

# STATISTICAL GENDER SLOPE-PREVAILING SCENARIO WITH DR.RASHMI BAJAJ

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## ABSTRACT

The highly skewed sex-ratio is a National Shame and a Big Blot on the face of 21st century India. It is a matter of still more concern and embarrassment that the most prosperous states in the country have recorded the highest percentage of female foeticide cases and hence the lowest sex ratio. Haryana has the dubious distinction of being labeled as “ Demaru” or daughter - maru state (Asis Bose,2010) .It is highly ironical as Haryana is basking in the glory of her women achievers like Kalpanachawla, Saina Nehwal and Santosh Yadav .It is also among topmost national precipitant income states. The gender reality of our state is really frightening. It has an average of 830 girls per 1000 boys(0-6 years age group) and overall average of 857 to 1000 boys. The problem is assuming alarming proportions with the gender – friendly districts also registering a downfall. The reasons are deeply rooted in familial, social, cultural and religious factors and the multiple repercussions are really grave and destructive. It is hightime that all- Civil society, Media, NGOs, Thinkers, Writers and the Government should join hands to redeem this situation. This paper will take up the study of the prevailing scenario, its implications along with a discussion of the causal factors and the possible solutions.

Keywords: Gender ratio,Statistical,Census, moksha,slope

## Statistical Gender Slope- Prevailing Scenario with Dr. Rashmi Bajaj

“Shining India” loses its shine and “Super- Power- Status” aspirant India loses its claim to any

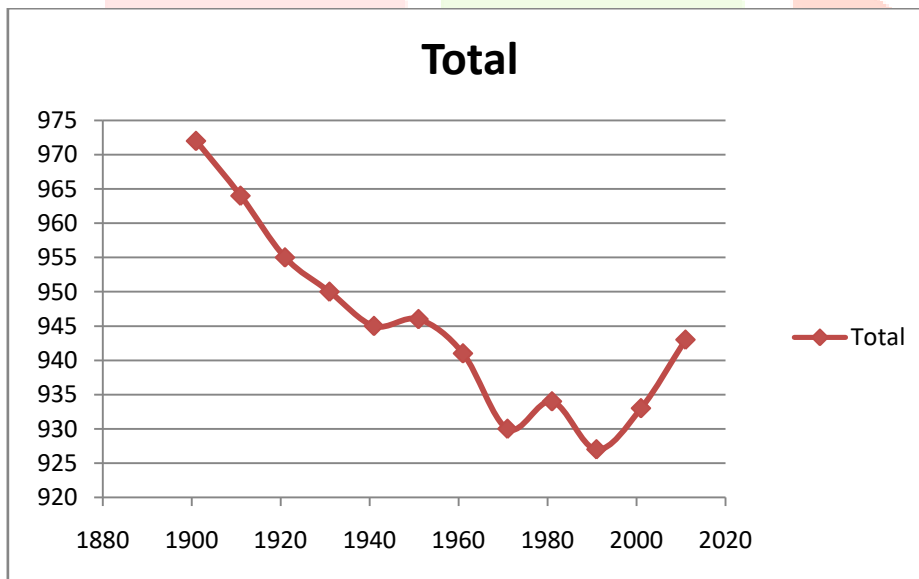
greatness when one looks at the dismal scenario of the declining Sex- ratio in the country. Sexratio, infact , is the most important social indicator to measure the gender- equity prevailing in a society. It is a matter of grave concern that sex- ratio between age group 0-6 years has come down to 914 in the 2011 census, the lowest ever since Independence , slipping from 927 in 2001. The sharpest decline in Sex- ratio of child population has been observed in North Western States followed by Northern States. Among the States, a drastic decline in child Sex- ratio is recorded in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh,

Uttaranchal and U.T Chandigarh and Delhi during 1981-2001. In the recent decade a sharp decline is seen in the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Manipur, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep. With this trend spreading to new territories, the crisis is assuming really alarming proportions. The main reason for declining birth ratio in India is supposed to be the tough handling out to the female child at birth time. In India, the gender ratio was almost normal during the phase of the years of independence, but thenceforth it started showing decreasing sign.

### Sex Ratio –Females as per 1000 males

Year	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Total	972	964	955	950	945	946	941	930	934	927	933	943
Rural	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	965	963	949	951	938	946	949
Urban	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	860	845	858	879	893	900	929

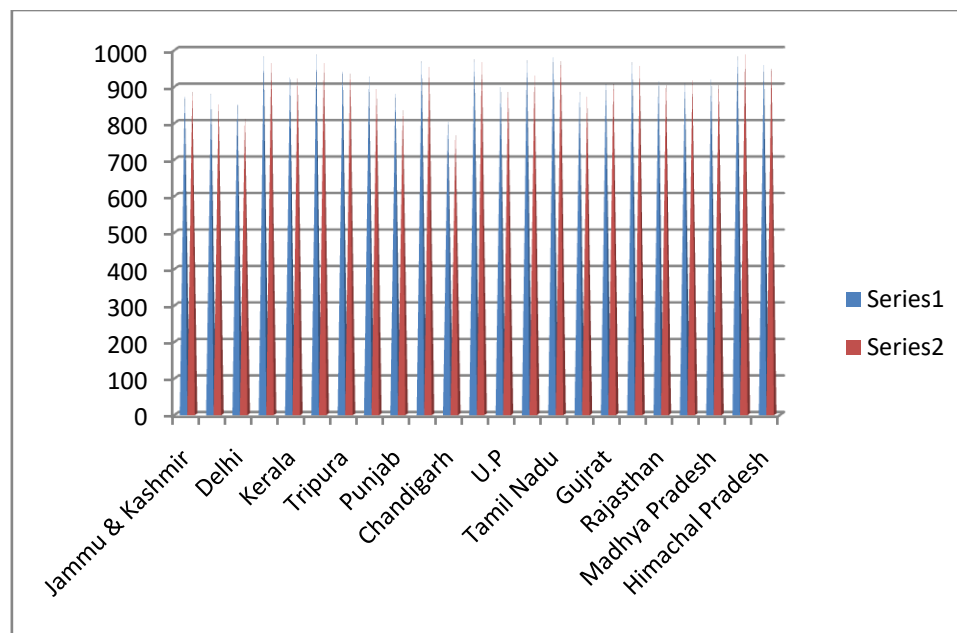
Census - (1901-2011)



Changing sex ratio largely reflects the underlying socio-economic and cultural pattern of a society in different ways.

**Sex Ratio in India-(2011 census-2001 census)**

Jammu & Kashmir	889	892
Haryana	879	861
Delhi	868	821
Manipur	985	974
Kerala	943	933
Maghalaya	989	972
Tripura	960	948
Nagaland	931	900
Punjab	895	846
Goa	973	961
Chandigarh	818	777
Orissa	979	972
U.P	912	898
Mizoram	976	935
Tamil Nadu	996	987
Sikkim	890	875
Gujrat	919	920
Karnatak	973	961
Rajasthan	928	921
Bihar	918	919
Madhya Pradesh	931	919
Chhattisgarh	991	989
Himachal Pradesh	972	968



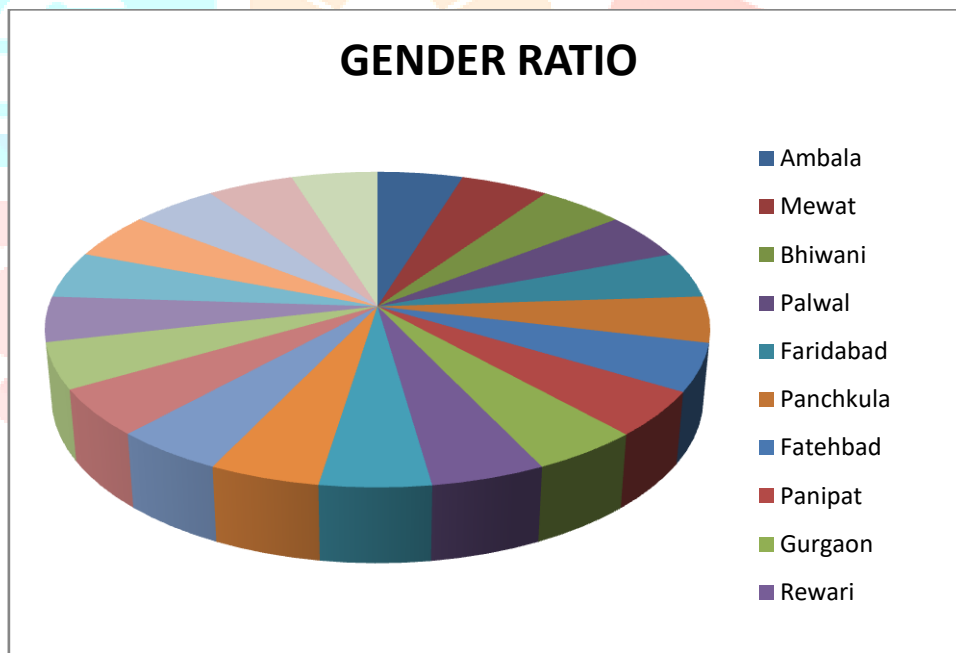
Haryana has earned the dubious distinction of being labeled as a “Demaru” or daughter-maru state (Asis Bose 2010). It is indeed the height of irony that a state internationally renowned for its women achievers like kalpana Chawla, SainaNehwal and Santosh Yadav is eliminating its girl- children at such a frightening pace. Out of the 10 “ Top of the Pops” districts known for the worst child sex ratio, 5 are from Haryana . It is a matter of utmost concern that in Haryana, The districts bagging Awards for girl- child improved ratio have once again registered the decline. Neither education nor economic well being has been able to stem the tide of girlelimination.

### District-wise Gender Ratio in Haryana

DISTRICT	GENDER RATIO
Ambala	882
Mewat	906
Bhiwani	884
Palwal	879
Faridabad	871
Panchkula	870
Fatehbad	903
Panipat	861
Gurgaon	853
Rewari	898
Hisar	871

Rohtak	868
Jhajjar	861
Sirsa	896
Jind	870
Sonepat	853
Kaithal	880
Yamunagar	877
Karnal	886
Mahendergarh	894
Kurukshetra	889

Source-Census of India-2011



Various factors resulting in declining Sex-ratio are pre- conception selection of child sex, female- foeticide, infanticide, high mortality rate, lack of proper care and violence against women. The scenario is indeed highly disconcerting. Our girls and women, facing this sexist discrimination, feel like “undesirable” and “ unwanted” creatures all their life. A moving poem by Rashmi Bajaj , a Haryana women poet movingly captures the mental state of such a girl.

Her own army  
Become, her enemy  
Her killer  
And mother`s womb  
Becomes her Murder-altar.

(NIRBHAY HO JAO DRAUPADI (2006))

(Translated by Dr. Kavita Sharma)

The implications of the continuously declining sex- ratio are very distributing and destructive.

1. One of the obvious consequences of the continued skewed sex ratio would be the shortage of brides. Sociologists agree that such a state of affairs encourages abuse, notably in the trafficking, drug abuse and physical violence against women. “Put bluntly, it’s a competition over scarce women.” Societies with adverse female sex ratio have indicated the presence of customs like forced polyandry, abduction and purchase of women. It is strongly felt that contrary to raising the status of women, adverse sex ratio would increase the incidence of rape, prostitution and violence against women. Marked growth in such crimes will create in them physiological and psychological disorders.

2. As stated above, the shortage of women in society leads to violence against women rather than improving their status. The situation is made still more complex since couples do not wish to beget girls as they fear that it would be difficult to bring them up with dignity and also because of the continued threat of violence they may have to face. Therefore, the society is caught in a vicious circle. In a recent study conducted in Haryana by the Centre for Social Research, it has been understood that fear of violence towards women is a cause for female foeticide. The study also reveals that a woman who has only daughters is a victim of domestic violence because of her incapacity to have male children.

3. Due to the shortage of brides, men belonging to the lower social class are pushed to the receiving end. Women in India are encouraged to move into a higher income bracket and /or caste, so richer men find it easier to get a bride. It will also lead in a steep fall of number of female workers adversely affecting the economic prosperity of the country.

4. It has been brought out that throughout human history, young men have been responsible for the vast preponderance of crimes and violence, especially single men, in countries where status and social acceptance depend upon being married and having children, as it does in China and India. A rising population of single men spells trouble. There is a correlation between provincial crime rates and sex ratios. Such a state of affairs would lead to more authoritarian policing in an effort to crack down on crimes and gangs.

5. This is an emergency situation which needs to be tackled at the war- footing. When we think of solving this problem, it is very important to tack a stock of the causing factors. The reasons of this girl – killing and woman – eliminating mind-set are rooted in economic, social, cultural and religious matrix:

(a) A daughter is a huge “dead investment” withy no returns to her parents at any stages. They have no socially sanctioned right over their married girls income or “seva”. (Apni beti, praya dhan) . In all surveys, Dowry was cited as the main reason for not wanting girls.

(b) The girl`s physical security is 24\*7 arduous job in our violent times and in various surveys conducted in Haryana fear of violence was stated to be a deterring factors for girls.

(c) The girl does not carry forward the name of the girl`s parents and family.

(d) A girl cannot bring “ moksha” to her parents or perform any significant rite and rituals.

(e) A girl`s marriage is a BIG GAMBLE and a perennial source of stress with her happiness ever unsure.

(f) The small – size family- pressure may make one end up with an all- girl child family which is a hopeless, helpless state. Statistally, 3370 cases of crime against women occurred in 2000, and this increased to 6622 in the year 2010. The total number of rape cases and gang rape were recorded in 2012 were 686 and 118. The total number of women molestation cases are 464 in 2011 which increase to 521 in 2012. Sexually harassment increased from 490 to 534. In 2011 the total dowry harassment cases were recorded 2711 which increased to 3148 in 2012.

Clearly, for a girl`s parents it is a NO – WIN SITUATION.

Since the causes are cultural, social, economic and religious, the solutions should also work at all levels.

(1) Multimedia campaigns at the National and state levels should be launched against female foeticide to create awareness to curb the problem and synergize government initiatives to promote women- oriented programmers. There should be more such concerted efforts in the states where the sex ratio is gravely skewed against girls.

(2) Sensitization programmes on prevention of female foeticide and infanticide for the functionaries of voluntary organization and elected representatives of Panchayati raj Intuitions should be organized.

(3) The women who are elected panches in the village Panchayats and organization women`s groups at village and urban slum ward areas should take a serious view of the unfavorable child sex ratio in their setting to think,

plan and act locally and share this with the village community. Collective action plans should be evolved to save the girl child and provide her adequate nutrition at home, balanced development in the village environment through appropriate household actions and health programme interventions.

(4) The legislative measures, such as the Prohibition of Dowry Act, PNDT Act and Anti sexual harassment law etc., should be stringently implemented.

(5) Central/ State governments should popularize schemes in operation in the states through economic benefits that could accrue to those families having a girl child, similar to the Shagan scheme launched by the Government of Punjab, ApnibetiApnadhan, Balika Samridhijojana and the newly proposed cradle schemes, etc.

(6) The proposed Conditional Transfer Scheme (cash and non-cash) of the government, with its two- fold objectives, the direct and tangible objective to provide financial incentives to encourage them to retain the girl child and the more subtle and intangible one to change the family's mindset towards the girl by linking cash and non-cash transfers to her wellbeing, it is hoped, would give the necessary impetus to improve women's status. The conditional cash transfers should be given on completion of certain conditionality such as birth registration, immunization, school enrollment, retention in primary and elementary school, entry into secondary school/ vocational training and completion of 18 years without getting married.

(7) Women should also be socialized from early childhood to consider themselves equal to men. They should be encouraged to assume all those responsibilities, which are normally considered to belong to the male domain. This would have a positive influence on future generations, as today's girls would be tomorrow's mothers as well as, mother-in-law.

(8) New Religious rituals, ceremonies and customs should be devised which are pro-woman and non- sexist.

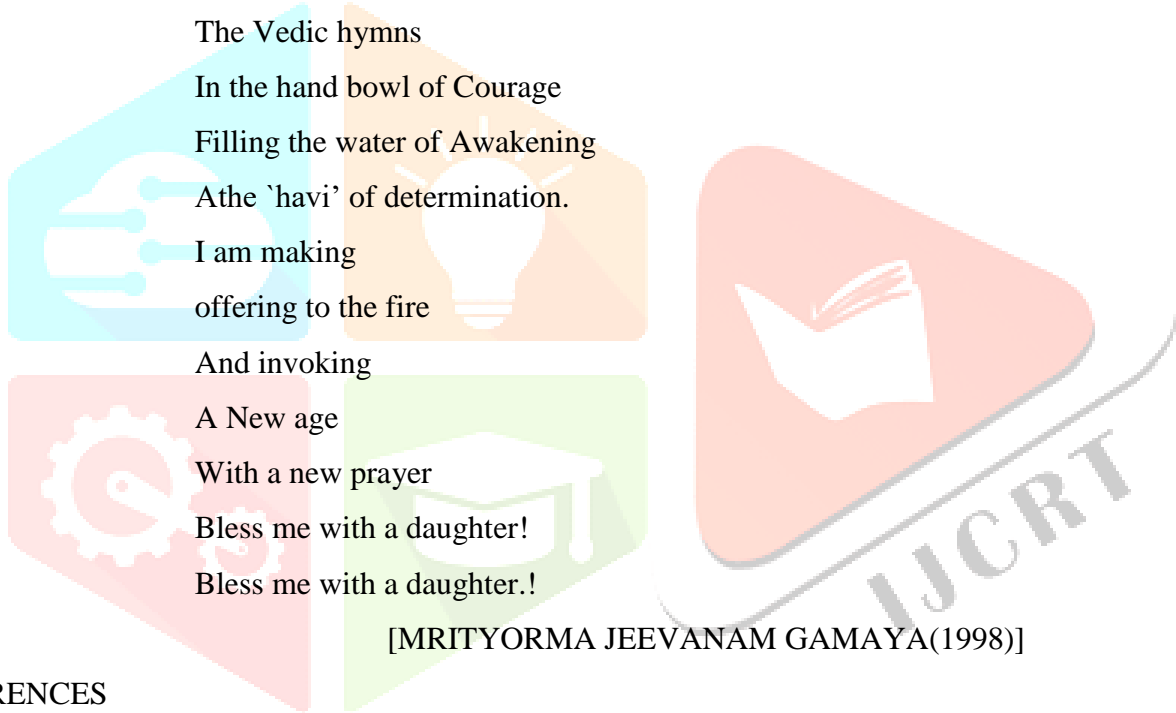
(9) Above all, Indian male must be gender - sensitized keeping in view the changing times. They must accept women as their equal in all walks of life.

(10) Social reform movements should be started opposing all social evils like Dowry and violence against women.



## CONCLUSION

Friends! The Time to Act has come, otherwise our future generations will never forgive us for not combating this crime against humanity. We all need to play our positive role in this movement. Mother India and our daughters are calling us. The March of Change has already started as our writers have started chanting New Mantras reflective of New Age. I conclude with Rashmi Bajaj's inspiring poem ((Translated by Dr. Kavita Sharma))conveying a message of new Times and New Religion:-



Sitting on the  
Alter of time  
Fearlessly chanting  
The Vedic hymns  
In the hand bowl of Courage  
Filling the water of Awakening  
Athe 'havi' of determination.  
I am making  
offering to the fire  
And invoking  
A New age  
With a new prayer  
Bless me with a daughter!  
Bless me with a daughter.!

[MRITYORMA JEEVANAM GAMAYA(1998)]

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(NIRBHAY HO JAO DRAUPADI (2006)) book written by Dr.Rashmi Bajaj, Head deptt.of English Vaish College,Bhiwani,Haryana.