

WORLD YOUTH ALLIANCE BOOK LIST

Unnatural Selection

By Mara Hvistendahl

The world is missing millions of women as a result of sex-selective abortions and prenatal female infanticide. “Unnatural Selection” highlights the consequences faced by countries that have favored the birth of boys over girls by means of sex-selective abortion. This book examines the deep problems that are born when the dignity of an entire sex is violated and a whole generation of women is eliminated.

Why Unnatural Selection

Much of the World Youth Alliance’s work is based on the view that the human person is not a hindrance to, but a resource for economic development. This account supports that view illustrating why population control is not an effective solution for economic development. In the long-term, population control programs create serious societal problems that violate the dignity of the person and contribute to negatively impacting economic growth. Furthermore, this account can serve to strengthen the World Youth Alliance’s mission to promote the dignity of each person. An individual’s right to life is inalienable and fundamental. It does not depend on circumstance or a particular state of being, such as gender. When this inalienable right is not acknowledged, then human dignity is violated.

Guide questions for discussion groups

- What factors laid the groundwork for widespread sex-selective abortions in Asian and Eastern European countries?
- How did sex-selective abortion become the family planning method of choice?
- What demographic was choosing sex-selective abortions and why?
- Why was the Western world eager to impose population control measures in the developing world?

- Why were developing nations willing to accept population control measures proposed by the Western world?
- In what way was the Western world's approach not person-centered?
- What impact has widespread sex-selective abortion had on society one generation later?
- Is aborting a child based on gender worse than aborting a child for other reasons? Do the reasons behind an abortion determine whether the abortion is right or wrong?
- Since technology provided the means for sex-selective abortions to be possible, how should we think about the role of technology in such matters?
- What perspective can WYA provide with regards to this issue?