

Spatial Patterns of Gender Composition in Haryana



Social Science

KEYWORDS : Normal Sex Ratio, Child Sex Ratio, Mortality Rate, Areal Correspondence

Tarun Vats

Assistant Professor, Gaur Brahmin Degree College, Rohtak.

ABSTRACT

The overall sex ratio (the number of females per 1000 males) of India in 2011 Census was recorded seven points improved to 940 against 933 in census of 2001. As per Census 2011, the overall sex ratio in Haryana is 877 female per 1000 male, which is the lowest amongst all states of India, despite the fact that the State has experienced an increase of 10 points as against 819 in 2001. However, the area of grave concern remained the lowest and sharply declining juvenile ratio. The census 2011 figure out that the Juvenile sex ratio (0 to 6) came down to 914 females per 1000 males beside 927 in 2001, which shows prevalence of age old preference for male child to female child. In Haryana, juvenile sex ratio was recorded 877 which is 63 points lower than national average. By considering a spatio-temporal perspective, the present study examines the spatial as well temporal trends as well as pattern of normal and child sex ratio by residence.

Introduction

Sex ratio is an important structural aspect of population. The ratio between the sexes has its bearing on the other demographic characteristics of the region. In the absence of manipulation, the sex ratio (SR) at birth and SR at the enumeration is remarkably constant in human populations. Small alterations do occur naturally; for example, generally, slightly more males are born than females (a typical ratio would be 105 or 106 males for every 100 females). On the other hand, it is quite common for males to experience higher mortality at virtually all ages after birth. But irony is that the time-old preference for sons in Indian society has distorted these natural sex ratios in large parts of India and especially in Haryana where sex ratio is the lowest among all states of the country. This preference for male offspring is manifest in sex-selective abortion and in discrimination in nurturing and upbringing of girls, both of which lead to a higher female mortality rate. The overall sex ratio (the number of females per 1000 males) of India in Census, 2011 has recorded seven points improvement to 940 against 933 in census of 2001. This is the highest sex ratio the country has seen since census of 1971 and slightly lesser than 1961 census. As per Census 2011, the overall sex ratio in Haryana is 877 females per 1000 males, which is the lowest among all the states of India, despite the fact that the state has experienced an increase of 10 points as against 819 in 2001. However, the area of serious concern remains the lowest juvenile sex ratio of 914. The 2011 census figures tell that the Juvenile sex ratio (0 to 6) came down to 914 females per 1000 males from 927 females per 1000 males in 2001, which shows age-old liking for male children to female children. Speedy decline of child sex ratio in the state is a serious problem with rigorous socio-economic, demographic and cultural implications. Sex ratio is also an important structural aspect of population

Study Area and Justification of study area

The Haryana State has been carved out of the erstwhile Punjab (India) and came into existence on November 1, 1966. The total geographical area of the State is 44,212 sq. km. constituting about 1.3% of the total geographical area of the country. There are 21 districts in Haryana as per 2011 census. Haryana provides an ideal situation for exploring gender disparities in child health. It is a fairly well developed State with second highest per capita income in India (Government of India, 2011). It is also a state which has shown a strong evidence of preference for male child. It has the most unbalanced child sex ratio in India (Office of the Registrar General of India, 2011). In Haryana, 10 out of 21 districts have registered a decline in the child sex ratio in 2011.

Objectives of the Study

The two-fold objectives of the present study are

1. To study the trends in sex ratio of Haryana since 1971-2011,
2. To analyse the spatial patterns of sex ratio by residence in Haryana.

Sources of Data and Methodology

The Present study is largely based on secondary data sources. The data is collected mainly from Paper-1 and Paper- 2011 published so far on Haryana by the Director of Census Operations, Haryana, Chandigarh along with the publications made by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, New Delhi. Some of the relevant data meant for the purpose have also been obtained from previous years' publications of the Census of India. The reference year for the secondary data is 2011. Various research journals and standard books pertaining to population geography and websites were also reviewed.

Sex Ratio = Number of Females / No. of Males * 1000

Rural Urban Sex Ratio Gap = Rural Sex Ratio – Urban Sex Ratio

Arc GIS 9.3 is used for making all maps.

Trends in Overall Sex Ratio

India's sex ratio (SR) was 930 in 1971 which after showing a little improvement in 1981, again declined by 7 points in 1991. After 1991, there was a positive growth recorded. In 2011, it reached up to 940 (fig. 1) as compared to 933 in 2001. Haryana was placed at the bottom among states of India in context of SR. In the State, the SR has been low throughout the census history. It remained always much lower than overall SR of the country. SR in Haryana reached up to 877 in 2011 which was 867 in 1971. During the period 1981-2001, it declined sharply. The gap between the SR of India and the SR of Haryana was 63 in 1971 and it still remains at the same level, 63, in 2011 census.

Fig. 1



Source: Census of India Publications- 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011

Trends in Juvenile Sex Ratio (0-6)

The condition is much worse and alarming in child sex ratio (CSR) (0-6 age group) at both national as well as at the state level. At national level, a constant decline has been noticed, where CSR was 964 in 1971 which further reduced to 914 (by 50 points) in 2011. In Haryana, CSR was recorded around 898

in 1971 which further declined to 819 in 2001 (a decline by 79 points) and slightly rose in 2011 (830). But as a whole, from 1971 to 2011 (fig 2), the State has experienced a decline by 68 points which is more than national decline rate for CSR which is 50. The gap in CSR between India and Haryana was 66 in 1971, which becomes 84 in 2011. This declining trend in CSR in the State is an issue of major concern for future planning.

Fig. 2



Source: Census of India Publications- 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011

Spatial Patterns of Sex Ratio

Spatial Patterns of sex ratio in Haryana are highly diverse. SR in all the districts of the State remained below the national average. Only two districts, Mewat and Fatehabad, in the State experienced a higher sex ratio of figures 906 & 903 respectively. Western Haryana adjoining NCR region (map 1) is experiencing lowest sex ratio like Gurgaon (853), Sonipat (853), Panipat (861).

Table 1

Overall Sex Ratio

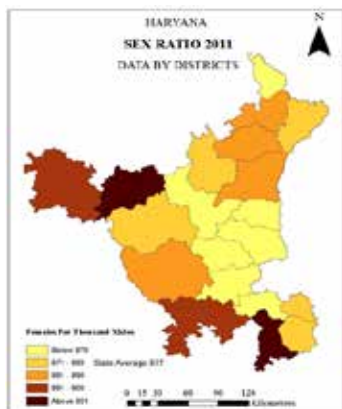
Females Per 1000 Males	Districts
Below 870	Panchkula, Panipat (861), Rohtak, Sonipat (853), Jind, Jhajjar (861), Gurgaon (853)
871-880	Faridabad, Palwal, Hisar, Kaithal, Yamunanagar
881-890	Ambala, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Bhiwani
891-900	Mahendragarh, Rewari, Sirsa
Above 901	Mewat (906), Fatehabad (903)

Table 2

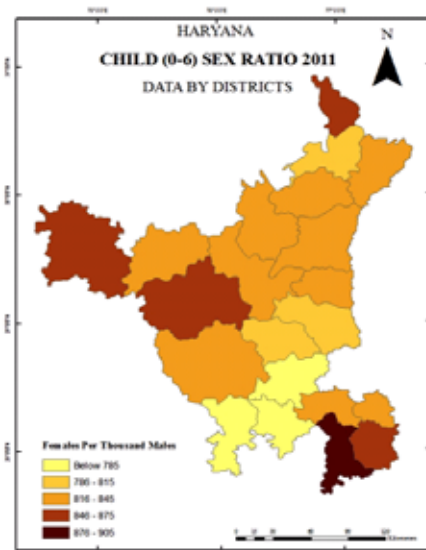
Child Sex Ratio

Females Per 1000 Males	Districts
Below 785	Jhajjar (774), Mahendragarh (778), Rewari (784)
786-815	Sonipat (790), Ambala (807), Rohtak (807),
816-845	Gurgaon, Faridabad, Bhiwani, Fatehabad (845), Jind, Panipat, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar
846-875	Sirsa, Hisar, Palwal, Panchkula
876-905	Mewat (903)

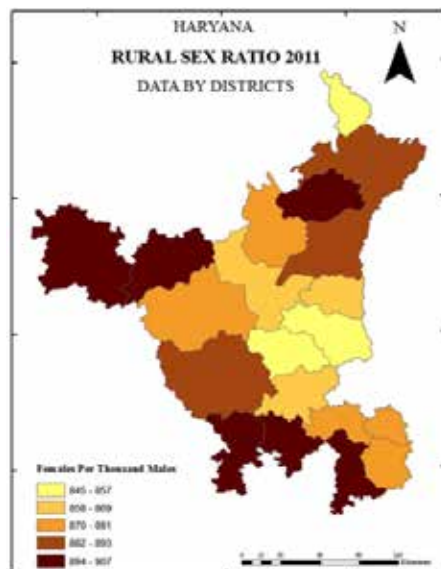
Map 1



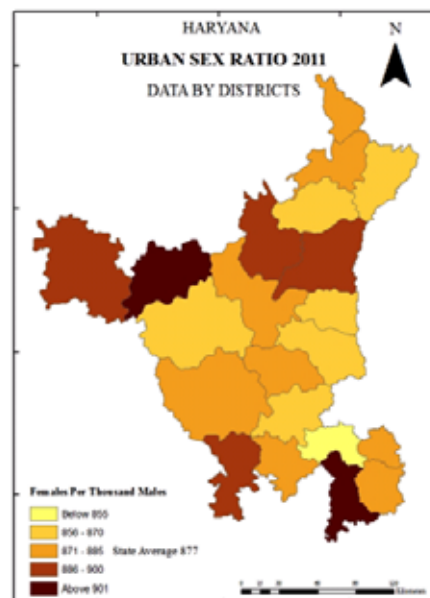
Map 2



Map3



Map4



Highest rural sex ratio has been noticed in western and southern Haryana which include districts of Fatehabad (903), Mewat (907), Mahendragarh. (903). Lowest rural SR, less than 860, has been recorded in Sonipat, Rohtak and Panchkula. Apart from higher rural SR, Mewat (903) and Fatehabad (903) districts of Haryana are experiencing higher urban SR as well. Lowest urban SR has been noticed in Gurgaon (842).

The condition is much worse in case of child SR in Haryana and also widely diverse. Where the overall SR of Haryana is 853, the SR in 0-6 age group remained only around 774, indicating that the State is likely to experience a much worse situation in future. Districts like, Jhajjar (774), Mahendragarh (778), Rewari (784), Sonipat (790), Ambala (807), Rohtak (807) (map 2) represent a minimal value in terms of juvenile sex ratio which is very unfortunate.

Rural Urban Gap in Sex Ratio, 2011: Haryana

The spatial patterns of rural-urban gender gap present a surprising distinction among the south western and eastern districts of Haryana. The central and eastern districts of Haryana, which enjoy more urbanized and economically prosperous status than south western districts of Haryana, are experiencing a higher urban sex ratio and lower rural sex ratio.

Map 5

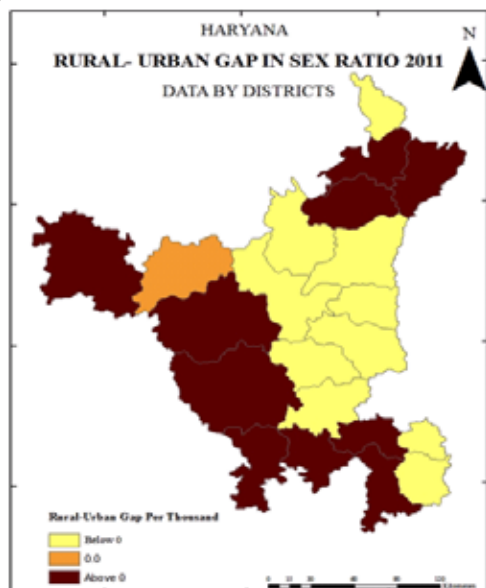


Table 3

Rural- Urban Gap in Sex Ratio	Districts
Below 0 (High SR in Urban Areas)	Palwal, Faridabad, Jhajjar, Rohtak, Sonipat, Panipat, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Panchkula
Zero 0 (Equal SR in Rural and Urban)	Fatehabad
Above 0 (High SR in Rural Areas)	Kurukshetra, Ambala, Fatehabad, Yamunanagar, Sirsa, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh, Rewari, Mewat, Gurgaon

On the other hand, the districts of south western Haryana have high SR in rural areas as compared to urban areas. Fatehabad, which has the highest SR in the State, is showing equal distribution of rural urban SR (map 5).

Conclusion

From the above analysis, it can be concluded that Haryana not only has the lowest overall and juvenile sex ratio but is also showing considerable intra-state variations. Apparent distinction in spatial patterns of sex ratio can be seen at the regional level in western Haryana around NCR and in eastern Haryana. Two least urbanized and least literate districts Mewat and Fatehabad are enjoying highest overall sex ratio.

A major cause of lower overall SR in western districts of Haryana is that it lies in NCR region and is experiencing more industrial male dominant labor. Apart from this, major origin of this gender gap lies in the male child preferring mindset, whereby people think son shall carry the responsibility of their agricultural land, other factors as easy accessibility and availability of sex determination technology for sex selected abortions, dowry system, insecurity of a girl child and insecurity of women in the society in "deshwali" belt of the State which comprises mainly Sonipat, Panipat, Rohtak, Jind and Jhajjar. These districts are not only showing lowest overall sex ratio but the lowest juvenile sex ratio also.

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