ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Economics

CHILD SEX RATIO IN DROUGHT PRONE AREAS A STUDY OF RAYALASEEMA REGION IN ANDHRA PRADESH

KEY WORDS: Drought, Child Sex Ratio

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ABSTRACT

In general, the Child Sex Ratio is defined as the number of females per thousand males in the age group 0–6 years in a human population. In India, the child sex ratio was 945 during 1991; it declined to 927 in 2001 and further to 918 in 2011. It is indicative towards women disempowerment. The present paper endeavours to examine the status of Child Sex ratio in drought prone areas of Andhra Pradesh. The State of Andhra Pradesh is consisting of two regions namely, Rayalaseema region and Coastal region. The Rayalaseema region has four districts which is completely drought areas. The rainfall is very less which is not sufficient for cultivation. The deteriorating ratio of 2001 to 2011 Census indicates the status of Child Sex Ratio in Rayalaseema region.

1.0 Introduction:

Weather shocks play a huge role in income variability in the developing world **(Wolpin, 1982; Paxson, 1992).** In rural areas in India, droughts constitute significant productivity shocks, as agriculture is the main source of income and employment and approximately 70 percent of the cultivated area is rainfed **(Droogers et al., 2001).** A large number of studies have found an excess mortality of girls relative to boys in South Asia **(Sen 1981, 1984; Dréze and Sen 1989).**

In India, another concern is the secular decline in the child sex ratio (CSR– girls per 1000 boys aged 0-4 or 0-6) in India from 976 in 1961 to 918 in 2011; the SRS (2013) reports a figure of 909 for 2011-13. Globally CSR is calculated as boys per 100 girls. Comparatively, in Asia and the Pacific, the CSR (boys per 100 girls aged 0-14) was 110 in 2012, much higher than the sex ratio under natural conditions (105). While China's CSR declied from 121 in 2010 to 117 in 2012, India's CSR increased from 109 to 111 over the same period.

Table:1.5.3 Child Sex ratio (0-6) in India

Year	Child Sex Ratio	Rural	Urban
1981	962	963	931
1991	945	948	935
2001	927	934	903
2011	914	919	902

Source: Census Data

Table1.5.4 Child sex ration India & southern states

Southern States	1991	2001	2011	Difference
Andhra Pradesh	975	964	944	-20
Kerala	958	963	960	-3
Karnataka	960	949	948	-1
Tamil Nadu	948	939	943	+5
All-India	945	927	914	-13

Source: Census Data

In the case of Child Sex Ratio among the States/Union Territories the highest is reported by Mizoram (971), followed by Meghalaya (970), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (966), Puducherry (965) and Chhattisgarh (964). On the contrary, states and union territories which have reported lowest child sex ratio (0-6years) are Haryana (830) followed by Punjab (846), Jammu & Kashmir (859), NCT of Delhi (866) and Chandigarh (867).

With this background of the study the present paper endeavours to examine the child sex ratio in Drought Prone regions particularly in Andhra Pradesh.

2.0Objectives:

i. to study gender inequalities in drought prone areas

3.0. Methodology:

The Rayalaseema Region, comprising of four Districts i.e, Anantapur, Kurnool, Kadapa and Chitoor, all these four districts of Andhra Pradesh in particular this region is considered in the study. The Rayalaseema Region is still backward in all spheres of activity. The secondary data had collected from the various sources like Report of Census of India, District census handbook and Statistical abstract Andhra Pradesh.

4.0. Andhra Pradesh scenario:

Andhra Pradesh State, annually producing about 140.27 Lakh Metric Tons of Foodgrains (2012-13), is an important State in Nation's Food Production. With about 49.38 Million Population, most of who live in rural areas, agriculture is the main stay of their livelihood. 50.6 per cent of State's Main workforce is engaged in Agriculture & allied activities and Agriculture and allied Sectors accounts for 27.30 % of Gross State domestic product (GSDP) at current price.

As per the World Agriculture Census (WAC) 2010-11, in Andhra Pradesh 7.62 million farmers of which 86.29% are Small and Marginal Farmers. With more than 50% of un irrigated area under cultivation, agriculture continues to be monsoon dependant, primarily on South West Monsoon (SWM) through which State receives 2/3 of its rainfall. The State with 5 chronically drought prone districts (viz., Ananthapur, YSR Kadapa, Chittoor, Kurnool, and Prakasam) out of 13 districts.

As per Census – 2011 (Provisional), the total population of the state is 493.8 lakhs. Of which, population in Coastal Andhra is 341.9 lakhs (69.2 per cent of total population) and Rayalaseema Region 151.85 lakhs (30.8 per cent of total Population). Population of Scheduled Castes is 17.1 per cent of total Population and population of Scheduled Tribes is 5.3 per cent of total population. In Andhra Pradesh, Agriculture Work Force is 50.6 per cent of total work force as per Population Census –2011.

With two distinct geographical regions, Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra, the State covers an area of 160,204 square KMs accounting for 4.87 per cent of total area in the country, Coastal Andhra 92,906 Sq KMs (58 per cent of State area) and Rayalaseema covering an area of 67,298 Sq KMs (42 per cent of State area).

5.0 Child Sex Ratio in Rayalaseema Region:

Drought is a temporary aberration; it differs from aridity, which is restricted to low rainfall regions and is a permanent feature of climate. Droughts are categorized as meteorological, hydrological, and agricultural **(World Bank, 2005).** The word 'drought' indicates scarcity of water for ecosystems, land and human use, resulting in failing crops, livestock, livelihoods and human health. In Andhra Pradesh there are 10 Districts under drought crisis, they are: Anantapur, Chittoor, YSR Kadapa, Kurnool, Prakasam, SPSR Nellore, Guntur, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Krishna. The four districts i.e., YSR Kadapa, Kurnool, Anantapur and Chittoor lies in Rayalaseema region which is completely dry area.

Rayalaseema is a landlocked region with an expanse of 67,298 Sq Km accounting for 42 per cent of the total geographical area of Andhra Pradesh. The region from its location extends approximately from 12°3'N to 16°15' North Latitude and 76°55' E to 79°55' East Longitude. Geographically the Rayalaseema region

forms the south and South-Eastern portion of the Deccan Plateau. It is located nearly in the middle of the southerly portion of the Indian peninsula. It includes within its fold the districts of Anantapur, Chittoor, Kadapa and Kurnool. It is bordered on the south by the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, on the west by Karnataka state, on the north by Telangana and on the east by coastal region of Andhra Pradesh. The Rayalaseema region has no coastline and is approachable only by land. The area lies mostly at an altitude of approximately 300 to 700 meters above mean sea level. Rayalaseema region is the still neglected and economically backward region when compare to Coastal Andhra and also the region faces so many problems. Rayalaseema receives more rain from the South-West monsoon than the North-East monsoon. The average annual rainfall is hardly 672mm. South-West monsoon spreads from early June till the remainder of September. The North-East monsoon is generally from October to December. The cropping pattern also varies with the effect of temperature, soil and other irrigation facilities. The food crops occupy a significant place, among them paddy, jowar and other millets are main. Among the commercial crops, groundnut is the most predominant crops followed by sugarcane and cotton.

Table:4.1.1. Sex Ratio in Drought Region of Rayalaseema (Female per 1000 Male)

Census Year	Rayalaseema Region			
	Chittoor	Kadapa	Kurnool	Anantapur
1951	954	952	979	943
1961	957	957	977	946
1971	960	958	969	947
1981	966	959	962	946
1991	966	955	953	946
2001	982	974	965	958
2011	997	985	988	977
ANDHRA PRADESH	997 (2011 Census)			
INDIA	943 (2011 Census)			

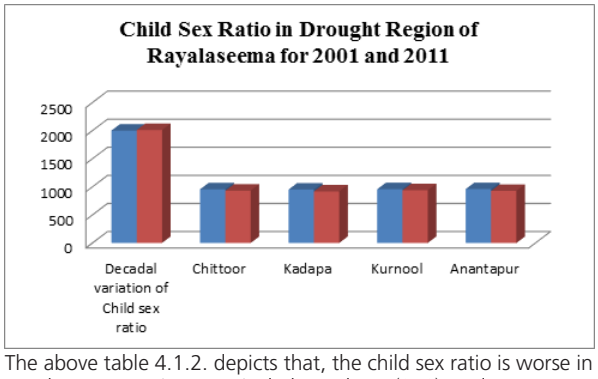
Source: Hand Books of Statistics, Rayalaseema region.

Table:4.1.2 Child Sex Ratio in Drought Region of Rayalaseema (Female per 1000 Male)

Year	Rayalaseema Region			
	Chittoor	Kadapa	Kurnool	Anantapur
2001	955	951	958	959
2011	931	918	938	927
ANDHRA PRADESH	944 (2011 Census)			
INDIA	914 (2011 Census)			

Source: Population Census (2011)

Figure: 4.1.3



The above table 4.1.2. depicts that, the child sex ratio is worse in Rayalaseema region, particularly Kadapa (918) and Anantapur (927). A particularly troubling form of gender bias is the sex imbalance at birth. **Sen (1990)** famously highlighted this problem of missing women, which he found to be concentrated in East and South Asia.

6.0. Conclusion

The sex ratio of Indian population has always been of topical interest for the demographers, social scientists, women's groups, research scholars and various planners and policy makers. Why is it that India has such uneven composition of population as compared to most of the developed countries in the world? Several reasons are adduced to explain the consistently low levels of sex ratio and their further decline in the country. Some of the important reasons commonly put forward are listed below:

i. Neglect of the girl child resulting in their higher mortality at younger ages
ii. High maternal mortality
iii. Sex selective female abortions
iv. Female infanticide
v. Change in sex ratio at birth

It is clear that the sex ratio in the age group 0-6 has decreased at a much faster pace than the overall sex ratio of the country after 1981. The decreasing sex ratio in this child population perhaps has a cascading effect on population over a period of time leading to diminishing sex ratio in the country **(Provisional Population Totals Chapter 6).**

The drought prone areas of Rayalaseema, this study argues that growing drought stress have stimulated changes in the early marriage and having son's preference and the tendency by many farmers to be involved in non-farm income generating activities. . In Andhra Pradesh particularly in Rayalaseema region the child sex ratio is drastically decreases. Government should take appropriate measures have to take up. Female literacy needs to be improved. To conclude this paper, Literacy is essential for eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving Gender equality and ensuring sustainable development.

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