

## India's girl go missing (audio)

### Script

JOURNALIST : India is becoming an increasingly male-dominated society as the latest census shows, the number of girls born there is at an all-time low. Families are desperate for sons as they are financially far more attractive and that's resulting in a rising number of gender-selected abortions. As RT's Priya Shreeda reports, this gendercide may eventually leave many Indian men without partners.

REPORTER (PRIYA SHREEDA): It takes a village to raise a child, the saying goes, but in the village of Karora, Haryana, about three hours from the Indian capital, not every child is given a chance. Here there are twice as many boys as girls and according to the latest Indian census numbers, the trend of more boys is a national reality and no coincidence.

DOCTOR R AJIV GUPTA : Each family wants there be a son, there should be at least one son who can look after the family business, who can look after the family name and who can look after the parents when they are old.

REPORTER (PRIYA SHREEDA): Doctor Rajiv Gupta is a physician at a hospital in Haryana. In India, sex-selective abortions and finding out the sex of a baby before birth are illegal. But every day, Gupta sees patients who are willing to do just about anything to construct a family with more boys than girls.

Villagers in Karora can't deny the statistics, few will talk about what is happening to all the baby girls. They do however admit that having boys is more attractive to them financially especially when it comes to the Indian practice of the bride's family paying a dowry to the groom's family before their wedding.

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