

ANALYTICAL STUDY OF DISTRICT WISE GENDER RATIO IN MAHARASHTRA

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ABSTRACT

As per 1991 census, Maharashtra was the second largest state in the country in terms of population, however as per the conclusion of 2001 census Maharashtra stood as the second largest state in India. The state has the population of 11.24 Crores which is 9.29 percent of the country's population. The states sex ratio is 925, which is lesser than the national average of 940 as per census 2011. The sex ratio in below 6 years' age group is 883. This research paper is analysis of gender ration of Maharashtra.

Relevance of the Study:

1. The study would review the declining trend in sex ratio in Maharashtra and various districts of Maharashtra.
2. It would create awareness about the seriousness of vanishing girl child.
3. The study would provide workable suggestions to the Non-Government Organizations and Government Agencies working in the family welfare section.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study trends in sex ratios in India and in Maharashtra.
2. To analyse district wise trends in sex-ratio and factors responsible for it.

Scope of the Study:



- 1.. The study analyses the data of 5 decades in case of Maharashtra and of 3 decades in case of district wise analysis.
2. The study is based on data available in census of India reports of various decades.

Limitations of the Study:

1. The study is based on secondary data only.
2. The study covers the in-depth analysis of Maharashtra state only.
3. The research covers data of only 3 decades in case of district wise analysis.

Statement of the Problem:

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, Indian sex ratio has shown a spectacular decline except some reverse trend that showed an improvement in 1951, 1981 and 2001 along with growth in the number of males in sex ratio in general as well as in child sex ratio in particular. Although slight imbalance in sex ratio is natural, a concern about the phenomenon of masculinity of sex ratio arose with the figures exposed by 2001 census which showed the child sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years decreased from 945 to 927 within a decade at the national level.

Methodology:

The present study is based on secondary data from census 2011 and survey of Maharashtra 2011. The study pertains to the state of Maharashtra covering the study period from 1961 to 2011 (i.e. 5 decades)

Introduction to Declining Sex Ratio of Maharashtra

This is a very alarming situation and indicates towards the female status in society. State has formulated the population policy. "Stringent measures have been set to be achieved. The state has also accepted the strategy of implementing Reproductive health and child health programme."¹. The state always has been in the forefront of making innovative schemes in the field of health programs. Despite of all the efforts, still 17 districts have a sex ratio lower than national average (940) as per census 2011. There for it is necessary to make a micro study of sex ratio as district level and to explore various reasons for declining sex ratio. Maharashtra is the second largest state area as well as population wise. There are 35 districts in Maharashtra divided into six divisions. The following tables shows the list of districts included in each division of Maharashtra.

Sex Ratio of Population:

India is one of the countries with a deficit of females. The scarcity of women has become a striking feature of India's population. In the previous chapter it has been observed that the similar situation prevails at state level in Maharashtra throughout the whole of the regular census history. There has been a continuous decline in the sex ratio in Maharashtra the state shows the higher ratio of males in the total population which indicates a rising tendency towards muscularity. This is an alarming situation. Before taking any corrective action, it is necessary to identify whether the same trend prevails at micro level i.e. at district level. The following table shows sex wise distribution of population across the districts of Maharashtra during the study period.

Table No. 6.2
District Wise Gender Ratio of Maharashtra State (1961 – 2011)

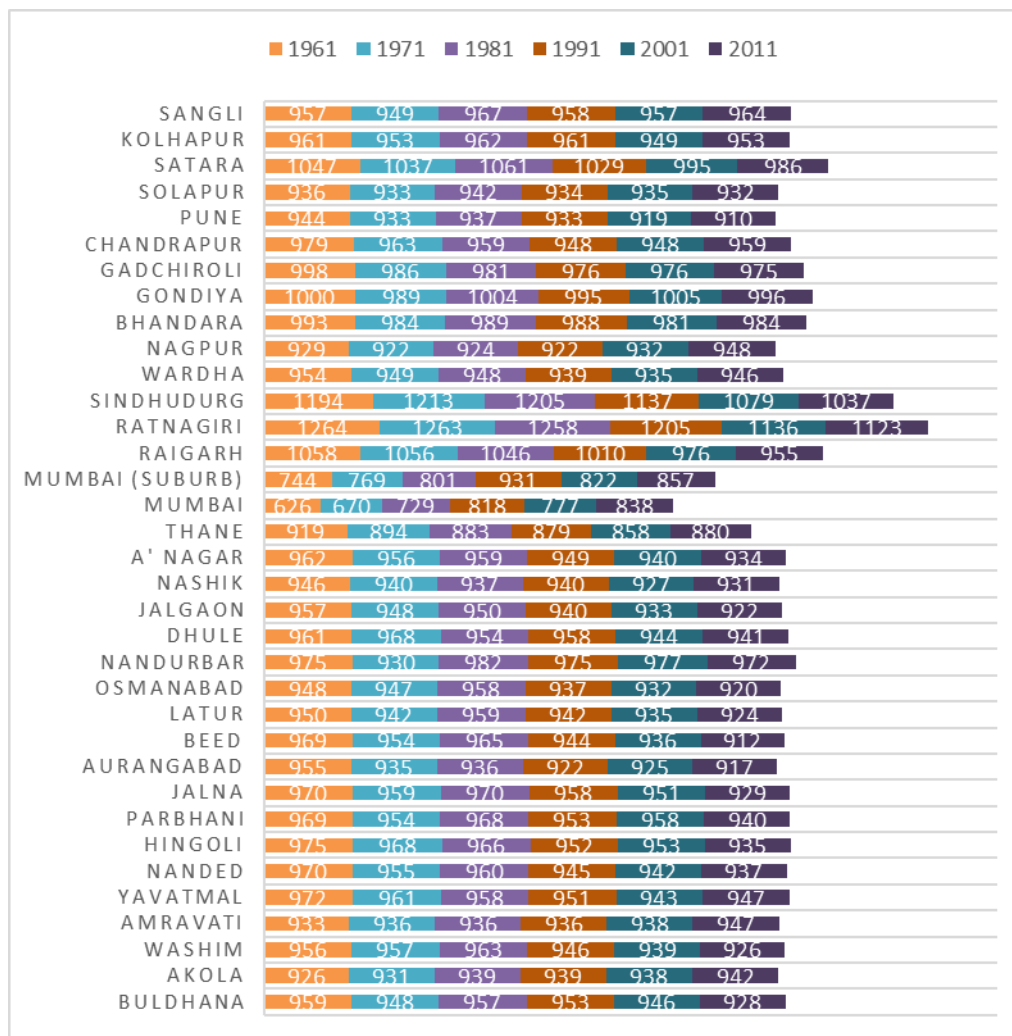
| Division | Districts | Sex Ratio in | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|--------------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| | | 1961 | | 1971 | | 1981 | | 1991 | | 2001 | | 2011 | |
| | | Dis | Div | Dis | Div | Dis | Div | Dis | Div | Dis | Div | Dis | Div |
| Amravati | Buldhan | 09 59 | | 09 48 | | 09 57 | | 09 53 | | 09 46 | | 09 28 | |
| | Akola | 09 26 | | 09 31 | | 09 39 | | 09 39 | | 09 38 | | 09 42 | |
| | Washim | 09 56 | 949. 2 | 09 57 | 946. 6 | 09 63 | 950. 6 | 09 46 | 945 | 09 39 | 940 .8 | 09 26 | 938 |
| | Amravati | 09 33 | | 09 36 | | 09 36 | | 09 36 | | 09 38 | | 09 47 | |
| | Yavatmal | 09 72 | | 09 61 | | 09 58 | | 09 51 | | 09 43 | | 09 47 | |
| Aurangabad | Nanded | 09 70 | | 09 55 | | 09 60 | | 09 45 | | 09 42 | | 09 37 | |
| | Hingoli | 09 75 | | 09 68 | | 09 66 | | 09 52 | | 09 53 | | 09 35 | |
| | Parbhani | 09 69 | | 09 54 | | 09 68 | | 09 53 | | 09 58 | | 09 40 | |
| | Jalna | 09 70 | 963. 25 | 09 59 | 951. 75 | 09 70 | 960. 25 | 09 58 | 944. 13 | 09 51 | 941 .5 | 09 29 | 926. 75 |
| | Aurangabad | 09 55 | | 09 35 | | 09 36 | | 09 22 | | 09 25 | | 09 17 | |
| | Beed | 09 69 | | 09 54 | | 09 65 | | 09 44 | | 09 36 | | 09 12 | |
| | Latur | 09 50 | | 09 42 | | 09 59 | | 09 42 | | 09 35 | | 09 24 | |
| | Osmanabad | 09 48 | | 09 47 | | 09 58 | | 09 37 | | 09 32 | | 09 20 | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-----|
| Nashik | Nandurb ar | 0975 | 960.2 | 0930 | 948.4 | 0982 | 956.4 | 0975 | 952.4 | 0977 | 944.2 | 0972 | 940 |
| | Dhule | 0961 | | 0968 | | 0954 | | 0958 | | 0944 | | 0941 | |
| | Jalgaon | 0957 | | 0948 | | 0950 | | 0940 | | 0933 | | 0922 | |
| | Nashik | 0946 | | 0940 | | 0937 | | 0940 | | 0927 | | 0931 | |
| | A' Nagar | 0962 | | 0956 | | 0959 | | 0949 | | 0940 | | 0934 | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|--------|------|--------|------|-----|
| Mumbai | Thane | 0919 | 967.5 | 0894 | 977.5 | 0883 | 987 | 0879 | 996.67 | 0858 | 941.33 | 0880 | 965 |
| | Mumbai | 0626 | | 0670 | | 0729 | | 0818 | | 0777 | | 0838 | |
| | Mumbai (Suburb) | 0744 | | 0769 | | 0801 | | 0931 | | 0822 | | 0857 | |
| | Raigarh | 1058 | | 1056 | | 1046 | | 1010 | | 0976 | | 0955 | |
| | Ratnagiri | 1264 | | 1263 | | 1258 | | 1205 | | 1136 | | 1123 | |
| | Sindhudurg | 1194 | | 1213 | | 1205 | | 1137 | | 1079 | | 1037 | |
| Nagpur | Wardha | 0954 | 975.5 | 0949 | 965.5 | 0948 | 967.5 | 0939 | 961.33 | 0935 | 962.83 | 0946 | 968 |
| | Nagpur | 0929 | | 0922 | | 0924 | | 0922 | | 0932 | | 0948 | |
| | Bhandara | 0993 | | 0984 | | 0989 | | 0988 | | 0981 | | 0984 | |
| | Gondiya | 1000 | | 0989 | | 1004 | | 0995 | | 1005 | | 0996 | |
| | Gadchiroli | 0998 | | 0986 | | 0981 | | 0976 | | 0976 | | 0975 | |
| | Chandrapur | 0979 | | 0963 | | 0959 | | 0948 | | 0948 | | 0959 | |
| Pune | Pune | 0944 | 969 | 0933 | 961 | 0937 | 973.8 | 0933 | 963 | 0919 | 951 | 0910 | 949 |
| | Solapur | 0936 | | 0933 | | 0942 | | 0934 | | 0935 | | 0932 | |
| | Satara | 1047 | | 1037 | | 1061 | | 1029 | | 0995 | | 0986 | |
| | Kolhapur | 0961 | | 0953 | | 0962 | | 0961 | | 0949 | | 0953 | |
| | Sangli | 0957 | | 0949 | | 0967 | | 0958 | | 0957 | | 0964 | |

Figure 6.1

District Wise Gender Ratio of Maharashtra State (1961 – 2011)



Source: Table No. 6.2

From the above table it can be observed that, -

1. During the past 3 decades Ratnagiri has shown highest sex ratio among all the districts of Maharashtra. In each study decade, number of female is more than male population.
2. At district level, mixed trend is seen in the sex ratio.
3. At division level, maximum division (3) went into the category of medium low sex ratio while none of the division has shown high sex ratio since last two decades
4. Thus, it can be concluded that a falling trend in sex ratio is seen in majority districts in Maharashtra State except a few which have shown a mixed trend.

Conclusion

Maharashtra's sex ratio has declined from 934 in 1991 to 922 in 2001, by 12 points and during the same period the number of sonography centres has mushroomed in the state. The correlation between the number of sonography centres and decline in sex ratio exists.

Suggestions

1. The functioning of ultrasound sonography centres should be observed in details to identify whether these centres are involved in sex-selective abortions. Appropriate action must be taken to strengthen the implementation of PCPNDT Act, 2003.
2. A strict control over clinics that offer to identify the sex of a foetus, stronger checks on abortions performed for the wrong reasons and unpardonable punishments for errant doctors must be introduced.

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