	184	47.2		
	Undecided	39	10.0		
	Disagree	54	13.8		
	Strongly disagree	10	2.6		

Table 18b consisted of the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents with respect to the economic causes of the sex selection. The table showed that 17.7% and 33.3% of the respondents reported great extent and somewhat extent variation in the effectiveness of the method they selected for sex selection, respectively. A little percentage of the respondents had doubt on effectiveness of the selected method as they marked the option “very little”. However, 35.4% of the respondents said that they do not have any doubt on the effectiveness of the selected method.

The respondents were asked that who gave them information about the method they selected. The table showed that 13.3% came to know about the selected method from their families, 27.4% heard about the selected method from doctors, 22.3% had the information from their relatives and only 10% were told about the selected method by their spouse. Interestingly, 27.2% of the respondents said that they did not come to know about the selected method from any of these categories.

The researcher also asked about the economic inheritance of the family with respect to the male baby selection. It was found that 27.9% and 45.5% of the respondents were strongly agreed and agreed that son is more important than daughter for the wealth inheritance across generations, respectively. However, 13.8% and 3.1% of the respondents were disagreed and strongly disagreed with such importance of son, respectively. The table also showed that 9.7% of the respondents were neither agreed and nor disagreed with such importance of son.

The respondents were asked to report about the economic security by having son in family. The responses of the respondents showed that 26.4% and 47.2% of the respondents were strongly agreed and agreed with such economic security, respectively. On the contrary, 13.8% and 2.6% of the respondents were disagreed and strongly disagreed with such security. Interestingly, 10% of the respondents were neither agreed nor disagreed.

Table 18c

Percentage distribution of economic causes

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Daughters are economically more dependent on you than sons	Strongly agree	81	20.8	2.46	1.141
	Agree	163	41.8		
	Undecided	44	11.3		
	Disagree	91	23.3		
	Strongly disagree	11	2.8		
Economic dependency of daughters more at the time of their marriage	Strongly agree	66	16.9	2.49	1.084
	Agree	172	44.1		
	Undecided	56	14.4		
	Disagree	87	22.3		
	Strongly disagree	9	2.3		
Because of daughter's marital status, she can't support parents in old age	Strongly agree	108	27.7	2.26	1.146
	Agree	167	42.8		
	Undecided	37	9.5		
	Disagree	62	15.9		
	Strongly disagree	16	4.1		

Table 18c comprised of the frequency as well as percentage distribution of the respondents with respect to the economic causes of sex selection. The table showed that 20.8% and 41.8% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that daughters are more dependents on them than sons, respectively. The table also showed contrary responses which revealed that 23.3% and 2.8% of the respondents were disagreed and strongly disagreed with dependence, respectively. However, 11.3% of the respondents neither agreed nor disagreed.

It was further probed that whether daughters become more dependent on their parents at the time of their marriage? The responses showed that 44.1% and 16.9% of the respondents were agreed and strongly agreed with such dependency. Meanwhile, 22.3% of the respondents disagreed with such dependency. It was found that 14.4% of the respondents preferred to not give any opinion about it.

The researcher asked the respondents that is it the marriage of their daughters which restricted them not supporting their parents in their old age. The responses revealed that 27.7% and 42.8% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that it is the marital status of daughters which restricted them to not supporting their parents in their old age, respectively. On the other hand, 15.9% and 4.1% of the respondents were disagreed and strongly disagreed with this, respectively. However, 9.5% of the respondents were undecided about it.

5.1.7 Economic impacts of sex selection

Table 18

Percentage distribution of economic impacts

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Who is more able to support parents economically in old age	Son	270	69.2	1.47	.754
	Daughter	58	14.9		
	None	62	15.9		
Any sort of financial rewards gap in your household service being the mother of specific sex	To a great extent	82	21.0	2.35	1.037
	Somewhat	174	44.6		
	Very little	51	13.1		
	Not at all	83	21.3		
Having more girls increases the trend for bride buying	Strongly agree	57	14.6	2.73	1.151
	Agree	130	33.3		
	Undecided	89	22.8		
	Disagree	90	23.1		
	Strongly disagree	24	6.2		
Having more girls in society increases the trend for dowry	Strongly agree	62	15.9	2.64	1.142
	Agree	144	36.9		
	Undecided	73	18.7		

	Disagree	93	23.8		
	Strongly disagree	18	4.6		
In patriarchy, people expect dowry at the time of their son's marriage	To a great extent	36	9.2	2.95	1.005
	Somewhat	99	25.4		
	Very little	104	26.7		
	Not at all	151	38.7		
Dowry as burden for daughter's parents	To a great extent	143	36.7	2.18	1.116
	Somewhat	103	26.4		
	Very little	74	19.0		
	Not at all	70	17.9		

The low standard deviation values of marriage type (.754) explains that there is not much diversity among who is more able to support parents economically in old age while the high SD value (1.116) explains high variations among dowry as burden for daughter's parents, having more girls in society increases the trend for dowry (1.142) and lastly having more girls increases the trend for bride buying (1.151) respectively. Similarly, the SD values (1.005) and (1.037) explains variations among the variables as such; in patriarchy, people expect dowry at the time of their son's marriage and any sort of financial rewards gap in your household service being the mother of specific sex. As a matter of fact, daughters are seen as an expense and an economic burden coupled with increasing price of dowry.

Table 19 comprised the frequency and percentage distribution of respondents with respect to the economic impacts of sex selection. The table showed that 69.2% of the respondents said the sons are more able to support their parents in their old age economically. However, 14.9% were of the view that daughters are more able to support their parents in their old age than sons. Interestingly, 15.9% of the respondents said that neither sons nor daughters are able to support their parents in their old age.

The table also showed that 21% of the respondents were of the view that there is a reward gap in their family being mother of a particular sex such as being mother of daughter has less reward than being mother of a son. It was further found that 44.6% of the respondents reported such gap as somewhat. The table also showed that 13.1% of the respondents reported a very little such gap in their family. However, 21.3% of the respondents report no such gap at all.

The researcher asked the opinion of the respondents about the relationship between increase in births of daughters and bride buying. The table showed that 14.6% and 33.3% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that increase in births of daughters set the trend of bride buying. On the contrary, 23.1% and 60.2% of the respondents were disagreed and strongly disagreed with such relationship, respectively. However, 22.8% of the respondents remained undecided.

The researcher also measured the relationship of such increase with dowry and found that 15.9% and 36.9% strongly agreed and agreed with the relationship that increase in the birth of daughters is related with the trend of dowry, respectively. However, 23.8% and 4.6% of the respondents were disagreed and strongly disagreed with this relationship, respectively. It was also found that 18.7% of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with this relationship.

The table also exhibited the expectation of dowry at time of the marriage of their sons in patriarchy. The distribution of responses showed that 9.2% and 25.4% of the respondents were strongly agreed and agreed with the expectation of dowry at time of marriage of their sons, respectively. On the contrary, 26.7% and 38.7% of the respondents were disagreed and strongly disagreed with such expectations at the time of the marriage of their sons within patriarchy structure, respectively. However, 38.7% of the respondents were neither agreed and nor disagreed with such expectation.

The researcher asked that whether to some extent they are agreed with the burden of dowry on parents. The table showed that 36.7% and 26.4% of the respondents were agreed to great extent and to somewhat extent, respectively, that the dowry is a burden for parents. However, 19% and 17.9% of the respondents said that they are agreed with it to very little extent and not at all, respectively.

Table 19

Relationship between Preference of male and Respondent's Education

		Not Male	Male	Chi-square	P-value
Education	Illiterate	30	3	261.373	0.000
	Middle	34	6		
	Matric	65	9		
	FA/FSc	11	40		
	BA/BSc	5	108		
	MA/MSc and Above	1	78		
Residence	Rural	124	47	159.989	0.000
	Urban	22	197		

Table 20 expresses the association between preference of son, respondent's education level and type of residence. This relationship was observed using Chi-square test. The frequency for education and residence according to preference of son were classified to be not male for illiterate 30, middle 34, matric 65, FA/ FSc 11, BA/BSc 1, MA/MSc and above 5, respectively. The frequency distribution for male demand were reported as: 3(illiterate), 6(middle), 9(matric), 40(FA/ FSc), 108(BA/BSc), 75(MA/MSc and above 5). The same figures for identification residential area were reported as: rural with not male preference were 124 and with male preference were 47. While in urban area with male not preference and preference were recorded 22 and 197 respectively. From the figures, we concluded that majority of the respondents having patriarchal family tendency (son preference) is more prevailing in urbanized educated than rural families.

After applying chi-square test, we come to know that there was a significant relationship between patriarchal family tendency and education level at 5% level of significant ($p < 0.05$) with the chi-square test value 261.373. Similarly for residential, there was significant relationship between preference of male and type of residence with the chi-square test value 159.989, which means that there is a strong relationship exist.

Table 20

Relationship between Respondent's Education and family structure for male preference

		Nuclear	Joint	Extended	Chi-square	P-value
Education	Illiterate	4	21	8	13.172	0.0214
	Middle	10	26	4		
	Matric	27	37	10		
	FA/FSc	13	27	11		
	BA/BSc	19	42	18		
	MA/MSc and Above	24	63	26		

Table 21 describes the association between education and the pressure due to patriarchal family pressure (pressure from joint families). A relationship was observed for different levels of education along family structure by using Chi-square test. The frequency of nuclear, joint and extended family for education status of illiterate, middle, matric, FA/FSc, BA/BSc, MA/MSc and above were those who nuclear with: illiterate 4, middle 10, matric 27, FA/FSc 13, BA/BSc 19, MA/MSc and above 24 and joint family were with illiterate 21, middle 26, matric 37, FA/FSc 27, BA/BSc 42, MA/MSc and above 63, Similarly the frequency of extended family under different education degrees like as: 8, 4, 10, 11, 18 and 26 for illiterate, middle, matric, FA/FSc, BA/BSc, MA/MSc and above, respectively. It can be seen that from the results, more educated and career orientated women are more involved in patriarchal tendencies (son preference) due to patriarchal family pressure (pressure from joint families)

After applying chi-square test, we come to know that there was significant relationship between education status and demand of family structure of son i.e., nuclear, joint and extended at 5% level of significant ($p < 0.05$) with the chi-square test for association its value 13.172.

Table 21

Relationship between sex selection of the fetus and Technological advancement

		Yes	No	Chi-square	P-value
Technological advancement	Strongly agree	103	19	3.104	0.0414
	Agree	35	18		
	Undecided	22	39		
	Disagree	19	32		
	Strongly disagree	14	89		

Table 22 expresses the association between the variables sex selection of the fetus and technological advancement (detection of the fetus) under five different options. A relationship was observed for these variables using chi-square test. The frequency of sex selection and technological advancement with options like as strong agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree were for yes 14, 22, 35, 19, and 103 and with no status 19, 18, 39, 32, and 89. Therefore, we concluded that technological advancement (detection of the fetus) plays important role in sex selection of the fetus. On the behalf of chi-square test, we come to know that there was a significant relationship between sex selection of the fetus and technological advancement at 5% level of significance ($p < 0.05$) with chi-square statistic is 3.104

5.1.8 Bivariate and Multivariate Analysis

Table 22

Correlation matrix of predictors and outcome variables

Sr. #	Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Personal Causes	-									
2	Interpersonal Causes	-.078	-								
3	Psychological Impacts	.638*									
		*	.143**								
4	Son Preference	.535*		.548*							
		*	-.084	*							
5	Religious Impositions	.249*		.340*	.266*						
		*	.135**	*	*						
6	Spouse Education Gap	.141*		.081	.109*	-.074					
		*	.046								
7	Both Sex Preference	.035	.124*	.006	-.018	-.029	-.023				
			*								
8	Patriarchy	.390*		.452*	.459*	.256*					
		*	-.086	*	*	*	.029	.109*			
9	Nutritional Discrimination	.356*		.449*	.390*	.419*		.136*	.329*		
		*	-.050	*	*	*	.016	*	*		
10	Economical Causes	.393*		.448*	.516*	.228*	.174*		.357*	.470*	
		*	-.070	*	*	*	*	.104*	*	*	
11	Economic Impacts	.295*		.392*	.388*	.337*		.030	.020	.312*	.445*
		*	-.072	*	*	*				*	**

Table 23 comprised the results of bivariate correlation of the predictors and outcomes. The table showed that personal psychological causes are significantly positively correlated with psychological impacts, son preference, religious impositions, spouse education gap, patriarchy, nutritional discrimination, economic causes and economic impacts ($p < .001$). However, these causes are not significantly correlated with interpersonal psychological causes and both sexes' preferences ($p > .05$). Interpersonal psychological causes are significantly positively related with both sexes' preference ($p < .05$) but significantly negatively related with psychological impacts and religious impositions ($p < .001$).

Psychological impacts are significantly positively correlated with son preference, religious impositions, patriarchy, nutritional discrimination, economic causes and economic impacts ($p < .001$; $p < .05$). However, these causes are not significantly correlated with spouse education gap and both sexes' preference. The son preference is significantly positively correlated with religious impositions, spouse education gap, patriarchy, nutritional discrimination, economic causes and economic impacts ($p < .001$). Religious impositions are significantly positively correlated with patriarchy, nutritional discrimination, economic causes and economic impacts ($p < .001$). Spouse education gap is significantly positively correlated with only economic causes ($p < .001$). Interestingly, both sexes' preference is significantly related with economic impacts, but it significantly positively correlated with patriarchy, nutritional discrimination and economic causes ($p < .001$; $p < .05$). Patriarchy is significantly positively correlated with nutritional discrimination, economic causes and economic impacts of sex selection ($p < .001$). Further, nutritional discrimination is significantly positively correlated with economic cause and impacts ($p < .001$), and economic causes are significantly positively correlated with economic impacts ($p < .001$).

Table 23**Binary Logistic Regression: predictors of son preferences (Male**

preference = 1, No Male preference = 0)

Variable	Categories	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Age	less than or equal to 20	1					
	21-25	.937	.744	1.588	1	.208	2.554
	26-30	.682	.725	.883	1	.347	1.977
	31-35	1.438	.740	3.777	1	.052	4.212
	36-40	1.727	.782	4.880	1	.027	5.626
	more than 41	.259	.765	.115	1	.735	1.296
Qualification	Illiterate	1					
	Middle	.556	.525	1.119	1	.290	1.743
	Matric	.554	.473	1.370	1	.242	1.740
	FA	.822	.507	2.629	1	.105	2.275
	BA	1.040	.497	4.374	1	.036	2.830
	MA	.586	.477	1.511	1	.219	1.797
Respondent's	Nil	1					
Income per Month	Less than or equal to 20,000	-.142	.409	.121	1	.728	.867
	20,001-40,000	-.694	.324	4.599	1	.032	.500
	40,001-60,000	-.349	.394	.783	1	.376	.706
	60,001-80,000	-1.191	.497	5.736	1	.017	.304
	80,001-100,000	.553	.631	.769	1	.381	1.739
	More than 100,000	-.351	.733	.229	1	.632	.704

Spouse Income Per Month	Nil	1					
	Less than or equal to 20,000	.925	.413	5.028	1	.025	2.522
	20,001-40,000	.958	.374	6.545	1	.011	2.606
	40,001-60,000	.906	.411	4.865	1	.027	2.475
	60,001-80,000	1.807	.531	11.590	1	.001	6.090
	80,001-100,000	.458	.553	.687	1	.407	1.581
	More than 100,000	1.142	.653	3.060	1	.080	3.132
	Constant	-1.553	.847	3.366	1	.067	.212

Model Summary

-2 Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R ²	Nagelkerke R ²
461.64	0.104	0.143

Table 24 comprised the results of the binary logistic regression analysis incorporating predictors of the preference of male child. In the analysis, the researcher coded preference of male child in sex selection = 1, and no preference of male child in sex selection = 0. The model summary results showed that -2 Log Likelihood value = 461.64, Cox and Snell R² = 0.104 and Nagelkerke R² = 0.143. These model fit measures are also called pseudo R² values because the data in the model are not continuous measured. However, the model summary showed suitable fit of the models

The results of the binary logistic regression showed that age group 36-40 is 5.6 times highly likely preferring male child comparing with married women below the age of 20. The table also showed that those married women who have B.A education are 2.8 times highly likely preferring male child than the illiterate married women.

Interestingly, the married women earning 20001-40000 PKR per month are 0.5 times highly likely preferring male child than those women who did not earn at all. Similarly, those married women who were earning 60001-80000 PKR per month are 0.304 times highly likely preferring male child than those who did not earn at all.

In terms of the spouse income per month, the results showed that couples earning less than 20000 up to 80000 PKR per month wanted having male child in their families. The odd ratios of these all-income groups are almost similar. However, the highest odd ratio is of the income group 40000-60000 PKR per month which is 0.027.

Table 24

Exploratory factor analysis on psychological causes of sex selection

Variables	Components	
	Personal	Interpersonal
Absence of son producing any kind of guilt in your mind	.803	
Absence of son causes aggression in you	.796	
Absence in family balancing approach causes any blaming between spouses	.747	
Psychological pressure is because of communication gap between spouses	.705	
Attitude of husband towards family planning techniques		.766
Consideration of husband towards family balancing approach		.743
Husband's attitude towards wife in terms of family balancing approach		.647

Eigenvalues	2.505	1.562
% of variance	35.792	22.313

Note: Factor loading less than 0.50 are suppressed

Table 25 showed the results of the exploratory factor analysis on the psychological causes of the sex selection. The principle component analysis extraction method was used, along with varimax with Kaiser Normalization for rotation methods. The results showed that the two resultant factors explained 58.1% variance in the data. The first latent factor was labelled personal causes (Eigenvalue = 2.505, % of variance = 35.8%) and second latent factor was labelled interpersonal causes (Eigenvalue = 1.6, % of variance = 22.3%).

The research used only those items in this analysis which were measured on likert scale in order to satisfy the assumptions of exploratory factor analysis. Those factors which were not significantly loaded on any of the latent factors were excluded from the analysis. Table 22 comprised the final results of the psychological causes of the exploratory factor analysis.

Furthermore, the research also applied exploratory factor analysis on psychological impacts which produced only one latent factor, therefore, she preferred to compute all the items of this variables which formed a composite variable of psychological impacts.

Table 25

Exploratory factor analysis on social causes of sex selection

Variables	Components			
	Son Preference	Religious Imposition	Spouse Education gap	Daughter or both sex preference
Sons are important for social support in your old age	.707			
Any sort of discrimination in absence of family balancing approach	.669			
Appropriate stay in old age with sons rather than with daughters	.668			
Having more sons in family is prestigious in society	.655			
Family structure affects sex selection	.577			
Relationship between family size, sex selection and religion		.855		
Religion supports sex selection of males		.830		
Education gap matters in difference of opinion regarding family planning			.864	
Spousal education affects sex selection			.861	

People do sex selection in desire for girls, too				.784
Better to have both sexes in family				.763
Eigenvalues	2.537	1.682	1.282	1.197
% of variance	23.062	15.287	11.658	10.882

Note: Factor loading less than 0.50 are suppressed

Table 26 comprised the results of exploratory factor analysis on the social causes of sex selection. The researcher used principle component analysis as an extraction method. The varimax rotation method with Kaiser Normalization was applied in the analysis. The exploratory factor method produced four latent factors of social causes which explained almost 61% of the variance in the data.

The first factor labelled as son preference has eigenvalue of 2.54 which explained 23.1% of the variance in the data. The second factor has the eigenvalue of 1.7 (% of variance = 15.3%) which was labelled as religious impositions as the items in the factor are highly related with religion. The third factor was labelled spouse education gap (eigenvalue = 1.28, % of variance = 12%) and the fourth factor was tagged as daughter or both sexes preference (eigenvalue = 1.2, % of variance = 11%).

Table 26
Exploratory Factor analysis on social impacts

Variables	Component	
	Patriarchy	Nutritional Discrimination
It is difficult to survive without family balancing approach due to patriarchy	.798	

Patriarchy is not going to be changed in next many years	.769	
Sex selective approach is creating gender imbalance in society	.592	
Discrimination in nutrition is justified		.828
Any nutritional difference being practiced in family with the difference of sexes		.824
Eigenvalues	2.039	1.009
% of variance	40.783	20.188

Note: Factor loading less than 0.50 are suppressed

Table 27 comprised results of the exploratory factor analysis on the social impacts of sex selection. The researcher selected principle component analysis as extraction method and varimax rotation method with Kaiser Normalization in the analysis. The exploratory factor analysis on social impacts of sex selection produced two latent factors which explained 61% of the variance in the data. The first latent factor, labelled as patriarchy, has eigenvalue of 2 and it explained 41% of variance in the data. However, the second latent factor was labelled as nutritional discrimination which explained 20% variance in the data (eigenvalue = 1).

Furthermore, the exploratory factor analysis of economic causes and impacts produced only one latent factor. Therefore, the items of each of the variables were computed in order to generate a composite variable of each of the variable which was used in the further analysis.

Table 27**Predictors of psychological impacts of sex selection**

Variables	Sub variables	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	P
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
	Constant	2.717	.890		3.052	.002
Psychological Causes	Personal Cause	.517	.051	.439	10.066	.000
	Interpersonal Cause	-.149	.088	-.062	-1.689	.092
Social Causes	Son Preference	.210	.049	.202	4.313	.000
	Religious Imposition	.245	.070	.135	3.521	.000
	Spouse Educational Gap	-.035	.088	-.015	-.395	.693
	Daughter / Boy sex preference	-.025	.096	-.010	-.262	.793
Economical causes		.111	.035	.140	3.209	.001
Goodness of fit $R^2 = 0.51$						

Table 28 comprised the results of the simple linear regression which was used to predict psychological impacts of sex selection. The R^2 value of 0.51 showed that the model significantly fitted the data. The One-Way Analysis of Variance also revealed that the variables are significantly different across outcome variable, $F(7, 382) = 56.090$, $p < .001$.

The results of the table showed that personal psychological causes of sex selection ($\beta = 0.52$) significantly positively predicted the psychological impacts ($p < .001$) which

revealed that the one unit increase in the psychological personal causes of sex selection is highly likely to increase psychological impacts, which comprised self-blaming, mental illness, psychological pressure, etc., by 0.52 units.

The table also revealed that one unit increase in son preferences is highly likely to increase psychological impacts by .021 units. Similarly, religious impositions ($\beta = 0.25$) as religion supports male children also significantly predicted psychological impacts ($p < .001$). However, spouse educational gap did not significantly predict psychological impacts ($p > .05$).

Lastly, the table also showed that economic causes of sex selection, as male could financially support parents and female children are highly likely to be dependent on their parents even at the time of their marriage, also significantly predicted the psychological impacts of the sex selection ($p < .001$). However, economic causes have the least importance in the model due to its lowest coefficient value ($\beta = 0.11$).

Table 28

Predictors of social causes of sex selection: patriarchy

Variables	Sub Variables	Unstandardized		Standardized	T	p
		Coefficients		Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
	Constant	1.679	.715		2.347	.019
Psychological Causes	Personal Cause	.127	.041	.163	3.077	.002
	Interpersonal Cause	-.061	.071	-.038	-.858	.391
Social Causes	Son Preference	.198	.039	.287	5.077	.000
	Religious Imposition	.131	.056	.109	2.344	.020
	Spouse Educational Gap	-.050	.070	-.032	-.717	.474

Daughter / Box sex preference	.181	.077	.104	2.342	.020
Economical causes	.059	.028	.112	2.129	.034
Goodness of fit $R^2 = 0.28$					

Table 29 comprised the results of the simple linear regression analysis on the patriarchy as outcome variable. The R^2 of this regression model showed that the predictors explained 28% variance in the data. The One-Way Analysis of Variance also showed that the variables are significantly different across the outcome variable, $F(7, 382) = 20.9, p < .001$.

The table showed that personal psychological causes ($\beta = 0.13$) significantly predicted the patriarchy ($p < .001$) which depicted that one unit increase in the personal psychological causes of sex selection is highly likely to strengthen the established patriarchy by 0.13 units.

The social causes also significantly related with patriarchy as one unit increase in the son preferences is highly likely to strengthen the established patriarchy by 0.198 units. Similarly, one unit increase in the religious impositions, highly likely to support the existed patriarchy by 0.131 units. However, spouse educational gap is not significantly related with the outcome variable. Interestingly, the preference of both sexes and daughter also significantly related with the patriarchy ($p < .05$).

Lastly, the economic causes are highly likely strengthening patriarchy by 0.059 units. However, the results showed that the preference of is the one of the most important predictors of patriarchy as it has the highest coefficient value.

Table 29**Predictors of nutritional discrimination**

Variables	Sub Variables	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	p
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
	Constant	-.273	.504		-.541	.589
Psychological Causes	Personal Cause	.065	.029	.111	2.226	.027
	Interpersonal Cause	.021	.050	.017	.417	.677
Social Causes	Son Preference	.053	.027	.103	1.939	.053
	Religious Imposition	.269	.039	.298	6.824	.000
	Spouse Educational Gap	-.046	.050	-.040	-.937	.350
	Daughter / Boy sex preference	.141	.054	.108	2.581	.010
Economical causes		.119	.020	.302	6.088	.000
Goodness of fit $R^2 = 0.36$						

Table 30 consisted of the results of simple linear regression analysis to explore the significant predictors of nutritional discrimination of women who desired to have son children in their family. The R^2 value of the model showed that the predictors explained 36% of the variance in the data. The One-Way analysis of variance revealed significant difference of the predictors across outcome variables, $F(7, 382) = 30.7, p < .001$.

The results showed that personal psychological causes are significantly related with nutritional discrimination ($p < .05$). However, interpersonal psychological causes are not significantly related with the outcome variable ($p > .05$).

The social causes are also significantly predicted nutritional discrimination as the results showed that one unit increase in the son preference is highly likely to increase nutritional discrimination by 0.053 units. Similarly, one unit increase in religious impositions is highly likely to increase nutritional discrimination by 0.27 units. Further, the preference of daughter and both sexes is also correlated with nutritional discrimination ($p < .001$).

However, spouse educational gap was not significantly associated with the outcome variable ($p > .05$). Lastly, the economic causes also significantly predicted nutritional discrimination ($p < .001$). Interestingly, the results showed that religious impositions of son preferences in family is the most important predictor of nutritional discrimination as it has the highest beta value.

Table 30
Predictor of economic impacts of sex selection

Variables	Sub Variables	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	p
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
	Constant	4.812	.972		4.949	.000
Psychological Causes	Personal Cause	.032	.056	.029	.579	.563
	Interpersonal Cause	.000	.097	.000	-.003	.998
Social Causes	Son Preference	.102	.053	.104	1.919	.056
	Religious Imposition	.346	.076	.202	4.544	.000

	Spouse Educational Gap	-.100	.096	-.045	-1.042	.298
	Daughter / Boy sex preference	-.045	.105	-.018	-.432	.666
Economical causes		.318	.038	.424	8.415	.000
Goodness of fit $R^2 = 0.34$						

Table 28 consisted of the results of simple linear regression analysis on economic impacts of sex selection. The R^2 value of the model showed that the predictors explained 34% of the variance in the outcome variable. The One Ways Analysis of Variance also showed that the predictors are significantly different by outcome variable, $F(7, 382) = 27.9, p < .001$.

The results of this model produced very interesting results as it showed that most of the variables did not significantly predict the economic impacts of sex selection except one religious impositions and economic causes. More interestingly, both predictors have almost similar importance in predicting economic impacts of sex selection as the coefficient value of religious imposition is 0.35 and economic causes is 0.32. It also showed that religious impositions have higher importance than economic causes in economic effects of sex selection.

Figure 6

Psychological causes of Male selection

The above figure elaborates the tendency to have son over the girl. Several dimensions that influence the behavior of the parents to have desire and choice of the son.

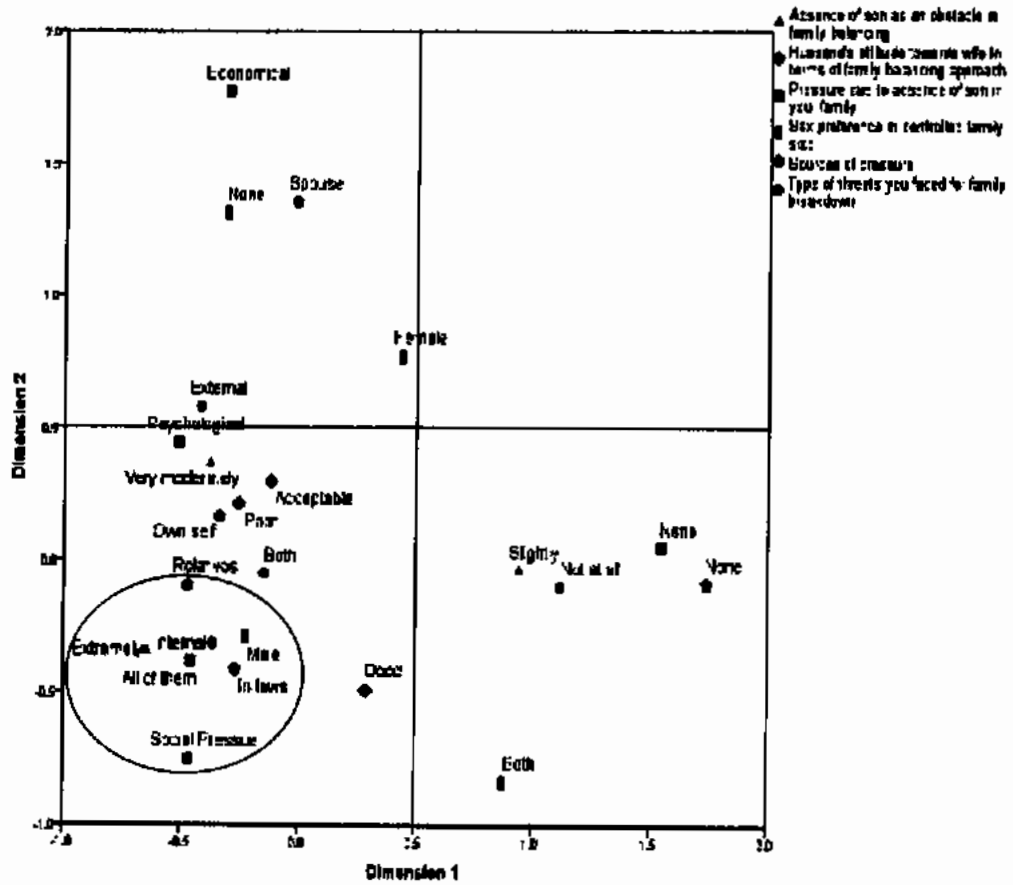


Table 31
Summary of Regression Analysis' Results

		Dependent Variable: Impact			
Independent Variable: Causes		Psychological impact	Patriarchy	Nutritional discrimination	Economic impact
Psychological Causes	Personal Cause				
	Interpersonal Cause				
Social Causes	Son Preference				
	Religious Imposition				
	Spouse Educational Gap				
	Daughter / Boy sex				
Economical causes					

Note: black dot represents significant relationship.

The significant association lies between the variable ranging from 0.05 to the 0.01.

Discussion

Pakistani society is characterized by patriarchic attributes which are penetrated in its culture and economic returns. However, religious influence can also not be neglected. The cultural role affects women's mental health directly because it is generally a custom in urban and rural areas of the country that after the first month of the marriage, the family asks about pregnancy. Such a question directly mentally disturbs the bride if pregnancy demands are not satisfied. This customary behavior of asking about pregnancy is not confined to it but it goes on to the desire for a male baby.

Infertile married women and infecund married males remain under such social pressure. However, even in the case of an infecund married male, families blame the bride (Inhorn & masculinities, 2003) which increases stress, aggression, and, in case of the long delay in pregnancy, depression. This may also increase the feeling of guilt about not having a baby at all. However, this guilt is also associated with male babies because it is generally believed, regardless of socioeconomic status, the male baby would economically support the family (Fatmi & Avan, 2002)

It can be explained across socioeconomic status because a family with higher socioeconomic status seeks male children as an inheritor. However, a family with lower socioeconomic status demands a male baby because it will support the family financially (Hesketh, Lu, & Xing, 2011). Nevertheless, the burden of demand, infertility, and infecundity are on the shoulders of married women. Therefore, sex selection not only cost finance but psychological cost as well (McClelland, 1983; Westoff & Rindfuss, 1974). Gilany & Shady (2007) aimed to explore the causes of sex-selective gender-biased and found that the son preference index value is 1.4 which means that 57% of the early married women preferred son and 40% preferred daughter. However, the rest of the early married couple did not prefer any baby. With respect to the psychological causes of gender preference, the findings of this study supported their results as they found that the majority of the early married women preferred a son because all siblings were boys, and the perception that a male son was an addition to the family prestige, and they were easy to raise. They categorized these causes as psychological causes of son preference. The findings of the present study showed that 67.1% of the married females preferred a son considering that it is important for family wealth. Further, it was also found that son preference is associated with economic security, $\chi^2(4) = 11.22, p = 0.024$ (see appendix 2). Although we did not include these

items in psychological causes, the results are consistent with Gilany & Shady (2007) on common ground. However, the findings regarding psychological causes of sex selection did not support the study of James, (1975) which states the no relationship between psychological causes and existing sibs (Fikree & Pasha 2004; Royan & Zaidi 2011).

As far as interpersonal psychological causes are concerned, several studies evidenced wife battering and bantering (Bumgarner & Pol'y, 2007; Ganatra, 2008; Lamichhane et al., 2011; Oomman & Ganatra, 2002). One of the most astonishing findings was from the study of Puri, Adams, Ivey, and Nachtigall, R. D. (2011) who reported abusing, battering, scolding, and even kicking on wife's belly during pregnancy to abort the female fetal. They concluded, "One-third of women described past physical abuse and neglect related specifically to their failure to produce a male child. The most common forms of neglect were the withholding of food, water, and rest during a woman's pregnancy with a female fetus, although women also described being hit, pushed, choked, and kicked in the abdomen in a husband's attempt to forcibly terminate a pregnancy. Some women reported that they were denied prenatal care if the fetus had been identified as female and four women reported that their families either did not take them to the hospital when they were in labor with a female child or pick them up after delivery" (p. 05). This revealed that the women were forced to have male children due to interpersonal psychological causes which they faced due to behavior or responses of the family, especially of their husbands. Such behavior severely affected them psychologically which hastened the urge of the male child. Our findings supported these studies as it was found that 63.8% of the women reported that their mental health was affected due to not having a male son which indicated that they were pursuing a male child as they were sitting in the hospital to consult with the doctor. The cross-tabulation

of son preference and effect on mental health also affirmed this fact (see appendix 1) because 68% of the married women who reported that their mental health was affected to a great extent preferred male children.

Although, the psychological causes have psychological impacts that have been argued that these impacts could be psychological dysfunctionality but Savulescu (1999, p. 375) concluded that "There is no risk of psychological harm to anyone with this kind of sex selection". This is one of the aspects that revealed the division of academia in favor of and against sex selection. The favorability of sex selection comes from the assumption of parental freedom and its use for gender equality of sex ratio (Pennings, 1996). Further Dahl, et al. (2006) concluded that sex selection is highly unlikely to imbalance sex ratio in western societies. On the contrary, the opposite perspective considering the patriarchic structure suspects such equality to be spread because people tend to prefer male children (Peter Liu & Rose, 1995; P Liu & Rose, 1996; Oomman & Ganatra, 2002; Shahvisi, 2018). The present study also supports the later perspective as one of the major impacts of son preference is strengthening patriarchy. The regression analysis showed that son preference significantly predicted patriarchy. Chung and Gupta (1998) studied mothers' preferences for a child. They explored that women had a strong desire for a male child but if they had their first child a male, they delayed their next pregnancy. They further explained that patriarchy is one the most important predictor of son preference which strengthened it. Huiying (2016) conducted an in-depth analysis of son preference in rural areas of China. More like Larsen et al. (1998), the study found patriarchy as the strong reason for son preference in rural China, but the study further asserted the patriarchic family structure is the prime cause of son preference.

The present study explored those personal-psychological causes that lead to sex-selective gender bias. These personal causes include the feeling of guilt about not

having a male baby in the family and aggression. The mental pressure that a married woman suffered from, increases the probability of seeking sex-selective gender bias. It also showed that socioeconomic and cultural factors are associated with psychological causes of sex-selective gender bias. Therefore, it can be stated that social, psychological, and economic causes of gender-biased sex selection are interrelated. Figure 1 showed that psychological causes of gender-biased sex selection are associated with each other when it comes to the selection of the male sex. However, the figure also showed that married women suffered from social and economic pressure. Therefore, social and economic causes of sex selection are not negligible (see appendix 3 and 4).

The most important factor that previous studies focused upon is socioeconomic status. Several researchers found that son preference is among low socioeconomic status (Arnold & Liu, 1986; Dyson & Moore 1983; Kwon & Lee, 1976; Miller 1981; Murthi et al., 1995; Raju & Bhat 1995). The present study is inconsistent with previous studies as it is found that socioeconomic status and son preference are not associated with each other. Furthermore, the results also revealed that socioeconomic status and psychological impacts are associated with each other (see appendix 1). However, the interesting finding is the pattern in the high and low socioeconomic status, as the percentage in both statuses is the same. The percentage of moderate psychological impact is almost similar to 42.3% of high and 41.7% of low socioeconomic status group individuals who faced moderate psychological impacts.

Son preference is also strongly related to sex-selective abortion, specifically female infanticide. Puri et al. (2011) reported that mothers are forced to have abortions if they carried a female baby which produced the feeling of shame, psychological stress, and even murder. The selection of a male child also comes with a psychological cost that

mothers have to pay because in some cases they want to have a female baby. However, as the patriarchic structure forces them to prefer male children, they had to bear this psychological cost. Such is generally the case in India because mothers, specifically chaste women (Wadley, 1999), are perceived as having "the higher probability of the birth of a son" (Wadley, 1997). However, if the expected outcomes do not occur, it not only ignites her in-law but also increases her mental stress. Such mental stress being the product of family pressure compelled mothers to do unexpected acts. Swaminathan (1999) quoted one of the most astonishing interviews of a mother which reads, "I had five children. I killed my third daughter. I could not stand the torture of my mother-in-law. She was complaining that I was giving birth to only girls. The family tree is not rooted yet. Perhaps we should find another wife for him. I was hating myself. Then my older sister told me that if you feed saline water the infant would die. On the third day, I fed saline water with a lot of salt. The infant did not cry or move but died quietly." (p. 67).

Although the present study did not approach such extreme cases while considering the ethical issues of the social research, it did strongly support such studies which dealt with the psychological impacts that mothers faced. This study found that psychological causes are strongly related to psychological impacts which comprised confidence, self-esteem, and personality. The results showed that 38% of the women had the negative effect of not having a son in the family on their confidence, and almost 63% of the women reported that the absence of a son in the family strongly affected their mental health.

As far as the social and economic causes of son preference are concerned, it has some common values in Asia such as the religious imposition of son preference. Among

Muslims, the male is a more productive, efficient, and effective head of the family than females, similarly, Hindus and Christianity also support male dominancy. It is also related to the family wealth or sustainability of social positions across generations as the female daughter is attributed to the dowry and the male is attributed to its receiver. Further, the structure of patriarchic society supports male employment, especially in rural areas. However, Das Gupta, et al. (2003) conducted an extensive survey of secondary sources in China, India, and the Republic of Korea to explore the central determinant of son preference because China and India are agrarian societies and Korea is quite opposite. Therefore, the determinant of son preferences in these countries is supposed to be different. However, they explored that patrilineal family structure is the common factor in these countries that supported the son preference. The findings of our study are almost the same because we found the patriarchic structure the product of what it supports. The results of the regression analysis showed that son preference is one of the major predictors of patriarchy. The respondents during the interview replied, "Son is one of the societal needs and requirements. I personally do not have any kind of social or economic pressures but psychologically I feel that sons are supportive hands for parents. People, in general, stigmatize a person who does not have sons because sons are more important for social support in old age. It is also appropriate to stay with the son as compared to the daughters. Well, I expect all kinds of support from his son like social, moral, economic, etc."

Nevertheless, the researcher did not neglect the religious imposition. The results also showed that along with the son preference, religious imposition in Pakistan was also one of the major predictors of patriarchic structure. Therefore, the researcher concluded that the son preference and religious impositions are the product of the structure that

produced them. These factors can also be related to the economic support of the son (see appendix 3) because the patriarchic structure supports masculinity which is further facilitated in economic structure as the labor market demand individuals with hardship which is a sharp active opposite to the delicacy. Apart from these impositions, religion imposes on the safety of females, for she should be at home (Goodwin, 2002; Serizawa, Ito, Algaddal, & Eltaybe, 2014; Spears Brown & Bigler, 2004), which is her first and destination. Thus, it indirectly facilitates males in the labor market (Bergmann, 1989; Brett & Stroh, 1997; İlkkaracan, 2012; Meitzen, 1986; Porter, Toutkoushian, & Moore III, 2008; Riach, Rich, & Policy, 2006). The present study also explored that son preference is not only related to the economic security of the family but to religious imposition as well.

Overall, the thesis has provided the insights into the son preference through its analysis. The present body of variables entails the academic breadth that is addressing the key issues and reasons pertaining to the priorities of son preferences. The literature has thoroughly addressed the reasons for the child adoption, its prevalence in the region and the, decision for the son , religious influences, contraceptives and awareness , cultural construction of the son preferences, reproductive needs, economic needs , women education and sex selective discrimination , inheritance issues , gender disparity , social stigma associated with the female baby birth and the psychological emotional dynamics of the son preferences that are associate with the male attitude regarding son preferences . These variables have been laid on the foundations of the John Caldwell's wealth flows theory proposes a direct link between family structure and fertility (Caldwell, 197). The literature has been linked with the economic structure and the support from the family. In addition to this the theory has been the theory of culture,

fertility, and son preference was given by Jas Ellis in 2008 and the literature covers the dimensions by giving insights of the culture and the son preferences. Further the relationship have been strengthen between the literature of son preferences and the theory by the Michel Foucault's discourse analysis. It discusses the relationship between power and knowledge and how both are practically implemented as a form of social control through social institutions. Lastly the theoretical underpinnings are asserted by the Gary Becker who conceptualized his work by using human capital as a key factor. He postulated that activities that affect future monetary and cognitive income by collective increasing resources among people. The empirical evidence has been provided that how the son preference has relationship with the cognitive perception of human beings regarding their resources increase.

Chapter 6

Summary, Conclusion, and Recommendations

The present study aimed to explore the cause and effects of son preference which can be denoted by family balancing. Considering the issue at hand as one of the neglected aspects in the context of Pakistan, the researcher visited Indian and China sources where this issue has at its peak. The Indian cases reported in the previous chapters are astonishing as gender-selective abortion has taken the place of gender pre-sex selection bias. China is also no exception.

Although Pakistan has not been taken up to such stages, its patriarchic structure could lead the country to a gender imbalance. The present study attempted to look inside through the perspectives of the women who had desired a male baby. This chapter reported the major findings of the study in light of the analysis of the study. Considering the findings, the chapter also suggests and recommends some preventive measures to reduce the son preference in Pakistan society being assumed that such preference is strongly associated with the patriarchic structure.

The chapter provides a summary of the major findings of the study as well as the conclusion and policy recommendations. The chapter is divided into two major parts. The first part of the chapter summarizes the major findings from univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analyses. The second part of the chapter comprises the conclusion and policy recommendation.

6.1 The novelty of the study

The study has novel operations in its entirety especially the analytical treatment of the data which introduced new dimensions to the existing body of knowledge concerning the patriarchic system and its inclination towards male child selection. The study used self-administered tools comprising important and holistic dimensions of male child selection such as psychological causes and impacts of male child selection.

The important aspect of such tool development is to improve the data grounded in reality to the level of abstraction which leads to the generation of new models and theories. Therefore, this study used the tool for the construction of new dimensions, albeit interrelated, which introduced new conceptualized causes and impacts of each dimension of child selection (see chapter 4). The new dimensions such as personal and interpersonal psychological causes of child selection holistic sub-dimensions of the psychological causes reveal that the male child selection is not just an intrinsic cognitive process but a relational one in which the various psyches interact with each other and influence each other to form a whole of the psychological causes such as the interpersonal psychological causes.

Similarly, the other dimensions such as the social dimension also explained such selection. This holistic dimension also introduced a new sub-dimension of sex selection. However, one of the most important sub-dimensions is a religious imposition that stood against the social and population theories of population control, discrimination, power, etc. Although other studies also explicated the religious role of male sex selection these studies have restricted themselves to the propositional levels in the region, on the contrary, this study not only quantitative introduced this dimension but tested it as well.

6.2 Major Findings

This section comprised the major findings of univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analyses of the study. It is to note that the major findings did not repeat the findings from the analysis but rather also attempt to form an association, especially in the univariate findings because the bivariate and multivariate analysis already established some associations, particularly associations among composite variables.

6.2.1 Major findings from Univariate analysis

The young married has the highest percentage of participation in the study as well as the respondents with at least a master's level education (31% and 29%, respectively). It was found that a little lower than half of the respondents were not professionals and the business culture is not yet surged among females of Islamabad, although it is one of the highest developed and modernized cities of Pakistan as a little higher than half of the respondents have an exogamous marriage which is the not the cultural tradition of the country. The finding no professional practices of females is further supported by the 45.5% of the married female with no income at all. However, only 13.1% of the souses have no income.

Although the city has been labeled as modernized it yet somehow retained its family traditions such joint family system which is prevalent in the city (53.3%) and all family members mostly depending on one family member (41%), females are highly less likely to go for work (45.5%) and they preferred male children over female (65.1%). Although the percentage of exogenous marriages is higher than endogenous, the percentage of arranged marriages is higher than love marriages which denoted that even the exogenous marriages were arranged by parents.

Nevertheless, some of the families preferred female children for family balancing while most of the families (45.7%) comprised two to four family members which is the ideal family size for 78% of the female respondents. Interestingly, they believed that such an ideal family size is not their choice rather it came from social, psychological, and economic reasons which directly relate personal issues to public problems, the argument of C. Wright, Mills.

Another important finding of the conventional attitude of this city is the pressure of the relatives to have a male baby in the family which is internalized into females before and after marriage because they have been socialized in such an environment. This is affirmed by the 21.3% of the females who felt self-pressure that they ought to have a male baby and they believed that this is the highest obstacle in family balancing (31.5%). This is further affirmed as almost 48% of the females felt guilty about not having a male baby which caused their anger (48.2%). Although they highly value the attitude of their husbands toward family balancing (55.6%), their husbands did not force them to have male babies because they rated the attitude of their husbands toward family balancing as good and acceptable (82%). However, the majority of the females agreed that they felt such pressure because they have a communication gap with their spouse (almost 62%).

As far as education is concerned, respondents gave high importance to it in the case of the family balancing approach while considering that a higher education level may reduce the effects of social pressure of having a male baby. Therefore, the majority of the respondents were of the view that the education level of spouses affects the sex selection attitude because the difference in education between spouses generates a difference of opinion.

As it is established in the literature and analysis of the study that the family and patriarchy are inseparable entities they support each other, similarly family structure is important in determining the values of a female/bride in a family. It is found that the joint family system is prevalent in Islamabad which supported the patriarchic structure because it is always brothers who used live together after marriage in Pakistan. Consequently, the elder brother rules the family whether married or unmarried.

Another concern of the family balancing and gender-biased selection perspective is the decline in the fertility rate. It happens because parents either wait for having a baby while considering their economic condition or stop having babies after having daughters. The second method also leads to the delay in the next pregnancy, thus, they move toward the sex selection process, considering their affordability. If this affordability is lower, they may consider religious practices to have a male baby. Whatever the practice they may select, the majority of them were of the view that sex selection produces gender imbalance.

The prime reason for such imbalance is social, economic, and psychological, for sons are highly important in the economic reproduction of the family and daughters are to have dowry which is the cost that their parents have to pay. These fundamentals of patriarchic society socialized both males and females as one of them is economic security and the other is insecurity and economic burden, which linked the economic problem with the psychological and social problems. The majority of the respondents were of the view that sons are more favorable for supporting parents financially in their old age compared to females, and females are an economic burden because they have to be endowed with the dowry.

6.2.2 Major Findings of Bivariate and Multivariate Analysis

The first important finding to reveal is the predictors of male preference or male child selection in the country. Although it is generally believed that at the younger age of marriage, male children are preferred, the finding of the present study is quite different as it showed that the higher age is one of the strong predictors of male preference. This age cohort is 36-40 years. This age is important because the age of fertility and fecundity is almost ending and the chances to have any baby instead of a male are almost gone. Therefore, at this age, the urge to have a baby boy increases. Further, education level is another important predictor of sex-biased selection but the finding of the present study is again quite contrary because it is different from the general belief system of the country as it is prevalent that higher qualification is associated with a higher tendency of male child selection.

However, the study found that graduation is associated with such selection compared with illiterates. The more interesting result is the per month income of spouse because the child selection is not only a cultural or social matter but financial as well. Interestingly, per month income is associated with male preference but those whose spouse income was greater than 80000 PKR per month are not associated with male preference. It reveals that generally the stringent belief that only sons maintain, enhance and reproduce the family wealth is associated with lower-income people. It also showed that the belief that the son would bring more income and wealth to the family is prevalent in these income cohorts.

Through the multiple correspondence analyses, the relationship of male sexual preference with psychological, social, and economic factors was also explored. The results produced some interesting facts. Psychologically, the preference for a male baby is associated with internal pressure as well as external. The most important external

pressure is from In-Laws. When it comes to social causes, the male baby preference is associated with both rural and urban settings as well as both joint and nuclear family systems. Among the economic causes of the son preference, the economic beliefs are most important as the beliefs that a son can better financially support parents than a female, and a son can reproduce the wealth of the family.

It was also explored whether the psychological impacts of son preference were predicted by personal causes, son preference, religious impositions, and economic causes. In other words, the feeling of guilt, aggression, blaming, etc., of not having son produced psychological impacts of not having a son. Further, the religion also prefers son selection as it is generally believed in the country.

One of the most interesting findings is the production of patriarchy. It was found that the production of patriarchy is the joint play of psychological, social, and economic causes because only one of the factors would always be insufficient in producing such a large-scale structure. However, the personal psychological causes e.g. feeling of guilt of not having a son, religious imposition i.e. the general belief that religion supports male sex selection, son preference i.e. son's superiority over daughter, and economic causes i.e. son's financial support, are the most important predictors of the production of patriarchy.

Such produced structure then produces its effects through the same causes that produced it. The nutritional discrimination against females in the family is also the result of the same psychological, social, and economic causes. This also affirmed that focusing on the causes of the patriarchy could guide a lot in comprehending and suggesting some measures to reduce the dire effects of patriarchy.

As believed, the economic causes were the most significant predictors of the economic impacts of sex selection. However, the psychological causes have no significant effects

on economic impacts. It can be seen through the subject and objective perspective as thinking that there is no need to offer a dowry to a daughter is purely subjective because the economic structure demands such a deed to happen.

6.3 Conclusion

Considering the major findings, the conclusion of the study denotes that son preference is the product of psychological, social, and economic causes. However, such simplicity does not cover all aspects. In the first stage, it can be concluded that there are psychological, social, and economic causes as well as impacts that comprise some factors which have more importance for the nuanced interpretation of the son preference than the overall factors themselves. Therefore, instead of overall psychological causes of son preference, the feeling of guilt, blaming, aggression, etc., produced the psychological feeling of having son preference. Similarly, son preference is prevalent in the country regardless of rural-urban setting and family system. However, the qualification is one of the significant predictors of son preference.

Although son preference is associated with the monthly income of the spouse yet the prevalent economic beliefs are highly important. The belief that the son is the financial pillar of the family, he could reproduce the wealth of the family, and could financially support the parents in their old age are the most important predictors of the son's preference. It also needed to mention here that such beliefs are not standing in themselves rather they have been internalized among the people through their opposite beliefs such as the daughter is a financial burden because she has to be married and go to another family, she is costly as she is fastened with a dowry.

Further, the study also concludes that the predictors of the impacts of the patriarchy are the same that produced it. Therefore, the persistent existence of patriarchy is the product

of the joint efforts of psychological, social, and economic causes. These causes also produced the effects of the patriarchy such as the nutritional discrimination of female children in the family as well as their mothers.

6.3.1 Ongoing Efforts in Pakistan

The National Policy for Development and Empowerment of Women (GoP, 2002) represented the first clear-cut government policy commitment to gender equality and the social, political, and economic empowerment of all women. Following this step, in 2004, the Ministry of Women Development was established as an independent ministry, and laws such as the Women's Protection Bill and Protection against the Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act have been passed. In recent years, many programs have also been introduced in Pakistan that aim to empower women to counter the effects of gender bias through the provision of equal access to economic and educational opportunities as well as quality healthcare. While the restoration of child and overall sex ratios is not a stated aim of any of these interventions, it is an indirect result since they are aimed at the root causes of the skewing of sex ratios.

Female labor force participation has a strong positive effect on sex ratios as women are considered to have more economic value once employed, giving parents less reason to prefer sons to daughters (Gechter, 2010). He further suggests that when there is a fair chance of females being gainfully employed and bringing income home to their families, there is less reason for parents to prefer males over them. Thus, a lot of these interventions take the form of cash and non-cash transfer incentives for increasing girls' educational attainment, making them more economically independent, and increasing their value in society. For example, The Asia Foundation's Women's Empowerment Program recently completed an 18-month project that focused on impoverished women

in eight regions of Pakistan, training women to use new technologies and understand markets to help them be successful in business ventures. Traditional skills were enhanced, and new technologies were taught to help women break into male-dominated fields. Business linkages were formed especially with microfinance institutions. Through the program, some 1,200 women were trained, 400 new businesses developed, and monthly incomes increased.

Many interventions target girls' education, which is essential for their economic and wider empowerment. A World Bank study (2013) found that gender-targeted conditional cash transfer enrollment programs were successful in increasing the enrollment of girls in classes 6 to 8 at school. To overcome the persistent low levels of school enrollment in the country, a stipend program for secondary school girls of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was initiated in 2007 (SDPI, 2013). The program was availed by 93 percent of households in the province, and it was estimated that 35 percent of girls would have dropped out of school if the stipend money had not been available. Similarly, the Punjab Female School Stipend Program (FSSP) is a targeted conditional cash transfer program implemented in Punjab in 2003 within the context of larger education sector reform and in response to gender gaps in education (IEG,2011). Four years after the program began, it was found that adolescent girls in stipend districts were more likely to progress through and complete middle school, and less likely to be drawn prematurely into work. There was also some evidence that suggested that girls who participated in the program would delay marriage by more than a year and have fewer births by the age of 19. The targeted districts were those with the lowest literacy rates. By 2007, 245,000 girls were covered by the program in middle school alone. Girls living in urban centers, in poorer households, and with more educated parents appear to be impacted the most by FSSP.

Among initiatives targeting the nutritional and health needs of girls, the Tawana project, a school nutrition package for rural girls, is noteworthy. An evaluation of the project by Badruddin et al. (2008) found a significant reduction in wasted, underweight, and stunted young girls and an increase in enrollment at the schools targeted by the project. Prenatal sex selection is not known to be an issue in Pakistan at present, and therefore no specific interventions to counter it were identified by this study, even in the health sector. The qualitative component of the study examined whether any programs were being conducted in the health sector to sensitize providers to the potential issue of sex-selective abortions, underlying reasons, and implications. All fifteen respondents said they had neither heard of nor attended any such programs. One respondent said she had attended a discussion at an infertility clinic where the question of sex selection in in-vitro fertilization was raised, but the idea was strongly condemned.

However, the majority of respondents said that there should be programs to educate providers about the issue of sex-selective abortion, skewed sex ratios, and their implications.

6.3.2 Lessons from Other South Asian Countries

Experiences of other South Asian countries in countering distortions in SRB indicate that a combination of measures is required to reduce demand for sex selection on the one hand and regulate the supply of technology and services enabling sex selection on the other.

The companion report to this study from India finds advocacy, communication, and community mobilization to be the most effective avenue for improving the SRB (Population Council, forthcoming a). The report draws attention to the success of practices such as counseling by frontline workers; involvement of religious leaders; and engagement of district officials with schools and village committees to raise awareness.

The report recommends that communication campaigns highlight cases of "positive deviant families" where daughters have succeeded in taking care of themselves or their families and emphasize the social fallout of sex selection in the longer run. The report also recommends that public partnerships between NGOs and authorities be forged in communication, advocacy, and monitoring activities.

In addition, the companion report from Bangladesh recommends safety net programs for poor rural women as well as increased opportunities for subsidized education for girls and paid employment for women to enable them to substitute the economic role of men, and thereby address a core cause of son preference (Population Council, forthcoming b). Similarly, the companion report from Nepal recommends conditional cash transfer schemes for girls (Population Council, forthcoming c). As indicated in the preceding section, such efforts are already underway in Pakistan.

Among supply-side measures, the companion reports recommend strengthening not only laws against abortion and/or fetal sex disclosure but also enforcement mechanisms; sensitization of medical practitioners regarding the social and legal implications of sex selection; and stricter regulation of the use of fetal sex detection technology.

6.4 Suggestions

Dissemination of the distinction between prevalent beliefs

The study recommends the dissemination of the distinction between prevalent beliefs and the objective reality such as the belief that the son is more important for the financial support of the parents than the daughter is contrasted with reality, even in the culture of Pakistan. It is so the daughters are to support their parents in their illness, and family matters especially family gatherings, house caring, etc. Further, the families without sons, or with younger brothers, are supported by daughters, they not only

brought up their younger brothers, and work for the financial support of the family but they also work at home after job hours. They are dual job holders with one payment.

This recommendation is directly aligned with psychological causes of the son preference because females felt guilty, blamed, aggression, etc., which is their psychological condition imposed on them. They have internalized such feelings associated with the son's preference since their childhood. That's why such feelings seem natural, but they are arbitrary. Therefore, they neglect their importance in the family and society.

Thus, if the objective facts are to be disseminated among the individuals, this could be through documentaries, films, dramas, etc., they may come to know about their own importance. Nevertheless, such implications would take time, the delayed reality takes more time to appear than the suppressed reality. The reality that female children are as important as male children are not suppressed because it is not forced, and married couple somehow do not have any choice to select the sex of the children by far because it's very costly, they just wish to have a male baby. This reality is delayed.

Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) to Reduce Son Preference

The culture of son preference in Pakistan could be reduced by educating women and men, changing the mindset, empowering women, and reducing gender inequality. The need to educate both men and women is emphasized. Men should be counseled about gender equality and encouraged to support women's empowerment as a religious obligation:

Media discussions, morning talk shows, and advertisements on female empowerment and the danger of sex-selective abortion;

Talks by religious leaders/scholars on the Islamic view of sex-selective abortion according to the Quran and Sunnah;

Training of social workers who can talk to communities about the hazards of sex-selective abortion;

Counseling programs for men and women by community-level providers regarding the value of girl-children and women, and the danger of sex-selective abortion; and

Provision of free female education.

Public awareness programs should be conducted to convey that husbands are “responsible” for the sex of the baby, and women should not be blamed for it.

Legislation to Restrict Fetal Sex Disclosure

If a trend of sex-selective abortion were to develop in Pakistani society, there should be such a law, and it should be vigilantly implemented based on stringent monitoring. Moreover, if any action is taken against some providers, it should be widely publicized for a deterrent effect.

However, one of the respondents was of the view that disclosure of the sex of the fetus was not in itself a negative practice and should not be prohibited in any circumstances. The issue should be discussed widely on media talk shows and different forums to spread awareness among the masses.

Sensitization and Training of Healthcare Providers

Information and training should be imparted to healthcare providers to improve their understanding of the value of girls and the dangers of sex-selective abortion. They should be trained on how to counsel women asking for sex-selective abortion about the hazards of such abortions and the importance of girls. They should also be provided

with correct religious rulings about the value and importance of daughters/girls in Islam. Seniors should train junior colleagues regarding the law of abortion, hazards of sex-selection abortions, and the value of girls and women. There should be a trend of sex-selective abortions taking root, workshops for healthcare providers should be conducted to discuss the pros and cons of disclosing fetal sex, and it should be discussed at other forums as well.

Engage influential opinion stakeholders to address son preference

Involvement of influential opinion leaders in changing attitudes about sons and daughters, advocating for a balanced sex ratio, and raising community awareness about the dangers of sex-selective abortion. Influential individuals appear in media discussions, and morning talk shows and messages relating to female empowerment and the danger of sex-selective abortion are widely publicized in the media. The engagement of religious leaders/scholars on the Islamic view of sex-selective abortion according to the Quran and Sunnah, suggesting that communities were likely to respond to messages from religious leaders about equal treatment of sons and daughters and the dangers of sex-selective abortion. Several health care providers also called for the training of social workers and frontline health workers and engaging them in raising community awareness and counseling individual couples about the value of girls and women, and the dangers of sex-selective abortion.

In a nutshell the suggestions of the study can be implemented through the involvement of the main stakeholders. The urgent need for the awareness is required, in this regard media, government and the masses are three pillars that can materialize this dream.

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Appendix 1:

Cross tab of the socioeconomic index and psychological impact index

SOCIOECONOMIC INDEX * psychological impact index Cross tabulation						
			psychological impact index			Total
			High	Middle	Low	
SOCIOECONOMIC INDEX	High	Count	60	74	41	175
		Expected Count	60.6	73.1	41.3	175.0
		% within				
		SOCIOECONOMIC INDEX	34.3%	42.3%	23.4%	100.0%
	Middle	Count	6	16	18	40
		Expected Count	13.8	16.7	9.4	40.0
		% within				
		SOCIOECONOMIC INDEX	15.0%	40.0%	45.0%	100.0%
	Low	Count	69	73	33	175
		Expected Count	60.6	73.1	41.3	175.0
		% within				
		SOCIOECONOMIC INDEX	39.4%	41.7%	18.9%	100.0%
Total	Count	135	163	92	390	
	Expected Count	135.0	163.0	92.0	390.0	

	% within				
	SOCIOECONOMIC INDEX	34.6%	41.8%	23.6%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	15.100 ^a	4	.004
Likelihood Ratio	14.735	4	.005
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.445	1	.229
N of Valid Cases	390		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 9.44.

Appendix 2: Son preference and economic security

Crosstab					
			preference of male		Total
			Male Preference	Not Male Preference	
Having sons make you economically secure	Strongly agree	Count	62	41	103
		Expected Count	67.1	35.9	103.0
	Agree	Count	135	49	184

		Expected Count	119.8	64.2	184.0
	Undecided	Count	21	18	39
		Expected Count	25.4	13.6	39.0
	Disagree	Count	31	23	54
		Expected Count	35.2	18.8	54.0
	Strongly disagree	Count	5	5	10
		Expected Count	6.5	3.5	10.0
Total		Count	254	136	390
		Expected Count	254.0	136.0	390.0

Chi-Square Tests

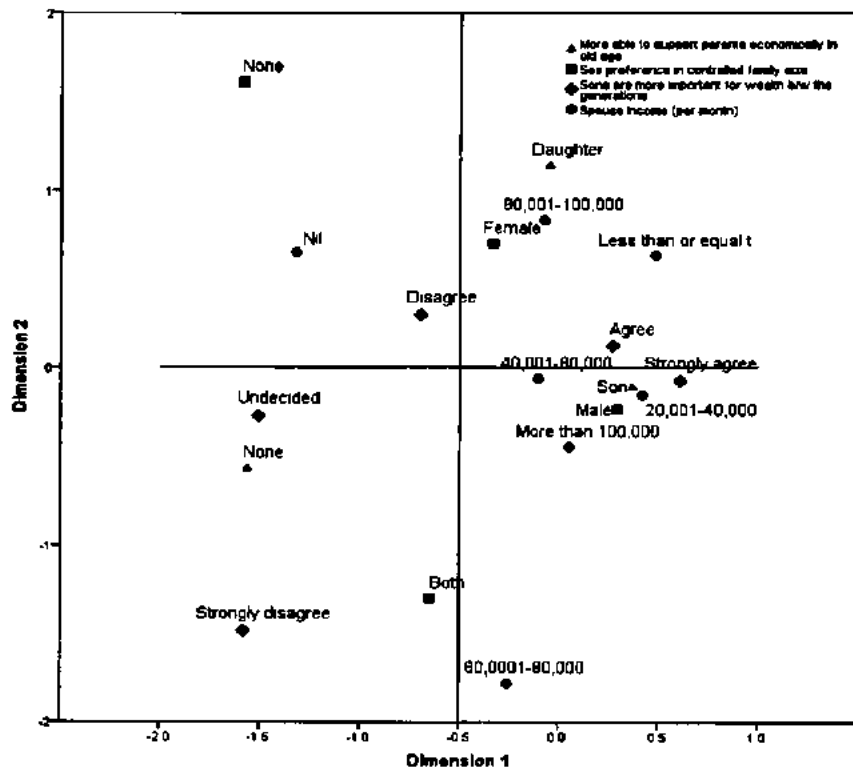
	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	11.218 ^a	4	.024
Likelihood Ratio	11.268	4	.024
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.505	1	.220
N of Valid Cases	390		

a. 1 cells (10.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.49.

Appendix 3: Relationship of economic causes in terms of sex preference

Model Summary				
Dimension	Cronbach's Alpha	Variance Accounted For		
		Total (Eigenvalue)	Inertia	% of Variance

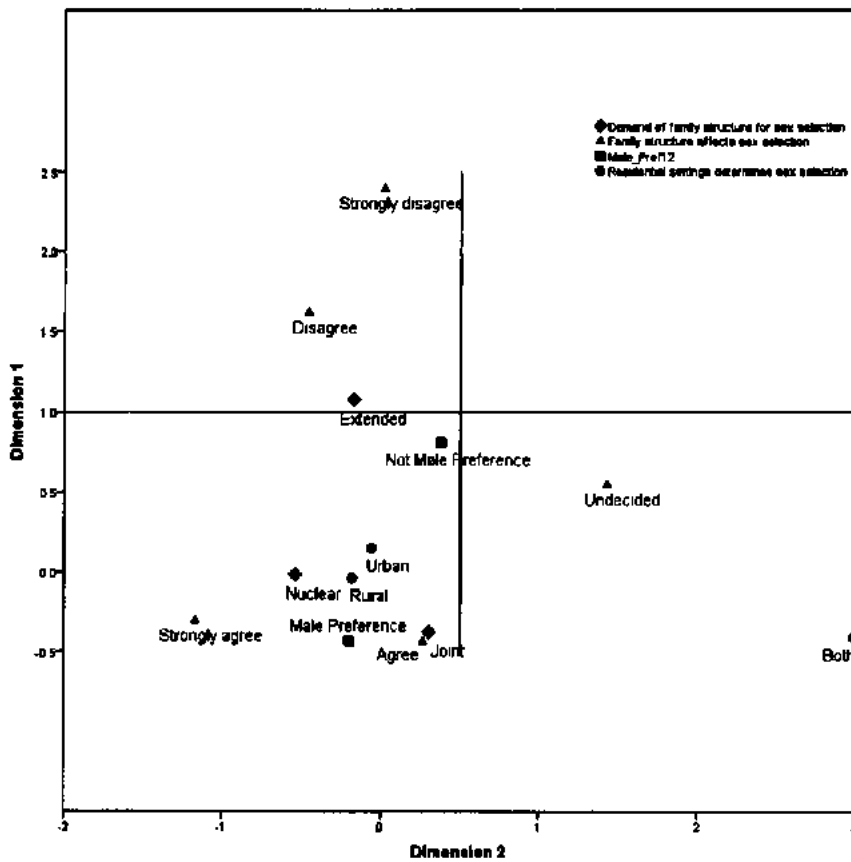
1	.468	1.540	.385	38.499
2	.253	1.235	.309	30.864
Total		2.775	.694	
Mean	.372 ^a	1.387	.347	34.682
a. Mean Cronbach's Alpha is based on the mean Eigenvalue.				



Appendix 4: Relationship of social causes in terms of sex preferences

Model Summary				
Dimension	Cronbach's Alpha	Variance Accounted For		
		Total (Eigenvalue)	Inertia	% of Variance
1	.281	1.267	.317	31.673
2	.205	1.182	.295	29.546
Total		2.449	.612	
Mean	.244 ^a	1.224	.306	30.609

a. Mean Cronbach's Alpha is based on the mean Eigenvalue.



Appendix 5

Simple Regression Formula

$$Y = a + bX + \epsilon$$

Where:

Y – is the dependent variable

X – is the independent (explanatory) variable

a – is the intercept

b – is the slope

ϵ – and is the residual (error)

Tool of the Study / Questionnaire

My name is _____, I am PhD Scholar of _____ from _____. This questionnaire was developed in order to study my PhD Topic: Patriarchal Family Tendencies and Its Socio-Economic and Psychological Effects. I assure you that your given information will not be used, disseminated, shared, etc. by your name or personal/individual identity. The given information will only be used for the academic purpose. If you agreed please sign below:

I have read the above statement, carefully, and I agree to participate in the study:

Signature: _____

What is your Age?

less than or equal to 20

21-25

26-30

31-35

36-40

What is your highest education level?

Illiterate

Middle

Matric

FA/FSc

BA/BSc

MA/MSc and Above

What is your Occupation?

House Wife

Government Job

Private Job

Business

What is your income per month from all sources?

Nil

Less than or equal to 20,000 PKR

20,001-40,000 PKR

40,001-60,000 PKR

60,001-80,000 PKR

80,001-100,000 PKR

More than 100,000 PKR

What is monthly income of your spouse from all sources?

Nil

Less than or equal to 20,000 PKR

20,001-40,000 PKR

40,001-60,000 PKR

60,001-80,000 PKR

80,001-100,000 PKR

More than 100,000 PKR

What is type of your marriage?

Exogamous (Marriage out of family)

Endogamous (Marriage within family)

What is your family type?

Nuclear (parents and their children only)

Joint (grandparents and their children)

Extended (sibling of grandparents and their children)

How many members are living in your family?

Less than or equal to 2

3-4

5-6

7-8

9-10

More than 10

How many family members are earning?

One

Two

Three

Four

Five

Six

Please report your years of marriage.

1-4

5-8

9-11

13-16

17-20

More than 20

What size of your family is ideal for you?

2-3

4-5

6-7

8-9

More than 9

What are the reason of the ideal family size you reported in Q. 11?

Social

Psychological

Economical

All of them

What sex would you prefer in next pregnancy?

Male

Female

Both

None

What type of pressure you feel due to the absence of son in your family?

Social

Psychological

Economical

All of them

None

What is the source of the pressure you reported in Q. 14?

Own self

Relatives

In-Laws

Spouse

None

To what level the absence of son is an obstacle in family balancing?

Extreme

Very moderate

Slight

Do you think that women feel psychological pressure of imbalance family due to the communication gap between husband and wife?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you think that absence in family balancing approach cause nay blaming between spouses?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Does absence of son produce any kind of guilt in your mind?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Does absence of son causes aggression in you?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you think that due to the patriarchy the trend of sex preference is increasing /
developing?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

What kind of attitude of your husband is towards family planning techniques?

Good

Acceptable

Poor

What kind of attitude of your husband is with you in terms of family balancing approach?

Good

Acceptable

Poor

How much important is the consideration of husband towards family balancing approach?

Very important

Moderately important

Not important

What type of threat you face about family breakdown in the absence of son?

Internal (family members)

External (relatives, peer, etc.)

Both

Not at all

What kind of affects you feel on your personality due to the absence of son?

Positive (confidence, self-esteem, decision making, etc.)

Negative (lack of confidence, self-esteem, decision making, etc.)

Neutral (you are ok with it, never mind!!)

What kind of Pressure, the absence of son puts on your self-confidence

Positive (enhance, increase, etc.)

Negative (reduce, decrease, etc.)

Neutral (you are ok with it, never mind!!)

Psychologically, your self-esteem is getting lower in your family

Extremely

Very moderately

Slightly

Not at all

Do you agree that in social gathering, you feel psychological pressure?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Have you been excluded from decision making in family?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree that sex selective attitude increases misogynistic behavior?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree that absence of son affects your mental health

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Does family structure effects sex selection

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you experience any sort of discrimination in absence of family balancing approach?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

What do you think that what kind of family structure demands sex selection

Nuclear

Joint

Extended

What do you think that what kind of residential area/setting determines sex selection?

Rural

Urban

Both

To what extent the urbanization influence the sex selection trend?

To a great extent

Somewhat

Very little

Not at all

Do you think that spouse education effect sex selection?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do think that education gap matters in difference of opinion regarding family planning

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree that education plays any role in awareness regarding sex selection

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

What sort of difference you feel absence of son puts on decisions regarding family
balancing?

Very good

Good

Acceptable

Poor

Very poor

Is there any relation of marriage pattern with sex selection?

Extreme

Moderate

Not at all

Which type of marriage has high frequency of sex selection

Love Marriage

Arrange Marriage

Both

Do you think that delay in marriages affects family balancing approach

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree that patriarchy is not going to be changed in next many years

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you think that it is difficult to survive without family balancing approach due to patriarchy?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree that your family structure affects your importance in family

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree that sex selective approach is creating gender imbalance in society?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree that modern era fertility trends are declining in society?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

What do you think that which is the major reason behind fertility decline?

Social

Psychological

Economical

All of them

Is there any nutritional difference being practiced in family with the difference of sexes?

To a great extent

Somewhat

Very little

Not at all

Do you think that such discrimination is justified?

To a great extent

Somewhat

Very little

Not at all

What types of methods you know regarding sex selection?

Timing method

Sperms sorting

Ericsson

IVF/PGD Technique

None

What sort of method would you prefer for sex selection?

Timing method

Sperms sorting

Ericsson

IVF/PGD Technique

None

To what extent you feel any variation of affordability for particular method for you

To a great extent

Somewhat

Very little

Not at all

To what extent you feel any variation of effectiveness about the method you chose

To a great extent

Somewhat

Very little

Not at all

From which source you had the information about any method of the sex selection?

Family

Doctors

Relatives

Spouse

None

Do agree that sons are more important for wealth across generations?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree that having sons make you economically secure

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do agree that daughters are economically more dependent on you than sons

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree that daughters become more economically dependent at the time of their marriage?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree that due to the daughter's marital status, she can't support parents in old age?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Who is more able to support parents economically in old age

Son

Daughter

None

To what extent is any sort of rewards gap in your household service being the mother of specific sex

To a great extent

Somewhat

Very little

Not at all

Do you agree that having more girls increases the trend for bride buying

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you agree that having more girls in society increases the trend for dowry?

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

To what extent you agree that in patriarchy people expect dowry at the time of their son's marriage?

To a great extent

Somewhat

Very little

Not at all

To what extent, dowry is a burden of daughter's parents

To a great extent

Somewhat

Very little

Not at all

Do you think technological advancement plays important role in sex selection?

To a great extent

Somewhat

Very little

Not at all

What do you think, people try to detect sex of fetus at early stages because of technology?

To a great extent

Somewhat

Very little

Not at all

Do you think due to technological detection for female fetus can lead to sex selective abortion?

To a great extent

Somewhat

Very little

Not at all

