

Sociology 102B (Research Methods)  
Spring 99

### Abstract

Every country in the world has a different culture that is formed by anything from life experiences, to degree of urbanization and even the language that is spoken. What are the effects that this type of socialization into a culture does to the views that are formed on issues pertaining to personal well being. Abortion is one of these issues that everyone has a different opinion on. Japan, China, and Britain all have different views on abortion. China has had an increasingly large number of abortions. Some of this is due in part to the implementation of the one child policy that was in place in the years 1979-1988. This policy was tried in the rural areas of China and found that this increased abortion but also the increase in the number of male children. This view is not the same as that held by the Japanese. They feel that both parents should take part, but that the other should be the main contributor to the caring of the baby. This has led to a problem for mothers in this culture for they are left to deal with the duality of wanting personal success and freedom and the pull for maternity. These views are similar in one way to those of the British. That is that idea of share responsibility. In Britain although there is more of a sense of what the partnership is and parents are on an equal playing field.

Through my research I have found that issues such as ideal family size, age and education were statistically significant indicators of how culture can affect views on abortion. These were what I had figured would be that major components of culture. The other variables that were used, and found to be significant, were the dummy variables of China and Britain. The country that was omitted was Japan. China had a positive increase of 0.662 on the abortion index. This confirmed what I had studied that showed that the Chinese were more accepting of abortions. Also confirmed was that the British were less accepting of abortion with a decrease of -0.342 on the abortion index. Most information that was retrieved prior to research was confirmed except for the variable gender, this was not found to be of significant value to the research.

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