

## Determinants of Male Child Preference by Fathers in District Dera Ghazi Khan

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### Abstract

Male child preference by the male members of family, is quite significant phenomenon present in the household of Pakistan. In the whole region, male dominance is common therefore, continuation of their generation, transfer of their inheritance, custom, norms and values male family members mostly focus on the birth of a son. Theory of social feminism defines giving birth to male child increase their status. Sampling technique was convenient sample and sample was 200 fathers having at least one child living in Dera Ghazi Khan City in 2014. The results show greater employment opportunities, education, continuation of generation, cultural, economic and religious causes were the main determinants influencing the male child preference for fathers of Dera Ghazi Khan.

**Keywords:** Family, Feminism, Determinants, Fertility, Son preference, Patriarchy

### INTRODUCTION

In Pakistan, there are more than four provinces such as Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pukthunkha. In these provinces many kinds of people live together with different languages, ethnicity, customs, traditions, distinct norms, habits, activities, fertility behavior, household size, etc. But all of these ethnic groups have a similar desire of sons and all groups give preference to the birth of a son. Balochi families stand first when it comes to bearing number of children; certainly more than any other ethnic groups. Second number is the Sindhi and Pashto speaking people with a high fertility ratio with the desire of the son. Punjabi and Urdu speaking people have the lowest ratio of fertility. Like all over the world, in contrast to the high education ratio areas of Pakistan, the provinces having low level of education, low awareness and lower age of first marriages are the ones with high demand for children, especially the desire for male children. This also entails in Pakistan, people in urban and rural areas have different preferences for a son. In one of the researched 1990-91 that urban and rural classification of population by ethnicity would also affect the fertility. Most of the population of Pakistan lives in rural areas like major proportions of Punjabi, Sindhi, Pushtoon and Saraiki people live in a rural area, thus these are more fertile areas where preference for male children is very high as compared to Urdu speaking people of Pakistan, because, they happen to be more educated. If we determine the age at first marriage by different ethnic groups of Pakistan, then we come to know that age of Sindhi and Balochi women at first marriage is fifteen years, age of Pushtoon and Saraiki women at first marriage is seventeen years, while, Punjabi and Urdu speaking women tend to get married at the age of twenty years. Considering that, it can be learnt that, where women get married at an early age, there are reproduction of more children and there are more desire for sons. In this country, especially in rural areas and some of urban areas when parents have a son or two sons than they also give the birth to extra children and state that it is up to God who provides us these children. Religious attachment is also reason for more reproduction; similarly, parents specially male family members have interest in birth of a son (Muhammad, 1996). Many Asian countries like Pakistan, China, South Korea and India have a higher deficit of daughters. In these Asian countries traditional method is used for sex targeting like infanticide, coital timing, and abuse and ignoring the daughters' desires etc. and giving preference only to son. Son preferences spread the cultivation of social stratification by gender. This social stratification of sex has many consequences for the marriages pattern of girls and do impact on her future life. When a woman gives the birth of childlike son or daughter than family decides or determines the status of that woman (Edlund, 1999). In China there is also given the preferences to the male child. Chinese people specially the poor people of Sichuan spend money on sons for their food, health and education facilities than the rich (Burgess and Zhuang, 2001). Male child preferences in Germany specially in advanced industrial societies are relatively limited. In Germany one son and one daughter are normally favored and there is no proof for a relevant gender preference in Germany. In this country there is no use of sex selection technologies and sex selection abortion method for male child's preferences. Western region of the country prefers for male child but Eastern side prefers girls. In Germany Socio-demographic determinants of gender preferences differ from childless parents to other parents who have kids and they preferred boys as a first child (Hank and Kohlar, 2002). A hundred years ago, census report of India had presented a big gap among boys and girls and males and females. At the local level such as family, takes decision to bear more babies for the desire of sons. Main perception of the family behind the desire of a son is that he fulfills economics, social, religion and emotional desires. Parents think that only sons provide financial and emotional care at old age. Another perception of parents of India is that sons add to family wealth

while daughters waste the existing wealth through dowries. Similarly, sons maintain new generation on the other hand daughter are married off to another place. The sons also maintain a religious role and perform different religious activities which were executed by their ancestors. They have a complete hold and exercise over family power and authority while daughters have to be provided safety and protection and they become burdens on household (Pande and Malhotra, 2006). In most developed countries like Canada and America, gender equality have been widely promoted through government policies. A few studies show the gender bias among European people that son preferences found only in men and daughter's preferences found in women. Today in Western Europe and North America there are conflicts about offspring gender preference. Now government tries to eliminate all discrimination on the basis of gender. This gender bias is only among less educated people, not in highly educated individuals (Higginson and Aarssen, 2011). The present study was conducted among 1000 couples to find out the level of their awareness regarding sex determination and attitude towards a male child among Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) migrants of Ludhiana district. Gender preference for children of a certain sex can have impact not only on fertility but also on mortality and sex ratio. There is evidence that the natural sex ratio has been distorted by man-made norms, customs, traditions, religious beliefs and more recently by sophisticated medical technologies which results in lower sex ratio in India. Out of 1000 respondents interviewed, 92.80% felt that male child is necessary in the family and the percentage abortion of female fetus is 9.75 percent (Nag and Singhal, 2013).

### **Significance of the Study**

The socioeconomic hierarchy gives birth to various classes in the specific field. Through particular research this study discloses such a solution of this discrimination, that has much importance not only in academic research, but also it has attained a great deal of attention for the whole society. Hence, it is the pioneering sociological research of its type. It would definitely be very help full for the researchers who wish to work on this topic. Secondly, traditional people and less educated or illiterate people prefer more the birth of sons; it will help to preserve the knowledge about the desire for both gender son as well as daughter among fathers specially. Thirdly, the study that researcher has conducted highlights the main reasons for the preference of a son. This study also highlights the desire for son varies among different people according to their socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. The study of male child preference is useful and interesting as it has focused the attention on a subculture which is in contrast with mainstream culture which is well informed about equity for both genders. Son preference become cause of two or more marriages, society's response is good on the son preference. Son preference is causing increase in fertility rate, inherited tradition are responsible for son preference. Women preferred son to strong their family. Son preference cause more strong social relationship, social pressure is responsible for son preference. Man power also responsible for son preference. Earning sources also responsible for son preference.

### **Objectives of the study**

Following are the main objectives of study.

1. To find out cultural determinants of male child preference.
2. To explore the economic determinants of male child preference.
3. To identify the religious determinants about both gender.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Sapana (2000) described that mostly people have emotional attachment with the desire for son. Which can also effect on fertility behavior. A set of demographic and socioeconomic factors are associate with son preference. The purpose of analysis is not only gaining insight into the determinants of the preference, a subject of interest its own. And also see which factors may affect contraceptive use through preference. It may also be mentioned that there are many different motivations for having son (economic, social, and religious) and therefore change in a single factor may not be sufficient to set fertility decline in motion.

Burgess and Zhuang (2001) expressed persons behind these lines mentioned the similar case of China and research locale, where people award more preferences for male child instead of daughters. There is also a common phenomenon in research locale as well as all over the developing states that people kill a female infant at the stage of delivery or leave them in the garbage or keep them in mosques and churches. Nowadays media got more autonomy than before, it brings more interest if such kind of incidents occur.

Hank and Kohler (2002) People of different Asian communities attach aspirations with the birth of sons. They become hopeful that when their sons will become young man and parents will reach to old age than their sons will only the support of their parents. In the area of research similar circumstances existed. Specially, male family members have this type of psyche; they feel fear that if they have no male child then what will people say? They will enantiosis them. In research locale, all kinds of people such as rich, poor and people belong to middle family have an utterly desire for sons. The causes of divorce is many times when a woman does not give birth to a son. Same state of affairs is real in research surroundings where people become hyper and they

get more marriages for the desire of male. If a couple has first male child than this divorce ratio become more rare and whole family become cheerful and they spent their marital life with calm and joy because the father is the main person in patrilineal society who have great concern with sons.

Lin and Adsera (2003) describe that most people have a desire for sons. So people tend to ignore the basic needs of female children and such parents with desire of son may take wrong steps and neglect healthcare which can become the cause of female child death. This sort of discrimination with girls prevails in many developing societies.

Pande and Malhotra (2006) mentioned Male child preference exists in India but not generally. In the area of research parallel state succeeded where mothers want to achieve balance point with the same number of sons and daughters. People give a lot of births without counting. Parents have only aimed to increase the numbers of children without thinking about the resources which they have or not to fulfill the basic needs of their children. Women gain knowledge and education then they would become self-decision maker and self-determinant. So women who are more empowered and take decision are more likely to accept both sexes male or female at the time of delivery. Certainly, through education women can come out the four walls of the house and they can access the media to get their rights that are ignored by family members. The problem is that female children discriminated by parents especially from male family members. Most women in area of research have a lack of food, health and nutrition. And the cause is only that women give the birth of a female child.

Gilany and Shady (2007) argued that desire for sons only prefers in those societies where there are lineage trace through male side and all the power in the hand of male members. So in those societies, people need a male child who will become a new owner of his father power and authorities. In these societies, people prefer the birth of a male child. In research locale such type of condition prevails. Especially in developing countries there is commonly thought about sons that they are like a capital, if we invest more than we will get more benefit in future. People in urban areas of research locale have believed that sons provide facilities to their parents like to help in the fields, also provide protection in old age and become a strong supporter or become a great shoulder of his father.

Pande and Astone (2007) argued that in Asian countries like India, people continuously prefer the birth of male child which create inequality and gender prejudice among male and female child. In an area of research, most people are prejudiced among both genders.

Chen *et al.* (2007) express in many developing societies, parents use advanced medical technologies to identify the gender of a baby. If there are male child then everything is fine but if they come to know through ultrasound that pregnant woman will give the birth of a female child than they would kill the fetus by using sex selective abortion methods.

Rombo *et al.* (2009) stated that in developing communities, there are no controls over fertility and the population of the world becomes increasing many times than to before. There are several reasons for increasing of world population but most important is people want or give more prefer to the birth of male children over daughters. It is a belief and value system of a community to increase the fertility and increase the number of children to fulfill their societal and cultural desires. So only for the desire of the son they increase the number of children because some families have the belief that if they have more sons than they are more powerful and strong in society. The drawbacks of increasing fertility are just for the desire of sons. When a woman gives birth to children than her health effect badly and she caught by different epidemic diseases. Due to lot of deliveries women have worse nutrition.

Adeleye and Okonkwo (2010) These restrictions also exist in research area where if a woman do not reproduce a male child than she have no links or have no connection with whole family members and totally boycott with her. Family members impose sanctions of female children and give no respect, no inheritance, and no education to her. They completely disregarded the basic necessities of a female child.

## **SOCIAL FEMINISM THEORY**

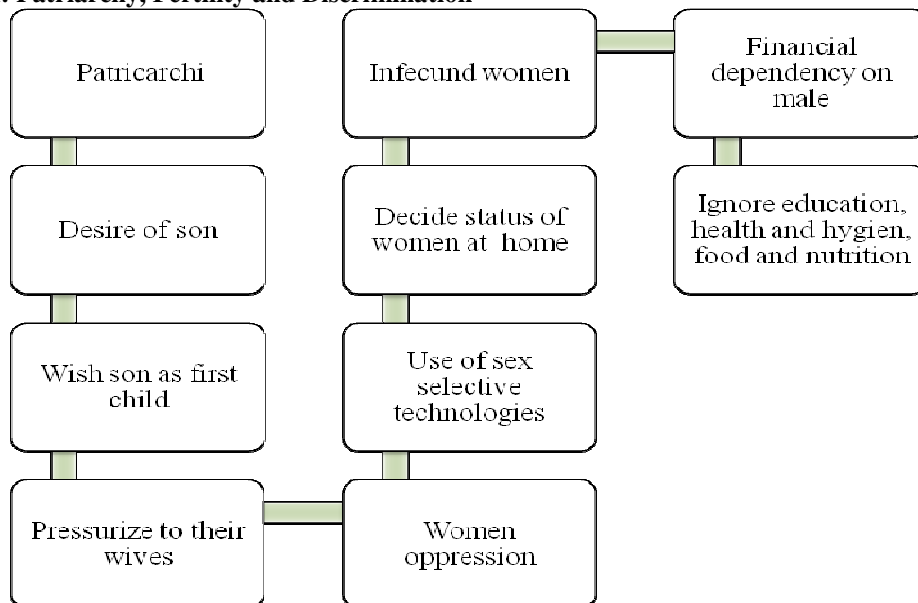
Socialist Feminism first decade has a profounder ,Gloria Marton in 1966. One of the branch of feminism is socialist feminism which focuses on private and public spheres of the women's life. (Gloria Martin, 1976).

### **Relationship**

This theory talks about patriarchy, women's oppression and financial dependency of women on males. In male dominant society, most people desire of a son and they give preferences to the male child. Male people want son as a first child so for this proposes they start to pressurize their wives for the birth of more children. They want the birth of minimum one male child who will become the authoritative person after the existing male member. For these purposes male people oppress their women for the birth of a son. They use sex selective technologies like contraception, use of medicine and female infant mortality etc. Women gain more benefits and give them high status when they give the birth of male child in male dominant society otherwise when they give the birth of female child or she not be able to reproduce a child than they become deprived from all necessities of life like health and hygiene, food and nutrition etc. women become dependent on male people and they asked each and

every thing from male members before doing anything. Women become financially dependent on male family members.

**Model: Patriarchy, Fertility and Discrimination**



**Explanation**

In the social feminism theory there is define that the status of women are increase when they give birth to the male child. In this diagram explain that there is system of radical feminism theory in which there is great role of gender and patriarchy. But social feminist reject this idea they explain that women’s are free what ever they want whatever they do they are dominant on men. There is system of patriarchy in which there is more desire of son. And fathers wish son as a first child then they pressurize their wives and sometime result in women oppression. They used sex selective technologies to know about the gender of baby. Then they decide the status of women. If she gives birth to the male baby the people give respect and as it apparently brings honors in the society. If she gives birth to the female baby then neglect her basic need.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The aim of this chapter is to explain the tools, techniques and methods that are used in the research for data collection and analysis of the data.

**Population**

Any set of individuals or objects having some common observable characteristic constitute a population or universe (Dixon and Marry, 1957).

For the present study population was comprised of all the fathers having at least one child living in Dera Ghazi Khan City in 2014.

**Sample**

Sampling refers to a smaller representation of a large whole (Goode and Hatt, 1952). Time and cost are usually limiting factors in social research. It is therefore, economical to base studies on samples rather than to study the entire universe.

For the present study, convenient sampling was used because the population was easy to find. The sample size was consisted of 200 respondents.

**Instrument for Data Collection**

After selecting the sample, the next step is to select the appropriate research technique for data collection.

For the present study, the researcher has collected the data from respondents through questionnaire and distribution of question paper. If respondent did not understand any question then guidance was given about question to the respondent by the interviewer. This method saved time, respondent having free right of any response. Questionnaire does not put much pressure on the respondent’s emotionality. Questionnaire does not put much pressure on the respondent’s emotionality and provides sufficient leisure time to answer.

**Hypothesis**

Hypothesis is a statement about the relationship between two or more factor knows as variables (Bougie and Sekaran, 2009). For present research, some hypothesis is.

1. Higher the education of fathers, lower will be son preference.
2. Greater the employment opportunities for males, more will be son preference.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table No. 1**

Distribution of respondents according to Age

Category	Frequency	Percentage
16-20	11	5.5
21-25	18	9.0
26-30	76	38.0
31-35	34	17.0
36-40	43	21.5
41-45	18	9.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This table shows the distribution of respondent according to Age. The results show 38 percent of the respondents were between the ages of 26-30 years, 9.0 percent of the respondents were between the ages of 41-45 years and 21-25 years, and 5.5percent of the respondents were between the ages of 16-20 years, 17.0 percent of the respondents were between the age of 31-35 years, and 21.5 percent of the respondents were between the age of 36-40 years. According to this table, most of the respondents were above the age of 26-30 years.

**Table No.2**

Distribution of respondents according to marital status

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Married	159	79.5
Separated	23	11.5
Divorced	18	9.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table shows that distribution of respondents according to marital status. The result show 79.5 percent of the respondents were married, 11.5 percent of the respondents were separated and 9.0 percent of the responds were divorced. This table shows that the most of the respondents were married the male head of family.

**Table No.3**

Distribution of respondents according most of the fathers wish son as a first child

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	34	17.0
Agree	94	47.0
Strongly agree	72	36.0
Neutral	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table shows the perception of parents who wish son as a first child. The most significant results of respondents showed great desire of the birth of son as a first child with the frequency 94and 47.0 percent, 36.0 percent respondents showed they strongly agree to desire of son as first child and some respondents disagree with 34 frequencies and 17.0 percent. While there are 0 percent of respondents are neutral, and 0 percent of respondents are strongly disagree about this statement. Most of respondents said that in patriarchal society there

are strong needs of son as a first child so the findings showed many respondents wished son as first child.

**Table No.4**

Distribution of respondents according to mostly fathers prefer male child

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	26	13.0
Neutral	33	16.5
Agree	98	49.0
Strongly agree	43	21.5
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table shows distribution of respondents according to people prefer male child with the frequency and percentage. The most significant results of respondents were agreed with the frequency 98 and 49.0 percent and some respondents disagree with 26 frequencies and 13.0 percent, and 21.5 percent of respondents were strongly agreed with frequency 43, and 16.5 percent of respondents were neutral with frequency 33, while 0 percent of respondents are strongly disagree about this statement . This table showed that mostly of respondents were agree to prefer male child.

**Table No. 05**

Distribution of respondents according you perceive that son is the real owner of family property

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	24	12.0
Neutral	26	13.0
Agree	109	54.5
Strongly agree	41	20.5
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table depicts that son is real owner of family property. The result show 12.0 percent and frequency of 24 respondents were disagree that son is real owner of family property, 54.5 percent and frequency of 109 respondents were agreed that son is real owner of family property, and 20.5 percent and frequency of 41 respondents were strongly agreed that son is real owner of family property, and 13.0 percent and frequency of 26 respondents were neutral that son is real owner of family property, 0 percent of respondents are strongly disagree that son is real owner of family property. The significant results showed that respondents were agreed that son is real owner of family property so it was the main cause of desire of son.

**Table No.06**

Distribution of respondents you consider that son adds to family wealth

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Neutral	15	7.5
Agree	137	68.5
Strongly agree	48	24.0
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table depicts the distribution according to son add to family wealth. The result show 68.5 percent of the respondents were agreed that son added family wealth so they preferred male child, 24.0 percent of the respondents were strongly agreed that son could added the family wealth, 7.5 percent of the respondents were became neutral that they do not know son added to family wealth, 0 percent of respondents are disagree and 0 percent of respondent are strongly disagree about this statement. The significant results showed that respondents were agreed that son added family wealth so it was the main cause of desire of son.

**Table No.07**

Distribution of respondents according you perceive that son is the better earner than daughters

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	26	13.0
Neutral	23	11.5
Agree	118	59.0
Strongly agree	33	16.5
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table depicts the distribution according to son is the better earner than daughters. The result show 59.0 percent and frequency of 118 the respondents were agreed that son is the better earner than daughters so they preferred male child, 16.5 percent of the respondents were strongly agreed that son is better earner than daughters 11.5 percent of the respondents were became neutral that they do not know son is better earner than daughter, and 13.0 percent were disagree that son is better earner than daughters, 0 percent of respondents are strongly disagree about this statement. The significant results showed that respondents were agreed that son is better earner than daughters so it was the main cause of desire of son.

**Table No.08**

Distribution of respondents according you is in favor of giving inheritance to both daughter and son equally

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Neutral	39	19.5
Agree	91	45.5
Strongly agree	70	35.0
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table depicts the distribution according that respondents were in favor of giving inheritance both daughter and son equally. The result show 45.5 percent and frequency of 91 the respondents were agreed and in favor of giving inheritance both daughter and son equally, 19.5 percent of the respondents were became neutral they were not in favor of giving inheritance both daughter and son equally, and 35.0 percent were strongly agree and were in favor of giving inheritance both daughter and son equally, while 0 percent of respondents are disagree and 0 percent of respondent are strongly disagree about this statement. The significant results showed that respondents were agreed and in favor of giving inheritance both daughter and son equally.

**Table No.09**

Distribution of respondents according you believe that son is the real owner of family inheritance

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	36	18.0
Neutral	37	18.5
Agree	70	35.0
Strongly agree	57	28.5
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table shows the distribution according to son is a real owner of family inheritance with frequency and percentage. The result show 28.5 percent of the respondents strongly agreed about this statement of son were a real owner of family inheritance, 35.0 of the respondents agreed from this statement and 18.5 percent respondents were neutral about that son is real owner of family inheritance, 18.0 percent of the respondents disagreed about it, 0 percent of respondents are strongly disagree about this statement. Most of respondents said that son was real owner of family inheritance and it is the main cause of male child preference among male family members.



**Table No.10**

Distribution of respondents according you believe that for pilgrimage male child are preferred than daughters

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Neutral	38	19.0
Agree	65	32.5
Strongly agree	97	48.5
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table shows the distribution according that for pilgrimage male child are preferred than daughters. Significant results about 48.5 percent of the respondents were strongly agreed that for pilgrimage male child were preferred than daughter, 32.5 percent of the respondents were agreed that for pilgrimage male child were preferred than daughters, 19.0 percent of the respondents were neutral that for pilgrimage male child were preferred than daughters, while 0 percent of respondents are disagree and 0 percent of respondents are strongly disagree about this statement. According to this table most of the respondents were strongly agreed that for pilgrimage male child were preferred than daughters.

**Table No .11**

Distribution of respondents according you perceive that son is the real owner of family traditions and customs

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Neutral	33	16.5
Agree	106	53.0
Strongly agree	61	30.5
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table illuminates the distribution according that son is real owner of family customs and traditions. The result show 53.0 percent of the respondents were agreed that son is the real owner of family customs and traditions, 16.5 percent of the respondents were neutral that they do not know that son is the real owner of family customs and traditions which forced to male family members to give preference to male child and 30.5 percent of the respondents were strongly agree that son is real owner of family customs and traditions, while 0 percent of respondents are disagree and 0 percent of respondents are strongly disagree about this statement. Most of the respondents were agreed that society rule and regulation which are attached with family and son preference were automatically forced male family members to give preference to male child.

**Table No. 12**

Distribution of respondents according you believe that preference of son increase fertility rate

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	29	14.5
Neutral	47	23.5
Agree	124	62.0
Strongly agree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table illustrates the distribution according to respondents were believe that preference of son increase fertility rate. The result show 62.0 percent of the respondents were agreed that they believe that preference of son increase fertility rate and 23.5 percent of the respondents were neutral that they believe that preference of son increase fertility rate and 14.5 percent of respondent were believe that preference of son increase fertility rate, while 0 percent of respondents are strongly agree and 0 percent of respondents are strongly disagree about this statement. According to this table most of the respondents were agreed that preference of son increase fertility rate.

**Table No .12**

Distribution of respondent according you gain more social respect from community due to son as compare to daughter

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	38	19.0
Agree	113	56.5
Strongly agree	49	24.5
Neutral	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table depicts the distribution of respondents according they gain more social respect from community due to son as compare to daughter. And this distribution is shown by frequency and percentage of respondents. The results shows most of the respondents were agreed with the frequency 113 and 56.5 percent, 19.0 percent of respondent said that they were disagree that they gain more social respect from community due to son as compare to daughter. And 24.5 percent respondents were strongly agreed about this statement; while 0 percent of respondents are neutral and 0 percent of respondents are strongly disagree about this statement. Findings showed that most of the respondents were agreed that gain more social respect from community due to son as compare to daughter.

**Table No .13**

Distribution of respondents according you believe that male is authoritative person of family

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	130	65.0
Strongly agree	70	35.0
Neutral	0	0
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table shows the distribution according to son is authoritative person of family. The result show 35.0 percent of the respondents were strongly agreed that in patriarchal society son was the best authoritative person of family, 65.0 percent of the respondents were agreed that son was the best authoritative person of family, while 0 percent of respondents are disagree, 0 percent of respondents are neutral and 0 percent of respondents are strongly disagree about this statement. Most of the respondents were agreed that son was the best authoritative person and because of that respondents were preferred male child in male dominant society.

**Table No.14**

Distribution of respondents according you think that more son increase status in society

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	31	15.5
Neutral	16	8.0
Agree	90	45.0
Strongly agree	63	31.5
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table shows the distribution according that more son increase status in society. Significant results about 31.5 percent of the respondents were strongly agreed that more son increase status in society, 45.0 percent of the respondents were agreed that more son increase status in society, 8.0 percent of the respondent was neutral that more son increase status in society, 15.5 percent of respondents were disagreed that more son increase status in society, 0 percent of respondents are strongly disagree about this statement. The most of the respondent said that they were agreed that more son increase status in society.

**Table No .15**

Distribution of respondents according you believe that society give good response on birth of son than birth of daughter

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Neutral	43	21.5
Agree	122	61.0
Strongly agree	35	17.5
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This Table shows the distribution according that society give good response on birth of son than birth of daughter. Significant results about 61.0 percent of the respondents were agreed that society give good response on birth of son than birth of daughters.,17.5 percent of the respondents were strongly agreed that society give good response on birth of son than birth of daughter, 21.5 percent of the respondent was neutral that society give good response on birth of son than birth of daughter , while 0 percent of respondents are disagree and 0 percent of respondents are strongly disagree about this statement. The most of the respondent said that they were agreed that society give good response on birth of son than birth of daughter.

**Hypothesis Testing**

**Alternative hypothesis**=Higher the education of fathers, Lower will be son preference.

**Null hypothesis**=Lower the education of fathers, Lower will be son preference.

**Table No. 1**

**Association between education of fathers and son preference.**

Education of fathers	Mostly fathers prefer male child				Total
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	
Intermediate	0	13	4	0	17
Primary	0	0	16	2	18
Middle	4	1	13	4	22
Metric	1	2	23	6	32
Intermediate	2	0	1	18	21
Graduate	16	14	26	10	66
Masters and above	3	3	15	3	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>200</b>

Chi Square =132.269

Degree of freedom=18

Level of significance= 0.05

Significant

Gamma value= - 0.024

**Conclusion**

The above table results show that there is relationship between the education of fathers and son preference. The gamma value is negative which shows that relationship between variables is indirect. It means that higher father’s education; lower will be the son preference. So, alternative hypothesis is accepted and null hypothesis is rejected.

**Hypothesis Testing**

**Null hypothesis**=Lower the employment opportunities for males, more will be son preference.

**Alternative hypothesis**=Greater the employment opportunities for males, more will be son preference.

**Table No. 2**

**Associations between greater employment opportunities for males and son preference.**

You think that greater employment opportunities for males lead to son preferences.	Mostly fathers prefer male child.				Total
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	
Disagree	13	6	29	4	52
Agree	11	26	43	25	105
Strongly agree	2	1	26	14	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>200</b>

The above table results show that there is relationship between the employment opportunities for males and son preference. The gamma value is positive which shows that relationship between variables is direct. It means that greater employment opportunities for males more will be son preference. So, the alternative hypothesis is accepted and null hypothesis is reject.

**SUMMARY**

Firstly, the entire research discussed about introduction. In the introduction, Researcher discussed about the topic at the name of male child preference for fathers. Means, how the fathers of Dera Ghazi Khan living in city have

male child preference or a strong desire of son. There are many objectives of this research like socioeconomic, cultural and religious determinants of male child preference. All these objectives of study are effectively achieved in this research. The researcher took the variables which are commonly prevailed in located area. There are so many variables which influence the perception of male family members about male child preference. Some variables were discussed here which are particularly influenced to prefer male child. The continuation of generation is a main factor to give preference to male child and to desire of son. In male dominant society where there are ancestors and descendant are traced through male line, and the entire decision are made by men person, thus, to continue their hold they need a male child who will take all control and yet another authoritative person is replaced with him. All the societal customs, traditions, norms and values in patriarchal society force male people to increase the number of sons resulting in fathers wishing son as a first child. Another factor is that son is the major source of addition in family wealth. 68 percent of the respondents agreed that son is the main source of addition in family wealth. In patriarchal society where all control in the hand of male members and they transfer all their inheritance to male child with believe of that their sons will add their family wealth. In located area of research main source of income of people is own business and there are tendency to give preference to male child with believe of that their son will hold their business and expand it.

People want to give birth to male child the present research 35 percent of the respondents pressurized their women for the birth of male child, so to fulfill their purpose they start to oppress and force their wife to increase the fertility and sometime they use many sex selective technologies like contraception, use of medicine and infanticide of children. Son preference forces couples to have more children for the need of more sons.

### **Conclusion**

Male child preference prevails in all developing countries, and Pakistan is one of them. The objective of the study revolves around socioeconomic determinants of male child preference. As rest of the world is going upward in every field of life, such as education, technology, well informed and consciousness about the equal rights of both male and female. However, in the researcher's local area they prefer male child because of patriarchy and male dominancy in society, where most of the matters are in the hands of males. They need male child for the purpose of continuation of generation and they believe that son become the main supporter for them in old age, provide them all facilities and performed all religious roles and duties. The next objective of the study is the effect of male child preference on socially, culturally and economic determinants. There is significant relationship between the birth of male child and both gender discrimination. If there are lower chances of birth of male child than there are higher chances of oppression on women. Male family members pressurize their wives for more children because they have no son. They use different sex selective technologies like abortion, contraception and use of medicine etc. If woman give birth of male child then whole family members become prosperous and provide women good status and honor her in household and also become part of inheritance.

In second chapter, literatures are quoted on different variables. One theory is related to the findings of the present research. First of all social feminism theory Gloria Marton is discussed and relates to the findings. According to this theory patriarchy in society is the main reason of gender discrimination, oppression, and male child preference as well as cost/benefits relation of parents. In the present research , findings are directly related with hypothesis. First assumptions were made ,then preposition was dug out in those assumptions and checked statistically. Various concepts and terms were used and such terms, used in this thesis were elaborated according to different scholars and dictionaries too.

Interview schedule was made by close ended questions with the careful respondent's morals. Convenient sampling has been used in this study. Major finding on the basis of hypothesis are were mentioned there. At the end all the findings were synthesized with literature and conclusion was written on the basis of objectives, hypothesis and findings at this step.

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