



Analysis of Sex-Ratio in Uttarakhand State from 1901-2011 : a Study

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ABSTRACT

Universally it is truth that the women is the backbone of human life on earth and they are only carriers of the human life and civilization. Their importance can not be ignored. But in society they have not much equality and independency like man. Their decisions and life is regulated by men in the society. Having a girl child in country like India is not a good sign for the couple the society expect a male child. This resulted the decline in the sex ratio time by time. The present analysis highlights the disparities in sex-ratio in Uttarakhand

Keywords : Sex ratio, Census, Uttarakhand

INTRODUCTION

The present study is an analysis of men women ratio (sex-ratio) in Uttarakhand from 1901 to current census 2011. Uttarakhand is the newly carved state from Uttar Pradesh in the year 2000 stands 27th state in country and 11th state in the Himalayan range states with 53483 Sq. Mt area. According to the census 2011 the population of the state is 1.01 Crore which is approximately 0.84% of total Indian Population with literacy of 79.63%. It is divided into two broad regions--Garhwal and Kumaon. The state comprises of 13 districts, namely, Chamoli, Pauri, Tehri, Uttarkashi, Dehradun, Haridwar and Rudraprayag in the Garhwal region and Nainital, Almora, Pithoragarh, Udham Singh Nagar, Champawat and Bageshwar in the Kumaon region. Of these 13 districts, four districts (Nainital, Haridwar, Dehradun and Udham Singh Nagar) have large areas in the plains, whereas the other nine districts comprise the hill region of the state. Agriculture is the main source of local economy in the hill areas of state while in the plain areas industrialization has developed in past years after the creation of new state. Most of the population is working for their livelihood in informal sector in the state and formal sector has a few. In formal sector private sector is the major source of employment for state in comparison to the public sector.

NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study highlights the decadal changes in sex ratio in last 110 years in Uttarakhand. This also analyses the variation in sex ratio time by time in between the districts and within the districts. The study will highlight the main factors which have affected time by time the gender ratio and will suggest to reduce the gender gap in the study area.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

To analyse the data, Standard Deviation and Coefficient of Variation was calculated with the help of data which was collected from various secondary sources.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(i) Changes in Sex ratio between India and Uttarakhand

Going through the table no. 1 we can see the analysis of sex-ratio between the state and country from 1901-2011. Since 1951 the state's sex-ratio (940) was below the nation (946) which was highest (940) in 1951 and lowest (831) in 1901 but it showed the improvement (except in 1931 & 1941) while in the same span the country's sex ratio was in decreasing order. Year 1961 can be seen as the turning point for Uttara-

khand when the ratio (947) is recorded higher than country's ratio (941) but upto 1991 census the state and nations sex-ratio was recorded in declining but in these four decades Uttarakhand was in good position in comparing to India's sex-ratio. In census 2001 the sex ratio was recorded +26 and it was quiet higher than India's sex ratio (933). In recent census India has recorded (+7) increase in ratio while the state has recorded 963, (+1) from the previous year (see table 01).

(ii) Changes in Sex ratio between Districts of Uttarakhand

The table 02 shows the sex-ratio in various districts of Uttarakhand from 1901 to current census. If we go through district-wise then district like Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Tehri Garhwal, Pauri Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Almora and Bageshwar are in better position since 1901 census mostly in last eleven decades the number of women were more (above 1000 approx.) than the number of men in these districts but the plain area districts i.e. Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar did not performed good in comparison to hill districts they are trailed by hill region of the state in men-women ratio. While going through the performance of thirteen districts in each census Almora recorded the highest ratio (1147) in 2001 and Dehradun recorded lowest (644) in 1941. During Five decades (1901-1951) Rudraprayag recorded the highest rate of women in comparison to per thousand men and Dehradun was at his lowest in this span. In present last three decades (1991-2011) Almora has highest sex-ratio and Haridwar has the lowest one. In these three decades where Almora was recorded (1050+) but Haridwar is below (880) which can clear the picture of gender ratio in the district which is in crucial condition.

(iii) Decadal Increase/Decrease in sex ratio in various districts

Table 02 shows the increase/decrease in sex ratio between different census. The highest increase +155 in number of women was found in Tehri Garhwal (1941-1951) and the decline of -98 in the same district in between (1971-1981). While going through district decadalwise in first decade (1901-1911) Uttarkashi was highest number of increase +11 and Dehradun has highest number of decrease -37. In between (1911-1921) Pauri recorded +48 and Udham Singh Nagar recorded highest decrease of -48, (1921-1931) Dehradun has +17 and Tehri & Uttarkashi had -18, (1931-41) Champawat +14 and Uttarkashi -41, (1941-51) Tehri Garhwal +155 and Champawat -5, (1951-61) Almora +54 and Uttarkashi -29, (1961-

71) Nainital +122 and Chamoli -68, (1971-81) Udham Singh Nagar +67 and Tehri Garhwal -98, (1981-91) Uttarkashi +37 and Chamoli -38, (1991-2001) Bageshwar +55 and there was no decrease in this decade. And in current census Tehri Garhwal and Nainital recorded highest increase with +27 and Champawat recorded highest decrease with -43.

(iv) Disparities in Sex Ratio districts of Uttarakhand

While going through the table no. 02 and taking a look at figure 02 it shows wide disparity is found to exist in the sex-ratio which was measured by the coefficient of variation which shows the disparity among the districts. From very beginning the disparity have been measures among the districts in Uttarakhand. From census 1901 (11.34) it has regular increased upto 1961 census (18.03) and from 1971 the coefficient of variation shows the disparity has been reduced among the districts i.e. (15.21) in 1971, (12.04) in 1981, (9.76) in 1991, (9.60) in 2001 and (8.86) in 2011.

CONCLUSION

The above discussion reveals that these differentials in sex-ratio across the districts are mainly attributed to differences in migration and mortality and provide an index of the neglect of the girl child. The low sex ratio is also attributable to low female literacy, lack of nutrition, poor health facilities and also

the patriarchal order in the society of India and all these factors seems presented in the states society in the context of Uttarakhand women. If we go through the data of various districts it shows that the high and low sex ratio are varied among the districts of Uttarakhand. The above discussion also reveals that the sex ratio in hill districts is quiet high i.e. Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Tehri Garhwal, Pauri Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Almora and Bageshwar. One of the main cause behind this can be said that this is the trend in these areas that due to non economic activities in the areas men have migrated (inter regional or intra regional) for employment or other issues while women still stick at their origin place and heads the family. On other hand the plain districts of the state are recorded lowest in sex-ratio i.e. Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar. These are plain and more developed areas of the state in comparison to the hill districts. Industrial, Educational, Medical facilities has polarised upto these four districts which resulted the migration of men from higher altitudes and interior areas to these more developed and opportunistic areas. This is one of the reason which have swelled the male population in these plain districts and decrease the sex-ratio in these areas. The other reasons also work in these areas is the easily reach facility to sex determination test and easy termination of pregnancies (if the determined is baby girl) which pushed the female birth less than male birth.

ANNEXURE

Table 1 : Decadal comparison of sex-ratio between India and Uttarakhand

Year	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
INDIA	972	964	955	950	945	946	941	930	934	926	933	940
Increase/Decrease ^a		-8	-9	-5	-5	1	-5	-11	4	-8	7	7
UTTARAKHAND	831	907	916	913	907	940	947	940	936	936	962	963
Increase/Decrease ^b		76	9	-3	-6	33	7	-7	-4	0	26	1

Source : The data for above table is taken from **Uttaranchal Ek Adhyayan, Sahitya Bhawan Publication, Agra (2003) pp. 15** and the values α , β are Computed by author

Table 2 : Decadewise sex ratio in Uttarakhand

District	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Uttarkashi	1015	1026(11)	1035(9)	1017(-18)	976(-41)	993(17)	964(-29)	899(-65)	881(-18)	918(37)	941(23)	959(18)
Chamoli	1028	1033(5)	1080(47)	1066(-14)	1073(7)	1092(19)	1103(11)	1035(-68)	1020(-15)	982(-38)	1017(35)	1021(4)
Rudraprayag	1061	1067(6)	1105(38)	1092(-13)	1084(-8)	1144(60)	1169(25)	1169(0)	1121(-48)	1094(-27)	1117(23)	1120(3)
Tehri Garhwal	1006	1016(10)	1025(9)	1007(-18)	967(-40)	1122(155)	1196(74)	1179(-17)	1081(-98)	1048(-33)	1051(3)	1078(27)
Dehradun	733	696(-37)	656(-40)	673(17)	644(-29)	715(71)	766(51)	770(4)	811(41)	843(32)	893(50)	902(9)
Pauri Garhwal	1031	1035(4)	1083(48)	1069(-14)	1076(7)	1137(61)	1163(26)	1119(-44)	1091(-28)	1058(-33)	1104(46)	1103(-1)
Pithoragarh	977	971(-6)	1000(29)	998(-2)	1010(12)	1020(10)	1052(32)	1033(-19)	1027(-6)	992(-35)	1031(39)	1021(-10)
Champawat	928	924(-4)	946(22)	947(1)	961(14)	956(-5)	929(-27)	955(26)	947(-8)	945(-2)	1024(79)	981(-43)
Almora	989	983(-6)	1012(29)	1011(-1)	1023(12)	1060(37)	1114(54)	1100(-14)	1095(-5)	1099(4)	1147(48)	1142(-5)
Bageshwar	936	931(-5)	959(28)	957(-2)	969(12)	1008(39)	1024(16)	1057(33)	1031(-26)	1055(24)	1110(55)	1093(-17)
Nainital	780	753(-27)	706(-47)	693(-13)	689(-4)	699(10)	715(16)	837(122)	847(10)	881(34)	906(25)	933(27)
USN	812	785(-27)	737(-48)	723(-14)	720(-3)	731(11)	726(-5)	774(48)	841(67)	863(22)	902(39)	919(17)
Hardwar	864	823(-41)	818(-5)	820(2)	802(-18)	806(4)	796(-10)	803(7)	817(14)	846(29)	868(22)	879(11)
Mean ^a	935.38	926.38	935.54	928.69	922.62	960.23	978.23	979.23	970.00	971.08	1008.54	1011.62
SD ^b	106.03	122.45	153.82	149.13	154.42	165.87	176.37	148.96	116.82	94.81	96.81	89.61
Coff. Of Variation ^c	11.34	13.22	16.44	16.06	16.74	17.27	18.03	15.21	12.04	9.76	9.60	8.86

Source : The above data for table is taken from **Uttaranchal Ek Adhyayan, Sahitya Bhawan Publication, Agra (2003) pp. 15** and α , β , Ω values computed by author and the data in () shows Decadal Increase/Decrease number In Sex-Ratio Of Various Districts from its previous year.

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