



WEEK 7 Culture and self

Unit 1: Values of children



Values of children

- ❖ When we discuss the topic of the “values of children,” people often express confusion about the meaning of the phrase.
- ❖ We may think about the value of a house or car, but we rarely think about the values of children.
- ❖ It could be paraphrased as the value in having or not having children.

Importance of children

- ❖ Historically, giving birth to a child is viewed as a natural outcome of marriage, family, and life.
- ❖ People now have greater ability to determine whether they will have children and the number of children they will have.

Modernization

- ❖ With the advent of medical technology and social change, having a child has become more a matter of personal choice, rather than a biological, religious, or cultural determinate.

Family and children

- ❖ In the traditional Korean culture, a family was conceived as the basis of self and it served as the prototype for all relationships.
- ❖ Giving birth to a child was viewed as a part of the natural life cycle and an outcome of being married.
- ❖ A person was not considered complete, or as an adult, until he or she had a child.

Boy preference

- ❖ Not being able to have a child, especially a boy, was considered a personal and family tragedy.
- ❖ It meant that a person's future was in jeopardy since their children would not succeed them and the family line might come to an end.
- ❖ It was inconceivable that a person would choose not to have children.

Modernity

- ❖ However, with modernization, young Korean mothers are choosing to have far fewer children.

Motherhood

- ❖ For many Korean women, motherhood is their single most important role.
- ❖ A Korean mother's self is not abandoned but extended to her children.
- ❖ The life-goal for Korean mothers becomes intrinsically attached to their children and they see their children as extensions of themselves.

Vicarious achievement

- ❖ Children's accomplishments become their own and they vicariously fulfill their dreams and goals.
- ❖ For Korean mothers, attaining this vicarious gratification is one of the most important personal goals.

Relational orientation

- ❖ The relational orientation of Korean mothers is best evidenced by their persistent and enduring support for their children throughout their lives.
- ❖ Even adults report that their parents provide strong social support and are important figures enabling them to succeed in life.

Traditional family

- ❖ Three-generations-under-one-roof was considered the basic family unit in the traditional agrarian communities.
- ❖ Although Confucius considered the father-son relationship to be primary, it is the relationship between the husband and wife that is basic.

Meaning of children

- ❖ Through the union of a husband and wife children are born and the family is maintained.
- ❖ In the traditional extended family, the role of each family member is defined and prescribed.

The role of father

- ❖ As the symbolic head of the family, the father represents a link between the children and the outside world. Through the father, children are linked across time (i.e. through his lineage) and across space (i.e. through his position in a community).
- ❖ One of the prime responsibilities of the father is to have a son, who can continue the family line
- ❖ The other main responsibility is to educate his son.

The role of mother

- ❖ A mother, on the other hand, is responsible for raising children, ensuring that children respect and obey their father, taking care of elderly parents and relatives, and managing the household economy.
- ❖ The son is taught to lead and become a breadwinner and the daughter is taught to support her future husband and family.

Daughter and grandmother

- ❖ Once the daughter is married, she becomes a member of her husband's family and she is no longer considered a member of her original family.
- ❖ As a grandmother, she is responsible for ensuring that the daughter-in-law is respectful to her son and actively participates in the socialization of the grandchildren.

Retirement

- ❖ The age of 60 represents a full life cycle: it represents a second birth. At this age, the father typically passes his property and power to his eldest son and the son becomes responsible for managing the family affairs.

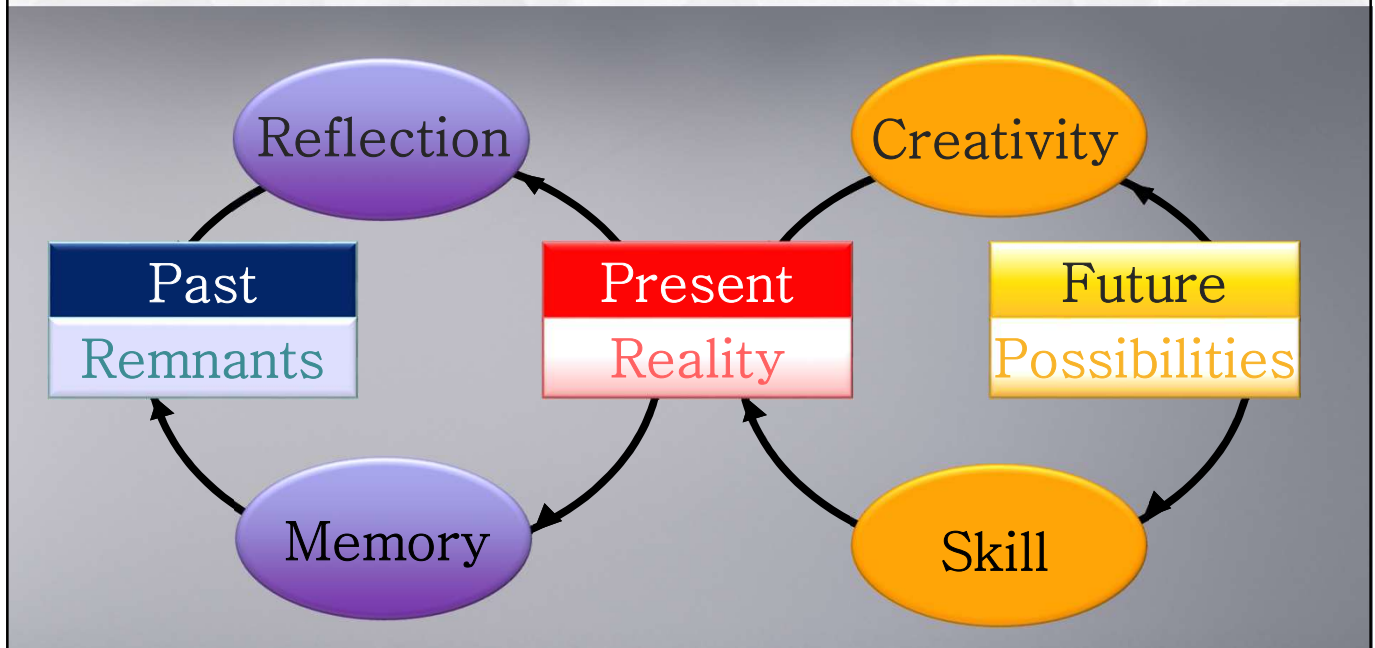
The role of grandparents

- ❖ The father now takes on the role of the grandfather.
- ❖ Similarly, the mother passes her role and responsibility to the eldest daughter-in-law and takes on the role of the grandmother.
- ❖ They no longer hold major responsibilities and they are to be taken care of and indulged like children.

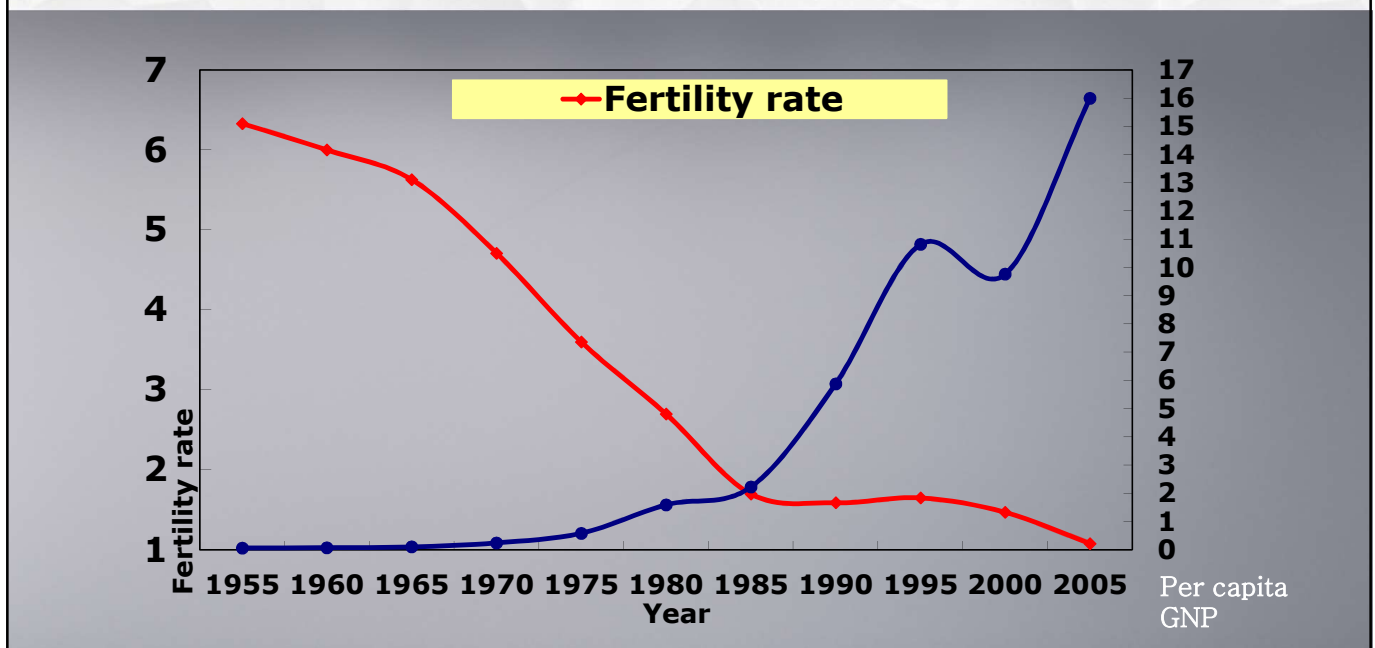
Relational orientation

- ❖ In Korea, the conception of past and future are not abstract ideas, but they are relationally based.
- ❖ Ancestors and grandparents represent the past and the children represent the future.
- ❖ Since the children represent the future of the family, tremendous emotional, financial, and social investments are made in them.

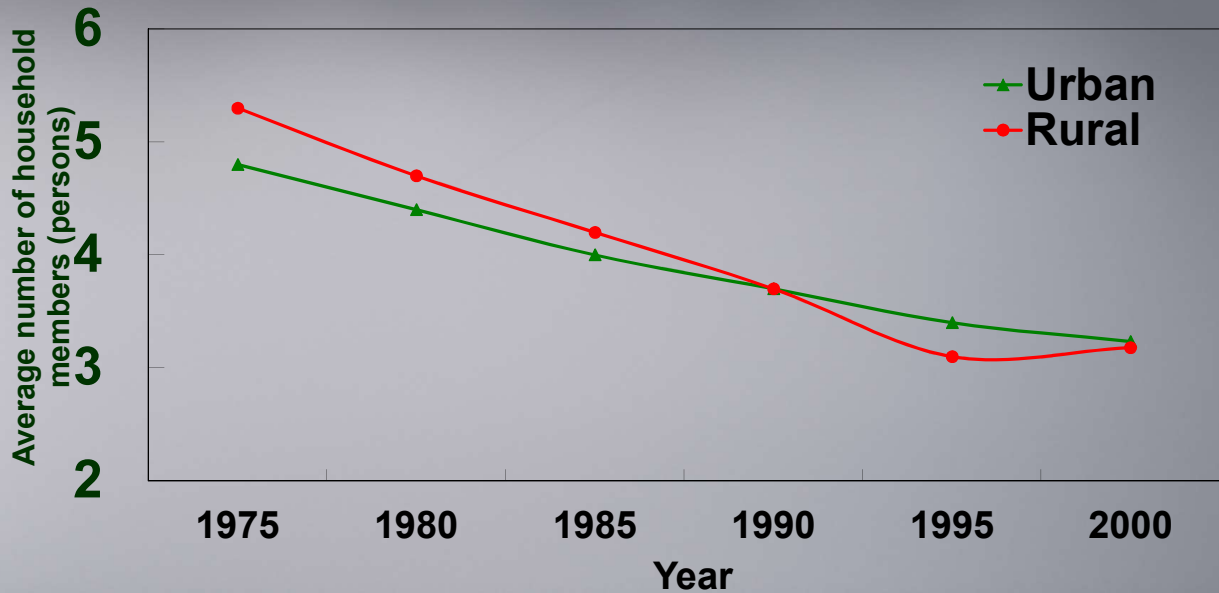
Cultural change



Fertility rate and economic growth



Average size of household



Values of children

Social change From rural to urban



Values of children

Change in family structure :
From extended to nuclear



Traditional rural village



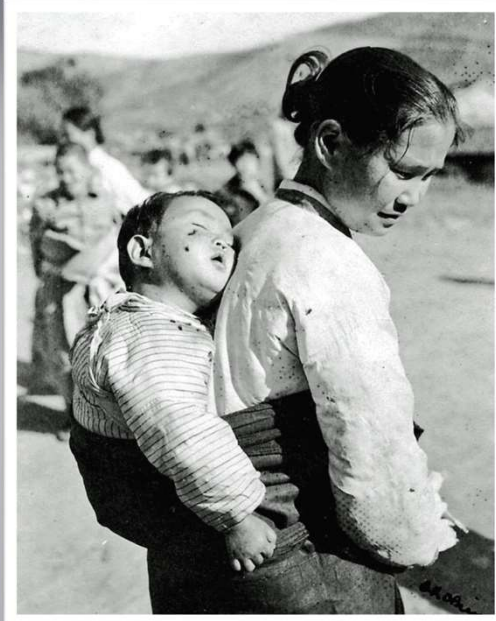
Children in traditional rural village



A mix of modern and traditional



Traditional way of carrying children



Elderly at a subway station



Social change

Rural	Urban
Agricultural	Industrial
Past-oriented	Future-oriented
Extended-family	Nuclear family
Ancestor	Children
Status quo	Change
Conservatism	Progress
Harmony with nature	Control environment
Formalism	Pragmatism
Cooperation	Competition
Sex differentiation	Equality

Cultural change

- ❖ From 1965, President Park Chung-hee initiated economic, and social reforms that transformed Korean society.
- ❖ The economy grew at an average annual rate of over 8%, to become one of the world's fastest growing economies.

Cultural change

- ❖ The per capita GNP increased to \$1,640 in 1981 and by 1997, it reached \$10,000 and will reach \$30,000 at the end of 2017.
- ❖ With modernization, urbanization, and industrialization, the traditional extended families have virtually disappeared.
- ❖ Currently, less than one in ten families have three generations living under one roof.

Fertility rate

- ❖ In 1975, the average size of the household was five and it had been reduced to four in 1985 and currently it stands at three, even in rural areas.
- ❖ The fertility rate has also seen a dramatic decrease. In 1960, the fertility rate was 6.0, and had been reduced to 1.19 in 2004 and now it is now the lowest in the world.

Cultural change

- ❖ The nuclear family structure has replaced the traditional extended family.
- ❖ Although grandparents no longer play a significant role in family life, the core family structure has remained the same.
- ❖ The father is still the head of the symbolic household.

The role of mother

- ❖ However, the role of educating children has been transferred to the mother.
- ❖ Mothers are financial managers at home, responsible for handling and investing household income.
- ❖ In majority of the households, mothers also work outside the home to increase the family income or to pursue their own personal career.

The role of mother

- ❖ In this situation, her workload has doubled, since she is responsible for the family and her career.

Part II

Empirical studies 1972 and 2002

Empirical study

The 1972 VOC Study

- ❖ Arnold and Fawcett (1975) launched an international study of VOC in 1972 to examine the values parents attach to their children, the use of contraception, and their relation to fertility rate.

Empirical study

- ❖ In Korea, 378 mothers and fathers (20–44 years old) living in urban and rural areas were interviewed using open-ended and structured questionnaires (Lee & Kim, 1975).
- ❖ On average, the respondents from urban areas had one less child than respondents from rural areas.

Empirical study

- ❖ Over 93% of the respondents knew about family planning methods, 90% approved of using birth control, and the majority of respondents were practicing contraception.
- ❖ The use of contraception was the main way that parents were able to avoid unwanted pregnancies.

Values of children

- ❖ The results of the 1972 survey provide evidence that economic and utilitarian motives were not the main driving force in respondents' decision to have children.
- ❖ Emotional and relational values were reported to be the most important across different social classes, residential areas, and sexes.

Values of children

- ❖ Korean respondents wanted to have children because of the happiness, joy, and love that they bring to the family.
- ❖ Children represent the future and many people reported that having children increased their desire to succeed in life.

Values of children

- ❖ The **economic and utilitarian motive** played a less significant role than the psychological and relational motive, especially for the urban middle-class respondents.
- ❖ Respondents from rural areas placed a greater emphasis on **social values** (e.g. continuing the family name) and **economic values** when compared to their urban subjects.

Negative values of children

- ❖ As for reasons why people chose **not** to have children, the most frequently reported response was **emotional burden**, followed by **financial costs**, and **restrictions** on alternative activities.

Negative values of children

- ❖ Respondents from the urban lower class were more likely to report **financial costs**, whereas respondents from the urban middle class and women were more likely to report **opportunities costs** (i.e. restrictions on activities).

Negative values of children

- ❖ These results reflect the life situation of the respondents. Respondents from the lower class focus on **financial constraints**, while respondents from the middle class, who have the necessary financial resources, focus on the constraints on their **personal freedom**.

1972 Values of children study

- ❖ The results of the 1972 survey provide evidence that **economic and utilitarian motives** were **not** the main driving force in respondents' decision to have children.

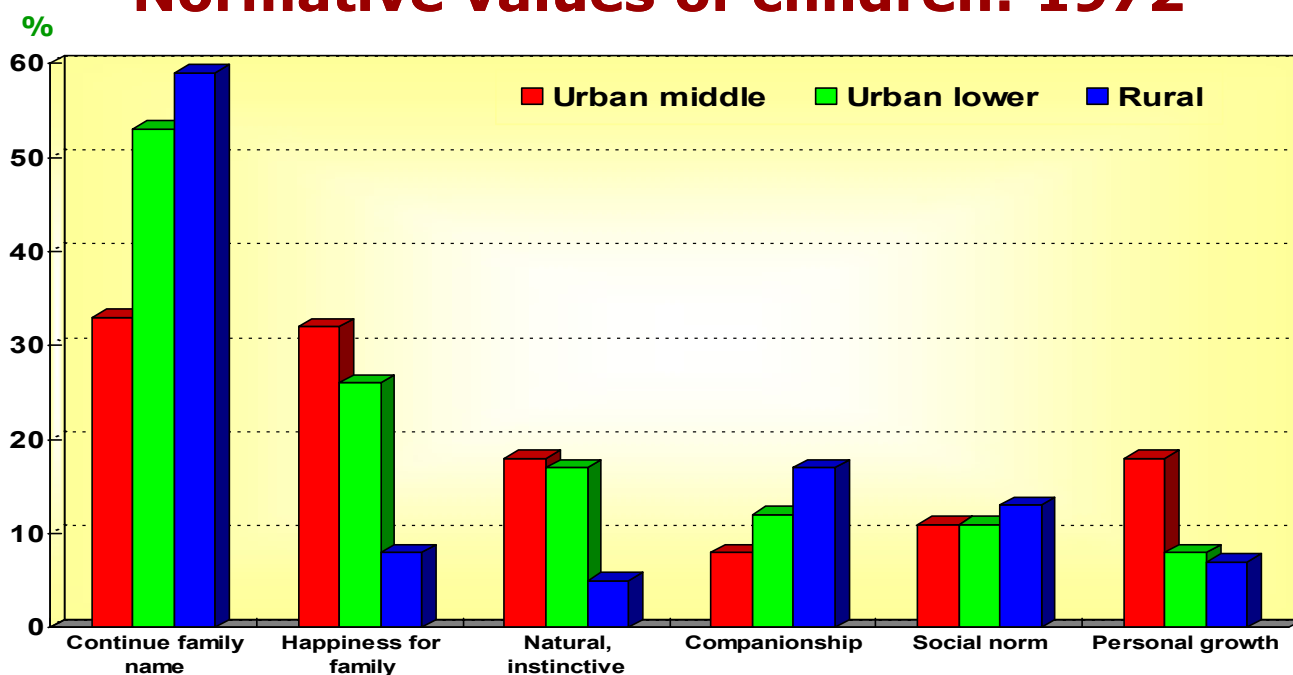
Values of children

Value of children: Sample Characteristics 2002

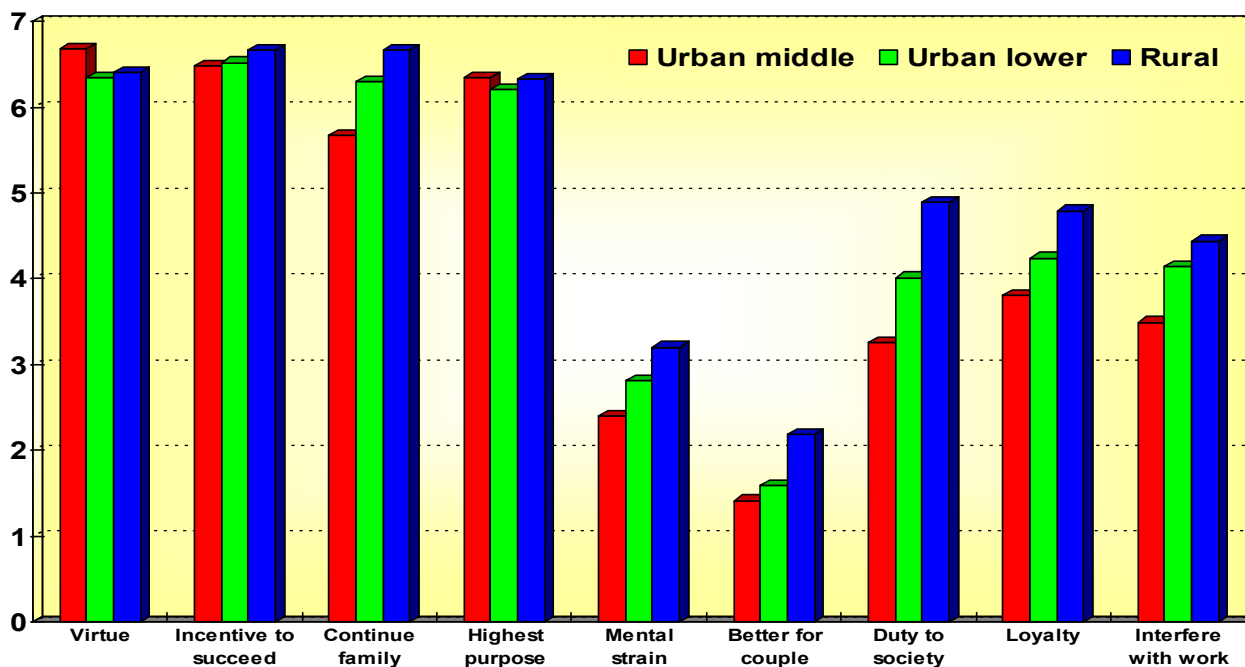
	Adolescent	Young mother	Older mother	Grandmother
Male	144	314	395	133
Female	255			
Total	399			1,242

1972 study: 378 = 189 couples

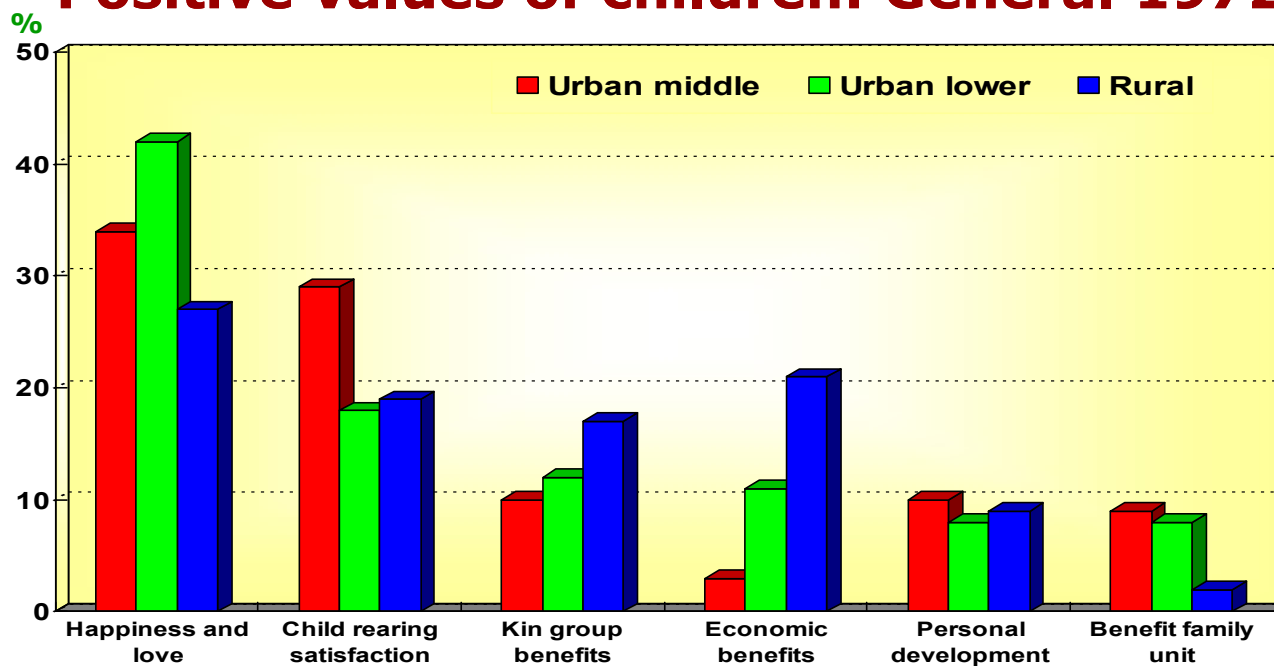
Normative values of children: 1972



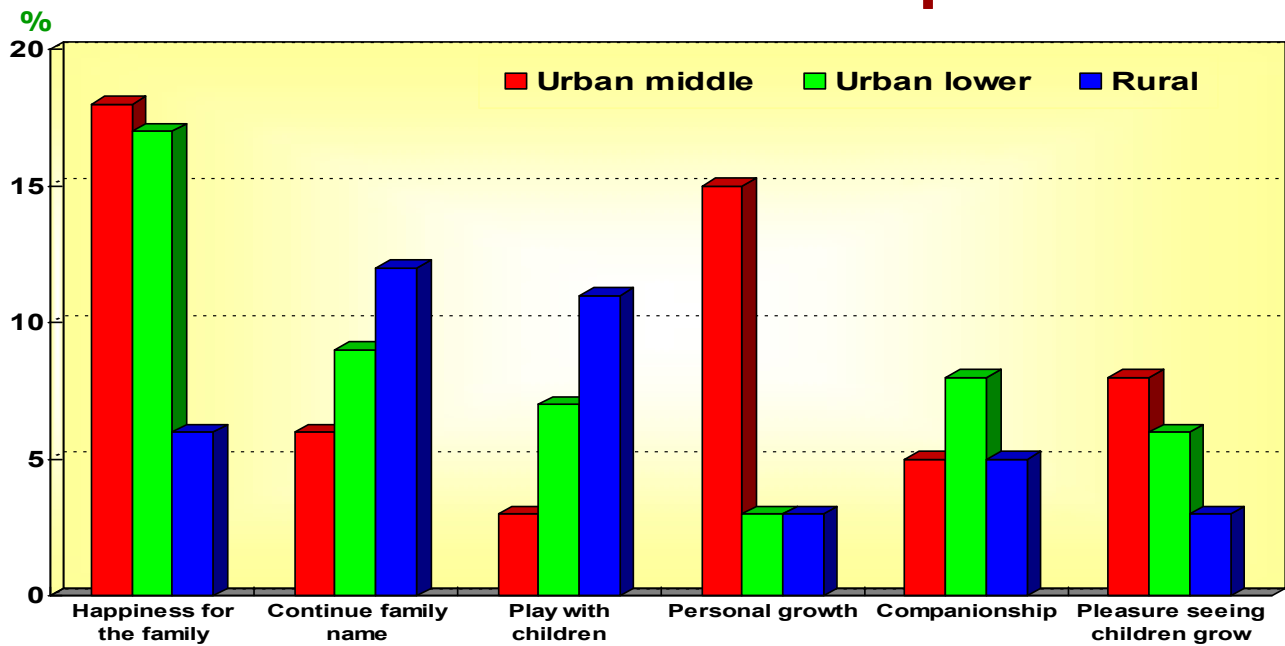
Attitudes toward children: 1972



Positive values of children: General 1972



Positive values of children: Specific 1972



Positive values of children, 2002 study

Familial benefits

Child helps around the house
 Sure enough children will survive
 To carry on the family name
 To help your family economically
 A duty according to your belief
 Children can help when you're old

Positive values of children, 2002 study

Emotional benefits

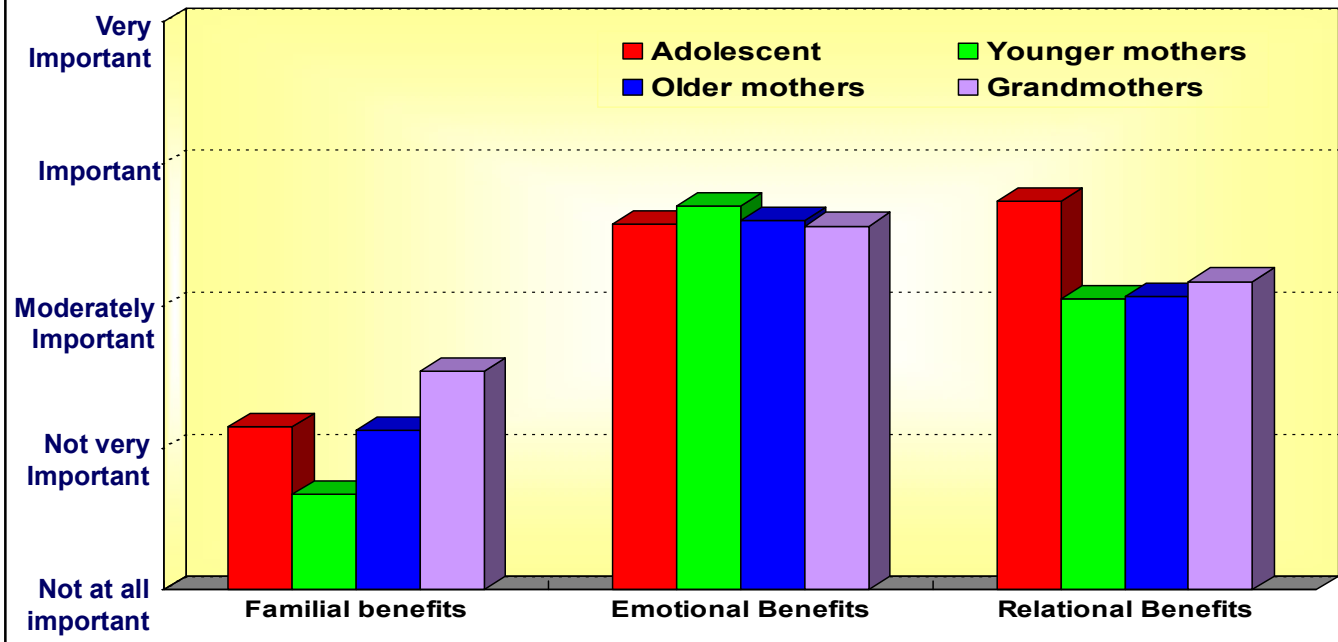
Makes family more important
Fun to have young children around
Pleasure watching children grow
Feeling of love parent and child
Less likely to be lonely in old age
Standing/reputation among your kin
Raising helps learn about life/self
life will be continued through

Positive values of children, 2002 study

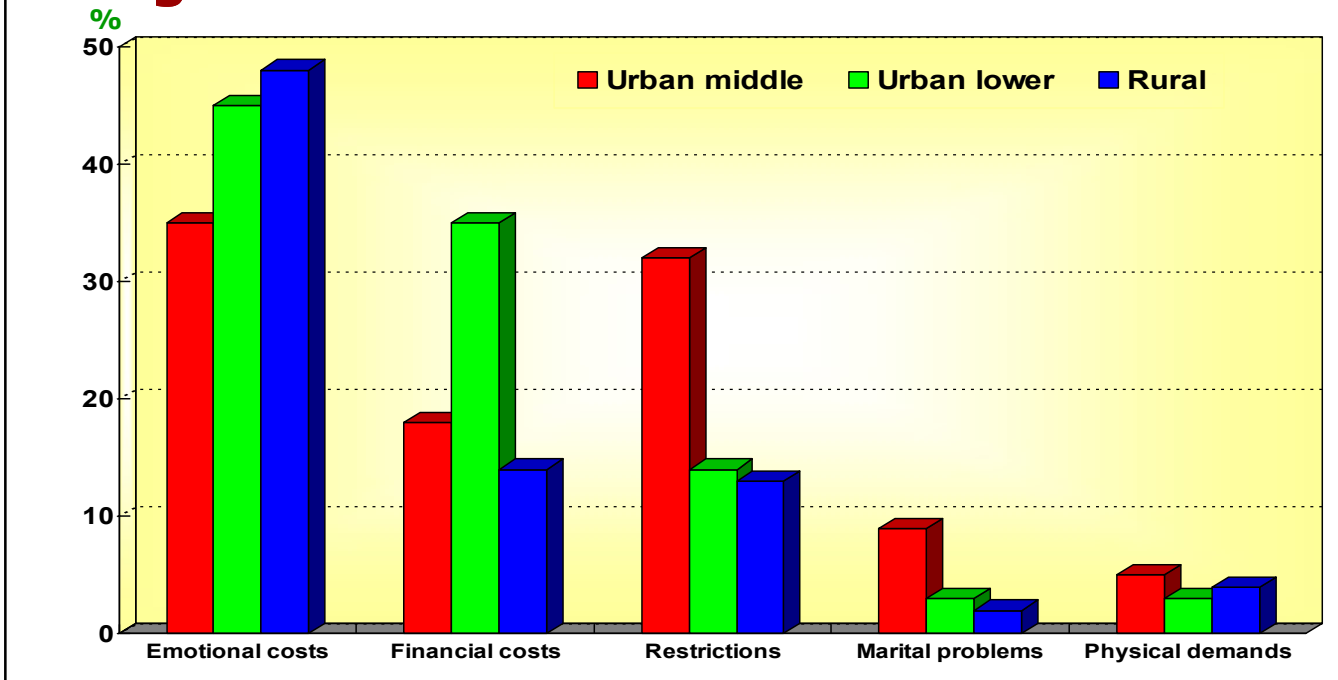
Relational benefits

Increases responsibility, develop self
Have someone to love and care for

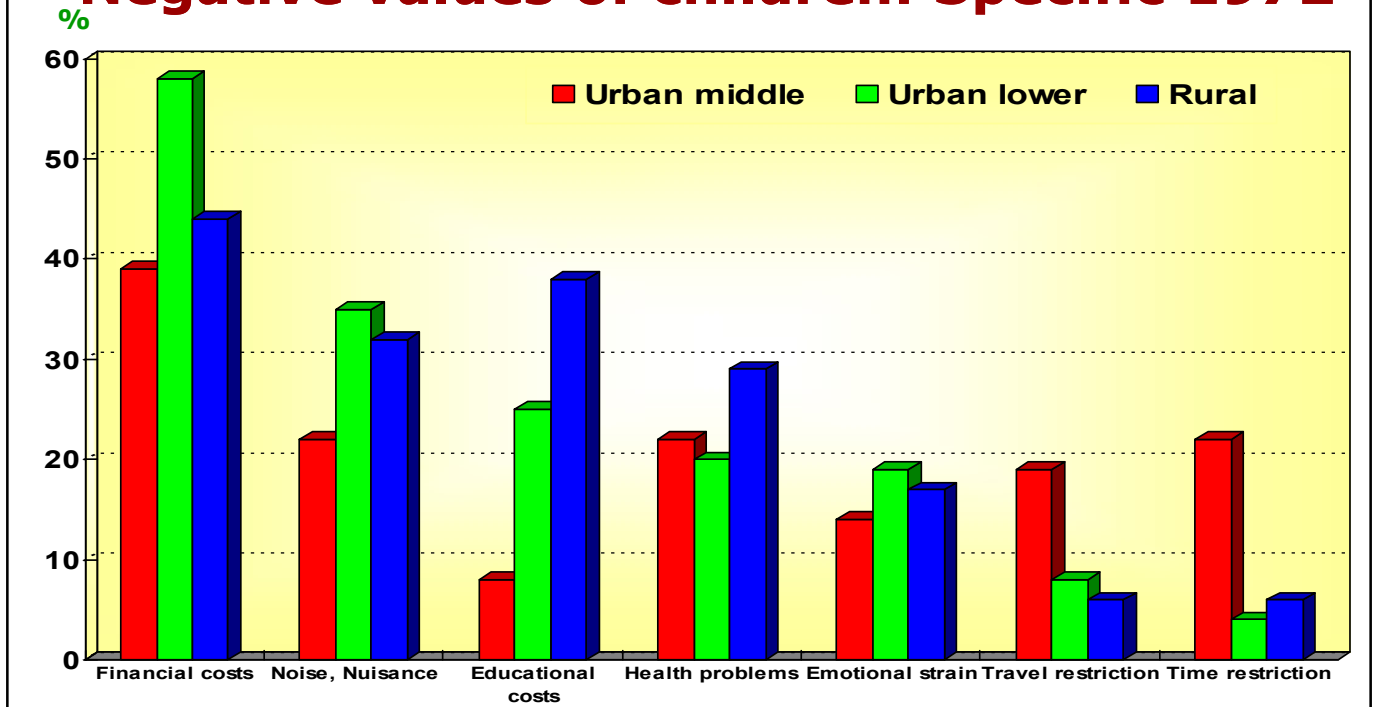
Positive values of children: 2002



Negative values of children: General 1972



Negative values of children: Specific 1972



Negative values of children, 2002

Personal constraints

Hard to take care of family and household
 Because it is harder to hold a job
 Not as free to do what you want

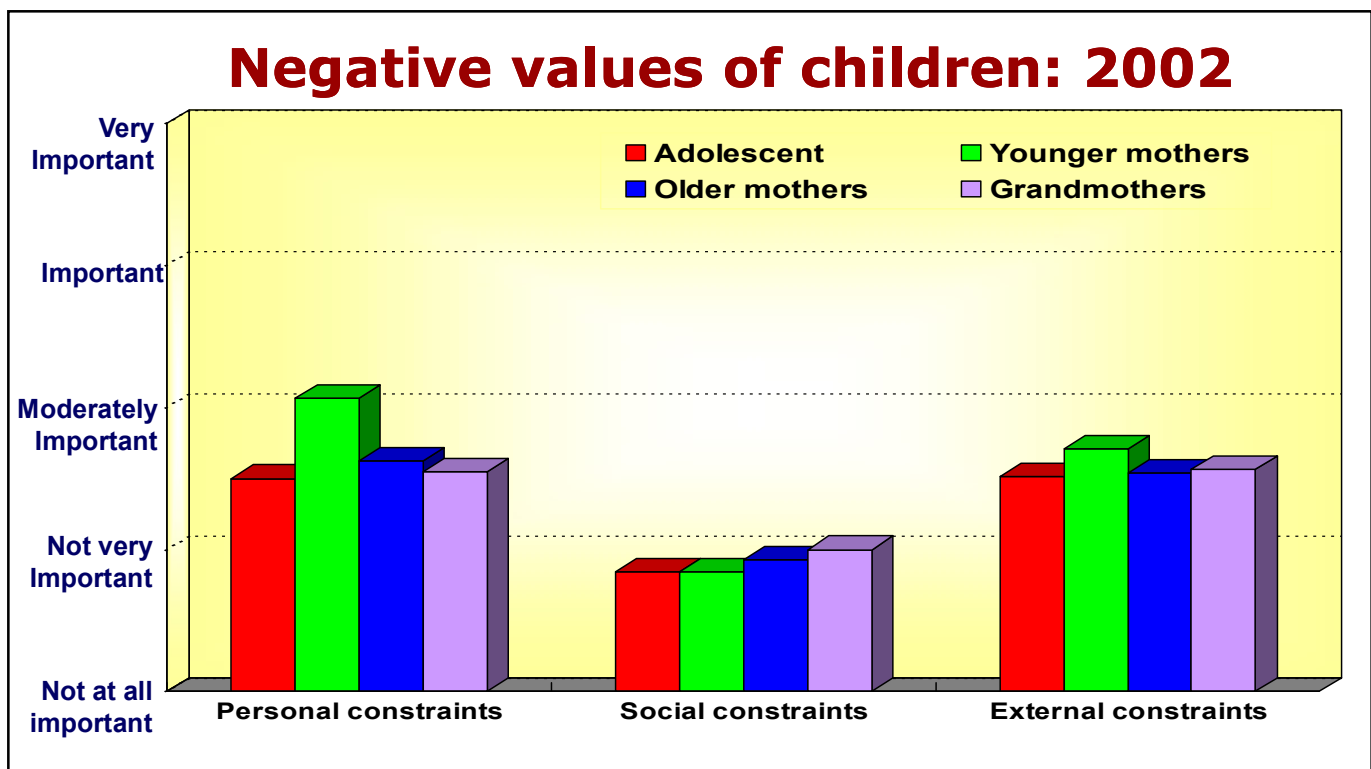
Social constraints

Problems with neighbors and public
 Large families not accepted by society
 Lose contact with your friends

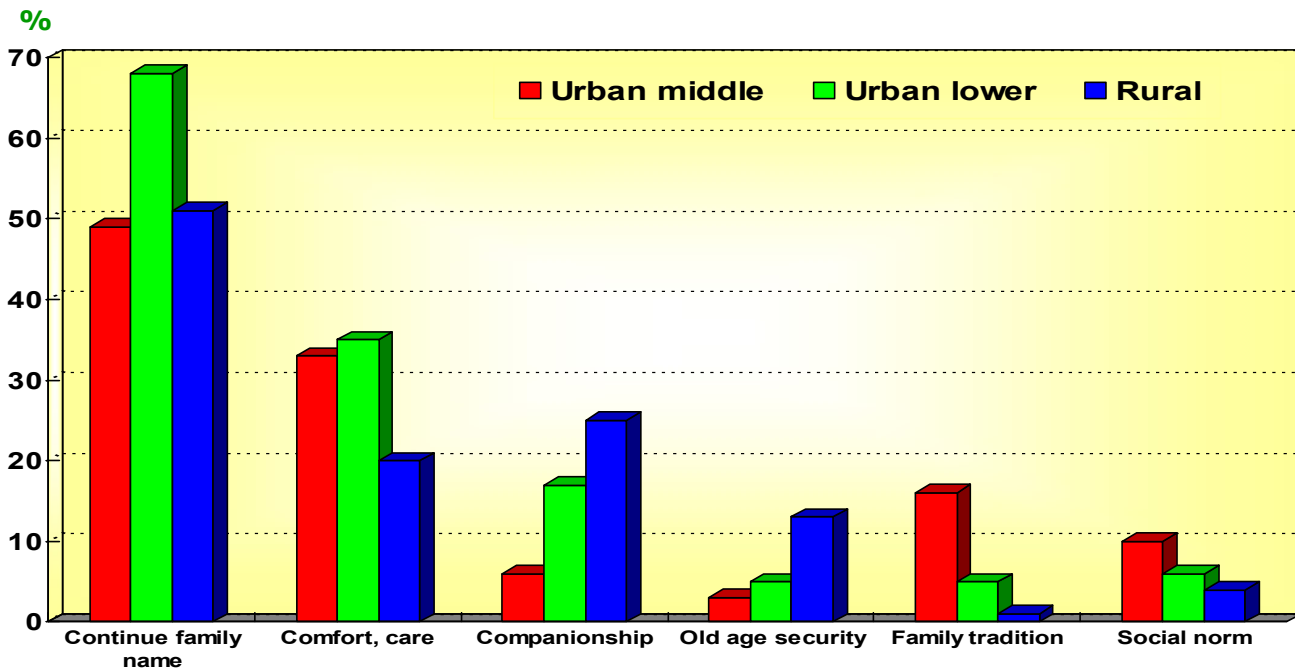
Negative values of children, 2002

External constraints

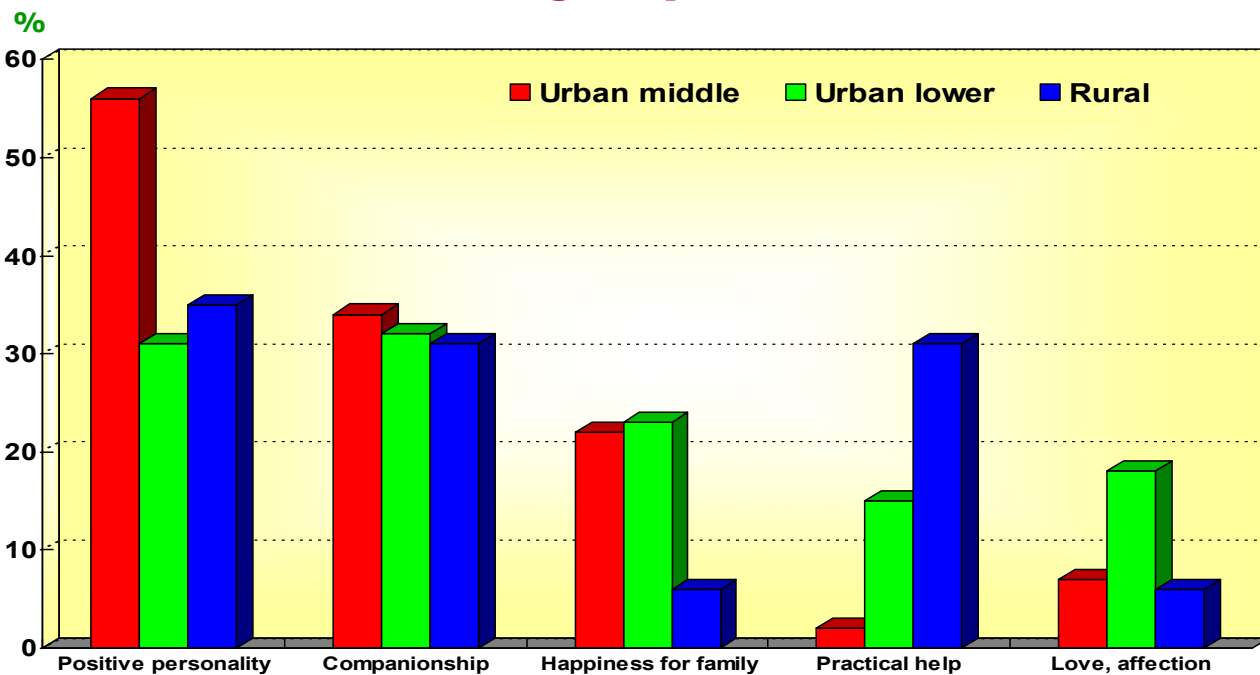
Worries children cause when are ill
Too concerned of future of children



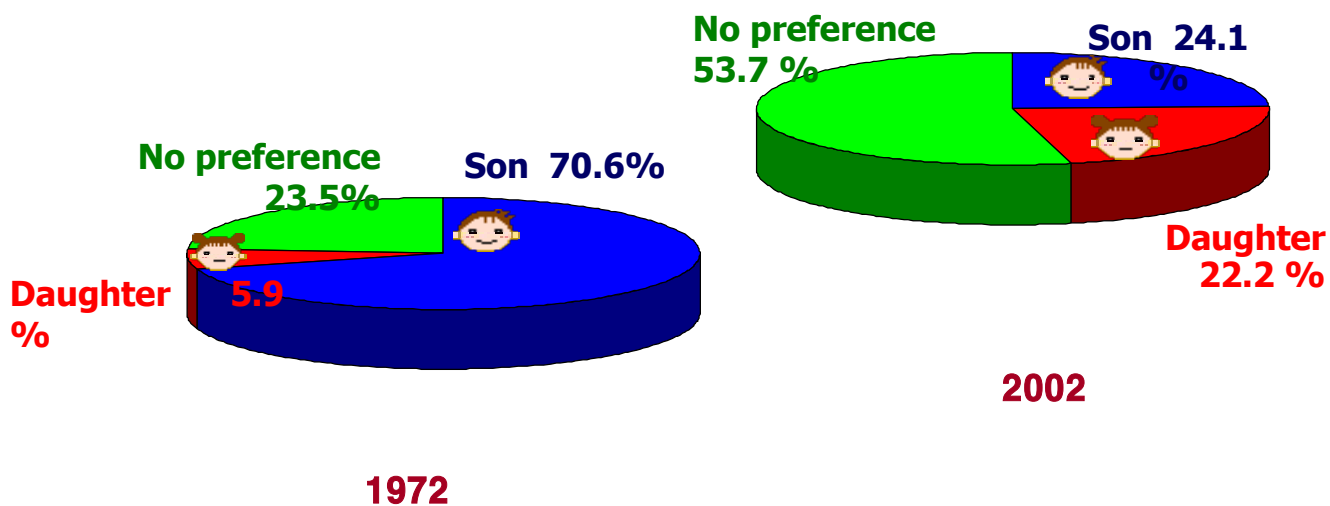
Reasons for boy preference: 1972



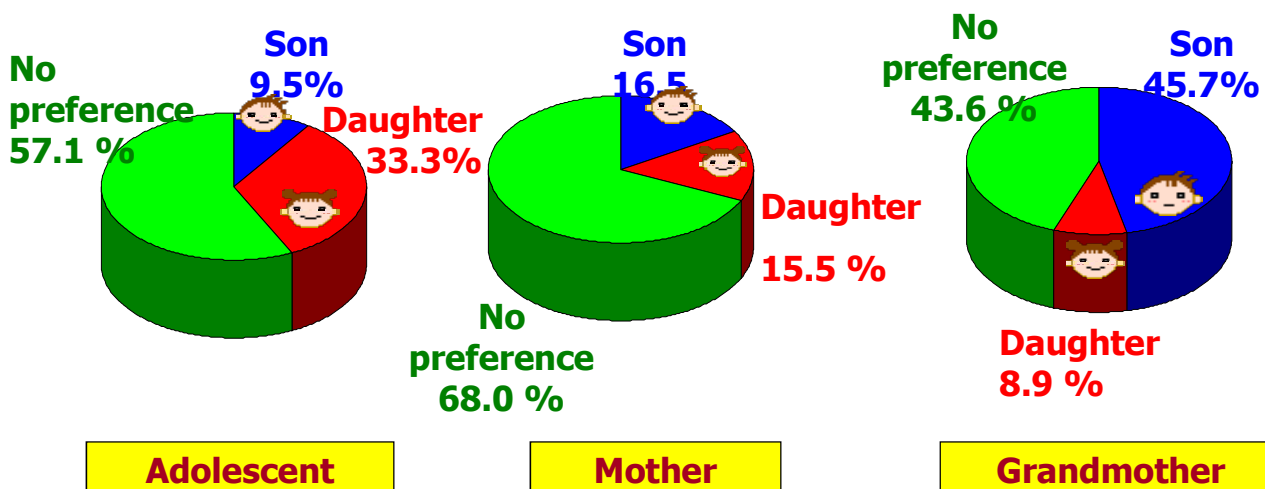
Reasons for girl preference: 1972



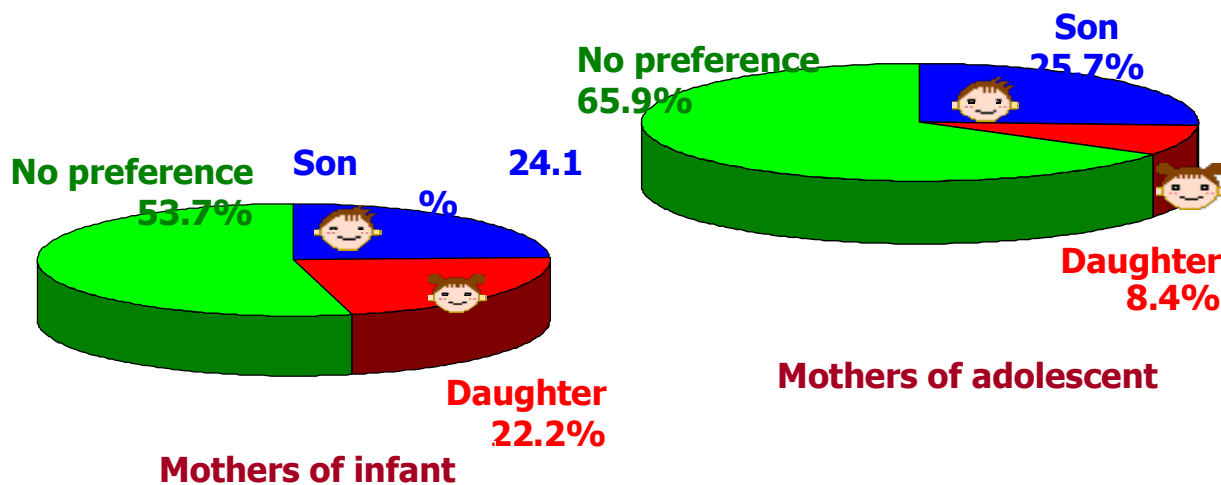
Gender preference of the child: 1972 vs. 2002



Gender preference of the child



Gender preference of the child



Ideal number of children

