



Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child and Educate Her) (A Geographical Analysis of Child Sex Ratio of Haryana)

NAVEEN KUMAR

ABSTRACT

Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao (save the girl child and educate her) programme included more than 50 percent districts of the Haryana. In this paper an attempt has been made to analysis geographically the child sex ratio of Haryana using census data 1971- 2011. Most districts have very low child sex ratio and included in Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao Programme while some districts have comparatively better child sex ratio and not included in programme. On an average child sex ratio showed some improvement from 819 in 2001 to 834 in 2011. But this is far behind than national average (918).

KEYWORDS : Child Sex Ratio, Census, Save Girl, Female Feticide, Ladli.

Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao Programme

A National level Programme *Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao* (save the girl child and educate her) started from Panipat, Haryana on 22nd Jan, 2015 by Honorable Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi. The main aim of this programme is to address the issue of decline in child sex-ratio. To increase child sex ratio a campaign is launch to ensure girls are born, nurtured and educated without discrimination to become empowered citizens of this country with equal rights. In India, child sex ratio is define as numbers of females children per 1,000 males children in the age group (0-6). Under this programme 100 districts from entire country were selected having child sex ratio below the national average (918) or showing decline trend in child sex ratio or both as per census 2011. Out of 100 districts 12 districts are from Haryana which are highest in numbers compare to any other states of India (perhaps this was only reason for starting this programme from Panipat. A close second to Haryana is neighboring Punjab with 11 gender critical districts followed by Utter Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan with 10 districts each. The only 5 states account 53 gender critical districts out of total 100 districts (see table 1).

Table: 1 India: districts under Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao Programme

Sr. No.	State	No. of Districts
1	Haryana	12
2	Punjab	11
3	Utter Pradesh	10
4	Rajasthan	10
5	Maharashtra	10
6	Jammu and Kashmir	5
7	Gujarat	5
8	Delhi	5
9	Other states	32
10	Total	100

Source- Women and child development department Govt. of India

Study Area- The state Haryana lie in north-west region of country. In absolute location Haryana located between 27 degree 39 min N to 30 degree 35 min N Latitude and between 74 degree 28 min and 77 degree 36 min E longitude. The total geographical area of state is 44212 sq. km. which is only 1.3 percent area of country. According to the 2011 census the total population of Haryana state is 2,53,51,462 which is 2 percent of India's population. Haryana comprises of 21 districts, 74 tehsil and 6500 villages.

Objective of Study- To analysis geographically the child sex ratio of districts included in *Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao* Programme and other districts of the state.

Review of Literature- The low child sex ratio of Haryana always attracts geographers and other social scientists to do research on this topic. The work of Sneh Sangwan and her friends (2014) on child sex ratio in rural Haryana is appreciable. A research paper under the heading declining in child sex ratio: challenges, causes and emerging

issues in Haryana by Kamal and Ashis (2014) highlight the causes and implications of child sex ratio.

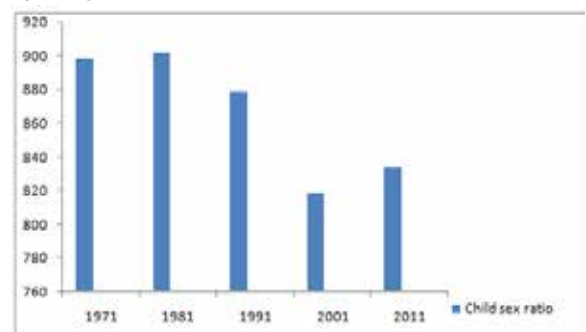
Temporal Pattern of Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age Group)-

Historically Haryana always find bottom place in child sex ratio table of India. Figure 1 shows the variation in child sex-ratio during 1971-2011. The barring some hiccups, Haryana experienced long term decline trends in child sex ratio. In 1971 (first census after the separation of Haryana from Punjab in 1966) the child sex ratio in Haryana was 898 females children over 1000 male children which increased to 902 in 1981 with the gain of four points. But after that there was a continuous decline in child sex ratio till 2001. In 1981 the child sex ratio was 902 which decline to 819 in 2001 with the decline of 79 points. However child sex ratio in Haryana has improved in 2011 contrast to national trends. In 2001 child sex ratio in Haryana was 819 which increased to 834 in 2011 with the gain of 15 points whereas in India it was 921 in 2001 which declined to 914 in 2011 with the decline of 13 points. The target set by Health Department under *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Programme* is to take the child sex ratio from 834 (2011) to 950 by 2017. The set target can be achieved by focusing on the villages which has child sex ratio less than 800. According to 2011 census 30 percentage villages has child-sex ratio below 800 in the state. Moreover, the tehsils like Beri, Bahardurgarh and Maham not even a single village has equal child sex ratio.

Reasons for Steady Increase in Child Sex Ratio

Firstly, according to Health Department of Haryana the steady increase over the years had shown that stricter monitoring could further increase the child-sex ratio among districts which has decline trends. Secondly the steady declines on dependence on son in urban areas increase the child sex ratio in urban area of the state. Thirdly the Ladli and Sagun schemes help in increase the child sex ratio among poor people of the state. Fourthly awareness programmes of govt. departments, local NGO and some village panchyats help in increase in the improvement.

Figure: 1 Haryana: Variation in child sex ratio in during 1971-2011



Source: Directorate of Census Operation, Haryana.

Districts under Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao Programme

In *Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao* Programme, the Union Govt. not only

adopted districts which had declining trend in child sex ratio but also those districts which has still low child sex ratio than other districts of Haryana. The table 2 reveals that from the 12 districts of *Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao* programme 4 districts has negative trend in child sex ratio like Mahendergarh(-40), Rewari (-24), Jhajjar(-19), Bhiwani (-9) and other 8 districts have comparatively low child-sex ratio than other districts of state (See table 2 and 4). In *Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao* programme the district like Kurukshetra also included in spite of highest growth of 47 points in child sex ratio in the state. There is a spatial shift of low child sex ratio districts. In 2001 Kurukshetra, Ambala and Sonapat recorded low child sex ratio whereas in 2011 Mahendergarh, Jhajjar and Rewari recorded low sex ratio (table 3).

Table 2- Haryana: Trend in child sex ratio in districts covered under *Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao* Programme during 2001-2011.

Sr.No	District	CSR* in 2001	CSR* 2011	Change in CSR* between 2001-2011
1	Mahendergarh	818	778	-40
2	Jhajjar	801	782	-19
3	Rewari	811	787	-24
4	Sonapat	788	798	10
5	Ambala	782	810	28
6	Kurukshetra	771	818	47
7	Rohtak	799	828	29
8	Karnal	809	824	15
9	Yamunanagar	806	826	20
10	Kaithal	791	828	37
11	Bhiwani	841	832	-9
12	Panipat	809	837	28
	Haryana	819	834	15

Source: - Directorate of Census Operation, Haryana.

CSR*= Child-Sex Ratio.

Table 3 Spatial shift of low child sex ratio districts in 2001 and 2011

Sr. No.	District	Child sex ratio in 2001
1	Kurukshetra	771
2	Ambala	782
3	Sonapat	788

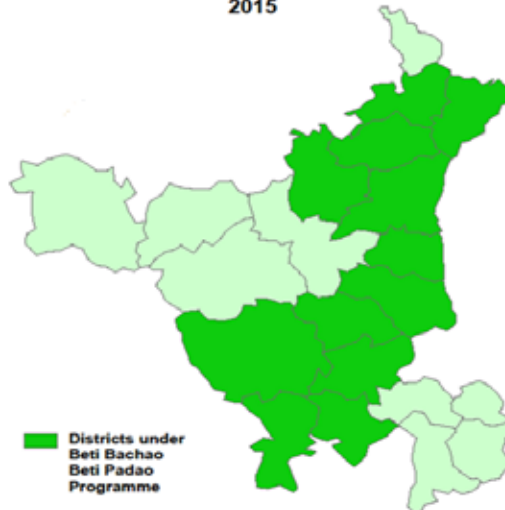
Sr. No.	District	Child sex ratio in 2011
1	Mahendergarh	778
2	Jhajjar	782
3	Rewari	787

The map 1 reveals that there is continuous belt of gender critical districts from north-east to south-west. The reasons for the low child sex ratio in these districts are following. Firstly, there is huge dependence on son in the rural society. It is common belief that it is only son who can perform the last rites. Secondly, dowry is another reason for low child sex ratio. For example, if a male has a Govt. job than he demand car from girl side. Thirdly the practice of female feticide due to illegal use of sex-selective technology. Fourthly, the desire to limit the family size i.e. if in a family two successive males children are born, family prefer to limit its size instead to give birth to a girl child. Fifthly, the father of a girl child worries about her security and match for her.

Consequences of Low Child- Sex Ratio in Gender Critical Districts

- Today this is reality that due to paucity of females the girls are bringing from north-east and Bihar states for males of Haryana to get married.
- In some small villages it becomes difficult to gather seven girls for worship of goddess.

Haryana Districts under *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* Programme 2015



Map 1 Districts not included in *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* Programme

The districts in north-west and south-east part of state have comparatively better child sex-ratio (see Map.1). Therefore these districts are not included in *Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao* programme. Except Faridabad all these districts had increasing trends in child sex ratio during 2001 and 2011 (see table 4). The districts in north-west like Sirsa, Fatehabad and some part of Jind and Hissar are Punjabi dominate society which has comparatively better child sex ratio. Similarly in south-east districts of state like Mewat(906) Palwal(866) and Faridabad(843) have comparatively better child sex ratio. It is interesting to note that in both census 2001 and 2011 child sex ratio in Mewat recorded highest in the state. The reason of better child sex ratio in Mewat, is less dependence on son child and absence of illegal use of sex selective technology. Better child sex ratio in Palwal district is because of the dominance of Muslim population in Hathin tehsil and in Faridabad district because of the family migration to a large extent due to rapid industrial growth (Dr.SnehSangwan and her friends, 2013). In north-east districts Panchkula is only district which has better child-sex ratio due to awareness programmes has launched by state health department and strict monitoring of child sex ratio in a short period.

It is hearting to note from village level child sex ratio data of 2011 that there are 670 villages which have better child sex ratio that is 1000 and above females children over 1000 male children in the state and most of these villages lies in Mewat, Faridabad and Palwal districts.

Table 4- Haryana: Trend in child sex ratio in districts not covers under *Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao* Programme during 2001-2011

Sr.No.	District	CSR* in 2001	CSR* 2011	Change in CSR* between 2001-2011
1	Mewat	893	906	13
2	Palwal	854	866	12
3	Panchkula	829	863	34
4	Sirsa	817	862	45
5	Fatehabad	828	854	26
6	Faridabad	847	843	-4
7	Jind	818	838	20
8	Hissar	832	855	23
9	Gurgaon	807	830	23
	Haryana	819	834	15

Source- Directorate of Census Operation, Haryana.

CSR*= Child-Sex Ratio.

Conclusion

The child sex-ratio has increased marginally from 819 in 2001 to 834 in 2011 with the possibility that it can be further improved with campaigns to sensitize people towards the concern of the girl child particularly in the districts where the child sex ratio is in a decline trend during 2001-2011. But this is still far behind the national average (918) and state average of 1981 census. In 1981 it was 902. The main cause of low child sex ratio is a huge dependence on sons. There is a continuous belt of low child sex ratio from north-east to south-west. The districts which are under *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* programme have to learn a lesson from the district like Mewat (the only district in the state which has a child sex-ratio more than 900) to make this programme successful. It is suggested that people of Haryana should always remember some slogan *Pet me Beti Kere Pukaar Jineka do Mujhe Adhikar* (girl is requesting from stomach for right to live), *Beti ha Sona Eise Mat Khona* (girl is gold don't lose it).

REFERENCES

- Chandna, R.C (2009) Geography of Population, Kalyani Publishers. | Sangwan, Sneha and others (2014) Spatial Patterns of Skewed Child Sex Ratio in Rural Haryana. | Mahapatra, S.K (March 2012) Saving the girl child, Yojana Publication. | Kumar, Pushan (2015) Declining Child sex ratio, employment news 14-20 February 2015. | Census of India (2011), Provisional Population Totals, Paper-1 of 2011, Haryana, Series 7, Director of Census Operations, Haryana. | Dhankar, R (June 2011) The economy at a Glance, Dhankar Publication, Meerut. | Husain, M (2002) Human Geography, Rawat Publications. | Kumar, Monu (Nov 2013), Child Sex Ratio in Jhajjar District (Haryana) A Spatio- Temporal Analysis | Kamal (march 2014) Declining child sex ratio: challenges and Emerging issues in Haryana