



A few years ago it first became known that the number of boys being born in Japan was starting to outnumber the number of girls being born. It was the result of ultrasound, a medical technique which now makes it possible for parents to determine the sex of their child.

Of course it's natural that parents expecting a baby are curious to know whether they'll be having a boy or a girl. But in Japan, there is a much sinister purpose to this sex-determination procedure. It's to make sure that they'll be having a boy and not a girl. Fetuses which are found out to be female are often aborted.

This practice is caused by the age-old Japanese tradition of favoring boys over girls is now threatening to turn into a big social problem just a few years from now. If nothing is done to stop the trend, Japanese society will soon be changed forever.

Questions for discussions

1. Is it a serious problem if there are more males than females in your country? Is it something to worry about?
2. What are the other reasons why Japanese and some other Asian culture prefer sons?
3. Do you think that couples expecting a baby should be able to find out the sex of the baby before it's born? If so, for what purpose?
4. If Japanese, Korean and Chinese men cannot find women from their countries to marry, what should they do?
 - @: Import a foreign woman to marry.
 - @: Marry a foreign woman but live in HER country.
 - @: Remain single.
 - @: Allow women to have more than one husband.
 - @: Another solution. (Explain)
5. What are some problems that may occur with interracial marriages?