

Research Paper

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One-Child Policy

China's One-Child Policy was implemented by Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in 1979 because of the necessity to control the rapid growth of the population. Affected by government propaganda, more and more families in China followed the policy and only had one child. China's One-Child policy was intended to help control population growth. Instead, it has led to unintended and negative consequences. It was truly a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it alleviated the population pressure on the government, but on the other hand, it created some growing problems for these one-child families. With the implementation of the family planning policy, increasingly more families under this new policy realized its many problems, and more and more people began to think that the One-Child Policy was not appropriate. Although the One-Child Policy could solve population problem to some extent, its disadvantages

diminished labor force causing economic decline, the population is gradually aging for dependency loads, and the forced abortions cause great harm to the female's body. This policy causes gender imbalances in society creating tension that eventually can cause the whole country to be violent.

of the seriousness of the population problem, the government did not formulate a clear population policy, so family planning was effectively carried out in the whole country.

Talking about the origin of the one-child policy, it is important to mention the 1950s, when the population growth began to exceed the amount of food supply, and the government began to implement family planning. After Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward (1958-1961),

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development, putting forward that China's population policy is strategic and important. Based on Deng Xiaoping's thought, the Chinese government has made it a basic state policy to carry out family planning, control the size of the population, and improve the quality of the population, establishing the important position of family planning in China's overall economic and social development.

China is the country with the largest population size in the world, which increases the difficulty of efficient development. Considering Chinese development in the long term; some people point out that the Chinese must carry out the One-Child Policy. However, others think the One-Child Policy is not suitable for children's health growing up. I agree
 -child policy continues
 to generate controversy and misinformation, the launching of the one-child policy in 1980 led to a dramatic decline in China's fertility rate; and that the imposition of the policy

³ The One-Child Policy successfully reduced the total population, especially the urban population, and played a positive role in the early and middle stages of the economic development. But over time, the side effects of this policy are gradually emerging. For example, the living environment of the only child has been improved due to the One-Child Policy. In this case, the only child will become lazy and no longer willing to do some basic work. In the long run, this is not a good thing for social and economic development.

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Feng, Poston Jr., Dudley L., and Xiao-Tao Wang discussed how the one-child family has become normal for the urban Chinese family. They stated, generation of one-child

³ Martin King Whyte, Wang Feng, and Yong Cai, One-Child 144.

families has had a tremendous influence on family structure, family relationships, and family lifestyle of all of China, especially urban China, but has also introduced problems

the One-Child Policy will increase the rate of committing a crime because no one will treat

The extended problems for the spoiled child can also be found in children's mental health problems as the One-Child Policy will make children feel lonely. It means that if every couple can have only one child, the child will have no sisters or brothers to play with him. As time passes, they will feel lonely. We

encounter difficulties, they are afraid or at a loss. They feel at a loss for unexpected difficulties and emotionally fragility, easy to encounter blows and

years, a trend that is expected to accelerate. In Alice Zhang's article

China's Former One-

⁸ China's increasing elderly population and the decreasing labor force were the impetus for the relaxation and end of the One-Child Policy. Every year since 2004, the net increase in new jobs has been less than the increase in demand for labor, and the gap will widen over time. Although the agricultural sector will continue to release surplus labor as agricultural productivity increases, labor shortages are still expected to occur from time to time in different regions, industries, and types of work.

In the article, One-child Policy and the Changing Aging Population in China, Xiao-Tian Feng argues that aging is fast. Already, a generation of young Chinese is struggling

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⁹ The speed of China's aging population is extremely fast. Feng claims that "The loss of a child is particularly devastating if it occurs when the parents have ended the childbearing ages and entering old age".¹⁰ For the one-child family, once the only child is injured, seriously ill or dead, especially the one-child who starts to earn money to support the family, it will not only cause great economic losses to the family, but also give a fatal blow to the parents' spirit, and thus fall into a desperate situation. Some younger parents may be given the chance to have children again, but what about older parents who lose their only child? They become "only child lost

It is a tragedy in Chinese society for offspring to die before their elders. Feng

⁸ Alice Zhang, China's Former One-Child Policy, Investopedia, December 20, 2020,

also claims that, "In China, children are not only the continuation of the life of the parents, but also their ideals and hopes".¹¹ The One-Child Policy places all hope and responsibility on one child, so the one-child family structure is fragile. Chinese society has been in a complex family network for a long time. Feng said that "Kinship networks, however, do not exist for only-children; they have no brothers or sisters".¹² The only child itself narrows the family's kinship network to the extreme. Once the one-child family encounters difficulties or accidents, the support from the kinship network will be greatly reduced, and the family's anti-risk ability relying on the traditional kinship network will be reduced to the extreme. At this time, if the social support cannot keep up with it in time, it is very easy to make the one-child family fall into the situation of isolation and helplessness. Also, the elderly mainly rely on their children. The more children there are, the more opportunities and numbers the elderly parents will have to be supported in all aspects. Because the only child parents have too few children, the informal support from their children is generally insufficient, the support pressure of their children is increasing, and the possibility of the elderly falling into poverty is also greatly increased.

Most senior citizens retire or no longer work full-time. For some senior citizens, the years after retirement are not very enjoyable. They usually live in their own houses, while the children either work abroad or study far beyond the home. They feel that their lives are boring for being at home all day and feel lonely. Aging will cause older people to become more concerned with their health as they grow older. What if they can not afford medicare or they did not have health insurance? In the article "The effects of universal two-child policy", written by Yi Zeng, Therese Hesketh, they said "Despite the

¹¹ Xiao-Tian Feng, Dudley L. Poston Jr., and

state-sponsored New Rural Old Age Insurance Programme, which started in 2009, most

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Chinese law stipulates that adult children must support their elderly parents and provide them with financial assistance, so they are largely dependent on their children for financial support at this time. The only children need to support their parents, the heavy burden will fall on the shoulders of them, who in many cases, will need to worry about the house or car loans and in addition to take care of the two parents and four grandparents. This

reverse-

-two-

the family need to support their parents; it will cause the children to have great pressure in life. Chinese parents will rely on their children to take care of them in their older years.

That looks unlikely to change much since the pension system and social welfare systems are inadequate.

Another issue for the One-Child Policy is the government forcing women who tried breaking the policy to have more children to undergo forced abortion procedures, which

China's One-

Women who became pregnant without permission were subjected to regular harassment to

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preference for sons has led to an increase in the number of abortions of female fetuses. As a result of this policy, the number of baby girls killed, abandoned, or placed in orphanages has increased. Millions of Chinese parents have had to endure strict enforcement of the policy, including forced sterilizations and abortions. It takes a terrible toll on women's

¹³ Yi Zeng and Therese Hesketh,
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bodies, with some women becoming unable to bear children for life and even dying as a

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birth, the baby would be denied household registration (and thus denied opportunities for

the bill for the wedding cost. All these factors add up to make the economics of having a boy less and less attractive.

Also, the troublesome consequence of the gender imbalance is the increase in violent crimes. Yi Zeng and Therese Hesketh claim

early days of the "later, longer, program, IUD insertion, female sterilization, and induced abortions all

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The Chinese preference for sons over daughters is also related to previous national conditions. From ancient to nearly farming times, people have thought of men as having more advantages in physical strength, and it is easy to be affirmed in the ability to maintain the community reproduction or support the previous generations. This affirmation is not only the male affirmation, also includes the father-generation female affirmation. China is an agricultural country, and the majority is still agricultural, and it is in these areas that son preference tends to be more severe. The poorer and more backward the region, and the more physically demanding it is to survive, the more severe it is. Another popular concept in China is the issue of procreation. As a way of family continuity, man has become the character to produce offspring, and the male of his own family reproduces offspring, further, the best offspring is a male, so that the grandchildren of the male can bear the mission of family reproduction. In contrast, the offspring of the female who bears the family name is considered "tools" for the reproduction of other families. This idea gradually solidified in China and passed on from generation to generation.

To fix the problems, the Chinese government came out with another policy called could have two children. Is the Two-Child Policy necessary? China is one of the great countries with the largest population in the world. To solve the population problem, the Chinese government decided to implement the One-Child Policy. When it is carried out for some time, many people see not only its advantages but also disadvantages. Thus, people

¹⁸ Martin King Whyte, Wang Feng, and Yong Cai, One-Child

argue that a Two-Child Policy should be put into effect. In my opinion, a Two-Child Policy

-child policy in China: Rhetoric

-turn to the one-child policy came through on

29 October 2015 when the CPC publicly announced that couples in China can have a

second child, with effect from March 2016, until the two-child policy is

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The two-child policy can guarantee the number of the Chinese population. The Chinese

government's policy on two-child family planning is important and mentions its impact on

ds the two-child policy,

population planners are vigilant of the unfolding demographic developments. It is

reassuring that the two-child policy will at least allow future generations of Chinese

²⁰ Due to the two-child policy, children will

not feel lonely and also can improve the problems with the aging population.

In Xiaoyan Yin, Zhihua Li, Jianhua Li, Xiaoqun Liu's article

relationship

quality and young children's mental health in Chinese two-child

talked about the Chinese new family policy that will influence the way that the family

forms.

enactment of the universal two

problems. For example, a young couple grew up under the one-child policy, let's decided to put aside the loneliness of their grown-up experience, when they are getting married, because the burden for them is going to be too heavy , they have to take care of both sides of their parents. Usually, a young couple looking after an old couple is a little difficult; if the pressure is increasing twice as much, how can they stand it? But if their parents have two children, it means they would have siblings; they can share the burden of taking care of their parents. Xiaoyan Yin, Zhihua Li, Jianhua Li, Xiaoqun Liu also claim "For most individuals who are members of a family with more than one child, the sibling relationship is their longest-lasting relationship".²³ Two child policies can help children become more cheerful, optimistic, and lighten the burden.

In conclusion, while other people in China think about the advantages of the One-Child Policy, on the other hand, I believe there are also some disadvantages to this policy. People cannot deny that the One-Child Policy plays a key role in China's population control, but with the progress of society, the One- emerged. The negative effects of the One-Child Policy can be spread into five parts. The first is spoiled children, the extension question is children's mental health. Secondly, China's diminishing labor force will cause the Chinese economic decline. Third, in China's aging population the extension question is dependency loads, such that the only child of the family has more press. Fourth, the government will be forcing women who trying to broke the policy to have more children to do abortions cause great harm to the body. And last but not least, gender imbalance lets China have about forty million more males than females, the marriage problem is obvious. So, the -Child- is meant to help solve these

²³ Xiayun Yin, Zhihua Li, Jianhua Li, and Xiaoqun Liu, and Young Mental Health in Chinese Two-Child

problems. The One-Child Policy has been out of date. While the Two-Child Policy is needed to control the rapid growth of the population in China, and necessary. The Two Child-Policy is very obverse and can address the issues of nowadays and the future. Also, I

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