

Abstract

This qualitative study was conducted to investigate the experiences of women who don't have a son. Socio-economic and cultural factors were also explored to investigate and moreover this study examined the standing of women in their in-laws if they don't have a son. This study also explored that what are the reasons behind and why women's desire to have at least one son. This qualitative study was under taken to examine the thinking pattern of couples. Semi structured interview was used to gather information about their perceptions towards their daughters and their preference for a son. Snow ball sampling was used for sampling selection. 4 couples were interviewed, i.e. 4 mothers and 4 fathers. After analysis of data, results revealed that socio-economic and cultural factors played a very important role. Couples expressed their desire to have sons, further open ended questions revealed reasons in preferring sons. Results also revealed that mothers who don't have a son experience stress, depression and pressure from family, relatives and society; especially if they are living in joint family system, the situation is even worse. The study indicated gender differences in terms of preference for sons; mothers are more obsessed about it than the fathers.