

# REVIEW OF GENDER RATIO IN MAHARASHTRA

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## **Abstract:-**

Gender ratio plays a pivotal role in maintain the social and cultural equilibrium. Falling numbers of girl child over male child is serious hampering this equilibrium which shall not only affect the social set-up but would also affect the environment of the state of Maharashtra. Alarmingly high literacy is not a factor that would lead to good gender ratio as proven by example of Mumbai. This paper makes an attempt to explore the current status of Gender Ratio in Maharashtra.

## **Introduction:-**

Gender Composition is one of the most useful characteristic of demography. It is number of females per 1000 male's Indian subcontinent has more males than females in the population. Un-even sex ratio and favoritism for boys have been long trends in case of India. The sex ratio in 2011 was 914 girls for 1000 boys under 6 years which was 927 in the year 2001. Declining gender ratio highlights the plight of females in society with threat to demographic balance, cultural, socio-economic structure for India.

## **Statement of Problem:**

Statistics related to gender ratio had been always a challenge for India, with slight improvements in the 1951, 81 and 2000. The situation is more alarming for the state of Maharashtra which stands at 883 females per thousand males as per 2011 census.

## **Relevance of Study:**

- **Academic:**

The study would highlight the declining trend of sex ratio in Maharashtra and its various districts

- **Social:**

The study would highlight the reasons for the declining trend ratio in Maharashtra.

The study would try to create awareness about the falling ratio of girl child in the state of Maharashtra.

- **Policy:**

The study is aimed at providing actionable suggestions to various government and non-government bodies to take policy decisions for correcting this rising imbalance.

**Objectives of the study:**

1. To study the trend of sex ratio in India.
2. To study the trends of sex ratio in the state of Maharashtra and its various districts

**Premises:**

The present study accepts following premises:

1. Gender Ratio is an important barometer of population statistics for any state or country.
2. It is believed that falling female population is adversely affecting the social structure of the society.
3. Improvement in gender ratio is to be prioritized to maintain equilibrium in the social structure of society.

**Review of Literature:**

*Barkade A (2012)*, in his research paper “Declining Sex Ratio: An analysis with special to Maharashtra state” reveals the district wise sex ratio in Maharashtra during the period of 1991-2011. He has identified several reasons for falling gender ratio in Maharashtra namely son preference, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age

*Ahuja R, Nikam A(2015)*, in their research paper “A study of regional disparities in growth in the state of Maharashtra” reveals the various population statistics for the state of Maharashtra including gender ratio. The author concludes that economic growth in the state is highly polarized and metropolitized

*Adik B.R, Ahuja R (2014)*: in their research paper “Changing Structure of Population in Maharashtra” have studied various population parameters for the state of Maharashtra. Authors further have dis-proved a hypothesis that “there is positive relationship between sex ratio and literacy rate” revealing that districts that ranks first in literacy ratio has worst sex ratio.

*A. Kundu, MK Sahu(1991)* in their research paper“ Variations in Sex Ratio: Development Implications” highlighted the various reasons for falling sex ratio and their relationship with development indicators.

*P Oldenburg (1992)*, in his research paper “Sex Ratio, Son Preference and Violence in India: A research note” highlights the case of in west-central UP want (or need) more sons than families elsewhere because additional sons enhance their capacity to literally defend themselves or to exercise their power by investigating the correlation of sex ratio with violence in the state.

*GJ Ramaiah, T. Chandrasekaraya et.al (2011):* This paper examines the spatial as well temporal analysis on trends as well as pattern of child sex ratio and its causes of decline, based on empirical data. Some suggestions are recommended for policy implications.

### Discussion:

#### 1. Population in India:

The relationship between population and development has occupied the attention of thinkers and politicians since ancient times Plato and Aristotle were interested in the actual size of the population from the point of view of their city states. They believed that the optimum size of the population was that in which man's potentialities would be fully realized. Quantitative statistics of various parameters of population state/nation facilitates devising various policies for development and human welfare.

In 2001, the population of India was 1027 million which was one-sixth of the world population. In 2011, the population rose to 1251 million. More than half of the world population lives in these top ten populous countries.

<b>Top ten Countries with The Highest Population (in Millions)</b>	
<b>Country</b>	<b>2015 Population</b>
China	1361
India	1251
United States	321
Indonesia	255
Brazil	204
Pakistan	199
Nigeria	181
Bangladesh	168
Russia	146
Japan	126

Source: US Census Bureau Website

Form the above table, it can be seen that,

1. India has become the second most populous country after China which has officially crossed the mark of one billion population. India and China are creating a history of shaping the lives and future of more than a billion people.
2. Though as per the above table, rank of USA is third in the world, there is a great gap of 930 million between the populations of India and USA.
3. It is estimated that by 2050, India will probably become the most populous country in the world.

### **Phases of Population Growth in India:**

The saga of growth of population in India is almost in tune with the popular theory of demographic transition. A study of growth rate of India's population can be categorized into four phases

#### **I. Phase I: 1901 – 1921 (Stagnant Population)**

During this period the population rose from 236 million to 251 million. The stagnant rate of growth was due to same death and birth rates. The compounded annual growth rate was at 0.19% per year.

#### **II. Phase II: 1921 – 1951 (Steady Growth)**

The phase was characterized by falling death rates. The compounded annual growth rate was at 1.22% during this period.

#### **III. Phase III: 1951 – 1981 (Rapid Growth)**

The phase observed rapid growth in population. The compounded annual growth rate was at 2.14% during the period.

#### **IV. Phase IV: 1981 – 2011 (High growth with significant of slowing down)**

The phase observed high growth of population characterized by signs of declining growth rate. The Compounded growth rate reduced from 2.14% in 1991 to 1.64% in 2011.

## Current Statistics of Population Size in India

<b>Table No 2</b>					
<b>State and UTs by Population Size</b>					
<b>Rank in 2011</b>	<b>State / UTs</b>	<b>Population in 2011</b>	<b>Percentage of total population of India</b>		
			<b>2011</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1991</b>
1	Uttar Pradesh	199,281,477	16.49	16.16	15.60
2	Maharashtra	112,372,972	09.28	09.42	09.33
3	Bihar	103,804,637	08.58	08.07	07.62
4	West Bengal	91,347,736	07.55	07.79	08.04
5	Andhra Pradesh	49,386,799	04.08	07.41	07.86
6	Madhya Pradesh	72,597,565	06.00	05.87	05.74
7	Tamil Nadu	72,138,958	05.96	06.07	06.59
8	Rajasthan	68,621,012	05.67	05.49	05.20
9	Karnataka	61,130,704	05.05	05.14	05.31
10	Gujarat	60,383,628	05.00	04.93	04.88
11	Odisha	41,947,358	03.47	03.58	03.74
12	Telangana	35,286,757	02.97	--	--
13	Kerala	33,387,677	02.76	03.10	03.44
14	Jharkhand	32,966,238	02.72	02.62	02.58
15	Assam	31,169,272	02.58	02.59	02.64
16	Punjab	27,704,236	02.30	02.37	02.40
17	Chhattisgarh	25,540,196	02.11	02.03	02.08
18	Haryana	25,353,081	02.09	02.06	01.95
19	Jammu and Kashmir	12,548,926	01.04	00.99	00.92
20	Uttarakhand	10,116,752	00.84	00.83	00.84
21	Himachal Pradesh	6,856,509	00.57	00.59	00.61
22	Tripura	3,671,032	00.30	00.31	00.33
23	Meghalaya	2,964,007	00.24	00.22	00.21

24	Manipur	2,721,756	00.22	00.23	00.23
25	Nagaland	1,980,602	00.16	00.19	00.14
26	Goa	1,457,723	00.12	00.13	00.14
27	Arunachal Pradesh	1,382,611	00.11	00.11	00.10
28	Mizoram	1,091,014	00.09	00.09	00.08
29	Sikkim	607,688	00.05	00.05	00.05
NCT	Delhi	16,753,235	01.38	01.35	01.11
UT1	Puducherry	1,244,464	00.10	00.09	00.10
UT2	Chandigarh	1,054,686	00.09	00.09	00.08
UT3	Andaman and Nicobar	379,944	00.03	00.03	00.03
UT4	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	342,853	00.03	00.02	00.02
UT5	Daman and Diu	242,911	00.02	00.02	00.01
UT6	Lakshadweep	64,429	00.01	00.01	00.01

Source: Primary Census Abstract, Census of India, 2001 and 2011

The table highlights important observations:

1. Uttar Pradesh, so far, is the most populated state in the country with over 199 million population residing here. This figure is more than the population of Pakistan which is the sixth most populated nation in the world.
2. Twenty states in India have population of more than 10 million
3. Nearly 50 percent of the population live of India is in five states viz. West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
4. On the other hand, there are eight states and UTs in India that are yet to reach the population around one million.

To get a micro view of population demography in India, it is necessary to study the share of population of total population of India. Following table shows the relative share of population of states and UTs to the total population of India.

Table No. 3

## Percentage Contribution of Population of states to India

Rank in 2011	State / UTs	Population in 2011	Percentage of total population of India		
			2011	2001	1991
1	Uttar Pradesh	199,281,477	16.49	16.16	15.60
2	Maharashtra	112,372,972	09.28	09.42	09.33
3	Bihar	103,804,637	08.58	08.07	07.62
4	West Bengal	91,347,736	07.55	07.79	08.04
5	Andhra Pradesh	49,386,799	04.08	07.41	07.86
6	Madhya Pradesh	72,597,565	06.00	05.87	05.74
7	Tamil Nadu	72,138,958	05.96	06.07	06.59
8	Rajasthan	68,621,012	05.67	05.49	05.20
9	Karnataka	61,130,704	05.05	05.14	05.31
10	Gujarat	60,383,628	05.00	04.93	04.88
11	Odisha	41,947,358	03.47	03.58	03.74
12	Telangana	35,286,757	02.97	--	--
13	Kerala	33,387,677	02.76	03.10	03.44
14	Jharkhand	32,966,238	02.72	02.62	02.58
15	Assam	31,169,272	02.58	02.59	02.64
16	Punjab	27,704,236	02.30	02.37	02.40
17	Chhattisgarh	25,540,196	02.11	02.03	02.08
18	Haryana	25,353,081	02.09	02.06	01.95
19	Jammu and Kashmir	12,548,926	01.04	00.99	00.92
20	Uttarakhand	10,116,752	00.84	00.83	00.84
21	Himachal Pradesh	6,856,509	00.57	00.59	00.61
22	Tripura	3,671,032	00.30	00.31	00.33
23	Meghalaya	2,964,007	00.24	00.22	00.21
24	Manipur	2,721,756	00.22	00.23	00.23

25	Nagaland	1,980,602	00.16	00.19	00.14
26	Goa	1,457,723	00.12	00.13	00.14
27	Arunachal Pradesh	1,382,611	00.11	00.11	00.10
28	Mizoram	1,091,014	00.09	00.09	00.08
29	Sikkim	607,688	00.05	00.05	00.05
NCT	Delhi	16,753,235	01.38	01.35	01.11
UT1	Puducherry	1,244,464	00.10	00.09	00.10
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UT3	Andaman and Nicobar	379,944	00.03	00.03	00.03
UT4	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	342,853	00.03	00.02	00.02
UT5	Daman and Diu	242,911	00.02	00.02	00.01
UT6	Lakshadweep	64,429	00.01	00.01	00.01

Source: Primary Census Abstract, Census of India, 2001 and 2011

The above table highlights following observations

1. Uttar-Pradesh tops with percentage contribution to total Indian Population.
2. Contribution of Union Territories is almost negligible during the study period.

### Sex Ratio in India

Sex ratio is one of the most important demographic characteristics which facilitate count of males and females in state/nation during a particular period of time. Changes in composition of sex affects social, economic and cultural patterns of the nation/state. Sex ratio highlights number of females per thousand males. As per census 2011, there were 940 females per 1000 males which show an upward trend form census 2001 data when there were 933 females per 1000 males. The sex ratio of India has never been favorable for women. Moreover, except some exceptions, the sex ratio of India has shown a long term decreasing trend.



<b>Table No. 4</b>	
<b>Sex Ratio India (1901-2011)</b>	
<b>Census Yr.</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>
1901	972
1911	964
1921	955
1931	950
1941	945
1951	946
1961	941
1971	930
1981	934
1991	927
2001	933
2011	940

Source: Central Statistical Organization & Census of India, 2011

The sex ratio in the country had always remained unfavorable to females. It was 972 at the beginning of the 20th century and thereafter showed continuous decline. During the period 2011 it declined to 940. However a gradual increase by 7 points is observed in sex ratio compared to census year of 2001. Increase in sex ratio is observed in 29 states and union territories.

**Table No. 5: Sex Ratio of Various States of India**

Sr. No.	States / UTs	Sex Ratio (females per 1000 males)							
		Total Pop.			Child Pop 0-6			Pop 7 and Above	
		1991	2001	2011	1991	2001	2011	1991	2001
1	Jammu and Kashmir	NA	900	883	NA	937	862	NA	894
2	Himachal Pradesh	976	970	974	951	897	909	980	981
3	Punjab	882	874	893	875	793	846	883	886
4	Chandigarh	790	773	818	899	845	880	772	763
5	Uttaranchal	936	964	963	948	906	890	933	976
6	Haryana	865	861	879	879	820	834	862	869
7	Delhi	827	821	866	915	865	871	810	813
8	Rajasthan	910	922	926	916	909	888	908	925
9	Uttar Pradesh	876	898	908	927	916	902	863	895
10	Bihar	907	921	877	953	938	935	895	916
11	Sikkim	878	875	889	965	986	957	860	858
12	Arunachal Pradesh	859	901	920	982	961	972	829	888
13	Nagaland	886	909	931	993	975	943	865	899
14	Manipur	958	978	987	974	961	936	955	981
15	Mizoram	921	938	975	969	971	970	911	932
16	Tripura	945	950	961	967	975	957	940	947
17	Meghalaya	955	975	986	986	975	970	947	974
18	Assam	923	932	954	975	964	962	910	926
19	West Bengal	917	934	950	967	963	956	907	929
20	Jharkhand	922	941	947	979	966	948	908	936
21	Odisha	971	972	978	967	950	941	972	976
22	Chhattisgarh	985	990	991	984	975	969	986	992
23	Madhya Pradesh	912	920	930	941	929	918	905	918
24	Gujarat	934	921	918	928	878	890	936	927

25	Daman and Diu	969	709	618	958	925	904	971	682
26	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	952	811	775	1013	973	926	937	779
27	Maharashtra	934	922	925	946	917	894	931	923
28	Andhra Pradesh	972	978	992	975	964	961	972	980
29	Karnataka	960	964	978	960	949	948	960	966
30	Goa	967	960	968	964	933	942	967	964
31	Lakshadweep	943	947	946	941	974	911	943	943
32	Kerala	1036	1058	1084	958	963	964	1049	1071
33	Tamil Nadu	974	986	995	948	939	943	978	992
34	Puducherry	979	1001	1038	963	958	967	982	1007
35	Andaman and Nicobar	818	846	878	973	965	968	790	830

The table reveals that

1. The diversity in gender ratio among the state and UTs is phenomenal. The sex ratio varied from 818 in Chandigarh to 1084 in Kerala in 2011. Even in 1991 and 2001, the sex ratio of Chandigarh was at the top.
2. In case of Child Sex ratio, Haryana was at the bottom with CSR of 834 while Meghalaya and Mizoram were at the top with CSR of 970.
3. There are few states like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh which are showing improvement in sex ratio 2011.
4. Pondicherry and Kerala have the maximum number of women in India, while Daman and Diu and Haryana have the lowest sex ratio.

## Population Statistics for Maharashtra

Maharashtra, the second most populous state of India has undergone various structural changes in various dimensions including various demographic parameters. A detailed analysis of population statistics will further highlights remarkable changes.

<b>Table No 6: Population Statistics of Maharashtra</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Population in Crores</b>		<b>Decadal Percentage Increase or Decrease</b>	
	<b>Maharashtra</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>Maharashtra</b>	<b>India</b>
1951	3.2	36.11	19.27	13.31
1961	3.96	43.92	23.6	21.51
1971	5.04	54.82	27.45	24.8
1981	6.28	68.52	24.54	25
1991	7.89	84.63	25.73	23.85
2001	9.69	102.7	22.73	21.35
2011	11.24	121.02	15.99	17.64

Source: Census of India, 2011

The contribution of Maharashtra's population can be seen in the range of 8 percent to 9.50 percent from 1960's to 2013. The population of Maharashtra which was 3.2 Crores in 1951 was 8.86 percent to India's population, 3.96 Crores (9.01 percent) in 1961, 5.04 Crores (9.19 percent) in 1971, 6.28 Crores (9.16percent) in 1981, 7.89 Crores (9.32 percent) in 1991, 9.69 Crores (9.43 percent) in 2001 and 11.24 Crores (9.28 percent) in 2011.

**Table No 7: Rural/Urban and Male/Female Population of Maharashtra**

Census Year	Rural	percent of Rural	Urban	percent of Urban	Total	Male	percent of Male	Female	percent of Female
1951	2.28	71.25	0.92	28.75	3.2	1.65	51.56	1.55	48.44
1961	2.84	71.72	1.12	28.28	3.96	2.04	51.52	1.92	48.48
1971	3.47	68.85	1.57	31.15	5.04	2.61	51.79	2.43	48.21
1981	4.08	64.97	2.2	35.03	6.28	3.24	51.59	3.04	48.41
1991	4.84	61.34	3.05	38.66	7.89	4.08	51.71	3.81	48.29
2001	5.58	57.59	4.11	42.41	9.69	5.04	52.01	4.65	47.99
2011	6.15	54.72	5.09	45.28	11.24	5.84	51.96	5.4	48.04

Source: Economic Survey of Maharashtra

Note: Figures of Rural, Urban, Male and Female population is in Crores

Migration trend from rural to urban parts can be noticed reflecting fall in population residing in rural areas while increase in urban parts of Maharashtra.

### Sex Ratio in Rural-Urban Areas:

The following table highlights the sex ratio among rural and urban areas in the state of Maharashtra.

Census Year	Rural	percent Change	Urban	percent Change
1951	1000		807	
1961	995	-0.50	801	-0.74
1971	985	-1.01	820	2.37
1981	967	-1.83	850	3.66
1991	972	0.52	875	2.94
2001	960	-1.23	873	-0.23
2011	948	-1.25	899	2.98

Source: Economic Survey of Maharashtra, Several Issues (1951 to 2011)

Note: Rural and Urban numbers are number of females/1000 males

The sex ratio in rural areas are falling consistently, while for urban areas it showed marginal improvements barring census years of 1961 and 2001 which showed decline in sex ratio over previous census figures.

### District wise trends in Sex Ratio:

At the state level sex ratio has increased from 922 to 925, showing an incremental of 3 females per 1000 males during 2001-11. There are three critical districts where the sex ratio is below 900 in 2011. i.e. In Mumbai (838), Mumbai (Sub-urban) (857) and Thane (880). However, as compared to 2001 census, in these districts also there is some improvement in 61 up in Mumbai, 35 in Mumbai (Sub-urban) and 22 in Thane. There are six districts where the sex ratio is above 900 but less than 925. These districts are Osmanabad (920), Jalgaon (922), Latur (924), Aurangabad (917), Beed (912) and Pune (910).

On the higher side of sex ratio, there are two districts viz; Ratnagiri (1123) and Sindhudurg (1037) with sex ratio above 1000 mark despite the fact both have shown a decline in sex ratio during 2001-11 by 13 and 42 respectively. There are 9 districts with range of sex ratio below 1000 and above 950, Gondiya (996) and Satara (986) on the above and Kolhapur (953) and Raigarh (955) on the below, but in these 9 districts, it has decreased in five districts and the decrease is very sharp (by 21) in Raigarh.

The following table highlights the sex ratio in various districts of the state.

<b>Worst Sex Ratio (below 900)</b>		<b>Low Sex Ratio (900 to 925)</b>		<b>Medium low sex Ratio (926 to 940)</b>	
<b>District</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>
Mumbai	838	Pune	910	Washim	926
Mumbai(Sub-urban)	857	Beed	912	Buldhana	928
Thane	880	Aurangabad	917	Jalna	929
		Osmanabad	920	Nashik	931
		Jalgaon	922	Solapur	932
		Latur	924	Ahmednagar	934
				Hingoli	935
				Nanded	937
				Parbhani	940

<b>Medium Sex Ratio (941 to 950)</b>		<b>Medium to High Sex Ratio (951 to 970)</b>		<b>High Sex Ratio (Above 970)</b>	
<b>District</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>
Dhule	941	Kolhapur	953	Nandurbar	972
Akola	942	Raigarh	953	Gadchiroli	975
Wardha	946	Chandrapur	959	Bhandara	984
Amravati	947	Sangli	964	Satara	986
Yavatmal	947			Gondiya	986
Nagpur	948			Sindhudurg	1037
				Ratnagiri	1123

Source: Census of India, 2011

Nandurbar, Solapur, Kolhapur and Sangli also have a generally a stable sex ratio. There are many ups and downs in sex ratio over a period of time since 1911 in Akola, Amravati, Beed, Latur and Nagpur and to some extent in Osmanabad. Raigarh and Satara though they have a relatively higher sex ratio but there are frequent and sharp fluctuations. There is a steady decline in sex ratio in Jalgaon, Buldhana, Wardha, Jalna, Aurangabad, Nasik, Pune and Ahmednagar. Though Bhandara and Chandrapur always have a better sex ratio but there is declining trend in both districts over a period of time.

**Sex Ratio Rankings:****Table No 10: Ranking of Districts of Maharashtra on basis of Sex Ratio**

District Name	Ranking	Sex Ratio
Ratnagiri	1	1123
Sindhudurg	2	1037
Gondiya	3	996
Satara	4	986
Bhandara	5	984
Gadchiroli	6	975
Nandurbar	7	972
Sangli	8	964
Chandrapur	9	959
Raigarh	10	955
Kolhapur	11	953
Nagpur	12	948
Amravati	13	947
Yavatmal	14	947
Wardha	15	946
Akola	16	942
Dhule	17	941
Parbhani	18	940
Nanded	19	937
Hingoli	20	935
Ahmednagar	21	934
Solapur	22	932
Nashik	23	931
Jalna	24	929
Buldhana	25	928
Washim	26	926
Latur	27	924
Jalgaon	28	922
Osmanabad	29	920
Aurangabad	30	917
Beed	31	912



Pune	32	910
Thane	33	880
Mumbai(Suburban)	34	857
Mumbai	35	838

**Source: Economic Survey of Maharashtra**

### Child Sex Ratio:

The sex ratio worked for all the ages is not correct parameter as to whether it is favorable to females or not. Crude Sex ratio i.e. Sex ratio for children below 7 years helps to identify the correct position of sex ratio in the area. Some of the common reasons put forward for poor sex ratios are listed below

Neglect of girl child resulting in higher mortality rates at younger ages.

1. High maternal mortality
2. Sex selective abortions and
3. Female Infanticide

The following table highlights the child sex ratio in various districts of Maharashtra. The table is sub-divided into four tables depending upon the child sex ratio status.

<b>Table No: 11 Child Sex Ratio Statistics District wise</b>					
<b>Worst Child Sex Ratio (Below 850)</b>			<b>Worse Child Sex Ratio ( 850 to 900)</b>		
<b>District</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2001</b>
Beed	801	894	Osmanabad	853	894
Jalgaon	829	880	Washim	859	918
Ahmednagar	839	884	Sangli	862	851
Buldhana	842	908	Parbhani	866	923
Kolhapur	845	839	Hingoli	868	927
Jalna	847	903	Solapur	872	895
Aurangabad	848	890	Latur	872	918
			Pune	873	902
			Mumbai	874	922
			Dhule	876	907
			Satara	881	878
			Nasik	882	920
			Nanded	897	929
<b>Medium low child sex ratio (900 to 925)</b>			<b>Medium child sex ratio (above 925)</b>		
<b>District</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2001</b>

Akola	900	933	Nagpur	926	942
Mumbai(Suburban)	910	923	Amravati	927	941
Sindhudurg	910	944	Nandurbar	932	961
Yavatmal	915	933	Bhandara	939	956
Wardha	916	928	Ratnagiri	940	952
Thane	918	931	Gondiya	944	958
Raigarh	924	939	Chandrapur	945	939
			Gadchiroli	956	966

Source: Census of India, 2011.

Three districts Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Gondiya in descending order tops the Child sex ratio with 956, 945 and 944 respectively. However Beed is at the bottom of child sex ratio with 801, followed by Jalgaon (829), Ahmednagar (839), Buldhana (842), Kolhapur (845), Jalna (847) and Aurangabad (848) all these have child sex ratio below 850. In addition there are 13 districts where the child sex ratio is above 850 but less than 900.

#### **Trend in Child Sex Ratio:**

Overall in Maharashtra, in spite of the worst scenario of child sex ratio in many districts, the decline in child sex ratio from 913 to 883 shows another reduction of 30 girls per 1000 boys during the decade 2001-2011. This in other words, there is increase in the shortage of girls per 1000 boys, from 87 in 2001 to 117 in 2011. The highest reduction of about 93 is found in Beed, and such sudden fall is also noticed in Buldhana (66), Hingoli (59), Washim (59), Parbhani (57), and Jalna (51). The reduction in sex ratio is found in 31 districts ranging from 50 to 93 in seven districts, 30 to 50 in ten districts, 9 to 30 in 13 districts, only in four districts i.e. Satara, Chandrapur, Kolhapur and Sangli there is a nominal increase (from 3 to 11 only).

#### **Implication of Study:**

The present paper focuses on various population parameters for India and Maharashtra in specific. The discussion highlights the status of falling gender ratio in the state of Maharashtra and various districts in Maharashtra. Sensitizing the masses about falling gender ratio is of critical importance to maintain social and cultural balance in the society. Promoting the programmes that support the birth of girl child needs immediate action and promotion from all the stakeholders of the society.

**Conclusion:**

In this paper the author have identified some important issues related with gender ratio in India and Maharashtra. The author has drawn some important conclusions based on the discussion above.

1. Balance of Gender ratio is an important aspect considering the social and cultural environment for the countries.
2. Policy makers should adopt fair and inclusive policies for promoting importance of maintaining gender ratio.
3. It is the responsibility of all the stakeholders to orient masses about falling gender ratio in Maharashtra in general and various districts of Maharashtra to be specific.

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