

RECENT TRENDS OF CHILD SEX RATIO IN HARYANA

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Abstract: The fact is that in many districts of Haryana female birth is known as a burden on family and most of the studies point out that Haryana is suffering from the problem of lowest child sex ratio as reported by the census of 2001 and 2011. Consequently a decline and imbalance of child sex ratio has been observed by the many scholars in the recent years. However, for the first time child sex ratio for Dec. 2015 has crossed the 900 mark with 903 girls per 1000 boys. Some of the social scientists and intellectuals give its credit to the success of ambitious program under the “Beti Bacho-Beti Padhao” campaign which was started from Panipat district by P.M. Narendra Modi in Jan. 2015. Nevertheless we can't ignore the fact that an overall situation of Child Sex Ratio in Haryana is more critical and here it is urgent need to focus our attention on the problem.

Keywords: Child Sex Ratio, Birth Rate, Imbalance, Decline, Feticide.

Introduction: The ratio of female child per 1000 male child is known as child sex ratio. Haryana is one of those states where male population exceeds the female population. As a matter of fact sex ratio has been a burning topic for debate for all social scientists. According to the census of 2011 there is a sex ratio of 887 per 1000 males in Haryana. Mewat is the district with a sex ratio of 906 where as Sonapat and Gurgaon are the districts with the lowest sex ratio of 853 per 1000 males. However, Govt. of Haryana has also initiated many schemes and programmes to increase and promote Girl child sex ratio in the state, nevertheless the results are not so satisfactory. However, in some districts a slight change with progress has been observed regarding the improvement in child sex ratio in the state of Haryana.

Research Methodology: The present study is based on the primary and secondary sources of data collection. Most of the data has been collected from various censuses of India and some research articles published in reputed journals. To pace the study the researcher has also used some observational facts.

Research Objectives: The present research paper aims at the following objectives.

- To highlight the recent trends of sex ratio in Haryana.
- To focus on the scenario of Child Sex Ratio in the State.

Research Area: The present research paper is related to the demographic features of sex ratio of Haryana. Haryana is a North-Western State of India located in the North-Eastern hemi-sphere. Moreover, here it is to say that the state is located between 27°37' to 30°35' North latitude and between 74°28' and 77°36' east longitude. The total area of the state is 44, 212 sq. km. and it is the 20th largest state in term of area bordered by the state of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to the North and by Rajasthan to the west and south. However, it emerged as a separate state on 1st Nov. 1966. Its first census was done in 1971 and recently in 2011 it has numbered a total of 5 census.

According to the census of 2011 Haryana has a total population of 2,53,53,081, with 1,35,05,130 males and 1,18,47,951 females with the sex ratio of 877:1000.

Sex Ratio: Sex ratio is a tool to determine gender equity of the population and it is defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the total population of the area. However, on international level it is defined as number of males per 100 females. If we look into the matter on historical basis we come to point out that Haryana has been a state with imbalances and disparities in term of sex ratio. However, in the year of 2015 a slight improvement in child sex ratio in Haryana has been observed.

Table 1: District Wise Sex Ratio in Haryana (1971 to 2011)

State/Haryana	Year 1971	Year 1981	Year 1991	Year 2001	Year 2011
Haryana	819	870	865	861	877
Panchkula	882	833	839	823	870
Ambala	948	902	903	868	882
Yamunanagar	859	855	883	862	877
Kurukshetra	843	872	879	866	879
Kaithal	848	848	853	853	880
Karnal	850	856	864	865	886
Panipat	852	849	852	829	861
Sonepat	866	866	840	839	853
Jind	860	857	838	852	870
Fatehabad	870	881	877	884	903
Sirsa	865	877	885	882	896
Hisar	859	859	853	851	877
Bhiwani	878	897	878	879	884

Rohtak	878	869	849	847	868
Jhajjar	903	891	861	847	861
Mahendergarh	910	939	910	918	894
Rewari	927	926	927	899	898
Gurgaon	886	880	871	873	853
Faridabad	810	811	828	839	871
Mewat	--	--	--	906	906
Palwal	--	--	--	879	879

(Source: Census of India 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 & 2011)

The data given in the table 1 indicate that according to the census of 2011 Mewat stands first with a sex ratio of 906 whereas Sonapat and Gurgaon are the districts of the lowest sex ratio with 853:1000.

Child Sex Ratio: Haryana is the state where son is preferred and daughter is ignored in many parts of the state. Consequently many social disparity and imbalances have emerged and it has challenged the social norms. There are evidences that there is no more social respect for girl child in Haryana. Most of the studies have pointed out a declining child sex ratio and inequality against girl child. In term of the total population of the country the child sex ratio in the state of Haryana is a critical issue among various segments of the society. The latest census of India, 2011 exposed that child sex ratio is at its lowest since 1947. There is a trend of son preference in the state and girls child are not so much respected in the society still today. However, Govt. of Haryana has initiated some schemes and programmes to tackle the problem, nevertheless overall result is not satisfactory.

Table 2. Child Sex Ratio in 2001 & 2011

State/District	Sex Ratio		Percent 0-6 pop		Percent 0-6 pop	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Haryana	861	877	15.8	13.8	819	830
Panchkula	823	870	14.1	11.1	829	850
Ambala	868	882	13.2	10.9	782	807
Yamunanagar	862	877	14.4	11.8	806	825
Kurukshetra	866	879	14.2	12.0	771	817
Kaithal	853	880	15.4	12.6	791	821
Karnal	865	886	15.1	12.9	809	820
Panipat	829	861	16.4	13.7	809	833

Sonepat	839	853	15.4	12.7	788	790
Jind	852	870	15.8	12.4	818	835
Fatehabad	884	803	16.1	12.6	828	845
Sirsa	882	896	15.0	11.9	817	852
Hisar	851	871	15.5	12.1	832	849
Bhiwani	879	884	15.7	12.6	841	831
Rohtak	847	868	14.5	11.9	799	807
Jhajjar	847	861	15.0	12.1	801	774
Mahendergarh	918	894	15.2	12.5	811	784
Rewari	899	898	15.2	12.5	811	784
Gurgaon	850	853	15.5	13.1	807	826
Faridabad	826	871	15.8	13.2	847	842
Mewat	899	906	25.1	22.3	893	903
Palwal	862	879	20.0	16.5	854	862

(Source: Census of India 2001 & 2011)

On the basis of above table it can be traced out that Mewat (906), Fatehabad (903), Rewari (898), Sirsa (896) and Mahendergarh (894) have the highest sex ratio. Whereas if we look into the matter about the lowest sex ratio of the five districts; Gurgaon (853), Sonapat (853), Panipat (861), Jhajjar (861) and Rohtak (878).

Causes of decline of Sex Ratio: Most of the scholars are agree with the fact that Haryana's old custom and tradition still today is in favor of male child. Family norms do not want female child and due to security reasons and increasing crime against women in the state, most of the families do not want to give birth a female child. Consequently the problem of feticide has been emerging day by day. Most of the women also opt for sex selective abortion. Therefore, females are also responsible declining sex ratio. Moreover, there is a lack of political will and most of the rules and regulations are still in primitive forum and they urgently required to be amended to make them effective so that the problem may be tackled.

Recent Trends: Actually Haryana has shown an upward trend as for the first time in 10 years as ratio at birth for Dec. 2015 has crossed the mark of 900 and it has reached at 903 girls per 1000 boys. However, P.M. Sh. Narendra Modi implemented the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign from the land of Haryana and consequently Sirsa district has come on the top with the sex ratio of 999 girls per 1000 boys in 2015 likewise sex ratio of Panchkula district has been recorded 961,

Karnal 959, Fatehabad 952, Gurgaon 946, Sonapat 942, Jind 940, Rewari 931, Mewat 923, Bhiwani 912 and Hisar 906. In this way it is said that recently Haryana has shown a remarkable progress in the improvement of sex ratio. Nevertheless we still need to take some effective measures and implement PNDDT Act more effectively in the state.

Concluding Remarks: To conclude the debate we can point out that declining sex ratio in Haryana has become a crucial problem, therefore, we need to stop the gender discrimination. Here it is an urgent need that Anti-Dowry Act should be strictly implemented and girls should be educated that they would not accept any dowry. Female literacy rate should be improved and there should be compulsory education for girl child in the all states of India. NGO can also play an important role to educate the people about the evil of feticide.

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