

**Sex Preference and Fertility:
A Study among the Ansaris of Meerut District, Uttar Pradesh**

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ABSTRACT In the present study, 'sex preference' and its effects on fertility were studied among the Ansaris of rural part of Meerut district, Uttar Pradesh. Using interview schedules, the data on fertility and related aspects was collected from 296 ever married women (15-49 years of age) and their husbands. The study confirms the presence of son preference among the members of the community. Most of the respondents (both women and men) expressed a desire for more number of sons as compared to daughters. Almost 62% women and 56% men prefer a son as the first child. Similarly, a large number of respondents expressed a preference of son for any new born child. The reasons that were traditionally responsible for preference of sons over daughters still continue to be the guiding force behind such a perception in present context. The preference for sons over daughters has resulted in an increased level of fertility. However this effect has been found to be modest.