

Status of Relative Change of Sex Ratio: A Focus on Jammu and Kashmir State

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Abstract

The demographic composition constitutes the vital aspects of population like birth rate, death rate, infant mortality rate, sex ratio etc. These components are very important to study as they determine the future growth of society. The proper and the balanced growth of these demographic components is based on the socio-economic aspect of the society. India may take pride in marginal growth in sex ratio during the last decade but historically, the male-female proportion has been negative for most of the decades of India's post independence, portraying a dismal social records. As per the latest Census report, in the post independence period the sex ratio slipped down for two consecutive decades after 1951 to reach 930 in 1971. During 1961-71 a steep fall of 11 points (from 941 to 930) was recorded in the sex ratio. According to the Census the lowest sex ratio in India was at 927 in the year 1991 and the highest at 972 in 1901. The Census report does not make any distinction between urban and rural areas. The relative growth in sex ratio during the last decade (2001-11) has been fuelled by southern states. As against the national sex ratio pegged at 940, southern neighbours - Kerala (1084), Tamil Nadu (995), and Andhra Pradesh (992) - stand out as growth stories among various states. The drag states in respect of the national average are Haryana (877), Jammu & Kashmir (883) and Sikkim (889), and UTs - Chandigarh (818) Daman & Diu (618), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (775). Therefore, in the given paper an attempt has been made to understand the relative change of the sex ratio in the study region, it also aims to understand the various socio-economic attributes contributing for such decline in sex ratio in the state.

Key words: Demographic, vital rates, marginal growth, relative change.

Introduction

Social change is an inevitable and on going process. Every society has to pass through this cyclical process of social change differently. Some societies are changing at a faster speed and some are transforming at lower speed. This speed of social transformation is determined by the impact of different changes on Indian society in relation to its culture, institutions, values, belief, rituals and attitudes etc in both positive and negative direction. Social change refers to change in the established patterns of social relations or change in social values or change in social values or change in structures and systems operating in society. Social change may be partial or it may be total. There are so many forces of social change which are bringing alterations or modifications in the existing progress system. No doubt these forces of social change are in one or other way helping in the development of the society and its people. On the other hand we also cannot ignore the negative consequences of these forces in social change. For example one of the negative impact of such social change is the declining sex ratio in the Indian society which is the result of new social values and emerging culture in the present time. The status of sex ratio in the country has recorded a declining trend in the present time. The scenario of sex ratio in north western states of the country is very alarming. The states of Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir are having lower sex ratios when compared with the country. In the given paper an attempt has been made to record the relative change in the sex ratio in the state of J&K during the past few decades.

Study Region

The J&K state of north-western part of the country has been selected for the study of relative change in the sex ratio of the state. The state lies in the Northern part of the country. The study region is divided into three distinct physiographic units namely Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. It has 22 Administrative districts namely Kupwara, Badgam, Leh, Kargil,

Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua, Baramulla, Bandipura, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag, Kulgam, Doda, Ramban, Kistwar, Udhampur, Reasi, Jammu and Samba.

Objectives

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To examine the change in the sex ratio in the study area.
2. To evaluate the relative change in the sex ratio over the selective temporal classes.

Database

Data for the present work have been obtained from the Secondary sources, where the census record of 2011 have been consulted and the relevant data have been recorded for the study.

Methodology

- In order to obtain the relative change in the Sex ratio in the State of Jammu & Kashmir over the different temporal classes i.e. 1981-1991, 1991-2001 and 2001-2011 the vital index technique has been used to see the relative change in the sex ratio in the state.
- The following formulation to obtain vital index is:

$$\frac{V_1}{V_0} \times 100$$

where: V_1 is current year,
 V_0 is base year

Analysis

District wise Sex Ratio in J&K State, 2011:

S. No.	Districts	Years			
		1981	1991	2001	2011
A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Kupwara	858	882	906	843
2	Budgam	880	906	931	883
3	Leh	886	854	823	583
4	Kargil	853	845	837	773
5	Poonch	889	904	919	890
6	Rajouri	906	892	878	863
7	Kathua	917	908	898	877
8	Baramulla	876	891	905	873
9	Bandipora	858	876	894	911
10	Srinagar	873	857	841	879
11	Ganderbal	871	894	917	869
12	Pulwama	906	919	942	913
13	Shopian	876	913	950	951
14	Anantnag	888	900	911	937
15	Kulgam	887	916	945	951
16	Doda	904	909	913	922
17	Ramban	867	878	889	901
18	Kistwar	896	900	904	917
19	Udhampur	934	876	846	863
20	Reasi	864	872	880	891

21	Jammu	912	889	865	871
22	Samba	945	896	897	886
Total		19546	19577	19691	19247

Source Census record 2011, J&K Govt

During the temporal class 1981-1991 the vital index rate of sex ratio has been recorded as 100.15%. In the next temporal class i.e 1991-2001 the vital index of sex ratio has been recorded as 100.58%. The third temporal class for the year 2001-2011 has shown the vital index of sex ratio at 97.74%. In the first temporal class of 1981-1991 the Vital Index Rate of sex ratio has shown 0.15% of increase in Female Population In the second temporal class of 1991-2001, 0.58% increase in female population has been recorded. The third temporal class of 2001-2011 has shown the decline in the vital index rate of the sex ratio in the state which stands at -2.26% in the study region.

Problems of declining sex ratio

- Too many male and few female will be seen in the society.
 - Insecurity for females will be increased and crimes against women will be more.
 - Family system will be broken and will shaken the base of the society.
 - Religion and caste system will be collapse and secular states will emerge.
 - Practise of homo-sex will expand.
 - In India after the year 2020 to get a bride will be impossible and about 20% of youth will remain unmarried.
- If there will be no mothers for procreation of human race then how the human race will remain.

Conclusion and suggestions

- On 13th of march 2013 the Jammu and Kashmir government expressed concern over the trend of declining sex ratio in the state.
- The government has decided to dedicate 2013 as the year of "SAVE GIRL CHILD".
- Sex ratio in the state is 883 for each 1000 males, which is below national average of 940 in 2011. In 2001, the sex ratio of female was 900 per 1000 male.
- Health infrastructure development in the state was on top priority of the government.
- The alarming decline in the sex ratio has prompted the separatist and the mainstream leaders to launch vigorous awareness campaigning for saving the girl child in J&K. Steps to check declining sex ratio in J&K.
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- The state should initiate to modify the two child policy with the combination of one son and a daughter, so that the imbalances in the sex ratio could be removed.
- A series of activities are to be organised to create awareness among the different stakeholders and community at large, about the declining sex ratio and its negative impact on the society as a whole.
- Spiritual leaders with mass appeal have to be involved, to educate the communities not to discriminate against girl children stay away from the practice like sex selection and female foeticide.
- People should be motivated to perform rituals by daughters over son's at the time of parents cremation and at every death anniversary thereafter.
- The availability of reliable and affordable old age pensions, social security and life insurance programmes should access to rural and urban areas ,which will possibly reduce the excessive dependence on sons.
- Law should be enacted to share the earnings of married daughters for old age parents , which reduce to son preference .
- The population policy of India should have focus on the need to have a right based and gender sensitive approach to population stabilization.
- The government should promote more higher and technical educational facilities in rural areas . There should be special incentive package for women education.
- The mentality of the human being should be changed.

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