

Geographical Analysis of Child Sex Ratio in Haryana: Issue and Challenge

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ABSTRACT: *The present paper examine the spatio-temporal inter district variation in child sex ratio of the state Haryana. Sex ratio is the one of the good indicator to know the not only women status in the society but also socio-economic conditions of a region. The sex ratio in Haryana during the past hundred years has remained about between (835 to 870). In 1901, the sex ratio in the State was 867 while in 1981 it was 870. But after 1981 there was a continue decreasing in sex ratio, in 1991 it was 865 and in 2001 it was 861. Although, an increase of 11 points has been noticed in CSR during the decade 2001 to 2011. But the total sex ratio and child sex ratio of the state is the lowest position in country. So, this state is the main focus area of this study. The decreasing child sex ratio is a great matter of concern because it will lead to serious demographic imbalance and adverse social consequences in near future of the state. This paper analysis the child sex ratio of Haryana and will also discuss the initiatives adopted by state government to improve child sex ratio. Like Ladly, Beti Bacho, Beti Padhao and Sukanya Samriddhi yojana etc. This study also provides results that people of Haryana preferred birth of son as compared to the daughter. The paper is based on both primary and secondary data.*

“Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenges of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance -Kofi Annan”

Key words: *child sex ratio, census of India, demography, spatio-temporal,*

INTRODUCTION:-

Sex ratio intimates the balance between males and females in the total population. Sex ratio is expressed in terms of a ratio between the numerical strength of males and females in the total population, sex ratio of population controls the various demographic features in a community. 'As the two sexes play partly contrasting and partly complementary roles in economy and society, the study of sex composition assumes added significance for a population geographers' [2]. Changes in Child Sex Ratio index reflect underlying socio-economic and cultural patterns of the society, especially its attitude towards the girl child. In many states of India there is no social respect for its girl children. In Haryana, there are various social, economic, demographic indicators provide evidences of gender biasness (declining child sex ratio) and inequity against girls children. Many studies in Haryana point out that female ratio in total population had always remained unfavorable. The 2001& 2011 census of India shows imbalance in child sex ratio (CSR). Survival of girl child in many districts of Haryana is a critical issue. In mostly states of India the trends of son preferences is increasing day by day. Couples who has only girl child not get social respect in the society. Although according to census of India 2011 a little bit improvement shown in Haryana child sex ratio over the last census 2001 but more strong efforts are necessary for the uplifting of the girls ratio in Haryana

Study area

Haryana state is one of the prosperous states of India. It lies between to 27°12' north to and 30°30' northern latitude and 74°28' east to 77°36' eastern longitude. It occupies a geographical area of about 44,212 sq.km. Haryana is a land locked state located in the northern part of India. The state shares its boundary with Uttar Pradesh in the East, Punjab in the West, Himachal Pradesh in the North and Rajasthan in the South. According to 2011 census, its population is 2.53 crore out

of which 13494734 males and 11856728 females. The density is 573 persons per square kilometer. The sex ratio recorded 877 females per thousand males while child sex ratio recorded 830, which is lowest in national average sex ratio.

Objectives:

- (1) To study the spatio-temporal variation child sex ratio in Haryana.
- (2) To examine the government initiatives to improving sex ratio in Haryana

Database and Methodology:

The Present research paper is based on mainly secondary source of data which is derived from census department of India and statistical abstract of Haryana. Although primary source of data also used in explaining the cause of lowest child sex ratio.

Spatial pattern of child sex ratio:

The whole state's child sex ratio average 830 female children per thousand male children .But on the district level the Child sex ratio varies from district to district ranges from 775 to 906. All 21 districts are categorized into three groups as

Follows:

Very Low Child Sex Ratio:

The districts which have the sex ratio below 800 are included into very low category. Very low Child sex ratio was recorded in the districts of Sonipat, Mahendragarh, Rewari, Jhajjar.

Low Child Sex Ratio:

The districts which have the sex ratio ranges 800 to 850 are included into low category. Low sex ratio was recorded in the districts of

Gurgaon, Faridabad, Hisar, Fatehabad, Jind, Panipat, Bhiwani, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar, Panchkula, Kaithal, Karnal, Rohtak.

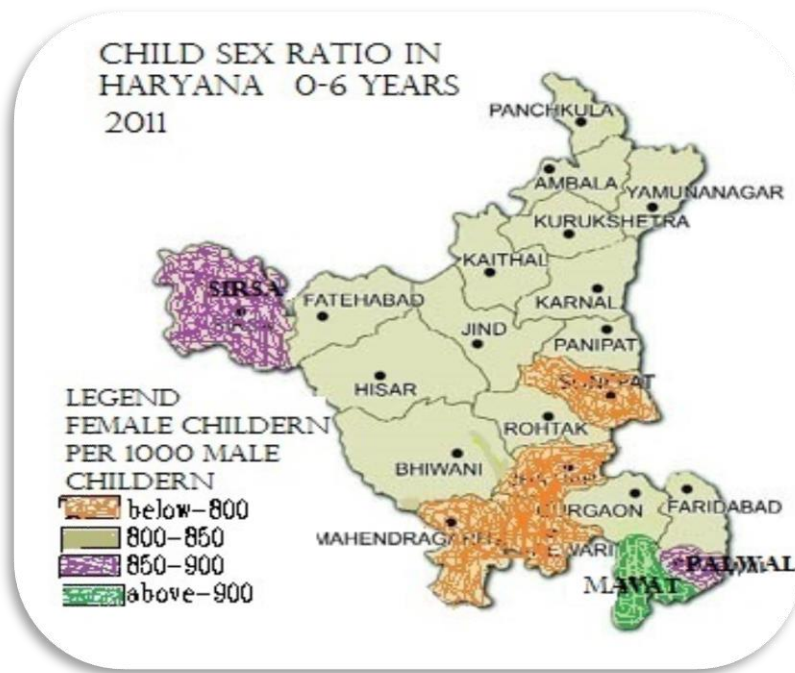
Average Child Sex Ratio:

The districts which have the sex ratio ranges 850 to 900 are included into moderate category. Moderate sex ratio was recorded in two districts Palwal and Sirsa.

High Child Sex Ratio:

The districts which have the sex ratio ranges above 900 are included into high category. Highest sex ratio was recorded in the district of Mewat.

Although Mewat has lowest literacy rate but in child sex ratio it has highest in state similarly Fatehabad and Palwal which have second and third from the bottom in literacy rate but sex ratio is higher (862,852) than other most literate districts. Through this map spatial variation in child sex ratio can be depicted:



Source, census of Haryana (2011)

Temporal trend of Child Sex Ratio in Haryana

Although Sex ratio of India has shown a continues decline from 964 in 1971 to 914 in 2011. But in Haryana, there is a fluctuation in sex ratio. In Haryana, child sex ratio has decreased from 910 in 1961 to 898 in 1971 whereas it rose to 902 in 1981 and again decreased to 879 in 1991 and 819 in 2001 but by 2011, it again increased to 830.

Child sex ratio trend in Haryana, 1971-2011

year	Female children per 1000 male children		Decadal change	
	Haryana	India	Haryana	India
1971	898	964	-	-
1981	902	962	+4	-2
1991	879	945	-23	-17
2001	819	927	-60	-18
2011	830	914	+11	-13

Sources; Census of India, 1971, 1981,1991,2001,2011.

Conclusion:

The child sex ratio in Haryana is 830 female children per 1000 male children, that is the lowest amongst all states of India, despite the fact that the state has experienced an increase of 11 points as against 819 in 2001. At district level, out of 21 districts of Haryana five districts in which child sex ratio

has decreased from 2001 to 2011. Maximum decrease has been observed in Mahendragarh (40 points), followed by Jhajjar (27 points). Although 16 districts have recorded an increase in the child sex ratio during the last decade. Maximum increase has been witnessed in Kurukshetra district (46 points), followed by Sirsa (35 points). Although in agricultural laborers child sex ratio is better than others due to requirement of more and more children for labor. There are many cause of low child sex ratio in state as, low rural literacy rate, strong wills to has a son, social insecurity for women, women are dependent on their husband in family decision making with regard to number and sex of new-born baby, Illegal use of sex-selective technology. Most of the families, even if they are educated, but prefer to have a son as their first child.

Suggestions improve to child sex ratio

Stop illegal use of sex-selective technology. Government should be implemented strict rule against female feticide. Recognize the economic contribution of women. Increase in the literacy ratio especially of women. Government should be held Seminar and workshop time to time for improvement of women status in society and also give incentives for giving birth to daughter.

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