

DECLINING TREND OF CHILD SEX RATIO IN MARATHWADA REGION (MAHARASTRA)

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Abstract - Maharashtra is the third largest state regarding geographical area and second largest state in respect of population in India. According to the Census figure of 2011, the child sex ratio of Marathwada is 870 Female per 1000 Males. Marathwada region Child sex ratio is high than Maharashtra state in 1991 but next two decade child sex ratio of study region rapidly decline. The study was undertaken to understand the indicators of sex ratio in the population of Marathwada region. To explain the consistently decreasing trend of child sex ratio, some of the reasons put forward are Expectation of son, neglect of girl child. Graphs and Tables are used to explain the change in child sex ratio over the period in the study. In conclusion, widespread practices of demanding and providing dowry and considerable acceptance of sex selective abortion are the some of the causes of overall and Child sex ratio is generally adverse to girls in which sex selective abortion is major one in the study region.

Introduction - In the last 10 years, India's population has reached 1.21 billion (121 crore), indicating a rise of 17.64 percent, or 181 million, according to preliminary results of the 15th census released on March 31, 2011. The population, comprising 623.7 million males and 586.5 million females, almost equals the combined population of the Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, United States, Bangladesh and Japan. However, the growth rate at 17.64 percent has dropped in the last decade. This is the first decade (2001-2011), with the exception of 1911-1921, that has actually added less population to the previous decade. But the child sex ratio (under-6 years) in 2011 is 914 females for every 1,000 males, indicating a continuing preference for male children over females. The female sex ratio was more favorable in the last census, at 927. The sex composition by age group especially the 0-6 years is vital for studying the demographic trends of child population, its future patterns and particularly, the status of the girl child. The child sex ratio (under-6 years) in 2011 is 914 females for

every 1000 males, indicating a continuing preference for male children over females. The female sex ratio was more favorable in the last census, at 927. The child sex ratio in Haryana and Punjab is the lowest among the states. Haryana has 830 female children and Punjab 846, against 1,000 male children. The highest child sex ratio is in Mizoram (971 females against 1,000 males) and Meghalaya (970). Kerala and Pondicherry, which had improved their child sex ratios in 2001, have joined the rest of the country in a decline. Jammu and Kashmir has seen the most precipitous drop, 82 points, in its child sex ratio, with Maharashtra registering the next biggest fall among the major states.

Three district - Mumbai, Mumbai (suburban) and Thane have sex ratio which is less than 900, while two other districts, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg, have a sex ratio more than 1000. The Sex ratio increased in 13 districts and decreased in 22 districts between 2001 and 2011. The child sex ratio (0-6 years) is particularly low (less than 850) in seven districts. It is more than 940 in three districts (Gondia, Gadchiroli and Chandrapur). While the child sex ratio (0-6 years) increased in four districts (Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur and Chandrapur), it decreased in 31 districts between 2001 and 2011. In seven districts (Jalgaon, Buldana, Washim, Hingoli, Parbhani, Jalna and Bid) the child sex ratio (0-6 years) declined by more than 50 points between 2001 and 2011. Most of Marathwada region district observed decline child sex ratio from 1991 to 2011.

Study Area - The Marathwada region is one of the five regions in Maharashtra state of India. The region coincides with 8 districts it's also known as a Aurangabad Division. Marathwada, The study area is bordered on the north by Jalgaon, Buldhana, Washim and Yavatmal districts; to the east by Kamaraddy, Nizambad and Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh; to the south by Gulbarga and Bidar district of Karnataka and the west by Nasik, Ahmednagar and Sholapur district. Its shape is roughly triangular. East - West

maximum extent is about 394 kms. And north south extent 9s about 330 kms. Aurangabad is its divisional headquarters and the region is administratively known as, Aurangabad division of Maharashtra.

It has a total area of 62,663 sq. kms. Which is 21.01 percent of the state and its population are 112,374,333 (9.28% of India's population) of which male and female are 58,243,056 and 54,131,277 respectively. Administratively the area is divided in to eight districts that are further sub divided into 75 Tahsil in study region.

Objectives - To understanding the indicators likely future trends of sex ratio in the population of Marathwada region.

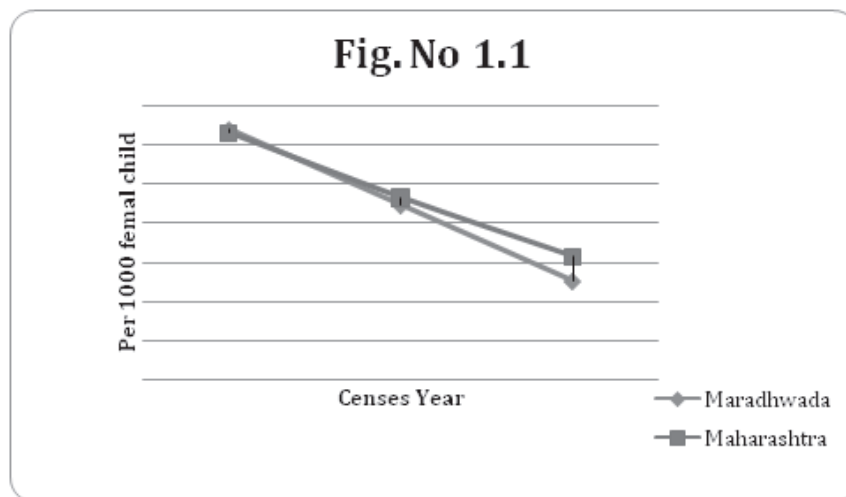
Database and Methodology - This study is entirely based on secondary data. The secondary data regarding 0-6 children male and female from census of India 1991 and 2011 has been used. The child sex ratio has computed by applying formula used by census

Trends in child sex ratio, Maharashtra and Marathwada Region.

Table No.1

Region	Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age Group)			Decade Chang Child sex Ratio	
	1991	2001	2011	2001 to 2001	2001 to 2011
Marathwada	948	909	870	-39	-39
Maharashtra	946	913	883	-33	-30

Source: Census and Composed By Author



According to the Census figure of 2011 the Child sex ratio of Marathwada is 870female per 1000 males. This is significantly lower than that for the state of Maharashtra in the same year which was 883 female per 1000 female per 1000 males. Child Sex ratio for Marathwada region in 1991 was 948 females per 1000 males. This ratio was down by 78 child females per 1000 male child in during 1981-2011(Table-1, Fig-1). Marathwada region child sex ratio is high than

Maharashtra state in 1991, but next two decade child sex ration of study region rapidly decline.

Regional Variation in Child Sex Ratio since 1991:

The child sex ratio of study region was 948female per thousand male in 1991, which down to 870 female in 2011. Table no 1 show the regional disparities in child sex ratio.

Table No. 2

Sr. No	Child Sex Ratio (0 to 6 year age)			Decade Changes Region	
	1991	2001	2011	1991 to 2001	2001 to 2011
1 NANDED	960	929	910	-31	-19
2 HINGOLI	NA	927	882	NA	-45
3 PARBHANI	955	923	884	-32	-39
4 JALNA	951	903	870	-48	-33
5 AURANGABAD	933	890	858	-42	-33
6 BID	939	894	807	-46	-86
7 LATUR	947	918	889	-29	-29
8 OSMANABAD	947	894	867	-53	-27
MARATHWADA	948	909	870	-39	-39

Source Composed By Author.

Table no. 2 shows spatial pattern of Child sex ratio of the study region. The variation in sex ratio shows that district level. According to 1991 census child sex ratio of the study region was 948 females and declined to 870 females per 1000 males in 2011. Means decline 78 Female child sex ratio in 20 year of study region (Table No. 2).

between 910 and 870. On the other hand, Bid, Aurangabad and Osmanabad find place in the bottom district of child sex ratio in between 870 to 807.

High changes in child sex ratio has been observed in Bid (-10.96 and Hingoli (-10.14) district, it shows high decline in child sex ratio (0-6 years). Moderate changes in child sex ratio have been observed in districts like, Parbhani (39), Jalna (33), Aurangabad (33), Latur (29) and Osmanabad (27). girls to boys have been declined from 1991-2011. It shows moderate change due to increasing tendency of the people migration from surrounding rural areas towards the urban areas along with their family leads to increasing rate of female migration including 0-6 age group for education purpose and improvement in socio-economic status of female. But remains decline in child sex ratio because of high per capita income, relatively more availability of health facilities and more preference is given to male child. Low negative changes in child sex ratio have been observed in Nanded (19) district. The decline in child sex ratio has been more rapid during the last two censuses.

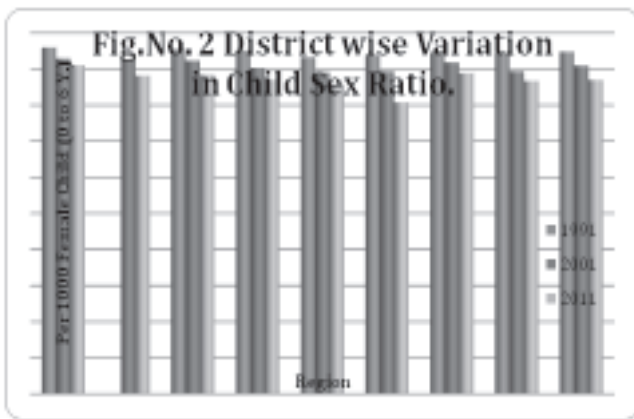


Fig. no 3 Decline child sex ratio.

According to 1911 census, child sex ratio of the study area at District level was ranging between 1991 to 909 females in Marathwada district, has recorded a decline in child sex ratio comparing to previous census, In the study region, three district having child sex ratio below the district average of 870 in 2011 Census (TableNo.2). The district of Nanded, Latur, Parbhani Hingoli and Jalna are at the top five positions with child sex ratio

CONCLUSION - Present study reveals in study region very serious problem of rapidly decrease in child sex ratio in the age of 0-6 years. Declining Child sex ratio is very serious problem in all district of study region. Largely preference is given to son, lower socio-economic status of female in the society, high per capita income and relatively more availability of health facilities, widespread practices of demanding and providing dowry and considerable acceptance of sex selective

abortion are the some of the causes of overall and Child sex ratio is generally adverse to girls in which sex selective abortion is major one in the study region.

Suggestions -

- To identify key issues and challenges in enforcing MTP and PCPNDT Act and to evolve national guidelines or directives for the effective implementation.
- To evolve strategies to advocate with the relevant ministries to improve the adverse child sex ratio.
- To evolve strategies to build a national campaign to improve the Child Sex Ratio.
- To prepare special programmers to promote gender equality in society through awareness and sensitize peoples towards healthy practices against illegal customs and traditions.

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