

Thesis Title           The Impact of Sex Preference on the  
                          Acceptance of the One-Child  
                          Certificate in Shaanxi Province, China

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#### **ABSTRACT**

This study explores whether sex preference and socio-economic characteristics among one-child couples affect the acceptance of the one-child certificate and the practice of contraception.

The data analyzed in this study were taken from the "Fertility and Contraceptive" survey which was conducted by the Chinese State Family Planning Committee in 1988. Couples of reproductive age having one living child are the focus of this study (N=332).

The findings reveal that overall, sex of child had an effect on the acceptance of the one child certificate. However, there is only a weak association between acceptance and sex of child when the sample is divided by rural/urban status. The percentage of acceptors living in urban areas is five times more than couples who are living in rural areas. Certificate holders are more likely to use contraception, twice more than certificate non-holders. Couples' socio-economic characteristics such as wife's age, couples' residence, education, and occupation are associated with the acceptance of the one-child certificate as well as contraceptive use. There is no significant association between sex of child and contraceptive use.

The recommendation and policy implications derived from this study for the Chinese population control campaign are as follows:

- 1) To improve socio-economic conditions in Shaanxi rural areas, in order to decrease the gap in socio-economic status between rural and urban residents.

- 2) To provide more educational opportunities to young people and to make middle school compulsory in order to increase the level of education, this will improve their chance for work opportunities and result in a change in their attitude towards the one child family.

- 3) To Improve infant and child health care and to assure one-child parents that priority health care will be

given to their child to encourage them to accept the one child certificate.

4) To promote the wider use of contraception among young women who have one living child to prevent second or higher order births.