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MALE FEMALE RATIO IMBALANCE IN INDIA

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Changing Pattern of Sex Ratio in Maharashtra

Mr. Shivaji Kakade

Abstract:

Today, the declining child sex ratio has been the issue of grave concern both to the Government and to the entire society as well. The girl children in India have been the most vulnerable for centuries and are even today vulnerable to the insults of deprivation as well as discrimination. Sex ratio is one of the important indices to comprehend women's health and position in any society. Sex ratio is one of the significant demographic development indices, which can determine the status of women in a region or country.. Sex ratio in Maharashtra has declined over the century from 972 in 1901 to 927 in 2011. The sex ratio of our state as a whole and district wise shows different picture because some district have higher sex ratio and some district have very lower sex ratio. This study is purely depending on secondary data. For analysis descriptive and analytical research methods are used.

Keywords: District wise Sex ratio, Disparities in Sex Ratio, Disparities in Child Sex Ratio

Introduction:

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. Today, the declining child sex ratio has been the issue of grave concern both to the Government and to the entire society as well. The girl children in India have been the most vulnerable for centuries and are even today vulnerable to the insults of deprivation as well as discrimination. Sex ratio is an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equity between males and females in a society.

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The sex composition of population is the basic demographic characteristics depending on directly incidence of birth, death and marriages. Sex ratio is one of the important indices to comprehend women's health and position in any society. Sex ratio is one of the significant demographic development indices, which can determine the status of women in a region or country. Changes in sex composition largely reflect the underlying socio-economic and cultural patterns of a society in different ways. Sex composition of population is one of the key factors in a country's development and has both demographic and social implications. The sex ratio consists of three factors i.e. sex ratio at birth, differential in mortality of two sexes and sex selectively among migrants. The proportion of males and females in the population affect the social and economic relationships within a region. Whatever the natural biological laws of human reproduction had given mankind for balancing its natural sex ratio, has been taken away manmade laws, customs, traditions, religious beliefs and sophisticated medical technology, resulting in a lower status in society for girls as well as women. Sex ratio relate with man power ethnicity, standard of living, social systems, religion, national income, education and housing etc. Many socio-economic relationships are intimately related to the balance or disparity in between them.

Maharashtra is a one of the richest states of India with its capital Mumbai, the economic powerhouse of India. Sex ratio in Maharashtra has declined over the century from 972 in 1901 to 927 in 2011. The sex ratio of our state as a whole and district wise shows different picture because some district have higher sex ratio and some district have very lower sex ratio.

Therefore researcher has chosen this topic to research. In this study researcher has been tried to know the changing pattern of sex ratio in Maharashtra and district wise changing pattern of sex ratio.

3.0 Objectives of the Study:

- 1.0 To study the changing pattern of sex ratio in Maharashtra
- 2.0 To know the district wise disparities in sex ratio
- 3.0 To study the child sex ratio in Maharashtra

4.0 Research Methodology of the Study:

This study is purely depending on secondary data. Data is collected from various reference books, research papers, websites and reports. For analysis descriptive and analytical research methods are used.

5.0 District wise Sex Ratio in Maharashtra:

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The sex ratio of Maharashtra state as a whole and district wise shows different picture. Because some district have higher sex ratio. For the purpose of analysis, here an attempt has been made to study the district wise sex ratio from 1991 to 2011. Although the overall sex ratio in Maharashtra improved to 925 in census 2011 by 3 females compared to that of 2001 census. However, this figure conceals the large variations across districts in Maharashtra and a district geographical pattern. In Table 1 we see sex ratio during census 1991 to census 2011 period in India and Maharashtra. The sex ratio in Maharashtra decreases from 934 to 925 during 1991 to 2011. Whereas in India sex ratio increases from 927 to 940 during 1991 to 2011. Decadal variation is -12 in Maharashtra during 1991 to 2001.

Table 1: Sex Ratio in Maharashtra and India (1991 to 2011)

Sr. No.	Year	Maharashtra	Decadal Variation	India	Decadal Variation
1	1991	934	-3	927	-7
2	2001	922	-12	933	+6
3	2011	925	+3	940	+7

Source: Author compiled from www.indiastat.com

In Table 2 we see highest 10 sex ratio districts in Maharashtra i.e. Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Gondiya, Satara, Bhandara, Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Sangli, Chandrapur, Raigad and Kolhapur respectively. Ratnagiri district has highest, 1122 sex ratio as per 2011 census. Whereas Maharashtra state has 929 sex ratio as per 2011 census. Various studies have confirmed that female foeticide and infanticide problem is rampant among the educated and rich families and is not major problem in below poverty/ lower income group families.

Table 2: Highest 10 Sex Ratio Districts in Maharashtra (2011)

Rank	Sex Ratio (Female per 1000 Males)	District(s)
1 st	1122	Ratnagiri
2 nd	1036	Sindhudurg
3 rd	999	Gondiya
4 th	988	Satara
5 th	982	Bhandara, Gadchiroli
6 th	978	Nandurbar
7 th	966	Sangli
8 th	961	Chandrapur
9 th	959	Raigad
10 th	957	Kolhapur
	929	Maharashtra

Source: Author compiled from www.indiastat.com

In Table 3 we see lowest 10 sex ratio districts in Maharashtra i.e. Mumbai, Mumbai (Suburban), Thane, Pune, Beed, Aurangabad, Osmanabad, Jalgaon and Latur respectively. Mumbai is the capital city of our state which has the lowest 832 sex ratio as per 2011 census. We see that the problem of sex imbalance is particularly concentrated and acute in the more educated households is suggestive of the failure of education in transforming societal norms related to son preference. Sex preference also takes its root from religion; some religion had special preference for sons. It was also evident that the families were ensuring at least one male child in the family, which suggests in direct evidence of sex selection practices.

Table 3: Lowest 10 Sex Ratio Districts in Maharashtra (2011)

Rank	Sex Ratio (Female per 1000 Males)	District(s)
1 st	832	Mumbai
2 nd	860	Mumbai (Suburban)
3 rd	886	Thane
4 th	915	Pune
5 th	916	Beed
6 th	923	Aurangabad
7 th	924	Osmanabad
8 th	925	Jalgaon
9 th	928	Latur
10 th	930	Washim



Source: Author compiled from www.indiastat.com

6.0 District wise Child Sex Ratio in Maharashtra:

In Table 4 we found highest child sex ratio districts in Maharashtra in 2011. As per 2011 census Gadchiroli district has highest 961 child sex ratio. And another highest child sex ratio districts are Gondiya, Chandrapur, Bhandara, Nandurbar, Ratnagiri, Raigad, Amravati, Nagpur, Thane, Sindhudurg, Yavatmal respectively. Maharashtra state has 894 child sex ratio in 2011. In various studies found that there is inverse relation between child sex ratio and education status of mother. The socio-demographic factors favourable for child sex ratio were lower socio-economic status, lesser education of father and mother, and children living in joint families.

Table 4: Highest 10 Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Years) Districts in Maharashtra (2011)

Rank	Sex Ratio (Female per 1000 Males)	District(s)
1 st	961	Gadchiroli
2 nd	956	Gondiya
3 rd	953	Chandrapur
4 th	950	Bhandara
5 th	944	Nandurbar
6 th	936	Ratnagiri
7 th	935	Raigad, Amravati
8 th	931	Nagpur
9 th	924	Thane
10 th	922	Sindhudurg, Yavatmal
	894	Maharashtra

Source: Author compiled from www.indiastat.com

Table 5: Lowest 10 Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Years) Districts in Maharashtra (2011)

Rank	Sex Ratio (Female per 1000 Males)	District(s)
1 st	807	Beed
2 nd	842	Jalgaon
3 rd	852	Ahmadnagar
4 th	855	Buldhana
5 th	858	Aurangabad
6 th	863	Kolhapur, Washim
7 th	867	Sangli, Osmanabad
8 th	870	Jalna
9 th	882	Hingoli
10 th	883	Pune, Solapur

Source: Author compiled from www.indiastat.com

In Table 5 we found lowest child sex ratio districts in Maharashtra in 2011. As per 2011 census Beed district has lowest 807 child sex ratio. And another lowest child sex ratio districts are Jalgaon, Ahmadnagar, Buldhana, Aurangabad, Kolhapur, Washim, Sangli, Osmanabad, Jalna, Hingoli, Pune and Solapur respectively. We found positive linkage between abnormal sex ratio and better socio-economic status. According to Subramanian S V and et al study, child sex ratio decreased with increasing income. The child sex ratio also depended on the sex of the previous born child.

Chart 1: District-wise Sex Ratio in Maharashtra (as per Census 1991, 2001 & 2011)

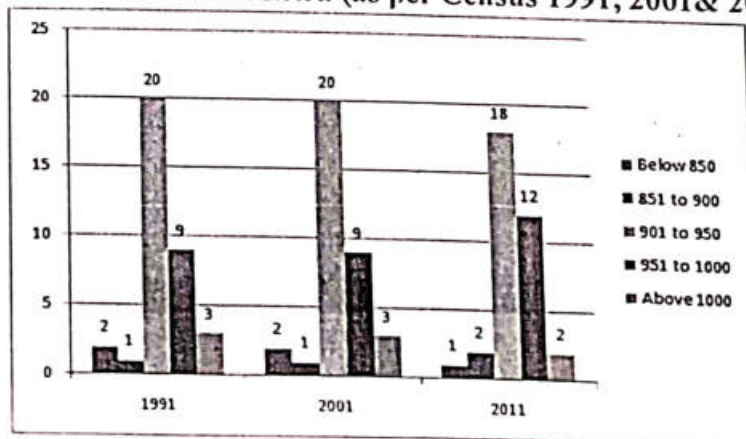


Chart 1 shows that the district wise sex ratio of Maharashtra are observed in five class i.e. below 850 females per 1000 male are show in the Mumbai in 2011 and Mumbai and Mumbai Suburban in 2001 and Mumbai suburban and Thane in 1991 census. 851 to 900 sex ratio district increases from 1 in 1991 to 2 districts in 2011. The above 1000 females per 1000 males are observed in only two district i.e. Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri. The class 901 to 950 observed district in this class was 20 in 2001, 2011 was decrease of two districts and remains 18 district present. The class 951 to 1000 females per 1000 males are observed in 1991, 2001 was 9 district and 2011 was increase up to 12 districts.

7.0 Conclusions:

- The sex ratio in Maharashtra decreases from 934 to 925 during 1991 to 2011. Whereas in India sex ratio increases from 927 to 940 during 1991 to 2011.
- Female foeticide and infanticide problem is rampant among the educated and rich families and is not major problem in below poverty/ lower income group families.
- Highest 10 sex ratio districts in Maharashtra i.e. Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Gondiya, Satara, Bhandara, Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Sangli, Chandrapur, Raigad and Kolhapur respectively.
- Lowest 10 sex ratio districts in Maharashtra i.e. Mumbai, Mumbai (Suburban), Thane, Pune, Beed, Aurangabad, Osmanabad, Jalgaon and Latur respectively.
- Highest child sex ratio districts are Gadchiroli, Gondiya, Chandrapur, Bhandara, Nandurbar, Ratnagiri, Raigad, Amravati, Nagpur, Thane, Sindhudurg, Yavatmal respectively.
- Lowest child sex ratio districts are Jalgaon, Ahmadnagar, Buldhana, Aurangabad, Kolhapur, Washim, Sangli, Osmanabad, Jalna, Hingoli, Pune and Solapur respectively.
- Below 850 females per 1000 male are show in the Mumbai in 2011 and Mumbai and Mumbai Suburban in 2001 and Mumbai suburban and Thane in 1991 census.
- 851 to 900 sex ratio district increases from 1 in 1991 to 2 districts in 2011.
- The above 1000 females per 1000 males are observed in only two district i.e. Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri. The class 901 to 950 observed district in this class was 20 in 2001, 2011 was decrease of two districts and remains 18 district present.
- The class 951 to 1000 females per 1000 males are observed in 1991, 2001 was 9 district and 2011 was increase up to 12 districts.

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