



Missing Women in Armenia

Qualitative Survey: Field Observations

March 3, 2015

Yerevan

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Project Framework

A qualitative study to explore the attitudes and perspectives towards sex imbalances through:

- * focus group discussions,
- * life stories and
- * key informant interviews

in four communities in Armenia

Geographic Coverage (population in 000s, 2011 Census data)

Area	Male	Female	Total
Yerevan	485 298	569 400	1054689
Rural area in Aragatsotn marz	1 831	1 954	3 785
Gyumri, Shirak Marz	51 753	62 667	114 420
Rural area in Shirak marz	3 079	3 614	6 693

General Statistics (FG participants by gender)

N	Location	Males	Females	Total
1	Yerevan	25	25	50
2	Gyumri	22	25	47
3	Rural area in Shirak marz	25	25	50
4	Rural area in Aragatsotn marz	25	29	54

Gender Discrimination Patterns

- Research team members didn't expect the Boy Preference issue to be so deep and widespread in the Armenian society
- Women get discriminative messages concerning their gender
- Women get discriminative messages concerning their role to give birth to a boy (from family members, doctors, others, etc.)
- Dowry for girls, Inheritance for boys

Gender Discrimination Patterns (cont'd)

- Mother-in-law has strong impact on decision-making concerning abortions
- Attitude toward daughters changes among Elderly:
“Daughters usually help, support and take care for the old-aged parents”
- High level of awareness on contraception methods among youth even in remote communities

Attitude towards Abortion

- Crucial change in attitude toward abortion
 - Elderly women reported up to 30 and more abortions during lifetime.
 - Young women ashamed of reporting abortions
 - Young women don't tolerate abortions
 - Socio-economic situation in the country does not favor high level of fertility

Feedback on Expert Interviews

- Low level of awareness on the issue among Key Informants during the research
- The attitude toward selective abortion among Doctors varies. It is very individual. Some accept it as a family planning mechanism
- Respondents report on gender aspect of inheritance cases. “Good daughters shouldn’t demand their share of the inheritance”.
- The idea to forbid the abortions is unacceptable

Thank You!

Questions?