

## **BOYS ARE BETTER**

Korean society has long favored boys over girls. Male children have been considered necessary to preserve the family name and to support the parents in old age, and female can not serve as the family fence within the belief system. In light of the government policy of restricting population growth, this issue has become even more critical. Parents have habitually sex-tested their fetuses to decide whether to abort them and insure having a son rather than a daughter. Making this practice illegal has not prevented it from continuing, and today a serious gender imbalance already exists and is growing ever more pronounced. By the time these children reach maturity, there will not be nearly enough Korean wives to go round, and left-over Korean men will either have to stay single, share someone else's mate or recruit abroad.

### **Vocabularies:**

**preserve**-to keeps in perfect or unaltered condition; maintain unchanged

**gender**- the condition of being female or male; sex.

**recruit**- to obtain replacements for or new supplies of something lost, wasted, or needed

### **Discussion Points:**

- (1) Is there a difference between having sons and having daughters?
- (2) Should male be treated equally in all respects, including their right to be born?
- (3) Is it important to you to preserve the family name at all costs? Why?
- (4) If you had two daughters, would you want to keep having children until you get a son?
- (5) Do you agree that boys are reliable guarantees of care provision in old age than girls do?