

Re-evaluation of prenatal sex-selection against female in India

Summary

- The project analyses the diffusion of prenatal sex-selection and potential changes of its root-cause, son preference.
- Using Demographic and Health Survey data, we estimate fertility and sex-ratio at birth in India. Building on mathematical modelling, and using above estimates, we calculate a novel indicator of sex-selection propensity and analyse trends since 2000 and across Indian states.



Source: UNICEF INDIA

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Key findings/learning/outcomes

- Sex-selection propensity (SSP) is highest in Northern India but trends vary greatly across states.
- SSP is higher in urban areas and increasing in rural areas. These results are consistent with a process of geographical and social diffusion of sex-selection.
- *However*, some recent SSP reduction suggest a relative weakening of son preference in urban India and within higher educational groups (with inter-state variability).
- Ongoing efforts to measure son preference itself will provide further evidence for policy.

Where?

India

State level

Rural and urban areas

Project partners/funders

Follow up RETF project (ongoing);

AMS Springboard project application

With partners:

Dr Chang (China/PDRC)

Prof Ram (India/IIPS)