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Exploring women's decisions about childbearing after the lifting of the one-child policy

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Abstract

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to have two demographic opportunity. decision process ed , China. The e decisions oved of the out their ldren for the good of, or as an obligation to, the family. However, they also felt that caring for two

children was burdensome, and that they would have to sacrifice a lot in terms of freedom, energy and money. Their responses to the new reproductive opportunity highlight the complexity of childbearing decision-making in modern Chinese society, against a background of persisting traditional values.

Résumé

En 2016, la Chine a officiellement mis fin à la politique de l'enfant unique, permettant ainsi aux couples d'avoir deux enfants pour la première fois depuis 1979. Si cette politique a été assouplie en raison de préoccupations d'ordre démographique, elle a simultanément offert à de nombreuses femmes de nouvelles opportunités en matière de reproduction. L'objectif de cette étude qualitative était d'approfondir la compréhension du processus de décision de concevoir un enfant dans le cadre de cette nouvelle politique. Nous avons conduit des entretiens semi-structurés en profondeur avec 45 femmes en post-partum dans deux hôpitaux situés dans le Zhejiang. Ces entretiens ont examiné les points de vue de femmes sur la politique des deux enfants et les décisions en matière de reproduction, et comment elles décidaient d'avoir leur premier ou leur second enfant. La plupart des participantes approuvaient la suppression de la politique de l'enfant unique ; un certain nombre d'entre elles étaient cependant hésitantes ou incertaines quant à leur propre décision d'avoir un deuxième enfant. Elles étaient nombreuses à ressentir des pressions pour avoir un deuxième enfant pendant, elles considéraient que la politique exigeait qu'elles aient un deuxième enfant. Leur réaction était complexe et influencée par la politique chinoise moderne.

Resumen

En 2016, China oficialmente puso fin a la política de un hijo, permitiendo que todas las parejas tuvieran dos hijos. Si la política se relajó de esta manera, se abrió una nueva oportunidad de reproducción. El objetivo de este estudio cualitativo era comprender el proceso de decisión de concebir un hijo. Llevamos a cabo entrevistas semiestructuradas en profundidad con 45 mujeres en su periodo postparto en dos hospitales situados en Zhejiang. Durante las entrevistas se analizó qué opinaban las mujeres de la política de dos hijos y las



decisiones reproductivas y qué factores eran importantes a la hora de decidir si querían tener uno o dos hijos. La mayoría de las mujeres estaban de acuerdo en eliminar la política de un único hijo; sin embargo, muchas dudaban o no estaban seguras de decidir ellas mismas si querían un segundo hijo. Muchas se sentían presionadas a tener dos hijos por el bien de la familia o como una obligación familiar. Sin embargo, también sentían que ocuparse de dos hijos era una carga, y que tendrían que hacer muchos sacrificios con respecto a su libertad, energía y dinero. Sus respuestas a la nueva oportunidad reproductiva ponen de relieve la complejidad de las decisiones maternas en la sociedad moderna de China frente a un contexto de valores tradicionales persistentes.

Keywords: [China](#) [two-child policy](#) [childbearing](#) [family planning](#) [decision-making](#)

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