

ACTIVITY 1: BOY OR GIRL? (30 MIN)

WHAT IS THIS ACTIVITY?

Participants describe why they would rather have a son or a daughter.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Participants discuss their own values that are attached to having sons and daughters. These will be critically reflected upon and explained as socially constructed gender perceptions in the discussion following this activity.

WHAT DO I NEED?

Pictures of man and woman, cardboard/index cards and markers for note-taking.

STEPS:

Step 1: Hold the picture of the woman at one end of the circle, while the other facilitator holds the picture of the man at the other end. The two pictures are shown here, and larger versions can be cut out below.



Step 2: Explain: “Imagine that you spoke to a doctor and due to a medical condition, you can only have one child in your life. Would you prefer a boy or a girl?” (represented by the pictures of the man and the woman).

Step 3: Participants move and stand by the picture of the child that they want: a son or a daughter.

Step 4: The girl group and the boy group separately sit down in small circles. The facilitator asks them: “Why did you choose a girl/boy?” This discussion can be led by a facilitator, but make sure that you also pick someone to take notes of the discussion, ideally on a big piece of cardboard.

Step 5: Each group presents the reasons they picked a girl or boy to the rest of the participants.

ACTIVITY TIMELINE:

Time	Objective	Content	Method	Material
Phase 1: Warm-up, 5 min	To identify girl or boy preference amongst participants	Do you want a boy or a girl if you could have only one child? Please go to the picture of the boy or the girl	Warm-up activity: put the pictures of a boy and a girl in different locations and separate the group into two according to their preference for the sex of their (imaginary) only child	Laminated pictures of a boy and a girl
Phase 2: Group work, 15 min	To identify gender constructions	The two different groups discuss why they want a girl or boy. Write down the reasons discussed by the group	Group work & Brainstorming: facilitators write down the reasons for wanting a boy or a girl raised in the discussion	Index Cards and permanent markers
Phase 3: Presentation, 10 min	To exchange each other's perspectives	Present 3- 5 reasons mentioned in your group for why you want a girl/boy	Presentation of group results	

FACILITATOR TIPS:

Let the participants develop their own reasons; you should not interfere with this process. During our workshops, the following topics came up:

- 1) **Financial Security:** Dowry/wedding gifts, education, remittances, religious beliefs
- 2) **Lineage:** family name and honor
- 3) **Gendered tasks:** household work, role of daughter-in-law, plowing, cremation
- 4) **Gendered traits:** discipline, obedience, looks, security, caring



Pictures to cut-out



