

Addressing Gender-biased Sex Selection: Experience Sharing among Countries along the Belt and Road Initiative

Workshop Handbook



Organized by
United Nations Population Fund
China Population and Development Research Center

Supported by
Renmin University of China
Xi'an Jiaotong University
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Beijing, China
25-26 October 2018

**Addressing Gender-biased Sex Selection:
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Belt and Road Initiative**

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Background

Gender-biased sex selection in favour of sons (GBSS) is a manifestation of gender inequality and the unequal value given to girls in many countries. It is a symptom of pervasive social, cultural, political and economic injustices against girls and women. Patriarchal structures reinforce son preference and perpetuate a climate of violence and discrimination against women and girls in society. Declining fertility and rapid technology developments that allow prenatal sex selection have exacerbated this practice.

GBSS leads to distorted levels of sex ratio at birth (SRB). China has witnessed the most prolonged and significantly skewed SRB among the countries facing a similar challenge. An imbalanced SRB first occurred as a problem in China in the early 1980s. It exceeded 110 in the 1990s and reached an unprecedented 121.18 in 2004. As per official data and statistics, the SRB in China has hit a plateau and consistently dropped for the last seven years - from 119.45 in 2009 to 113.51 in 2015. Although the ratio has fallen, it is still higher than a normal ratio of 103-107. In response to imbalanced SRB, the Government of China has enacted various policy and intervention measures to curb the distorted SRB. Through its Country Programmes of cooperation with the Government of China, UNFPA has worked with its national partners in China to support the Government's efforts to address the GBSS with good practices and lessons learnt that have been summarized. China has accumulated rich experiences in policy responses and programme interventions addressing the issue of GBSS and skewed SRB.

Globally, analysis of data indicates that in recent decades, imbalanced SRB favoring boys have grown in a number of South Asian, East Asian, and Central Asian as well as East European countries. The trend has shifted geographically over time; thus, it began in a number of Asian countries (the Republic of Korea, China and India) in the 1980s, followed by some countries of the Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia) in the 1990s, and has more recently been followed by Montenegro, Albania, and Vietnam. In 2017, UNFPA received funds from the European Union (EU) in support of *The Global Programme to Prevent Son Preference and Gender Biased Sex Selection* addressing GBSS in six countries, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia. The Global Programme aims to contribute to and strengthen evidence-based national policies and programmes in addressing son preference, low value of girls and gender inequalities resulting in GBSS in the identified countries in Asia and the Caucasus.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDGs, provides an overarching framework to accelerate and expand efforts to respond to the underlying drivers and consequences of GBSS. Governments have already taken action in a number of ways, with varying degrees of success, and there are lessons that can be learnt. However, renewed and concerted efforts are now needed by governments and civil society, including efforts to address the deeply rooted gender discrimination against women and girls which lies at the heart of sex selection resulting in sex ratio imbalances. China's Belt and Road Initiative provides a new cooperation platform to advance gender equality and women's health and rights in countries along the Belt and Road Initiative for achieving SDG target 5.3 on elimination of all harmful practices.

Addressing Gender-biased Sex Selection: Experience Sharing among Countries along the Belt and Road Initiative

Workshop Agenda

Time	Activity	Moderator
Day 1 (25 October 2018, Thursday)		
8:30-9:00	Registration	
9:00-9:20	Opening Ceremony Opening remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Babatunde Ahonsi, Representative, UNFPA Country Office in China - Ms. Cai Fei, Deputy Director General, Aging Health Department, National Health Commission of China - Mr. Ed Kronenburg, Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands 	Ms. He Dan, Director of General, China Population and Development Research Centre
9:20-10:35	Keynote Presentations: Global Trend and Perspectives Objective: to present worldwide prevalence of sex ratio at birth (SRB) and efforts of response: a snapshot of the situation of son preference and efforts addressing gender-biased sex selection (GBSS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Christophe Z. Guilmoto, Senior Fellow, Center for Population and Development (CEPED), Paris, <i>Sex selection and its future</i> - Ms. Ingrid FitzGerald, Technical Adviser on Gender, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO), <i>Addressing Gender-biased Sex Selection: Perspectives and Interventions</i> - Ms. Liu Hongyan, Deputy Director of General, China Population and Development Research Centre (CPDRC), <i>Skewed SRB in China: Historical Review and Policy Response</i> Q &A (15 minutes)	Dr. Babatunde Ahonsi, Representative, UNFPA Country Office in China
10:35-10:55	Group Photo + Coffee break	

Time	Activity	Moderator
10:55-12:10	<p>Session 1: Country Experiences: Trend, Policy and Programme Response – Part I</p> <p>Objective: to present and discuss the current trend, effective policy and legislative frameworks, and programme measures in addressing GBSS</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Elgun Safarov, Head of Department, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan Experience: Best Practice, Problems and Challenges - Ms. Dhanashri Brahme, Programme Specialist on Gender, UNFPA Country Office in India, Sex Ratio Dynamics in India - patterns and Possibilities - Mr. Luong Quang Dang, Deputy Director of Personnel Department General Office for Population and Family Planning, Ministry of Health, Vietnam, Imbalanced Sex Ratio at Birth and Response by the Government of Vietnam <p>Q &A (15 minutes)</p>	Prof. Yang Juhua, Professor, Renmin University of China
12:10-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-15:10	<p>Session 2: Country Experiences: Trend, Policy and Programme Response – Part II</p> <p>Objective: To present and discuss the current trend, effective policy and legislative frameworks, and programme measures in addressing GBSS</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Yang Juhua, Professor, Renmin University of China, China's Missing Girls and Governance of Gender Imbalance - Ms. Lela Bakradze, Assistant Representative, UNFPA Country Office in Georgia, SRB Trends and Its Drivers in Georgia (1999-2016): National Policies and Programmes to Sustain Social Change - Mr. Anand Tamang, Director, Center for Research on Environment, Health and Population Activities (CREPHA), Nepal, Exploring Socio-cultural Factors Underlying Son Preference and the Practice of Gender-biased Sex Selection in Selected Communities of Nepal 	Dr. Christophe Z. Guilmoto, Senior Fellow, Center for Population and Development (CEPED), Paris

Time	Activity	Moderator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. AKM Nurun Nabi, Professor, Population and Sciences Department of the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Exploring Gender-Biased Sex Selection in Bangladesh: A Review of the Situation <p>Q &A (20 minutes)</p>	
15:10-15:25	Coffee break	
15:25-17:05	<p>Session 3: Findings from Cutting-edge Research: Influencing Factors and Consequence</p> <p>Objective: To present and discuss the evidence, and available studies on drivers and consequence of GBSS</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Li Shuzhuo, Professor, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Gender Imbalance and Cross-border Marriage between China and Vietnam - Dr. Khuat Thu Hong, Director, Institute for Social Development Studies (ISDS), Vietnam, Cross-border Marriage between Vietnam and China as an Outcome of Gender-biased Sex Selection - Dr. Ravinder Kaur, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India, Daughter Aversion in India: understanding it, fixing it - Dr. Laura Rahm, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Population and Development (CEPED), Paris, Preventing Gender-biased Sex Selection: Policy Lessons from South Korea, India and Vietnam <p>Q & A (20 minutes)</p>	Ms. Ingrid FitzGerald, Technical Adviser Gender and Human Rights, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO)
Day 2 (26 October 2018, Friday)		
9:00-10:15	<p>Session 4: Social Norm Change and Advocacy: Mobilizing Communities for Change</p> <p>Objective: To discuss initiatives designed to mobilize communities to change social norm to abandon the harmful practice of GBSS, and successful experiences on advocacy and media engagement</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Li Huiying, Professor, Central Party School of the Communist Party of China, China's Experiences on Revising Gender-Discriminatory Village Rules and Regulations 	Prof. Li Shuzhuo, Professor, Xi'an Jiaotong University

Time	Activity	Moderator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Mary Elavinakuzhy John, Professor, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi, India, "The Son Will Betray You, and the Daughter will Steady You": The Political and Social Economy of Gender Biased Sex Selection - Mr. Mher Manukyan, Communications Officer, UNFPA Country Office in Armenia, Reversing the Negative GBSS Trend: Armenian Experience <p>Q &A (15 minutes)</p>	
10:15-10:30	Coffee break	
10:30-11:45	<p>Session 5: What Works Out: Experiences from the Past and Lessons from Countries</p> <p>Objective: To present and discuss examples, different approaches to evaluating impact of interventions, as well as global experiences in measuring and evaluating impact of complex interventions and similar harmful practices</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Monica Das Gupta, Research Professor, University of Maryland, USA, Measuring the Impact of GBSS Interventions - Dr. Heeran Chun, Assistant Professor, Jungwon University, South Korea, Experiences and Lessons from SRB Transition in South Korea - Dr. Ashish Bajracharya, Country Representative, Population Council, Cambodia, Gender-Biased Sex Selection in South and Southeast Asia: Situational Analyses and Promising Approaches to Counter the Practice <p>Q &A (15 minutes)</p>	Dr. Laura Rahm, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Population and Development (CEPED), Paris
12:00-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-15:05	<p>Session 6: China Experience: Promising Practices</p> <p>Objective: to present and discuss government, academia and other stakeholders' experiences tackling GBSS in China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Wu Fan, Professor, Nankai University, Family Development Policy on Governance of Sex Ratio at Birth in China 	Dr. Wen Hua, Gender Programme Officer, UNFPA Country Office in China

Time	Activity	Moderator
	<p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Tang Mengjun, Senior Research Fellow, China Populations and Development Research Centre (CPDRC), Overall Review of the Project Addressing GBSS and Skewed SRB <p>Experience Sharing from Project Sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Tang Yiping, Deputy Head, Family Development Department of Health and Family Planning Bureau of Binyang County, Guangxi, Cultural Sensitive Advocacy (With video Presentation) - Mr. Zhang Chaozhu, Head of Family Planning Association, Huangmei, Hubei Province, Multi-sectoral Governance on Addressing Imbalanced SRB (With video Presentation) - Ms. Tang Xinglian, Director of Health and Family Planning Office of Xiatang Town, Changfeng County, Anhui Province, Rural Women's Empowerment through Public Affairs Participation <p>Discussant: (10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Ru Xiaomei, Independent Expert - Dr. Monica Das Gupta, Research Professor, University of Maryland, USA <p>Q &A (15 minutes)</p>	
15:05-15:20	Coffee break	
15:20-16:00	<p>Session 7: Role of South-south and Global Collaboration (Panel Discussion)</p> <p>Objective: To discuss what is the role of inter-regional and global exchange in addressing son preference and GBSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Anne May Anderson, Gender and Harmful Practices Prevention Specialist, UNFPA Headquarter - Mr. Elgun Safarov, Head of Department, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Azerbaijan - Mr. Luong Quang Dang, Deputy Director of Personnel Department General Office for Population and Family Planning, Ministry of Health, Vietnam 	Ms. Ingrid FitzGerald, Technical Adviser Gender and Human Rights, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO)

Time	Activity	Moderator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Tang Mengjun, Chief of Division of International Cooperation, China Populations and Development Research Centre (CPDRC) <p>Q &A (15 minutes)</p>	
16:00-16:15	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Navchaa Suren, Deputy Representative, UNFPA Country Office in China - Ms. Liu Hongyan, Deputy Director of General, China Population and Development Research Centre (CPDRC) 	

Abstracts and Bios

Day 1: October 25th 2018 (Thursday)

Opening Ceremony

Moderator: Ms. He Dan, Director of General, China Population and Development Research Centre

Ms. He Dan, Director of General and Research Fellow of China Population and Development Research Centre, member of the 13th CPPCC National Committee, Editor-in-Chief for journals of Population and Family Planning and China Population and Development Studies (English), Council member of International Planned Parenthood Federation in Asia-Pacific, Director of China Population Association, Director of China Family Planning Association. Previously, she served as deputy division chief, division chief and deputy sub-ministry department chief in National Family Planning Commission, National Population and Family Planning Commission, and National Health and Family Planning Commission. She participated in drafting the Decision of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on Implementing Comprehensive Two-Child Policy and Reforming and Improving Family Planning Service Administration (draft version) and the Research Report for National Strategy for Improving Population Development, a major subject of National Health and Family Planning Commission, suggesting to integrate "Health China" into national strategy and to launch the comprehensive Two-Child Policy. Over the past five years, she has published 13 articles relating to population development strategy research, and edited or coedited 12 books.

Opening Speech 1:

Dr. Babatunde Ahonsi, Representative, UNFPA Country Office in China

Dr. Babatunde A. Ahonsi took up his position as UNFPA Representative in China on 23 January 2017.

Before joining UNFPA in China, he served as the UNFPA Representative in Ghana from August 2014 to January 2017.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Dr. Ahonsi held two senior international positions. He served as Senior Program Officer with the Ford Foundation (Office for West Africa) 1997-2008, where his work contributed to the fielding of several important national policy initiatives, & the emergence of several internationally reputable indigenous NGOs in the women's rights, youth development & sexual and reproductive health (SRH) fields across West Africa. As Population Council's Country Director for Nigeria, 2010-2014, he oversaw significant expansion and deepening of its programs in SRH, gender and youth. He had also lectured at federal universities in Ilorin, Calabar and Lagos, Nigeria during the late 1980s and from 1993-1997.



Dr. Ahonsi has served as a Trustee of International Women's Health Coalition, New York (2010-2014), and on the inaugural Board of the UN University's International Institute for Global Health, Kuala Lumpur (2008-2014). He also served on the External Advisory Group for the development of UNFPA's 2014-2017 Strategic Plan (New York, 2013), the Gender and Rights Advisory Panel of the WHO's Department of Reproductive Health & Research (Geneva; 2002-2008), and the Task Force for the Gendering of all Activities and Structures of CODESRIA (Dakar: 1996). He was a guest researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden (Jan-March 2009). He has published widely in scientific journals and books, and is a member of the Editorial Boards of African Population Studies, and African Journal of Reproductive Health.

Dr. Ahonsi is a national of Nigeria and holds a BSc (First Class Honors) degree in Sociology from the University of Lagos, Nigeria; and a PhD in Population Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science, England.

Opening Speech 2:

Ms. Cai Fei, Deputy Director General, Department of Aging and Health, National Health Commission of China

Cai Fei, Ph.D. of Economics, is currently the Deputy Director General of the Department of Ageing and Health, National Health Commission. She once served as Deputy Director General of Department of Family Development. She has a transdisciplinary academic background in economics, sociology and demography, focusing on the family, infants, women, and the elderly, and formulation of family development policy system and service system. In China's core academic journals, she published widely on population, aging, gender equality, and family development. In 2011, she published a monograph entitled The Problem of Increased SRB in China and Its Countermeasures.



Opening Speech 3:

Mr. Ed Kronenburg, Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Mr. Ed Kronenburg took up his position as Ambassador in China and Mongolia (Beijing) in 2017.

Mr. Ed Kronenburg received education in Fontainebleau (France) and Christelijk Lyceum Zeist (the Netherlands), and graduated in law in 1973 at the University of Utrecht. From 1993 to 1999, he worked as Deputy Cabinet Chief of EU Commissioner Van den Broek (Brussels). He worked as Deputy Special Coordinator Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (Brussels) from 1999-2000, and then spent a year as Director of Europe Department, after which Mr. Ed Kronenburg became Deputy Director General of European Cooperation and Director West and Central Europe department. From 2004 to 2006 he held the position of Director of the Cabinet of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)



Secretary General (Brussels). Then he fulfilled the function of Grand Master of the Royal Household to Her Majesty the Queen. From 2008 to 2012, Mr. Ed Kronenburg was Secretary General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2012 to 2017, he served as the Ambassador in France, Monaco and Andorra (Paris).

Keynote Presentations: Global Trend and Perspectives

Moderator: Dr. Babatunde Ahonsi, Representative, UNFPA Country Office in China
(Bio aforementioned)

Keynote 1

Dr. Christophe Z. Guilmoto, Senior Fellow, Center for Population and Development (CEPED), Paris, ***Sex Selection and Its Future***

Abstract

In this presentation, I draw from a variety of sources a picture of current trends in the sex ratio at birth across the world. This comparison illustrates the variety of situations and recent trajectories in birth masculinity in countries affected by prenatal sex selection. After a brief reminder of the process of demographic masculinization, I will examine the few demographic, social, and economic invariants found across countries affected by the rise in sex-selective abortions and ponder on what they tell us of the future of sex imbalances. Similarly, I will look into the specific patterns of changes in the sex ratio to identify specific trajectories that may help us decipher the future of skewed sex ratios and of missing females.

Bio

Christophe Z Guilmoto is a senior fellow in demography at the French Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) based at CEPED in Paris and teaches at Université Paris Descartes. His recent research has mostly focused on sex selection from East Asia to Southeast Europe. He is the author of the UN report on sex imbalances at birth (UNFPA 2012) and has recently coedited the book Demographic Transformation in China, India and Indonesia with Gavin Jones (Springer 2016). His work since 2017 has been published in Population Studies, Population and Development Review and the Lancet Global Health.

Keynote 2

Ms. Ingrid FitzGerald, Technical Adviser on Gender, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO), ***Addressing Gender-biased Sex Selection: Perspectives and Interventions***

Abstract

This presentation will give an overview of interventions designed to address the phenomenon of Gender-biased Sex Selection. It will discuss normative guidance and policy and programmatic interventions to address son preference and gender biased sex selection, including initiatives under the UNFPA Global Programme on Son Preference and the Undervaluing of Girls, funded by the European Union and implemented in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Bangladesh, Nepal and Viet Nam, as well as related efforts in China, India and other countries. The presentation will

also highlight evidence from recent studies and lessons learned about what works to prevent and address son preference and gender biased sex selection.

Bio

Ingrid FitzGerald is the Technical Adviser, Gender and Human Rights, with UNFPA's Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO) where she leads APRO's gender team and regional programme interventions on gender equality and human rights, gender based violence, and harmful practices including child marriage and gender-biased sex selection. She previously served as Special Advisor to the Senior UN Coordinator, "Fit for Purpose" for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and as Special Advisor to UN Women's Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, Policy and Programme in New York. Earlier roles include Policy Specialist and Gender Adviser to the UN Country Team in Viet Nam; Gender Adviser to the Cambodian Development Resource Institute (CDRI), Cambodia's leading development research institute; and technical adviser to UNIFEM in Cambodia. In Australia she worked as a Senior Consultant with Sydney-based social research and marketing consultancy firm Quay Connection, and as Communications Manager and Senior Policy Officer at the (former) NSW Department of Ageing and Disability. She has a Masters in Evaluation from the University of Melbourne and a BA (Hons) in Women's Studies from the Australian National University.

Keynote 3

Ms. Liu Hongyan, Deputy Director of General, China Population and Development Research Centre (CPDRC), ***Skewed SRB in China: Historical Review and Policy Response***

Abstract

Skewed SRB is a strong indicator of imbalance of population structure of China. There has been a skewed SRB since the 1990s, featuring severe deviation from normal interval, lasting for long and a vast scope. The Chinese government has adopted a series of policies, laws and strategic actions to actively and comprehensively address the issue of high SRB, ensure the survival of girls, improve women's status, and promote gender equality. Starting with a historical review, this presentation focuses on Chinese government's responses to skewed SRB, and discusses the SRB trend in the future.

Bio

Ms. Liu Hongyan, Deputy Director, PhD, Research Fellow of China Population and Development Research Centre, National Candidate of the "New Century Talents Project", State Council Expert with Special Allowance. As the Expert in Chief, she undertook the project of Construction of Integrated Population Data Application Platform of China (1949-2015), a major project of The National Social Science Fund of China. She led and coordinated the National Migrant Population Dynamics Monitoring Survey, Family Development Tracking Survey, Nursery Services Survey and other large-scale national surveys; she led several major international and domestic projects sponsored by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Australian Human Rights Commission, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and National Former Health and Family Planning Commission

Session 1: Country Experiences: Trend, Policy and Programme Response – Part I

Moderator: Prof. Yang Juhua, Professor, Renmin University of China

Yang Juhua, Master of History at Wuhan University, Doctor in Sociology of Brown University. Currently, she works as Professor and Doctoral Supervisor of Department of Population of School of Sociology and Population at Renmin University of China, Vice Head of Family and Children Work Division of National Women's Federation, member of Academic Council of Women's Studies Institute of China, Deputy Secretary General of China Women's Research Society, Vice President of Beijing Women's Theory Research Association, and Vice President of Professional Family Committee of Chinese Sociological Association. At present, her main research directions are social demography, marriage and family, and social policy; her research fields involve the well-being of different groups in the process of social transformation and social changes and the impact of public policies and social changes on individuals and families.

Presentation 1

Mr. Elgun Safarov, Head of the Department, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Azerbaijan, **Azerbaijan Experience: Best Practice, Problems and Challenges**

Abstract

In Azerbaijan the sex ratio at birth was mostly within the biological norm until the early 1990s while these figures started to increase over the years and reached 120 male to 100 female children in 1998 with minor decline (114) observed in the recent 3 years.

Although Azerbaijan is among those few countries where the skewed sex ratios at birth have reached alarming proportions, there had been limited scientific studies on the issue.

The first comprehensive qualitative and quantitative assessment of the skewed sex ratio in Azerbaijani population was conducted by UNFPA Azerbaijan CO in close cooperation with the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This study analyzed, for the first time, the socio-demographic factors behind distorted sex ratios at birth with information obtained through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The findings of the research revealed that the deeply rooted gender stereotypes and misconceptions as well as customary practices that place a high value on sons play major role in the phenomenon of GBSS in Azerbaijan.

Population projections under different SRB scenarios in Azerbaijan were developed by UNFPA CO to present further evidence on the impact of the skewed SRB on the future population structure and importance of prompt intervention to address the problem.

The Government of Azerbaijan with the support from UNFPA has catalyzed the action for addressing the problem of the skewed SRB in the population through series of interrelated activities including production of evidence base for informed policy making, development of the policy framework on the phenomenon as well as partnership with government, civil society, community members and other stakeholders on conduction of national-wide public awareness raising campaigns to effectively promote the value of a girl child.

The concerted efforts of all parties involved resulted in inclusion of the specific items on the need to promptly address the phenomenon of the skewed SRB into both the draft State Programme on Population Development and Demography (2017-2030).

In recent decades Azerbaijan has achieved progress in several areas as regards protection and promotion of gender equality in the country. Series of legally binding international human rights treaties have been ratified. The efforts were undertaken to create an effective legal and policy framework for the empowerment of women in social, economic and political spheres.

However, as the case of the GBSS indicates, the laws and policies per se are not as effective unless enforced on individual, institutional and structural levels. To eliminate the cases of gender based discrimination in general and the phenomenon of son preference in particular the issues of protection and promotion of women's rights should be addressed in a wider context of social justice.

Bio

Mr. Elgun Safarov is the Head of Information and Analytic Researches Department of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Expert of the Gender Equality Commission/Council of Europe and Representative of the Drafting Committee to prepare a draft Committee of Ministers Recommendation to prevent and combat sexism (GEC-DC Sexism) . He is also a lecturer of Baku State University on Gender Equality, European Law, United Nations, and Family Law. He has a Ph.D in international law ("Activities UN Security Council on the procedure of supporting international security and peace in the international law" (2010), Baku State University. 1325 UN Security Council Resolution. Doctor of Law Elgun Safarov involved as the trainer in projects on gender equality, women` rights protection, violence against women, prevention of trafficking, organized by UN, UNDP, UNFPA, GIZ, EU, CE and numerous non-governmental organizations; preparation of the national reports in the framework of CEDAW Convention (2009, 2014), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; serving as an analyst and researcher on human rights protection, gender equality, woman leadership, gender based violence, sexual harassment and trafficking. Mr. Safarov published more than 50 scholar articles, monographies, manuals and books.

Presentation 2:

Ms. Dhanashri Brahme, Programme Specialist on Gender, UNFPA Country Office in India,
Sex Ratio Dynamics in India - Patterns and Possibilities

Abstract

The child sex ratios have been adverse in India from 1991 Census. However, the patterns have changed over the last three decades. These patterns have almost similar characteristics as seen in other parts of Asia, chief among them being fertility and its transition in different states of the country. As families grew small in north-western states of India, sex ratios began to rise. Small families were desirable but not without sons. In the most recent Census 2011, some of these states in the north have noted some improvement but adverse sex ratios are

now visible in other geographies. Like many other complex social phenomena, adverse sex ratios are equally a manifestation of the socio-economic factors within the context of which choices about family building are being made, and where sons valued over daughters in meeting family aspirations. These choices are seen to be affected by class, education and overarching economic factors.

At the same time, states that have been able to provide education and employability opportunities to girls have reasonably balanced sex ratios. In responding to this complex web of socio-economic dynamics, the government of India launched a flagship initiative 'Save and Educate daughters' in 2015 to improve survival, education, health and well-being outcomes for girls. Starting this year, this initiative has now been expanded to cover all districts of the country. Besides this, policy responses have recognised the need to invest in higher education, skill-building, mobility and safety of girls and these interventions, including financial incentive based schemes are aimed at overall empowerment of girls. Research has pointed to the need to invest in economic pathways as well as social transitioning to turn the tide in favour of girls. For this, interventions to change discriminatory attitudes and perceptions need continued investment, together with avenues to building agency and greater self-reliance of girls. These shifts are necessary in all spheres - at the individual level within girls themselves, in families, communities and through policy and systemic measures that are tailored to differing local contexts.

Bio

Dhanashri Brahme, graduated with a Masters in Social Work and has been working for past two decades in various capacities with the government and the civil society on gender, health, micro-finance and other development issues. During the fifteen years with United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, where she currently works as a National Programme Specialist, Dhanashri has been responsible for the gender, rights and community issues portfolio, addressing key population and reproductive health concerns. Gender biased sex selection has been her specific area of policy and programme focus since 2004, driving community interventions, research, and policy advocacy to establish a comprehensive response to this socio-demographic issue, in India and contributing to UNFPA initiatives in the region. This work now extends to one of the three UNFPA global transformational goals, that is, to address gender based violence and harmful practices.

Presentation 3:

Mr. Luong Quang Dang, Deputy Director of Personnel Department General Office for Population and Family Planning, Ministry of Health, Vietnam, ***Imbalanced Sex Ratio at Birth and Response by the Government of Viet Nam***

Abstract

The sudden increase on sex ratio at birth (SRB) of Viet Nam in recent years has become an utmost attention of policy makers, media agencies as well as domestic and international researchers. In the 1999 - 2005 period, the trend of changes in SRB was not clear and likely to range from 104 male births/female births to 109 male births/100 female births. However, since 2006 to now, the SRB of Vietnam has started increasing considerably. The SRB has increased from 109.8 male birth/100 female births (2006) to the highest 113.8 male

birth/100 female births (2013). By now, SRB is still high and serious level in Viet Nam (2016: 112.2 male births/100 female births). What is the scenario of SRB in the whole of Viet Nam for more than latest decade? Reasons? And what are responses by the Government of Viet Nam? What are effects from these responses? Is there any projection for SRB in Viet Nam in the coming years?... The answers for all these questions may find out in the Imbalanced Sex Ratio at Birth and Response by the Government of Viet Nam.

Bio

Mr. Luong Quang Dang is Deputy Director of Personnel Department, General Office for Population, Ministry of Health, Viet Nam. He has gotten BA of International Law at Hanoi University of Law; Certification of Lawyer Skills at the Judicial Academy (Ministry of Justice); MA/MSc of Population sciences at the International Institute for Population Science (Mumbai, India). Dang is in the course of Political theory at the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics (Viet Nam). He has been more than 10 years of working/studying of population issues. Dang is a member of Population Science Board of GOPFP.

Session 2: Country Experiences: Trend, Policy and Programme Response – Part II

Moderator: Dr. Christophe Z. Guilmoto, Senior Fellow, Center for Population and Development (CEPED), Paris

(Bio aforementioned)

Presentation 1:

Prof. Yang Juhua, Renmin University of China, **Research on Causes and Consequences of imbalanced sex ratio at birth in China**

Abstract:

As a result of long-term natural evolution, the normal range of SRB is defined to be about 102-107 boys to every 100 girls. However, in recent years, China's SRB has been severely imbalanced, with characteristics of the longest duration, the deepest degree, the widest coverage, the largest number of affected people, the most serious negative consequences and the most difficult governance. In 2014, the ratio was still as high as 115.88. The gender imbalance is resulted from the imbalanced development of gender culture and reflects the all-round inequality of rights and well-being between men and women in families and the society, the insufficient implementation of women's rights and the poverty of women's rights. Worse still, technological factor, squeezing from fertility policy, gender shortsightedness and other factors have further accelerated the process of imbalance and aggravated the degree of imbalance. Moreover, imbalanced SRB will also cause malposition of gender roles in subsequent life course and pose a potential threat to families and the society. Therefore, the comprehensive governance of SRB shall simultaneously focus on multiple factors, including fundamental factor, technological factor, and economic and social development factor.

(Bio aforementioned)

Presentation 2:

Lela Bakradze, Assistant Representative, UNFPA Country Office in Georgia, ***SRB trends and its drivers in Georgia (1999-2016): National Policies and Programmes to Sustain Social Change***

Abstract

Starting in the 1990s, sex ratio at birth (SRB) in Georgia began increasing, reaching a high of 115.2 boys per 100 girls in 2004, which was one of the highest sex ratio at birth rates in the world. The country's patriarchal structure, the importance of the family and the male line, coupled with socioeconomic circumstances, nurture preference for sons and has lowered the value of girls. In addition, decreased fertility and availability of sex detection technologies after the collapse of Soviet Union had aggravated the situation. Since 2004, the SRB in Georgia started to decline and had returned to a normal level of 105 boys per 100 girls by 2016. The country's unique position provides valuable knowledge and experience.

As suggested by the recent research by UNFPA, this recent positive trend can be attributed to a number of factors, such as strengthened state institutions and the social security system, improved economic conditions, a rise in fertility rate, economic empowerment of women, and the increased cultural influence of shared Western values. Social and family norms, however, are deeply rooted in tradition and national pride and can be staunchly resistant to change. Traditional and cultural aspects of gender discrimination remain at the core of the persistent son preference. In addition, the level of public awareness on gender-biased sex selection is still limited among both citizens and national experts in the country.

Existing variations in son preference: Disaggregated data reveals that gender- biased sex selection still prevails under certain conditions and/or varies across different groups.

- SRB reaches 173.8 among families without previous male births at third and higher birth orders;
- The urban-rural divide is significant with low SRB in the capital;
- The SRB among ethnic minorities is considerably more skewed towards boys.

National frameworks: laws, policies and strategies: Georgia identifies the principle of gender equality at the level of its national Constitution. The Law of Georgia on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination are among the key existing legislative frameworks addressing gender equality. Periodic National Action Plans for Gender Equality integrate GBSS preventive measures. The main legislative act that addresses sex-selective abortions is the Protocol of Safe Termination of Pregnancy (July 2014) that determines the official procedures and system of rules applied for legal abortions, terminating pregnancy on the ground of the fetus's sex is not permitted unless it is necessary to avoid sex-linked hereditary diseases.

UNFPA Programmatic interventions to address son preference and GBSS

UNFPA Georgia office has been working with various stakeholders, implementing initiatives that contribute toward strengthening gender equality and preventing harmful practices. To this end, some of the examples of lessons learned, as well as good practices to encourage and sustain the current SRB positive trend, include:

- UNFPA's support to generate more knowledge, data and empirical evidence regarding the GBSS and skewed SRB was a significant first step to start advocacy, policy dialogue, as well as inform further actions with regard to program interventions.
- Working with general population in the most affected regions mostly populated by ethnic minorities – women and girls, adolescents, parents, teachers, couples of reproductive age were targeted locally to facilitate the process of gender transformation; through undertaking a local communication and advocacy campaign.
- The informative sessions with target groups were facilitated by local Educators in the local language - Facilitators, as advocates for gender equality, were able to initiate a dialog among participants, gain trust, establish a rapport and create a comfortable environment for discussions.
- Promoting gender transformation through engaging youth emerged as a successful approach towards addressing harmful practices, as it promotes value change and transformation of mind-sets among young generation. A number of activities such as Street Art, public talks led by highly influential personalities have been used to motivate and engage young people.
- In the target regions it was more effective to address harmful practices – GBSS and early/child marriage – holistically. This was due to the fact that GBSS stipulates the reality of the male marriage squeeze – The GBSS practice is believed to be exacerbating another form of harmful practice existing in the country - early/child marriage, as men/families in relatively closed rural ethic minority communities are trying to engage available adolescent girls.
- Establishing partnerships with local NGOs, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Public Service Development Agency under the Ministry of Justice (running the local Community Centres in villages), local Gender Equality Councils and Women's Rooms at municipalities was applied as a strategic business mode.
- Sensitizing and engaging medical professionals to prevent the harmful practice of GBSS through raising awareness on GBSS and promoting ethical use of prenatal sex detection technologies.
- Engaging Policy makers in the process of preventing harmful practice of GBSS, through continued advocacy and consultation with key stakeholders such as Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and local self-governing bodies in the regions.
- Engaging media professionals to increase awareness on GBSS, Son Preference and other gender issues, in order to increase sensitivity while reporting/covering a story and to equip them with key evidences, information and data to cover the issue in a persuasive manner to affect positively public opinion.

Bio

Ms. Lela Bakradze joined UNFPA Country Office in Georgia in 2005 in a capacity of the National Programme Officer, covering Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development and Gender components of the Country Programme. Since 2014 she serves as UNFPA Assistant Representative for Georgia. Her experience includes working in the areas of Reproductive Health and Rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, women and peacebuilding, youth informal education, policies addressing population dynamics, including Ageing.

Presentation 3:

Mr. Anand Tamang, Director, Center for Research on Environment, Health and Population Activities (CREPHA), Nepal, ***Exploring Socio-cultural Factors Underlying Son Preference and the Practice of Gender-biased Sex Selection in Selected Communities of Nepal***

Co-authored by:

Anand Tamang, Research on Environment, Health and Population Activities

Tirtha Tamang, UNFPA Country Office in Nepal

Biddhya Khanal, Research on Environment, Health and Population Activities

Dev Maharjan, Research on Environment, Health and Population Activities

Achala Shrestha, Research on Environment, Health and Population Activities

Abstract

The paper is based on an on-going study aimed at exploring the socio-cultural drivers of son preference and gender biased sex selection in Nepal. Altogether, 1890 married women with at least 2 children, the youngest child aged 5 were interviewed using a multi-staged random sampling technique from 6 districts - four districts with skewed sex ratios at birth (SRB) and two districts with normal SRB. The results showed, desire for son from subsequent pregnancy was very high among women with no son (97%), those with two or more daughters (96%) and moderately high among women with just one son (61%). Comparatively, son preference was high among women with high education and those from wealthy families (4th & 5th wealth quintiles). Daughter was highly desired by a woman when there is no surviving daughter (92%) or had two or more sons (83%). Women resorted to various religious rites, observed fasts and relied on local astrologers to ensure the birth of a son. Need for continuing family lineage, economic support during old age, perform last rites, and social status were the main driving factors for son preference. In 4 districts having skewed sex ratios at birth (SRB), 14 percent had resorted to sex selective abortion as against 5 percent of the women from the 2 districts with normal SRB. Gender selection and discrimination of girl infants will continue to persist unabated in Nepalese society unless there are coordinated and consolidated efforts from all sectors to effectively addressing the issues of patriarchy, son preference and gender-biased discrimination.

Bio

Mr. Anand Tamang is the Founder Chairperson and Director of Center for Research on Environment Health and Population Activities (CREHPA), Kathmandu. He has 38 years of professional research experiences in the fields of population, SRHR, abortion and GBV, He and his organization contributed significantly in legalization of abortion in Nepal and in the formulations of evidence-based national safe abortion policy as well as evidence based national strategy to end child marriage in Nepal. Mr. Tamang served as member in a number of advisory panels of WHO, Geneva and SEARO, and as Steering Committee member for the Asia Safe Abortion Partners (ASAP), He leads the 'Girls Not Brides' Nepal Chapter as National Coordinator. He has published of articles on abortion in peer-reviewed journals. He is the PI for the on-going Nepal gender-biased sex selection study.

Presentation 4:

Prof. AKM Nurun Nabi, Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, ***Exploring Gender-Biased Sex Selection in Bangladesh: A Review of the Situation***

Abstract

The issues of gender-based inequality have received extensive attention across the globe, including Bangladesh. However, although a large number of studies have looked at many aspects of gender inequality in Bangladesh, very few studies (e.g, Talukder et al. 2014; UNICEF, 2011; Bairagi, 2001) have attempted to examine the dynamics of gender-biased sex selection at birth from existing data sets or through minuscule studies. There are also scanty evidences in the literatures on the existing laws and policies related to gender-biased sex selection in Bangladesh. With this backdrop, a collaborative effort has been initiated by the Department of Population Sciences of University of Dhaka (DU) with the assistance from UNFPA under its 9th Country Programme (CP9) to generate appropriate and exact information to understand much more about imbalanced SRB and GBSS nationally as well as the variations within countries and amongst different regions and between ethnic, religious, and income groups in Bangladesh by examining major data sources. Major data sources included Bangladesh Population and Housing Census; Bangladesh Demographic and Health Surveys (BDHSs) conducted by National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT et al.); and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The overall objective was to review the situation of GBSS in Bangladesh. Specific objectives were to describe the levels and trends of GBSS, to explore differentials in GBSS across background characteristics, and to identify the determinants of GBSS. Three competing hypotheses, introduced by Guilmoto (2009) -- adaptive behaviour, economic crisis and conflict, and specific set of local factors as the germinators of GBSS -- were the premise of this study. This study critically reviewed and analysed various dimensions of GBSS possibly available in these data sets. Extensive review and analyses suggest that desire for son along with small family size norm due to declining fertility could be a driving factor behind GBSS in Bangladesh. Preference for sons is widely prevalent in Bangladesh due to socio-economic set-up of the society, cultural beliefs, cultural restrictions on women, traditional gender role, male's dominance, and their validity as earning heads of the households,

kinship systems, and old age support expecting only from son. Desired sex ratio at birth (DSRB) was consistently higher in Bangladesh compared to observed sex ratio at birth (OSRB) during more than last two decades. The differentials in sex ratios at birth (both desired and observed) were more pronounced in different regions. Observed sex ratio at birth was consistently higher in urban than that of rural areas in Bangladesh. Parity-specific analysis showed that OSRB was very high at first birth and thereafter started declining with increasing birth orders. These findings indicate that sex-selection probably occurs in first birth to a large extent in Bangladesh. Concerning manifestations of gender inequality, it was found that females had slightly higher neonatal and infant mortality rates than males. Females had higher life expectancy than males. The dropout rate among females in secondary level was much higher than males. Two-third women are still outside the labour market and female labour force participation rate is much lower compared to males.

However, a firm conclusion could not be drawn from the data sources as different data sets have their differences in objectives, methodology, respondent types and timing of data collection. The existing available data cannot furnish clear argument for the prevalence of GBSS. The existing researches do neither provide any support to the existence of GBSS in Bangladesh, nor do they give any scope to explore the extent and dynamics of gender-biased sex selection in Bangladesh. However, all ingredients for causing GBSS such as patriarchy, stereotyped attitude towards traditional gender role, agrarian economic relations, pervasive poverty, higher proportion of people employed in informal sectors, and lack of adequate social safety net protection for future security of older parents exist in Bangladesh. The sociocultural context of Bangladesh is such that women are dependent on men in every stage of their life cycles, which has been institutionalized through patriarchal, patrilineal, and patrilocal structure of the society. Taking these factors into account, a conceptual framework for understanding the dynamics of GBSS has been developed in this study. However, only based on the secondary analysis it is not possible to draw conclusion on the extent to which GBSS exists in Bangladesh. To comprehend the reality and dynamics of GBSS in Bangladesh, a primary research has been initiated.

Bio

Dr. AKM Nurun Nabi founded the Department of Population Sciences at the University of Dhaka in 1998 – considered to be a monumental work done for the Nation that provided an academic platform for understanding the dynamics of population-development nexus. He is a valiant Freedom Fighter in the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, a Canadian Commonwealth Scholar, a former Professor of Sociology, a former Vice-Chancellor of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur Member, Bangladesh National Population Council, Secretary General, Bangladesh Population Association (BPA), President of Dhaka University Alumni Association of Population Sciences (DUAAPS), Former President, Bangladesh Association for American Studies (BAAS), and currently, and now a Professor (on LPR) at the Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka. Dr. Nabi has an outstanding academic credentials with a combination of Sociology and Demography, and a Doctor of Philosophy – focused in Demography from the University of Alberta, Canada. He has demonstrated excellence in scholarship, research, administration and leadership; published and co-edited books with national and international scholars and authored a large number of research articles in reputed national and international Journals and books.

Session 3: Findings from Cutting-edge Research: Influencing Factors and Consequences

Moderator: Ms. Ingrid FitzGerald, Technical Adviser on Gender, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO)

(Bio aforementioned)

Presentation 1:

Prof. Li Shuzhuo, Professor, Xi'an Jiaotong University, ***Gender Imbalance and Cross-Border Marriage between China and Vietnam***

Co-authored by:

Li Shuzhuo, Xi'an Jiaotong University

Yang Bo, Shaanxi Normal University

Tang Mengjun, China Population and Development Research Centre

Abstract

Marriages across the China-Vietnam border have occurred for hundreds of years with linguistic and ethnic similarities in areas near the border between the two countries. However, the number of cross-border marriages has been increasing, both in border areas and in inland regions of China. On the one hand, Vietnamese women may choose to marry Chinese men because China's economy is more developed than Vietnam's. On the other hand, gender imbalance due to the shortage of women in China's marriage market has increased the demand for women from neighboring countries. This study collected data from field work and media reports which are the basis of our analysis of livelihoods, development, and rights of cross-border families. We find that the China-Vietnam cross-border marriages are increasing in number and geographic range. Consensual marriages and agency marriages, the main marriage patterns, are distributed differently between communities near the border and inland communities. Illegal and criminal behaviors, including human trafficking, are present in both regions according to media information. Due to government policies, community interventions, and family development, the livelihoods of cross-border marriage families has significantly improved. However, there remain challenges associated with social integration and social participation among families with Vietnamese brides. China is working to improve this situation with legislation, institutional innovation, community management, and social security services. But greater international cooperation between China and Vietnam on the situation in border areas is urgently needed to address both cross-border marriage and gender imbalance. This exploratory study confirms the correlation between China-Vietnam cross-border marriage and gender imbalance, which should be urgently addressed with additional data and further analysis.

Bio

Professor Li Shuzhuo is currently the Director of the Institute for Population and Development Studies, Co-Director of the Center for Aging and Health Research, Director of the Shaanxi

Collaborative Innovation Center for Social Governance and Social Policy Research, Co-Director of the Shaanxi Migration and Relocation Research Center, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China. He is a consulting professor at the Morrison Institute for Population and Resource Studies, Stanford University. His research is focused on population and social policy in contemporary China, including gender imbalance and sustainable social development, population policy and social development, aging and health, migration and integration, ecosystem services and human wellbeing.

Presentation 2:

Dr. Khuat Thu Hong, Director, Institute for Social Development Studies (ISDS), Vietnam, ***Cross-border marriage between Vietnam and China as an outcome of gender-biased sex selection***

Abstract

Masculinization of birth since early 1990s in Asia and Eastern Europe is an immediate result of prenatal sex selection - a harmful practice which has its root cause in the son preference existed for centuries in these areas. Prenatal sex selection has resulted in serious gender imbalance leading to multi-dimensional damaging effects on societies. An instance is the acceleration of negative elements of cross-border marriage such as increased forced marriage, trafficking and other forms of women's rights violations. Through interview with women returned from China and experts of the field, this qualitative research attempts to document the connection between the changing dynamics of cross-border marriage from Vietnam to China and the consequences of gender-biased sex selection which is widely prevailing in both countries. The ultimate objective of the research is to contribute to better governance of cross border marriage between Vietnam and China as a measure to mitigate negative effects of gender-biased sex selection on social development of the two nations.

Bio

Khuat Thu Hong, is the founder and Director of the Institute for Social Development Studies (ISDS), an independent research organization located in Hanoi, Vietnam since 2002. She has a B.A. in psychology and a Ph.D. in sociology. Before establishing ISDS, she worked for the Institute of Sociology, a government research institution for sixteen years and for UNDP as the gender specialist from March 2000 to May 2001. Hong's major fields of studies include gender, sexuality and social inclusion.

Presentation 3:

Dr. Ravinder Kaur, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, ***Daughter aversion in India: understanding it, fixing it***

Abstract

Male skewed sex ratios indicate that parents have a relative aversion towards daughters. The last decades of the 20th century as well as the first two decades of the 21st century depict a masculinization of child sex ratios. Despite mildly improving SRBs, especially in the worst performing provinces of Punjab and Haryana, a large number of girls continue to go missing from the population, due both to pre-and post-birth discrimination. Literature has identified

three broad reasons for this female-adverse trend - continuing son preference, rapid fertility decline, and the availability of sex determination technologies.

Recent research in India has gone beyond this simple formulation, focusing on the dynamic role of upward mobility strategies, education, and female workforce participation in shaping the sex composition of families. Research also shows that direct routes to addressing sex ratio imbalances (such as laws banning sex selection or financial incentives to parents) are less likely to be successful in weakening son preference and daughter aversion than indirect, albeit long-term routes, such as improving household incomes and class status and reducing male-female gaps in education and employment. Yet, it is hard to predict a uniform future trajectory of sex ratios across the country due to shifting socio-political economies within which the normative value of daughters and sons is shaped. Certainly, fertility decline in populous states could accentuate the squeeze on daughters while stable middle classes in lower fertility regions could raise their value.

Bio

Ravinder Kaur is a Professor of Sociology and Social Anthropology at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India. She has worked extensively on the subject of skewed sex ratios focusing on their relationship with fertility, class mobility and bride shortages. She has recently edited the book "*Too Many Men, Too Few Women: Social Consequences of the Gender Imbalance in India and China.*" (2016) She has worked closely with the UNFPA on research and advocacy on gender-biased sex selection and has served on the Government of India's Central Supervisory Board of the PC-PNDT (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act.

Presentation 4:

Dr. Laura Rahm, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Population and Development (CEPED), Paris, **Preventing Gender-biased Sex Selection: Policy Lessons from South Korea, India and Vietnam**

Abstract

Several Asian governments have issued policies to counter one pervasive form of gender discrimination practiced today: the deliberate elimination of females before or shortly after birth due to son preference, also known as gender-biased sex selection (GBSS). Much headway has been done to challenge traditional gender hierarchies through social, political and legal reforms. Yet, public policies have also played a role in inadvertently reinforcing son preference, and thus have contributed to the persistence of condescending attitudes and practices towards girls. This presentation highlights important policy lessons in preventing GBSS in selected Asian countries. It draws from existing literature, policy file analysis, demographic trends and semi-structured interviews conducted with policy makers during field research in South Korea, India and Vietnam between 2014 and 2015. While South Korea witnessed a near inversion of gender preferences within the last decade linked social change and accompanied by legal reforms, GBSS remains pervasive throughout India and Vietnam today. Significant political efforts were made to counter the growing demographic masculinization in the respective countries. Nevertheless, the presentation shows that public policies against sex selection have not only been ineffective in normalizing skewed sex ratios at birth, but also had unintended effects on sex-selective behavior.

Bio

Dr. Laura Rahm is Postdoctoral Fellow in Political Sociology at the Center for Population and Development (CEPED). She specializes in public policies and programs against son preference, gender-biased sex selection and other harmful practices. Her recent publications appeared in Population and Development Review, Critique Internationale, and Men and Masculinities Journal. Laura holds a Masters in International Relations from the University of Passau and a PhD in Political Sociology and Demography from Sorbonne University Paris. She serves as a consultant and trainer in the first Global Programme to Prevent Son Preference and Gender-biased Sex Selection. Contact: laura.rahm@ceped.org

Day 2: October 26th 2018 (Friday)

Session 4: Social Norm Change and Advocacy: Mobilizing Communities for Change

Moderator: Prof. Li Shuzhuo, Professor, Xi'an Jiaotong University

(Bio aforementioned)

Presentation 1

Prof. Li Huiying, Professor, Central Party School of the Communist Party of China, ***China's Experiences on Revising Gender-Discriminatory Village Rules and Regulations***

Abstract:

Village rules and regulations are village management rules and villagers' behavior norms agreed jointly by villagers, as well as an effective measure for addressing son preference and regulating imbalanced sex ratio at birth (SRB). It is well known that imbalanced SRB is derived from son preference, and the latter is rooted from patriarchal structure, namely the triple structure of paternal surname, patrilocal residence and paternal line. In this structure, boys and girls have conflicting values. Sons are on the family's own side, and will have a wife and sons and support the aged parents; whereas daughters are outsiders after marriage, and cannot support the aged parents nor inherit family properties. Therefore, having sons becomes a necessity. In China's rural communities, more than 90% of villages have village rules and regulations, which mostly strengthen the patriarchal structure by giving paternal surname, regarding sons as permanent villagers and daughters as temporary villagers, and disqualifying daughters' village membership and treatment after their marriage. In rural China, lands and house sites are allocated by the village committee according to the village rules and regulations. As a matter of fact, such a village system has constantly strengthened son preference.

Since 2009, we have been accumulating community experience in revising village rules and regulations to address son preference in rural China. The operation mode of this practice is based on cross-interactions of three forces. One force is gender experts who provide down-

to-earth gender trainings in rural communities, and enlighten village cadres and villagers to realize the son preference-strengthening factors in village's allocation scheme and folk customs, so as to make them willing to make changes. The second force is local grassroots governments that play driving and leading roles, and organize steering and promotion groups to advance the revision of village rules and regulations based on gender equality from villages to towns. The third force is village cadres and villagers' representatives who change the conventional concepts, then organize to revise village rules and regulations, shift the patriarchal structure into the equality between men and women, and advocate random selection of the paternal or metronymic surname and the patrilocal or matrilocal residence, and allow both male and female villagers to enjoy the village membership and an equal treatment. In the practice of revising village rules and regulations, Changfeng County, Huangmei County and other pilot counties accumulated successful community experience, as evidenced by the gender equality-based village rules and regulations and the changes in folk customs in pilot villages. Currently, in the program phase III, a total of 546 communities in program counties revised village rules and regulations, including 180 communities in Huangmei County alone. With the changes in folk customs, son preference has been gradually weakened, and the imbalanced SRB has been relieved.

Bio

Li Huiying, Professor of Sociology and Doctoral Supervisor of China Center Party School, monitoring and evaluation expert for Program of Women's Development in China of National Working Committee on Children and Women under State Council, and Deputy Secretary-General of Chinese Women's Research Society

Presentation 2:

Dr. Mary Elavinakuzhy John, Professor, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi, India, ***"The Son Will Betray You, and the Daughter will Steady You": The Political and Social Economy of Gender Biased Sex Selection***

Abstract

The paper presentation will be discussing some of the broad issues that emerge from a field based study conducted in Haryana and Maharashtra during 2016. The focus of the study was on the dynamic that is fueling the persistence of gender biased sex selection in small town urban India, which have been hubs for selection, and continues in clandestine fashion. The overall thrust of the study is that families' decisions about the sex composition of their children, in a context where everyone wants a small family of two children, needs to be understood in relation to the developmental context in which they live. This is approached from three vantage points:

The first is the unequal and uneven relationship between Education, Marriage and Work for women in contemporary India, whether in their own lives or in the planning of the futures of their children. Education is the most positive development, often involving migration (from rural to urban areas) and determination, especially for daughters. Just how much education is possible is deeply structured by caste and class. The links between education and marriage are profound and multivalent – the right kind of education would help secure a good marriage. On the other hand, marriage could also disrupt an education to be married off. The weakest link of all is the one between education and work. For the very poor, work

is a matter of necessity where education plays a limited role. Even those armed with several degrees and preparing for qualifying exams often found themselves condemned to being housewives or obtaining small earnings through home tuitions and sewing.

The Girl Only Family in the Era of Sex Selection: The arrival of the small family in actual practice as a consequence of economic conditions in most of the respondents' own families represents a new moment in the history of contemporary India. (India is approaching replacement levels as far as fertility rates are concerned.) The desire for one boy and one girl is not so much an end of son preference and daughter aversion, but needs to be linked with the avoidance of the girl only family in the era of sex selection. Very few families are openly accepting being a daughter only family, and it would appear in the towns under study that families had a hard time imagining a secure future for themselves and for their daughters if there was no son. The skewed child sex ratio patterns and voices from the interviews confirm the now clandestine resort to sex selection. Patrilocality did not appear as a strong norm in practice with more than half the families surveyed being nuclear, and little was said about the ritual necessity of sons. A new justification took the form of saying that in these troubled times, while marriage was a necessity for a daughter, brothers were also required in times of difficulty. That is also why hardly anyone interviewed spoke in favour of inheritance rights for their daughters since this would jeopardise relations with brothers and the natal family. Only a small beginning is palpable in all the sites as to the acceptability of girl only families.

The New Gender Stereotype: Bad Sons and Good Daughters: From several voices there emerged frequent statements about sons and daughters. Hardly anyone articulated conventional notions of biological gender in the form of strong sons and weak daughters. There emerged in several contexts widespread doubt about what one could expect from a son, who would, in all likelihood, not be able to live up to expectations. A range of disparaging descriptions across class and caste are indicative of a new stereotype around "bad" sons, so that cracks are appearing in the intergenerational contract that has assumed that parents can expect security in return for having "settled" them in life. When it comes to daughters there has been a long standing cultural place for good and loving daughters, given the harsh life that might well await in the in-laws' home. New elements are entering here as well, pertaining to the ongoing role that daughters might play even after marriage. Reductions in marriage distance, even in the same city or town, and more direct statements about daughters who would care for their parents in spite of the primary rights that in laws have over her, are in evidence. These claims about sons and daughters are obviously not simply about gender, but are points on a larger canvas, indeed placeholders for the elusive links between families and development. Sons must now provide stability and security in highly volatile times epitomised by the desire for that vanishing entity, "the government job". Not only poorer families, but better placed families within this kind of social and political economy articulate the belief that sons will in all likelihood be failures. At the same time, this is also an economy in which daughters are even less likely to stand on their own feet. They must be settled through good marriages with the requisite amount of education, coupled with a more positive discourse of caring daughters who might do more for them in old age than any son.

Bio

Mary Elavinakuzhy John is currently Senior Fellow at the Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi, India. She was Director of CWDS from 2006-2012 and before that was Deputy Director of the Women's Studies Programme in Jawaharlal Nehru University, from 2001-2006. Mary John has written widely in the fields of feminism and women's studies. Her recent publications include *Women's Studies in India: A Reader* (Penguin 2008), and the report *Gender Biased Sex Selection: History, Debates and Future Directions* (UN Women, 2014). She was the co-Chair of the Task Force of the University Grants Commission that brought out the Saksham Report investigating issues of Sexual Harassment on Indian Campuses.

Presentation 3:

Mr. Mher Manukyan, Communications Officer, UNFPA Country Office in Armenia, **Reversing the Negative GBSS Trend: Armenian Experience**

Abstract

For a number of years, UNFPA Armenia was screening official birth data from the National Statistical Service. It showed deviation from natural sex-at-birth ratio (SRB) (102-106 boys to 100 girls) from early 90s onwards, reaching a peak of 120 boys to 100 girls in 2000-2001 and then stabilizing around 115 boys to 100 girls in early 2010s.

UNFPA 2011 study confirmed that prenatal sex selection existed in Armenia, as some Armenian families prevented girls from being born for the sake of having a son. It also uncovered a deep preference for boys - six times more than daughter preference. It was mainly explained by the necessity to continue the family tree, boys being the inheritors of the property, as well as power of men in families, and much more active role and higher social mobility of boys in the society.

According to the second UNFPA study, continued skewed sex-at-birth rates would result in almost 93,000 "missing" women or gender gap by 2060. Skewed sex-at-birth ratio would have negative impact on marriage and may also be cause for further out-migration.

However, through the work of the media, a large portion of the society, the civil society and international organizations, the Government, the Parliament, the Church, the sex ratio at birth decreased from 115 boys/100 girls (2013) to 110 boys/100 girls (2017).

Bio

Mr. Mher Manukyan is a PR and Communications Professional. Mher is Communications Officer at UNFPA Armenia Country Office. Mher has fifteen years of experience in public relations, communications and public awareness in the sphere of development. Mher has joined UNFPA Armenia Country Office in 2010. Since 2011, Mher has been involved in the work targeting prenatal sex selection in Armenia, and has led UNFPA Armenia's communications and awareness raising efforts aimed at eliminating this bitter phenomenon in the country.

Session 5: What Works Out: Experiences from the past and Lessons from Countries

Moderator: Dr. Laura Rahm, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Population and Development (CEPED), Paris

(Bio Aforementioned)

Presentation 1:

Dr. Monica Das Gupta, Research Professor, University of Maryland, USA, ***Measuring the Impact of GBSS Interventions***

Abstract

Measuring the impact of a programme intervention, such as a GBSS intervention, can be conducted in various ways:

- *Process evaluation*: the routine monitoring of the reach of an intervention programme
- *Simple impact evaluation*: for example, comparing changes in KAP (knowledge, attitudes, and/or practices) in the population during the intervention. This is often done comparing data from a baseline survey with data from a survey conducted at the end of the intervention.
- *Rigourous impact evaluation* with a clear counterfactual. This compares changes in the population receiving the intervention with those in a similar population that did not receive the intervention. This is the gold standard in impact evaluation.

Evaluating the outcome of interventions is done using simple or rigorous evaluation techniques.

Assessing changes in many types of KAP outcome can be done meaningfully over the relatively short duration of an intervention. But it is much harder to assess the impact of an intervention on the ultimate outcome --- the sex ratio at birth --- as this is affected by many factors besides a particular GBSS intervention, and can change more slowly than KAP outcomes.

These issues are discussed with examples from studies done in East Asia and South Asia evaluating the impact of the main approaches used to reduce GBSS: (a) bans on sex-selection; (b) mass media outreach to reduce son preference; (c) financial incentives offered to parents of daughters, and (d) broader efforts to increase gender equality.

Bio

Monica Das Gupta is an anthropologist and demographer who has studied how family systems shape individuals' life chances, including maternal and child health and the causes and consequences of son preference. Other areas of research include public health systems, and the interrelations between population, poverty, and climate change. Before joining

UMD in 2012, Monica worked at the Development Research Group of the World Bank for 14 years. Before that, she was at the Center for Population and Development Studies at Harvard University, following a decade at the National Council of Applied Economic Research in New Delhi.

Presentation 2:

Dr. Heeran Chun, Assistant Professor, Jungwon University, South Korea, ***Experiences and Lessons from SRB Transition in South Korea***

Abstract

South Korea has shown a unique case of sex ratio at birth (SRB) transition. Traditional son preference rooted in patriarchal and patrilineal Confucianism, a low fertility rate and the availability of sex detecting technology caused an imbalanced SRB in the 1980s. The SRB peaked in the early 1990s, showing an SRB of 117 in 1991 and an SRB of 115 in 1993-1994. The SRB started to decline in the mid 1990s, and became normalized from the late 2000s. While classified as a country with a 'strong son preference', South Korea now shows a daughter preference in the sex of their children. Reviewing the experience of South Korea can give valuable insights for countries showing the spread of sex selection and a masculinized SRB. Unfortunately, little has been studied on the factors in the decline of son preference in South Korea. This study aims to provide comprehensive information on the SRB transition, the factors affecting the trends, and the changing norm in the gender preference of children in South Korea, with particular attention focused on related policy, intervention programs, and advocacy/awareness campaigns.

Bio

Heeran Chun is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Administration at Jungwon University, South Korea. Trained in health demography and social epidemiology at the Graduate School of Public Health, Seoul National University, she has worked on the issues on gender and health, social determinants of health, and gender biased sex selection.

Presentation 3:

Dr. Ashish Bajracharya, Country Representative, Population Council, Cambodia, ***Gender-Biased Sex Selection in South and Southeast Asia: Situational Analyses and Promising Approaches to Counter the Practice***

Abstract

This presentation will present an overview of the Population Council's recent research on Gender Biased Sex Selection (GBSS), with a focus South and Southeast Asia and assessments of approaches and interventions aimed at countering the practice. The presentation will be anchored by the findings from a 2015 DFID-supported, regional mixed methods study conducted by the Population Council and its partners in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. In addition to exploring socio-cultural factors that influence within-country variations in sex ratios at birth and among children, the study also undertook an assessment of interventions that may influence GBSS, and thus contribute to restoring balance in sex ratios. Interventions such as educational entitlements and conditional cash transfers aimed

at girls, community mobilization, communication and advocacy based interventions aimed at reducing GBSS, and those focusing enforcement of the laws related to disclosure of fetal sex are explored. In India, the study specifically compared contextual and programmatic factors among districts with adverse and stagnant sex ratios with districts that made significant progress towards balanced sex ratios over a decade. We will discuss these findings within the context of the Council's research on implementation of pre-natal sex selection globally, particularly with a focus on the advent technology that enables it and legal frameworks that aim to hinder the practice. We will also present findings from a study examining repeat abortions in Vietnam, which suggests that son preference may be driver. In a context where safe abortion is legal and easily available, the study finds that the odds that an abortion is a repeat-abortion is much greater among women who have at least two daughters than among women with just one daughter. Implications of son preference, women's preferences for less effective contraceptive methods, and the availability of legal safe abortion services are discussed for GBSS in Vietnam. Evidence from South Asia, particularly in India and Nepal, suggests the importance of the role of community mobilization and advocacy efforts, in particular interpersonal communication delivered by frontline health workers, in changing and inculcating positive and gender transformative norms to discourage GBSS.

Bio

Dr. Ashish Bajracharya is the Country Representative of the Population Council's office in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Dr. Bajracharya is a social demographer and policy analyst who specializes in issues related to gender, transitions to adulthood, and sexual and reproductive health of adolescents, young people and vulnerable groups. He also specializes in impact evaluations and demographic analysis. Dr. Bajracharya's work covers Cambodia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Tanzania, and Vietnam. He has previously been based in New York, Hanoi and Dhaka. Dr. Bajracharya received his Ph.D. in policy analysis and management from Cornell University in 2008. He is a native of Nepal.

Session 6: China Experience: Promising Practices

Moderator: Dr. Wen Hua, Gender Programme Officer, UNFPA Country Office in China

Dr. Wen Hua is a gender specialist with rich experience in gender studies and development. She currently works as Gender Programme Officer at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) China Office. Prior to joining in UNFPA, she worked for UNESCO, universities and NGOs. Her areas of expertise include women's rights, prevention of and response to gender-based violence, addressing harmful practice against women and girls, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and social development. She received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2010 and completed her M.Phil. degree in Social Anthropology at University of Bergen of Norway in 2004. She was a visiting fellow of Gender Research Programme at Utrecht University of Netherlands in 2007.

Presentation 1:

Dr. Wu Fan, Professor, Nankai University, ***Family Development Policy on Governance of Sex Ratio at Birth in China***

Abstract

Fertility decision is determined by families or individuals in terms of children's benefits and costs. From the perspective of the governance of SRB imbalance, the family is the most effective unit for policy intervention and action. However, most of current policies in China are basically oriented to the whole population while only a few policies aim at families and individuals. So the main dilemma of the governance system with high SRB is the huge gap between public goals and private goals of fertility decision-making units (individuals and families). In general, there are many direct or indirect family policies in China, but only a few policies whose targets are families mainly include the Minimum Living Security and Family Planning Reward and Assistance Policies, mainly covering poor families, family-planning families as well as families with vulnerable children.

A perfect family policy system has various social values, the most essential one of which is to promote gender equality and female development. For China, which has already entered the risk period of consequences of SRB imbalance, a gender-oriented family development policy should be regarded as an important approach to the governance of SRB and its social consequences. Therefore, the family development policy aiming at re-balancing SRB is not an independent system, but an integrated one that embeds approaches to the governance of SRB.

The family policy framework based on the governance of SRB regards the family as the important intervention unit that governs SRB. The intervention and support of the family policy can guarantee equal rights of different genders in family, balance the distribution of the family resources for different genders, weaken and eliminate the utilitarian basis of boy preference, promote women's family status and social value, and ultimately help women to get equal social status and family status. Under this policy framework, the content of the family development policy is mainly embodied in four aspects: (1) promoting female development; (2) promoting gender equality in family; (3) establishing a social mechanism to promote gender equality in family; and (4) supporting the construction of a harmonious family relationship. The four dimensions of policy are independent to a certain extent but link to each other as well, jointly constituting a comprehensive policy system.

Bio

Dr. Wu Fan is a professor and chair of Department of Social Work and Social Policy at Nankai University. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Nankai university, she also was a visiting scholar of School of Social Welfare at UC Berkeley. Professor WU has long been engaged in the study of demographic transition and social policy in China. Her current research interest focuses on family changes, family policy, and gender issues. She has published more than 50 articles on journals, mainly including family policy, support for family caregiver, gender equality and rural-to-urban migration, and finished more than 20 programs as PI funded by National Social Science Program, National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), Ministry of Civil Affairs and Ministry of Education, etc.. Email:laurelwu915@163.com

Presentation 2

Ms. Tang Mengjun, Senior Researcher Fellow, China Populations and Development Research Centre (CPDRC), ***Overall Review of the Project Addressing GBSS and Skewed SRB***

Abstract

SRB is a gender issue. China's long-term high SRB reflects the son preference in the context of limitation of number of births, as well as the "implicit" treatment of inequality to girls in the existing systems and culture. The imbalanced SRB calls for changes in the policies and systems at the level of grassroots as well as changes in customs and beliefs at the level of community and family. Since 2016, built on the work accomplished in Seventh UNFPA-China Country Programme, the project "Addressing Gender-biased Sex Selection and Imbalanced SRB" of the Eighth Country Programme has conducted pilot interventions in six project sites. Featured by localization and cultural sensitivity, the project has integrated the awareness of gender equality in the policydecision-making, engaged grassroots communities in the revision of village rules and, encouraged women to take an active part in community public affairs, and promoted equal gender division of labor in families, which has achieved substantial progress.

Bio

Ms. Tang Mengjun, Chief of Division of International Cooperation, China Population and Development Research Centre, and Research Fellow. She has been working on research on gender, reproductive health and population policy, and undertook research projects funded by National Health and Family Planning Commission, UN Women, World Health Organization, Japan International Cooperation Agency and Ford Foundation, contributing to reformation of family planning, and improvement of governance of relevant services. Since 2011, she has been in charge of the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) related projects in the Seventh and Eighth Country Programme between UNFPA and Government of China, and proficient with the operational research and intervention.

Experience Sharing from Project Sites

Presentation 3:

Mr. Tang Yiping, Deputy Head, Family Development Department of Health and Family Planning Bureau of Binyang County, Guangxi, **Cultural Sensitive Advocacy**

Abstract

Son preference is deeply rooted in local society, culture and traditional customs. Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region is inhabited by Zhuang people, with one of the higher SRBs in China. Ningming County, as one of the project counties, is inhabited by a large number of Zhuang people, who have the tradition of folk song singing since ancient times and diversity of local operas. The project team integrated gender equality-related contents in local operas and folk songs, and held folk cultural activities, including Zhuang's Gepo Festival. Another program county Binyang County is mainly inhabited by Hakka people, who worship dragon and have the custom of dragon dance since ancient times. The project team helped a dragon dance team of women, which changed the long-standing tradition that only men are entitled to take part in dragon dance. The publicity and advocacy with cultural sensitivity works in the two counties shook up the deep-rooted gender inequality and transformed people's son preference.

Bio

Mr. Tang Yiping, Deputy Director of Family Development Division of Health and Family Planning Commission, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. With years of experience working on population and family planning service management, he worked for several departments of comprehensive management, planning and statistics, migrant population service management and family development. He has good knowledge of policies and history of the family planning service management and conducted research on the population planning and family planning services management. He took part in compiling and drafting Population and Family Planning Development Plan, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and also participated in study of Guangxi Population Development in main functional zone.

Presentation 4

Mr. Zhang Chaozhu, Head of Family Planning Association, Huangmei, Hubei Province, ***Multi-sectoral Governance on Addressing Imbalanced SRB***

Abstract

Huangmei County, Hubei Province, has a long-term high SRB. Since being identified as a pilot county of "Addressing gender-biased selection and imbalanced SRB" under the 8th UNFPA-China Country Programme in 2016, it has included the gender mainstream and diversified multi-sectoral governance in the public governance of gender imbalance, with the aim to create a policy environment with gender equality, build a governance model of public participation and multi-sectoral governance, and change traditional customs of gender inequality, which cause continuous declines in SRB.

Bio

Mr. Zhang Chaozhu, associate chief physician, current President of Hubei Province Huangmei County Family Planning Association. He has worked on the family planning for more than 20 years, previously served as Head of Hubei Province Huangmei County Migrant Population Management Station and Service Station, Vice President of the county family planning association, Deputy Head of the family planning bureau, Deputy Head of the health and family planning bureau, and current acts as President of Huangmei County Family Planning Association.

Presentation 5:

Ms. Tang Xinglian, Director of Health and Family Planning Office of Xiatang Town, Changfeng County, Anhui Province, ***Empowering Rural Women through Public Participation***

Abstract

People live in villages. In turn, the small environment of towns and villages has a great impact on people's ideas, attitudes and behaviors. As the pilot area of the 8th UNFPA-China Country Programme, Xiatang Township, Changfeng County, focused on transforming the mass ideology, cared about the livelihood and health of rural women, safeguarded women's legitimate rights and interests, promoted the "democratic consultation quintet"

in villages, increased the content of gender equality in the process of revising village rules and regulations, and then achieved better effects. As a result, the villages have taken on a new look, and encouraged women to be decision makers, which helped weaken the son preference.

Bio

Ms. Tang Xinglian, Director of Anhui Province Changfeng County Xiatang Township Health and Family Planning Office. She has long worked on the technique service for family planning at the grassroots level. In Xiatang Township, she promoted the practice of UNFPA SRB program in an all-round way, introduced the concept of gender equality, promoted the revision of village regulations and regulations, and enhanced women's social status. She and her work unit has won such honors as the "Base Station of People's Satisfaction", the "Advanced Unit" and the "Advanced Individual for Family Planning" by provincial, municipal and county family planning commissions.

Session 7: Role of South-south and Global Collaboration (Panel Discussion)

Panelists:

Ms. Anne May Anderson, Gender and Harmful Practices Prevention Specialist, UNFPA Headquarter

Mr. Elgun Safarov, Head of Department, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Azerbaijan (Bio aforementioned)

Mr. Luong Quang Dang, Deputy Director of Personnel Department General Office for Population and Family Planning, Ministry of Health, Vietnam (Bio aforementioned)

Ms. Tang Mengjun, Chief of Division of International Cooperation, China Populations and Development Research Centre (CPDRC) (Bio aforementioned)

Ms. Anne May Andersen, a gender and harmful practices prevention specialist at UNFPA Headquarter where she works as the programme coordinator for the Global Programme to Prevent Son Preference and Gender-Biased Sex Selection. Anne May brings more than seven years of experience working on gender, human rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights issues, with experience from Plan International Norway, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and UNAIDS. She brings strong knowledge of program management and policy and advocacy work. Anne May holds a Master's in political science from the University of Oslo specializing in human rights and international relations.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Navchaa Suren, Deputy Representative, UNFPA Country Office in China

Ms. Liu Hongyan, Deputy Director of General, China Population and Development Research Centre (CPDRC) (Bio aforementioned)

Navchaa Suren is the Deputy Representative with UNFPA China Office, where she plays the leading role in strategic planning and delivery of UNFPA programmes in the areas of sexual reproductive health, population and development, youth development and gender based violence. She previously has held a number of positions within UNFPA as Deputy Representative in South Africa, International Programme Coordinator/Head of UNFPA Office in Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and Assistant Representative in UNFPA Mongolia. Prior to joining UNFPA, she served as Policy Officer at the Strategic planning Department of Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Mongolia. She holds a Bachelor degree in Demography and a Master of Science in Statistics from the National University of Mongolia, and a Master of Arts in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands.

Notes to Participants

1. Please register your attendance before every morning/afternoon session.
2. Please wear your badge during the workshop.
3. Please mute your phone during the workshop.
4. Chinese-English, English-Chinese simultaneous interpretation will be provided during the conference, and you need to register with your ID document for using related devices.
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