

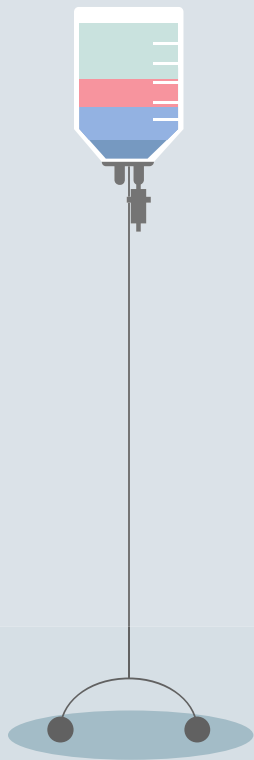
*Unchosen:  
Sex-selective  
abortions in Armenia*

Capstone presentation  
by Zhanna Muradyan



## outline

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# 01

## Introduction

Sex-selective abortions

# 02

## Literature review

# 03

## Research questions

# 04

## Methodology

# 05

## Creative Project

# 06

## Conclusion

### *Sex-selective abortions*

- Many countries prefer having boys over girls
- Armenian mentality and mindset
- Various factors and reasons behind that issue





- Abrahamyan, R., Avagyan, G., Gyulkhasyan, V., Kuyumjyan, K., Saghatelyan, A., Aghajanyan, A., & Arushanyan, A. (2012). *Prevalence of and reasons for sex-selective abortions in Armenia.*
- Shahnazaryan, G., & Hovhannisyan, S. (2017). *The systemic and cultural causes of sex-selective abortions in Armenia.*
- Voskanyan, A. (n.d.). *Sex-selective abortions as part of gender-based discrimination in Armenian family.*
- Tsaturyan, R. (n.d.). *How to have a son? Cultural practices of son preference in Armenia.*
- *Gender-biased sex selection.* United Nations Population Fund. (2020).
- Kumar, S., & Sinha, N. (2018). *Preventing more "missing girls" a review of policies to tackle son preference.*
- Jilozian, A., & Agadjanian, V. (2016). *Is Induced Abortion Really Declining in Armenia? Studies in Family Planning*
- Pirinjian, L. (2019). *"Nation as family" and the causes of gender-based violence in modern Armenia.*

# Sex-selective abortions

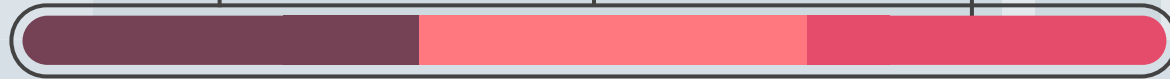


Around 140 million women are believed to be "missing" around the world because of sex-selective practices

Sex ratio at birth: 1.04-1.07  
(is in line with the biologically set statistical average)

Sex ratio at birth: 1.08-1.13  
(from the second child on, the ratio tends to increase)

Sex ratio at birth: 1.6-1.7  
(the desired regulation of the child's gender is done through an induced abortion)



First child

Second child

Third (and more) child

# Factors

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## Sex ratio at birth v the women's level of educational attainment

From second birth on, the sex ratio at birth is higher for women with tertiary education as compared to women with an elementary/basic education

## Sex ratio at birth v women's place of residence

Urban women - the sex ratio at birth peaks in the case of the fourth child.  
Rural areas - the sex ratio at birth in the case of the first through fourth child is close to a natural sex ratio.



## Family's income

In comparison with low-income women, for high-income women the predominance of boys becomes unprecedented.

## Armenian mentality



19 (or 82.6%) out of 23 interviewed women who made a decision to have abortion made that decision themselves



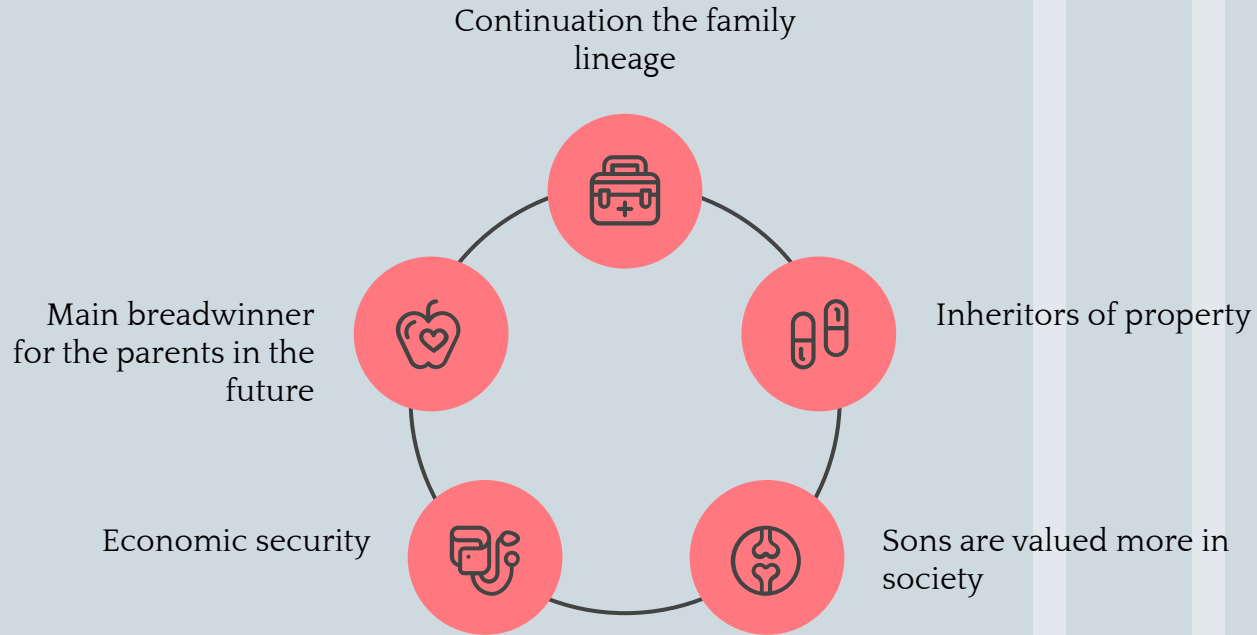
The decision was made by husbands/partners in 18.4% of cases



41.5% of the surveyed women stated that during their first pregnancy they wanted to have a son

# Reasons

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## Research questions:

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01

*What are the reasons behind son preference in Armenian society that lead to sex-selective abortions?*

02

*What are the different factors that influence the decision to make a sex-based abortion?*





## SHORT FILM

1. Docudrama
2. Psychological drama
3. Scripted; actors
4. Based on the research data

## CREATIVE PROJECT

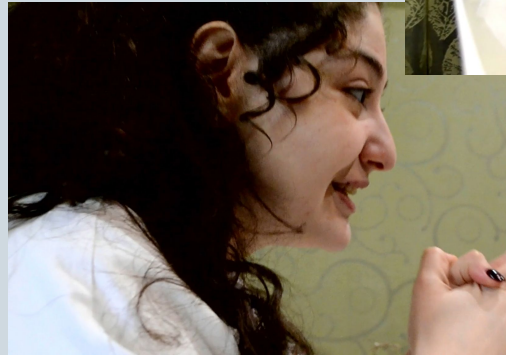
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# UNCHOSEN

*Characters:* three daughters, parents, extras

*Settings:* int. (house); ext. (backyard).

*The idea:* Two sisters live carelessly with their parents. One day they find out their mother is pregnant with a third child. Happy news? It could be; however, the mother is having *another* girl. Pressed and stressed by the surrounding people, the family cannot decide if they want an abortion or not.



# CREATIVE PROJECT

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- Theoretical part - introduce us to the problem
- The emotional attachment to the film
- Methods and creative choices:
  - genre
  - characters
  - titles
  - voiceover
  - music
  - sounds

fact-based



## CONCLUSION

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## CONCLUSION

Sex-selective abortions are present even in our modern world. Armenia is not an exception.

Armenian mentality and mindset are a big component that lead to the sex-selective abortions phenomenon.

The film's goal is to shed light on the problem and bring more awareness to this neglected issue.

THANKS

