



two out of every three shifts at the factory.

In 1979, the city of Tianjin officially adopted the very drastic "One-Child Policy." A couple with one child was given a "one-child pass" which entitled them to a monthly subsidy of 5 yuan from the city until their child turned 14 years old. On the other hand, if a

couple didn't follow the city's family plan, they were punished in ways like a monthly 10% cut in salary. Furthermore, a couple with the one-child pass was given priority in seven categories which included child care, school enrollment, employment and housing.

Although it has been revised several times, this "One-Child Policy" is still in effect in many parts of China. In 1984, a farmer's family with only one girl was allowed to have another child as they needed more workers in their family. This is why a dramatic increase of second children all over the country occurred despite the existence of the "One-Child Policy."

Of course, this one-child policy has some negative points, too. One serious issue is that the number of officially unregistered children has exceeded 20 million. In a farmer's household, the birth of a girl is not appreciated because she will not be of much help on the farm and she will leave the house when she gets married. Therefore, when a girl is born, they often don't register her. In other cases, the village office refuses to accept the birth registration if that region has already reached its quota of births. Therefore, if unregistered girls are added to the population, the ratio of males and females could be very unbalanced.

There are people in the United States who criticize China's "One-Child Policy" as a serious human rights issue, but unfortunately, no one has yet come up with a better solution for population control in China.

