GENDER (SEX) SELECTION: SCIENTIFIC, RELIGIOUS AND SOCIO-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

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ABSTRACT
Development on the issues of selection of child’s gender/sex was examined and reviewed under scientific, religious and socio-cultural standpoint. The issue of gender selection started more than 300 years ago as gendercide among the Pharaohs of Egypt and barbaric Arabs in the jahiliyya (ignorance) period. The reasons for that has been socio-cultural, religious, political and for family balancing or rebuilding, and preventing sex-linked diseases. Several scientific techniques have been used for selecting the desired sex determinant in fertility clinics and research laboratories, which attracted many ethical, legal and socio-economic implications. Scientist proved that father (male) is the determinant of sex of a child (boy or girl) due to his heterogametic sex genotype (XY), as such mothers (female) should not be blamed for bearing baby girl. The X-chromosome containing sperm and Y-one are in 50:50 ratios and have equal chance of fertilizing the female ovum (large and immotile). In fact the Y-chromosome-containing sperm is less dense, so tends to move faster than the X-one, but God out of his eternal mercy, power and wisdom choose the right sperm (X or Y) and hence the final sex. Male child preference and hatred for females has been the common ugly practice identified among Arabs, Asians and Africans. In China, one child policy is the legislation today, and about 10 million female foetuses have been aborted in India to date. In West Africa (Northern Nigeria in particular), many matrimonial homes collapse, mothers of female maltreated and Girl-child neglected due to son-preference. The modern day Biotechnology methods held a promise in solving the problems of gender selection and so that couples could now have a child of their choice. This study confirms and reaffirm that blaming mothers on giving birth to female is the worst form of savagery and greatest barbaric behaviour ever had in the history of mankind.

Key Words: Barbaric Arabs, Child preference, Gender selection, Gendercide, Genotype.
Introduction
According to Encarta English dictionary, gender is the sex of a person or organism, or of a whole category of people or organisms, while sex is defined as the set of biological characteristics that determine whether the reproductive role of an animal or plant is male or female. Traditionally, gender has referred to grammatical classifications in languages, and sex referred to the biological classifications to which gender is analogous. For some time, however, anthropologists have used gender to distinguish cultural categories from biological ones. Gender roles are indistinct among the young of this society; the two sexes play together frequently. Cultural and biological categories are interrelated, of course, and thus at times it can be difficult to decide which word is more appropriate. Gender has become the preferred form in the 21st century.

Merriam Webster dictionary defined gender as the behavioural, cultural or physiological traits typically associated with individual sex. But sex is either of the two major forms of individual that occur in many species and are distinguished as male or female especially on the basis of their reproductive organs or structures. It is also the sum of the structural, functional and behavioural characteristics of organisms that are involve in reproduction marked by union of gametes that distinguished male and female. According to Longman dictionary of contemporary English, the noun gender means the fact of being male or female. It defined sex as the physical activity two people do together in order to produce babies or for pleasure. It means whether a person, plant or animal is male or female. It also refers to all men or all women considered as a group.

Gender selection is a term given to any procedure used to increase your chances of having a child of specific sex. Also known as sex selection, many couples are now considering using fertility treatment methods on increase their chances of conceiving either a boy or a girl. In the past, the only methods available to enhance your chance of having a child of certain sex were based on old wives tale and produce varying result. Now however, couples may be able to choose the sex of their child with starting accuracy.

Examination of current methods of preconception gender selection revealed that in vivo methods such as timing of intercourse, the use of ovulation induction medications, and artificial insemination do not appear to affect the sex ratio to a clinically significant degree. In vitro separation of X and Y chromosomes bearing sperm by gradient techniques have been reported to later significantly the sex ratio at birth. Nevertheless recent scientific advances have highly reliable preconception sex selection possible by using Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) or sperm separation by flow cytometry combined with in vitro fertilization (IVF). At present these methods have been used to
avoid sex-linked disorders. Both involve procedure of IVF and thus are held by most as inappropriate for non-medical indications. The gender selection techniques are receiving much attention and are hotly debated for their moral/religious and ethical implications. (Schenker, 2002). This paper aimed to review and examine the current development in gender selection and to discuss the socio-cultural and religious perspectives in Nigeria that accompany the progress.

**Gender Selection: Historical Background**

Gender selection is not a product of recent times; it has actually been around for centuries. In fact, methods of sex selection were recorded in hieroglyphics by the ancient Egyptians. For instance during the reign of King Pharaoh, his soothsayers forecast to him that a child (i.e Prophet Moses) will be delivered among the children of Israel, who will overthrow his government. So King Pharaoh of that time decided to be killing (slaughtering) any male child delivered by Israeli women leaving the female ones to survive (Hitti, 1982). Gender selection can also be dated back to ancient Greece. The early Greeks believed that tying off the left testicle would produce boys, because male determining sperm were derived from the right testicle. The Egyptians believed that women of a greenish cast of complexion were certain to have boys (Schenker, 2002). In the 18th century, the French anatomist Michel Procope-Couteaux advised those men desperately in need of boys to cut off their left testicle (Gray, 1991).

**Reasons for Gender Selection**

One may be wondering why a couple would be interested in choosing the gender of their child. Well there are actually many common reasons for trying to increase the chance of having either a boy or a girl. Some of the reasons are focused on economic, religious, political, social or cultural benefits of having a child of certain gender (Schenker, 2002). The most typical reasons for choosing gender selection procedure include:

1. **Preventing Genetic disease:** Some couples decide to choose the gender of their child in order to prevent passing along certain genetic disease. Some genetic disorders like haemophilia, colour blindness and Ducane Muscular Dystrophy are sex – linked (i.e they occurs more often in boys than in girls). Some couples decide to have girls to prevent passing along these illnesses.

2. **Family Rebuilding:** Parents who have lost a child may decide to rebuild their family by having a child of the same gender. These couples often seek out gender selection procedures.
3. **Family Balancing:** Couples sometimes choose gender selection in order to balance their families. This means that couples, who already have a child of a particular sex, choose to have a child of the opposite sex.

4. **Other reasons:** There are also certain cultural, religious, political and economic reasons.

   **a. Cultural Reasons:** Cultural reasons of choosing one gender upon another were observed in many communities during the era of primitive civilization, which permeate even in our today’s life. For instance during the period of ignorance (Jahiliyya period) before the advent of Islam, the Arabs considered bearing a female child as shameful, disgrace, sources of poverty and calamity not only to the family but even to the whole community. So the father or even the mothers immediately after delivery of a baby girl, they dig a pit and bury her alive before everybody know. One of the reasons for this is that, during inter-tribal wars the daughters are captured and taken away as slaves and concubines. The Arab cultures bitterly hate that, so they prefer not to allow them survive. (Hitti, 1982). According to the Arabs and the Indian cultures it’s an abomination for a woman to take weapon and fight enemies. So every community is proud of the number of males that would be soldiers (Serour, 2004).

   **b. Religious Reasons:** In some religions like Islam, distribution of wealth among male and female children as inheritance after the death of their parent or relative is in 2:1 ratio respectively. This is what Allah ordained in the holy Qur’an, due to the fact that men were assigned to be the head and breadwinner of their families. As a result of this, in many Muslim communities house wives compete in demand for more male children, so as to increase their chance of getting more wealth after the demise of their husband. It was also narrated in the holy Qur’an that Nana Hannatu (Elizabeth), the mother of Mary (Mother of Jesus), prayed that God should give her a son so that she will assign him to work in the Temple of Solomon (Baitil Maqdis). According to their tradition and religion, a woman should not take that responsibility. But during her delivery, she got a female, so she complained, “Oh God I have delivered her a baby girl and a male child is unlike a female one, yet I name her Maryam (Mary)”. This is an indication that, in terms of religious activities/responsibilities men are preferred to women, so for that reason people even today prefer to have Boys than Girls (Ogundipe, 2008).

   **c. Political Reasons:** History has shown that women have been great leaders since (e.g Bilqis, the Queen of Sheba), despite its contradiction with cultures tradition and religions of many communities. In Islam Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) said that “Community will never prosper, when they assign a woman to be their leader” (Kilani, 2004). Nowadays even in the western countries the political arena is mainly dominated by men. Therefore to fulfill their political ambition, same families may prefer to have more sons than
daughters. For example our traditional rulers are always in need of sons to succeed their throne.

4. Economic Reasons: Freedom of wealth acquisition and participation in business enterprises and other economic activities is bestowed upon both men and women, in many societies and religion. But there are limitations of such right in some communities. For instance, in Arabs and Indian cultures, it is prohibited for a woman to participate in hard labour (Valerie’s and Andrea, 2004). Islam has also put restrictions on movement of women. She is not allowed to travel alone without a male relative (for security). As a result of this, the economic status of many families is usually determined by the number of males that can participate in many human endeavors. This is one of the reasons why some families unfortunately used to deprive their girl child western education. They mainly don’t want them to work in government offices or private organization.

Scientific Perpectives

Natural Gender Selection: Biologist discovered that what distinguishes men and women is a single chromosome among the 46 that are found in most cell of the body. While men have one X one Y chromosome (XY), women have two X chromosome (XX). This result is that men produce 2 types of sperm one carrying X chromosome the other carry Y chromosome, while women produce eggs with the X chromosomes. The sex of the child to be produce is determined by whether an X or a Y sperm fuses with the egg. If it’s an X sperm the resulting embryo is XX (a girl) and if it’s a Y sperm the embryo will be XY (a boy) (Pizak, 1994).

Methods of Gender Selection

a. Preimplantation methods

1. Density Gradient Technique
This is one of the simplest forms of gender selection technologies. Sperm from the father is collected in a test tube and placed in a centrifuge. As it spins rapidly, if help to separate sperm cells. Y-chromosomes sperm being less dense remain at the top (supernatant) while those with X chromosomes remain at the bottom (residue). Therefore, sperm with the desired chromosome is then aspirated out and then introduced in to the mother in intrauterine insemination (IUI) at the appropriate (ovulation) period to conceive and produce the desired child. They gradient method is associated with poor success rates, but is also less expensive than the other method (Beernink et al., 1993).

2. Flow Cytometry (Microsort)
This is a technique that uses fluorescence dye to highlight and sort out sperm with X – chromosome. The fluorescence dye adheres to the genetic material (DNA) within the
sperm. This is because X – chromosome bearing sperm contain more genetic materials thus pick up more dye than Y – chromosome bearing sperm. A laser machine is then used to separate the two types of sperm. The sperm with the required chromosome are then used in IUI or IVF. Success rate in flow cytometry are high, with 60-70% chance of conceiving the desired gender (Johnson et al., 1987).

3. Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD)

This is the most effective method of gender selection; it is a highly complex procedure in which a DNA from the embryo is analyzed in order to determine their sex. Embryos are produced in the lab using sperm samples from the father and eggs retrieved from the mother. These embryos are allowed to divide for a 3 days after which the cells from each embryo are removed. These cells are analyzed for DNA (genetic materials) in order to determine the sex of the embryo. Embryos of the desired sex are then implanted into the uterus. PGD is the most effective sex selection method giving you a 99% chance of conceiving a child of desired sex (Kanavakis and Traeger-Synodinos, 2002).

b. Post implantation methods (Lai-wan et al., 2006).
1. Ultrasound Scan: This allows foetal sex determination only in the 2nd trimester by visualizing the external genitalia. It’s a non invasive technique but not 100% reliable, compared with other methods that have risks of miscarriage.
2. Amniocentesis: In this method a small amount of fluid surrounding the body in the womb is aspirated. This fluid contain cells from the baby can be cultured to determined the sex chromosomes of the baby. The procedure is usually performed under ultrasound scan using fine needle. The risk of miscarriage by this procedure is between 0.5 to 1 %.
3. Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS): In this procedure, a biopsy from placenta is taken to test the foetus genetic make-up. The placenta has the same genetic makeup as the baby. It’s usually carried out under ultrasound scan at about eleven weeks of pregnancy. There is a 2-3% risk of the procedure causing miscarriage. The foetal sex determination is carried out by karyotyping.
4. Maternal Blood Sampling: Analysis of foetal cells from maternal blood is a promising new development which has not yet reached mainstream use. The studies have shown that foetal cells and DNA are present in the maternal blood from the 8th weeks of pregnancy. So by taking 2 ml of the blood from the pregnant mother, one can extract cells and analyzed those using FISH techniques to examine the Y-chromosome.

c. Post – birth methods
1. Sex- selective Abortion and infanticide

Sex-selective abortion is the targeted abortion of foetus based upon its sex. This is done after a determination is made (usually by ultrasound scan but also rarely by amniocentesis or another procedure) that the foetus is of an undesired sex. Sex-selective
infanticide is the practice of selective infanticide against infants of a desired sex. These practices are especially common in some places where cultural norms value males children over female children in societies that practice sex selection in favour of males (sometimes called son preference or female deselection) are quite common especially in China, Korea, Taiwan, India, Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, and many other countries in east Asia and north Africa. Sex selection in favour of females appears to be rare or non-existent, although some legends of Amazon say that they practice male infanticide (Arnold et al., 2002; Serour, 2004).

In some countries including India, It’s currently illegal to determine the Sex of a child during pregnancy using ultra-sound scans. Laboratories are prohibited from revealing the sex of the foetus during such scans like the Chinese, the India use the postnatal alternative which is sex selective infanticide. The traditional midwives (dais), who offer female deselection, let the baby boys alive, but killing the newborn baby’s girls by giving them sharp jerk, i.e turning upside down and snapping their spinal cord, and then declaring them stillborn. (Lahiri-Dutt, 2011).

2. **Sex-selective child abandonment**: This involves abandoning children of unwanted sex as in the case of child abandonment due to many social and cultural factors (e.g unwanted child acquired through illegal means). Illegal in many parts of the world, but it is still practiced.

3. **Sex-selective child adoption**: This is a practice of placing children of the unwanted sex for adoption. It is less commonly viewed as a method of human gender selection. Adoption affords families that have a gender preference a legal means of choosing offspring of a particular sex.

**Religious Perspectives**

Science without conscience ruins the soul (Schenker. 2002). It is therefore not surprising that science and religion have been interrelated since the beginning of human history. Muslims adhere to the view that human life required protection starts two to three weeks from conception and uterine implantation. Sex- selection have been condemned on the grounds that their application is to discriminate against female embryo and foetus, so perpetually prejudice against a girl child and social devaluation of women. Gender selection for medical reason only is supported for man to procreate (Serous, 2004). The requirement for man to procreate by giving a minimum of 2 children, a boy and a girl is obligatory according to Jewish law. According to both schools, Beit Shamai and Beit Hillel in order to fulfill obligation of procreation at least one son is required. According to Christian view especially the one of the Catholic Church, gender selection even for medical reasons is forbidden (Schenker. 2002).
Sex Determination is a Will of God

Islamic legal viewpoint is that foetal gender selection is also strongly prohibited. This is because in Islam sex determination is a will of God (Allah), so any attempt to select a desired sex is a trespass and intrusion into His domain. According to the Islamic injunctions, when God (Allah) wishes to create anything on earth (including human beings), he just say be and it become as He create Adam from common dust and Jesus in the womb of Mary (Poston, 1990). Man is worthwhile in Islam, because in the beginning the Lord addresses all the angels “I want to create a vicegerent on earth” God out of His eternal Mercy uplifted Adam above angles with knowledge, so also his descendants. It is He the Almighty God that knows what is best for you, be always decides on what he wishes and execute without challenge of whatsoever. He always proposes and nobody ever disposes. He said in the Holy Qur’an. “God is the creator of anything; He is the executor of what He wishes.Q.2:32.

Hatred for girl child is the Worst form of Savagery

According to the Islamic doctrine of equality and social justice, boys and girls deserve equal parental affection, as the holy Prophet (S.A.W) said; “Deal justly with your children” three times. Any attempt to show preference of sons over daughters is reflection of pagan ignorant Arab culture which constitutes burying female daughters alive (Aijaz, 2006). The Qur'an also condemned those who thought that women are a dishonorable creates and it’s a matter of shame to have female child born in the family. It says, “And when it is reported to him that a daughter is born, his face become dark and he is full of anger. He hide himself from the people because of this report and thinks of what he should do, whether he should keep it in disgrace or bury it alive surely, evil is what they judge” (Q-16:38-39). It is clear that the holy Qur’an does not like that woman should be regarded as disgraceful or treated with disrespect as if they were inferior beings.

The Prophet (S.A.W) declared that female children should be treated in the same manner as boys. For example Ibn Abbas reported that the holy Prophet said: “If a daughter is born to a man and brings her up affectionately, shows her no disrespect and treats her in the same manner as he treats his sons, the Lord will reward him with paradise” He was also reported to have said; “If a daughter is born to person and he brings her up give her a sound education and trains her in the arts of life, I shall myself stand between him and the hell fire”. Again, the Qur’an makes it clear that once that woman can achieve as much moral and spiritual progress as men and there is no difference between man and women in this respect. (Ajijola, 2006). For example the Holy Qur’an says, “Whoever does good
deeds, whether male or female and he or she is a believer, shall have garden (Paradise) and they shall not be dealt with unjustly” (Q. 4:124).

According to Christian teaching, women cannot become the equal of man in piety, religion and moral progress, because women were responsible for the banishment of Adam from paradise (Poston, 1990). The Qur’an does not make Eve responsible for the sin of Adam and says clearly that both of them were deceived by the Satan. Similarly, it point to Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ, as a woman of great spiritual power: “And remember when the Angels said: “O Mary, surely Allah has chosen you and purified you and selected for His special blessing out of all the women of your time” (Q: 3:2). From the above mentioned religious point of view it should be noted that there is no reason for one to select one gender upon another particularly with the intention of preferring boys to girls.

Mothers must not be blamed for Delivering Baby Girls
One of the ugliest cultural terrorism of our present society is showing hatred to women (Mothers) who have been delivering baby girls frequently. Both husband and his relatives, including his mother, hate the wife to the extent that she is insulted, neglected and even considered as source of bad luck to the family (Chaudhry, 2006).This sometimes results in divorcing such wife and retains those that are bearing boys. According to scientific findings, conception of either a boy or a girl is a matter of chance and is determined by the father only (Serour, 2004). Based on their genetic composition male sperm (Y) is less dense than X-sperm, so tend to move faster to reach the ovum. But despite this opportunity of getting a baby boy Allah out of His sovereignty determined that, it’s His own wishes to give you boy, a girl both sexes or even make you barren (infertile), Chaudhry, 2006), Allah said: “Unto Allah belonged the sovereignty of heavens and the earth. He created what he wishes. He bestowed female child to whom He wishes and bestowed male child to whom He wishes or He mingled them males and females, and He make whom He wish barren (infertile)” (Q.42:49-50).According to report from Anas bin Malik, the Prophet (S.A.W) said: “Girl is a model of affection and sympathy and a blessing to the family”. Gender selection, particularly male child preference to girl child has been a common practice of some communities in Nigeria. In Hausa/Fulani and communities many husbands continuously divorce several wives, because they are bearing female child instead of the boy fathers need. This is due to their selfish belief that the female child come from the mother.
In light of the above injunctions, it is very unfair to blame a woman (mother) for delivering a baby girl. This is because Allah is the One Who created anything, heaven and
the earth and what they contain including Boys and Girls. This is the reasons why even during the gender selection procedure there is limitation so that when God wish to create a girl at that conception, he engineered the scientist to mistakenly select an X-sperm (for girl) instead of a Y-sperm (for boy) and vice-versa by just saying “be” and it will be. This is the Almighty God, the Originator of all life, and the All-knowing for what IS best for you.

Socio-Cultural Perspectives
Theories Influencing Gender Selection
Choosing Sexual Position: Aristotle gave advice on position for sexual intercourse the ancient Greeks believed that if a man had sex while lying on his right side, he was more likely to have a son. Another long standing theory has it that this position is most likely to produce a son. Another long standing theory has it that this position is most likely to produce girl, because the sperm ends up away from the cervix. This means that the male sperm Y will have to fight through more acidic secretion to get to the womb, and as the female sperm X is taught it get through easily. Another theory also added that having sex standing up is said to produce boys. These supported the theory that male sperm is better at swimming against gravity (Kilani, 2004).

Timing of intercourse: The idea that when you actually conceived can affect your baby’s gender was first proposed by Dr. Landrum B. Shettles in 1960s (Gray, 1991). The theory is still on the basis that make sperm (Y) swim faster than females (X). One of these theories was that if intercourse occurred very near to ovulation, you would get a boy, as the male sperm will beat the female one in a short rest to the egg. Another theory based on the timing of intercourse was developed by Dr Elizabeth Whelan (Shettles and Rorvick, 2006); she said that women would get a boy if intercourse was between four or six days before ovulation, when her basal temperature increases as part of menstrual cycle. If a couple wanted a girl, they should aim to have intercourse two to three days before the ovulation (Kilani, 2004).

Choosing a diet: There are many theories about diet influence on gender, although many do not seem to be based on any hard science. For instance, to produce a boy prospective mothers have been variously advised to eat lot of red meat and salty snacks. Fathers should allegedly drink cola. For a girl both parents should get a lot of fish and vegetables, sweet and dairy products. Researchers at the university of Exeter and Oxford have found that women who consume more calories around time of conception and in particular eat more bananas are more likely to have sons. At the same time a women who skipped breakfast are likely to have daughters (Nancy and Mackey, 1998).
Gendercide: This is a neologism that refers to the systematic killing of members of a specific sex, either males or females (Warren, 1985). This is intended for sex-neutral or sex selection, but in mainstream feminism it’s mostly used to refer to female victims, or (femicide). Femicide is the systematic killing of women for various reasons usually cultural. It is regarded as gender crime. There have been reports of femicide in Guatemala City, Chihuahua, and Mexico (Warren, 1985). Most of the women were raped before been murdered, and some were mutilated, tortured and dismembered. In Guatemala City about 20% of the 500 women murdered 2004 and 2005 were killed in pairs due to an intimate relationship (Lesbian). The most wide spread form of feticides is in form of sex-selective infanticide in cultures with strong preferences for male offspring notably in China and India. Viricide is the systematic killing of men for various reasons usually cultural. Seen as a gender crime, it may happen during war to reduce enemy potential pool of soldiers. It was historically reported in the holy Bible (New Testament) where Mathew states that Herod ordered the Massacre of the innocents, as follows: “Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the Magi he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity from two years and under…” (Mathew. 2:16).

Ethical Concerns: Gender selection is by no means an easy decision. There are many ethical and legal concerns surrounding the treatments which make it very difficult to decide on sex selection or find clinic that provide these services. Many opponents of gender selection argue that the procedures are morally and ethically wrong. Some see it as promoting sexual stereotypes and sex discrimination. Other sees it as the beginning of slippery slopes, leading to procedures which could allow choosing the physical and psychological characteristics of their children (Lin and rose, 1995; Puri and Nachtigall, 2010). Sexism is the belief or attitude that one gender or sex is inferior to or less valuable than the order. It can also refer to hatred or distrust towards either sex as a whole or creating stereotypes of masculinity for men or feminity for women. It is also called male and female chauvinism. The idea is that if one sex is preferred to another individual the non-preferred sex would be at a disadvantage. Opponent of social sex selection argue that the procedure would artificially unequalized the ratio of females to males, leading to discrimination potential violence and abuse of smaller group. (Warren, 1985; Puri and Nachtigall, 2010).

Conclusion
Gender bias must be tackled at more fundamental and comprehensive social, economic political and legal levels worldwide. Till we achieve these long term goals, gender selection may not be unethical in some particular instance to overcome some societal customs, and to meet procreative autonomy of some couples. Practices of gender
selection intended to promote gender discrimination are unacceptable, independent of cultural religious, political and societal demands. Above all, religious communities, among Muslims, Christians and Jews should remain firm on the fact that sex determination and hence gender selection is a will of God. So any attempt to select a particular gender is a trespass and encroachment into the territory of Almighty God that must be avoided by a true believer.

**Recommendations**

In view of the above discussions on gender selection, it is recommended that:

- A standard comprehensive textbook should be produce on these issues so that the elites could broadened their thinking and perception on gender balance.
- Applied scientist and social scientist should embark on public enlightenment through publications and mass media.
- Governments at all levels and non-governmental organizations should also embark on mass campaign and public enlightenment through Radio/TV talks, film shows and drama presentation on gender issues.
- Religious and community leaders should also use their esteem position to address the issue of gender bias and child preference in our families and societies at large.
- Parents belonging to all religious, ethnic groups or tribe (especially fathers) should completely desist from such ugly acts of showing male gender preference neglecting their responsibility upon girl child. Fathers should avoid maltreating or blaming mothers or given birth to baby girl, they should be aware that, it has been scientifically proved (beyond any reasonable doubt) that sex of child is always determine by the father’s sperm (X or Y) as already mentioned.
- Fathers (and sometimes mothers) in our area (Hausa/Fulani communities) must have a pious fear of God, and accept with a faithful mind that delivering a baby girl and or baby boy is a will of Almighty God (The Creator, the Bestower, the Nourisher and the Nurturer). It’s neither the mother’s nor father’s wishes to deliver a girl child, but God’s. Therefore, blaming mothers on this issue means blaming God, which is dangerous to your faith.
- In a nutshell, with the advent of modern biotechnology, parents who require gender choice can visit any available fertility/reproductive health clinic for solutions and advice, so long as they can afford such services that are ethical.
References


