

Andersson, Gunnar, Hank Karsten, Marit Ronsen, and Andres Vikat. 2006. "Gendering Family Composition: Sex preferences for children and childbearing behavior in the Nordic countries." *Demography* 43(2):255-267.

### **Research and Theoretical**

The researchers are using population register data from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden to investigate the hypothesis that countries with the highest gender equality should not have sex preferences for their children. In the Nordic societies there is a fairly strong two child norm and parent usually do not have a third child. During the last three to four decades of the twentieth century there is a clear preference for one child of each sex. Parents who have two girls or two boys are 25% more likely to have a third child than other parents with one child of each sex. There is a girl preference in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway because they are 10% more likely to have a third child if their first two children are sons than if they were girls. In Finland, mothers are more likely to have a third child if their first two were girls than mothers with two boys.

### **Policy Implementations**

The research shows that modernization and an increase in gender equality does not necessary create gender indifference in the preferences of child for parents. In these countries with higher gender equality we can see that the social phenomenon of the missing women does not exist, so policies that create gender equality need to be pursued in other countries so that people are not discriminated against according to their sex. With gender equality policies enacted in other countries we can expect the decrease of missing women in the sex ratios of the world.

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