

CHILD SEX RATIO: A REGIONAL AND TEMPORAL ANALYSIS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO JHAJJAR DISTRICT OF HARYANA

Vinod Kumar*

*Assistant Professor of Geography
C. R. Kisan College, Jind, Haryana, India*

Email ID: gillvks08@gmail.com

Accepted: 07.05.2023

Published: 01.06.2023

Keywords: Child Sex Ratio, Jhajjar.

Abstract

Demography and population geography include many qualitative aspects. One qualitative indicator that has proven crucial in socioeconomic planning at various planning levels is the sex ratio. This article explores the development of the sex ratio throughout place and time. The research relies on census records from a number of different years. In a quantitative analysis based on census data, we see a downward trend in the sex ratio over several census cycles. The entire Jhajjar district, which was surveyed, shows a declining sex ratio. The results reveal a 'cause-effect relationships' of decreasing trends of sex ratio throughout various time periods. Finally, some constructive proposals were made to increase the district's positive sex-ratio, which would benefit not only the Jhajjar area but all of Haryana.

Paper Identification



*Corresponding Author

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7980276>

Introduction

Sex composition is one of the significant demographic attributes which is closely related to planning and development. According to Franklin (1956), “A knowledge of the pattern of sex ratio helps to explain the employment and consumption pattern, social need of the people and perhaps the psychological characteristics of a community”. That is why; the sex ratio is one of vital qualitative parameters of population geography. The sex-ratio has been playing a significance role in socio-economic planning and development at various levels. In this context, various studies throw an adequate light on the growth of sex ratio in terms of time and space. The census based data shows a declining trend of sex ratio during different successive periods. All these studies; the authors have tried to establish a ‘Cause-effect relationship’ on growth of sex ratio, experienced in different regions during different successive periods.

Sex ratio is one of significant indicators of the health status of women and her welfare. The ratio reflects the socio-economic, biological and migration attributes of a population. The socio-economic and community life is affected in different ways by striking dis-equilibrium state in sex composition of population (Franklin, 1956). In this context, various efforts have been made to discuss the temporal dimension of growth of sex ratio of children within the age group of 0 to 6 years for India in general, and particularly in Haryana. In this context, various studies show a steady declining trend in child sex ratio (0-6 yrs) during different successive periods in the country. The declining trend shows rapid rates during last three decades. On the basis of these studies; as a result, it concluded that the declining trend has been experienced at rapid rates since the year 1980. Haryana state has been experienced a steady decline in child sex ratio (0-6 yrs.) since the census years 1961 (910) to 2001 (819) (Malhotra, Mamta 2018). However, a growth of 11 points has been experienced since the census year since 819 (2001) to 830 (2011). However, it still going on which is relatively low in comparison with a national average which is 914. In Haryana, the entire district shows that child sex ratio has been relatively lower than that of National average (914).

On the basis of census of 2011 of the southern located districts like Jhajjar(774), Mehandergah (778), Rewari (784) and other like Sonapat (790) have experienced a very low sex ratio i.e. which is below 800. In the present study, the spatio-temporal and regional analysis of child sex ratio, shows that the child sex ratio in Haryana in general and particularly in the Jhajjar district, experienced a declining trend of child sex ratio within the age-group (0-6 yrs) in the rural and urban areas. It was because of the factors affecting the sex-ratio of some of villages of the Jhajjar district of Haryana.

Jhajjar is the 21st district of Haryana which was came in to existence in the year Haryana July 15, 1997, from district Rohtak. . The district headquarter is located in the Jhajjar town; which is located 65 km from Delhi. Jhajjar is one of the less developed districts of Haryana which has experienced relatively rapid large growth than that of the state average in terms of health, income and other social indicators (Ajit Kumar, 2012). The trend of economic development has shifted to social development and gender- related development parameters have become more significant. The district *Jhajjar* is not performing well in gender issue which has given rise to an adverse sex ratio; belonged to within the age group of 0-6 years; has been a matter of serious thought. In the year 2011, *Jhajjar* district had experienced relatively the lowest child sex ratio (774) among all the districts of the Haryana state. The study shows that on the steady growth of sex ratio; a negative growth of sex ratio in the entire Jhajjar district. Further, the findings has tried to establish a *cause-effect relationships* low sex ratio; experienced during different census periods. In this context, to highlight the problematic areas, an empirical study on implementing the PNDT Act, carried out by *Satyapal, (2007)* for the entire study area of Punjab and Haryana, and drawn the ground reality of the female *foeticide* problem in the rural and urban areas of both the states which is main cause of declining the sex ratio in both the states. The Punjab and Haryana states, one of regions in the country; where the minimum sex-ratio has been noticed in the entire country. In this context, the main reason of this declining trend of sex ratio has been the want for male child and steady growth of income of the people; belonged to different strata of society in of in both the states. Finally, the author has suggested some of recommendations to ameliorate the situation in the whole region (Satyapal, 2008).

Hence, we observe that there were views on some of problematic areas which were highlighted by various authors, scholars and the professionals, belonged to different streams; who discussed their views on different aspects. They have tried to establish a cause-effect relationship between steady declining in sex ratio and the socio-economic factors; affecting the sex-ratio. In this context, different studies have been carried out by these authors, who have given their objective and subjective views on the various issues, pertaining to this burning issue of *female foeticide*.(Hassan, *M.I.*2014)It has been observed from the various studies which show a skewed sex ratio. It is therefore, it becomes an imperative to put a check on this problem from the source itself, so that a sustainable and balanced sex-ratio growth may take place in not only in throughout Haryana, but in the entire country too.

Objectives of the Study

The study is aimed at the objectives which are mentioned as follows:

- To examine the growth trends of Sex-ratio during (1961-2011) period;
- To establish a 'Cause-effect relationship' of growth of sex ratio and factor affecting;
- To recommend some of recommendations for further improvement in Sex Ratio in the study area of *Jhajjar* district, Haryana.

Material and Methods

The study is based on periodic census data on sex ratio of different successive periods; which reveal the temporal and regional dimensions of sex ratio, belonged to different age-groups of Haryana. In this context, various reports have also been consulted; as a result, incorporated the requisite information to justify this burning issue. The other sources which are relating to various reports on health and family planning; deal with the general health of the women which have been affecting the fertility and the mortality rates of children belonged to both the sexes of rural and urban areas of Haryana.

Cartographic techniques: In order to data analysis the data on sex ratio and subsequently, for interpretation, various cartographic techniques have been used to show the growth of sex-ratio, taken place during different successive periods. For showing the growth phenomenon of sex-ratio, the bar-diagram and line-graph have been employed. In order to analysis the growth sex-ratio trend, various open-ended discussions have taken placed in some of the respondents, in the study area.

The Study Area

Jhajjar district is one of prominent districts of Haryana. This district has a vital significance for Haryana politics and earlier it was a tehsil of district Rohtak. This district comes under *Rohtak Lok Sabha* constituency and had an integral part of Rohtak politics. This district now surrounded by Rohtak district in north and *Rewari* district in south, whereas *Charkhi Dadri* district in east. Lastly, *Jhajjar* district's border touches with Delhi in east and north eastern part at *Dassa* border and *Tikkri* border near *Bahadurgarh* Tehsil. The study area is Jhajjar of Haryana state.

The entire district is characterized with agrarian economy which is practiced with mixed farming; the practices of cattle rearing and poultry farming; as well as dairy farming. However, the main stay of economy is agriculture and allied activities. Though high cropping intensity is found which is due to assured irrigation in the cultivable land, but still there is extensive dry-land; practiced under dry-land farming conditions. Main seasonal practices are Rabi and *Kharif* crops which are often fail due to failure of Monsoon one after every year. District *Jhajjar* is well connected with the roads and railway transport system. The long standing demand for railways has been fulfilled in the year 2012, as a result, the district had connected with railway network

with *Rohtak* and *Rewari*; as well as other parts of Haryana. Now the High way No 71-A connect with *Rohtak* and *Rewari* and as well as other towns and cities of Rajasthan. The other infrastructure like health, education and drinking water is available in rural and urban areas of *Jhajjar* district of Haryana.

Results & Discussion

Trend in overall Sex Ratio and Child Sex Ratio

Sex ratio is characterized with socio-economic and cultural significance; as a result; added a significant value for formulating index; as well as the value for the population geographer for analysing the regional character of sex-ratio. The sex ratio reflects the socio-economic, biological and emigrational characteristics of population. It also affects the Social, economic and community as whole in a multiple ways. A significant lop-sided sex-ratio would affect to lower the fertility and slower growth too. Important deviations from a balanced sex ratio; is affected by various socio-economic and demographic factors in an area.

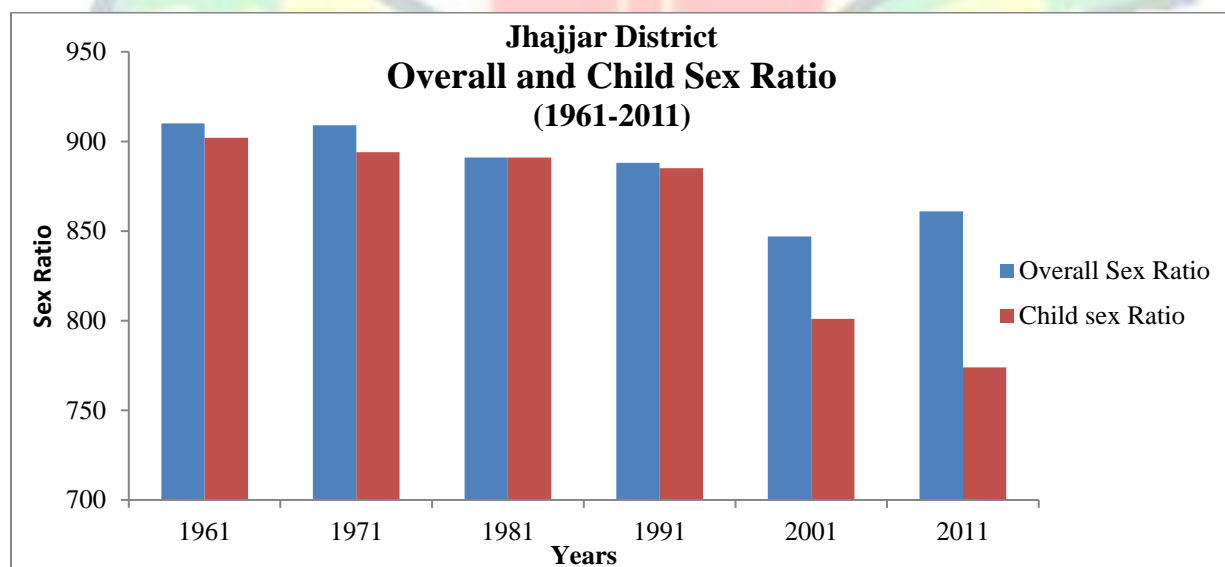


Figure: 1

Figure 1 show that overall sex ratio; as well as child sex ratio of the Jhajjar district of Haryana. The tabulated figures shows that the sex ratio is skewed; as indicated by steady decline since the census year 1961 to 2001, which shows a decreasing trend the from 910 to 847 with the 63 points. However, a growth of 14 points from 847 (2001) to 861(2011) has also been recorded during this decade. On the other hand, the data shows a steady declining trend in the child sex ratio. In the census year 1961, the child sex ratio was 902 girls/1000 boys which shows growth in number increased up to 903 girls/1000 boys in the census 1971. On the other hand, in accordance with 1981 census, the number has been decreased by -12 points. After the year 1980, it shows a

steady declining trend. Since the year 1981 to 2011, it show a decreasing trend by dropping 117 points (891 to 774 girl/1000 boys) Hence, it is obvious from analyzing the tabulated figures and bar-graphs which indicate declining trends of child sex ratio of Jhajjar district, Haryana. The sex ratio of different successive years indicates a steadily declining trend between the census year 2001 and 2011, as compared with preceding years. It was because of practices of rapid rates of female foeticides occurred at within this period of ten years.

Table: 1

Periodic Trend of Child Sex Ratio of Jhajjar District, Haryana: 1961-2011

Census Year	Sex ratio of Haryana	Sex ratio of Jhajjar District
1961	910	902
1971	898	903
1981	902	891
1991	879	885
2001	819	801
2011	830	774

Source: Census of India, 1961-2011.

Table No 2. Show the trend in child sex ratio in the Haryana state and particularly of Jhajjar district since the census year 1961. The data shows a steady declining trend in the child sex ratio. In the census year 1961, CSR in Haryana was 910 girls/per 1000 boys and the sex ratio has been declined up to 898 girls/per 1000 boys. On the other hand, as per 1981 census, it has been observed that there were 4 points; shows an increasing trend in number.

After the year 1980; due to introducing the amniocentesis, as a result; showed a steady decreasing trend. Since the census year 1981 to 2001, it has been decreased by 83 points (902 to 819 girl/per1000 boys) (Gurender Kaur, 2018). However, an increase of 11 points has also been observed from 819 (2001) to 830 (2011). However, it is still shows relatively lower figure in comparison with the national average figure of female sex ratio i.e. 914 (Singh Nina, 2014). The child sex ratio, has always been remained lower in the Jhajjar district as compared the Haryana State average figure. In the census year 1961, the child sex ratio was 902 girls/ per 1000 boys; subsequently, showed a growth of 903 girls/1000 boys in the census year 1971, but in the census year 1981, this number has been decreased by the 12 points. After 1980, it shows a steady declining trend since the census year 1981 to 2011, as a result, it shows a declining trend shows a decreasing of 117 points (891 to 774 girls/1000 boys). Meaning thereby, the sex selective

abortion and the preference for sons have spread like an epidemic in last two decades and infant mortality rate experienced relatively higher for the female child than that of male child (Gill, MS 2000).

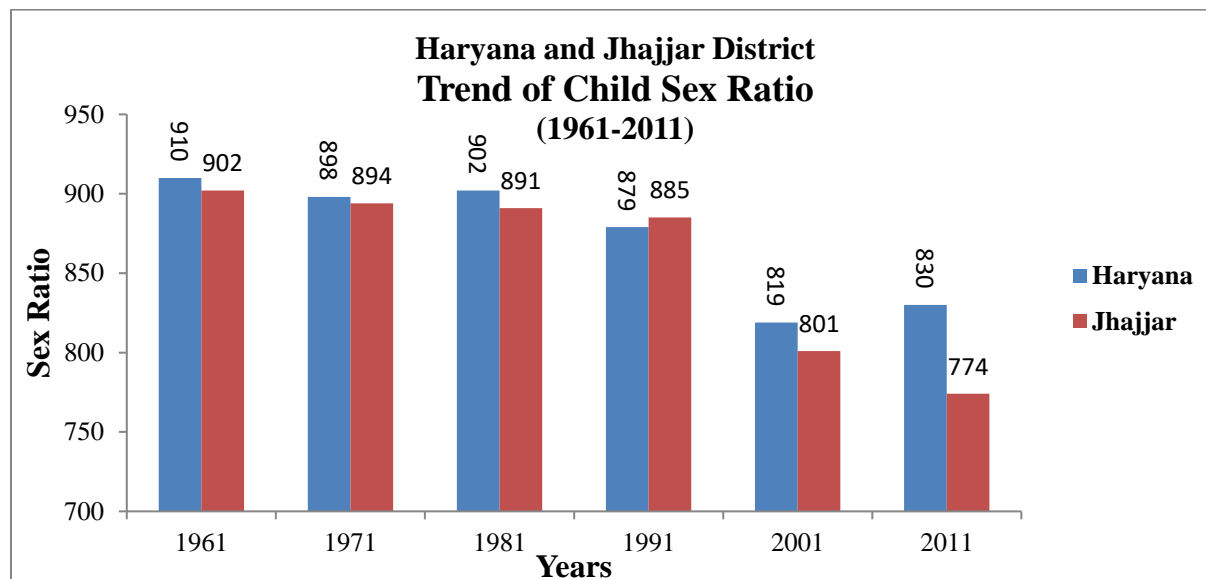


Fig. 2

Table No 2

Spatial Trend in Child Sex Ratio in Jhajjar District: 1991-2011

Year	Rural	Urban
1991	886	870
2001	800	804
2011	772	780

Source: District Census Hand Book, Rohtak District, 1991-2011

District Census Handbook, Jhajjar District, 2001-2011.

In order to understand the differential and magnitude of declining trend of child sex ratio thoroughly, in accordance with the residence, is shown by spatial variability in the child sex ratio. It has been observed that the trend of rural-urban migration, marked by less tendency among females as compared with males. It is because of probability of double enumeration of male migrants in both; the place of origin and place of destination (Singh, 2010). On the other hand, it does not occur in the case of child (0 to 6) age group, there are numerous of factors which are responsible for child sex ratio skewed towards boys. Table No. 2 and the Bar Graph: 2 shows a spatial trend in child sex ratio in Jhajjar district, during the 1991-2011. In the census year, 1991 the Jhajjar district, experienced a high child sex-ratio in the rural areas (886) as compared with urban areas (870). Since the census year 2001 to 2011, the decline trend in the

child sex ratio has noticed in the rural areas (800 to 772) as compared with the urban areas (804 to 780). During 2001-2011, the child sex ratio has declined by 28 points in the rural areas of Jhajjar district and it was declined by 24 points in the urban areas. The sex ratio has been experienced in a worse situation in the rural areas as compared to urban areas which was because of strong son preference desire found in the rural areas. This trend shows that the practice of sex selective termination of pregnancy is relatively prevalent in the rural areas; as a result, contributing to bring a declining trend in child sex ratio.

Spatial Pattern of Child Sex Ratio

The child sex ratio also reveals a considerable regional disparity within the tahsils of Jhajjar district. The lowest sex ratio has been noticed in north-west part of *tehsil* where there were only 768 girls per 1000 boys; belonged to within the age group of 0-6 years. On the contrary, the highest child sex ratio (783) girls per 1000 boys are reported in west, eastern, southern, parts of the district. Also, the range of child sex ratio can be divided into two categories, that is,

1. Areas having Child Sex Ratio above district average (774 girls/1000boys).
2. Areas having Child Sex Ratio below district average (774 girls/1000boys).

Areas with above average Child Sex Ratio (774 girls/1000boys) are as follows:

Out of five tahsils, the Jhajjar Tehsil (783) has experienced above average child sex ratio within the district. The location of Jhajjar tahsils is towards southeast part. There is considerable urban population in the Jhajjar Tehsil and it is commercialized. The women work participation is high, that is why relatively, and the women are having more freedom for decision making in the family matters; as a result led to high child sex ratio. The people are quite matured and having less discrimination against girl. Hence, it obvious that the relatively better urbanized 'Tehsil' has given rise to relatively higher sex ratio amongst all the tahsils, taken for the study.

Areas having below average sex ratio (774) Child Sex Ratio in study areas:

There are three *tehsils*, namely Beri which is located in the West-Northern part, Matenhail in East-Northern, Jhajjar in West-West Southern part are included. It is a continuous belt of low child sex ratio starting from West-Northern part, east-Northern part, west-West Southern part direction of the study area. West-Northern part *tehsils* have lowest child sex ratio (768), followed by east-northern (770), west-southern (773). These *tehsils* constitute about 77 percent of the total geographical area of the district. These *tehsils* include almost all the rural villages where strong patriarchal system is found. The preference for a male child is more established among the higher castes, which constitute a majority of the population in these tahsils. Social and family pressure on woman to deliver a male child, access to ultrasound clinics where sex determination

tests of the foetus are performed desire to have small and complete family i.e. must be one male child, comparatively better economic status due to acquisition of farmland may be the main Reasons Of Low Child Sex Ratio In These Tehsils.

Suggestions to Improve the Sex Ratio

- The promoting programme should be in accordance with prevailing local conditions;
- The local self-governments like Gram Panchayat can make a result oriented efforts; to mobilize the people; belong to different strata of society in the rural areas to overcome the prejudices against the girl child;
- The voluntary organizations, and NGOs working at grass-root level are in a position to change the mind-set of the people on discriminative attitude against the girl child in the family;
- In order to ameliorate the gender-equality, the corporate sector can play a significant role for undertaking the projects on *Gender-bias*, as CSR, the Corporate Social Responsibility; in the rural and urban areas;
- To the girl child and enhancing the sex ratio, the significant role of *Dharam* Guru is increasing in the society. All these *Dharamguru*, can preach by rendering their services through their *Parwahan* and which can be proved conducive to change the mind-set of the people so that they may encourage to save the girl child;
- In the urban areas, the *pressure groups* like association of senior citizens, religious organizations, teacher's associations can play a vital role by bringing change in the attitude of the people at different levels;
- The mass media, including print, electronic and vernacular media particularly the social media can play a significant role to create awareness among the people, belong to different strata of society;
- Apart from social media, the vernacular media like *Nukkar Natak*, puppet shows and periodic group meeting can play a very significant role for creating awareness among the masses in rural and urban areas.
- Lastly, the PNDT Act should be executed strictly in rural and urban areas. The culprits should be punished accordingly. The concerned official should work with honesty and should be a multi-level accountability, transparency and fixation of responsibility at an individual level. Only then the sex-ratio between male and female can be ameliorated to a considerable extent in different strata of society.

Conclusion

It is concluded that the study shows that there is a declining trend; experienced during different successive census periods. By comparing the census figures on sex ratio of Jhajjar District with Haryana, as a result; a steady declining trend in sex ratio noticed during different successive censuses periods (1961-2011). It has been observed that a steadily declining trend with marginal difference or changes has been noticed from time to time. Keeping view the declining trends, it has also been observed that the sex ratio situation of Jhajjar district, turned worst in comparison with the sex-ratio of Haryana.

According to census 2011, the sex ratio of *Jhajjar* district, experienced lowest, ever observed when it has attained the figure of 772 and 780 in the rural and urban areas of the study areas respectively. Keeping in view this pressing problem, it is obvious that the PNDDT Act has not been executed effectively in the urban and rural areas in Haryana, and particularly in *Jhajjar* district of Haryana. Similarly, sex ratio trend in rural areas has been noticed slightly different than that of urban areas. In this context, the census data shows that a significant regional variability in sex ratio of the urban and the rural areas of Haryana, particularly in Jhajjar district of Haryana.

In order to examine the cause-effect relationship of decreasing sex ratio in Haryana, it becomes imperative to take some of preventive and curative measures to raise the sex ratio in each district. The main reason of declining sex ratio has been identified which is growing prejudices against the girl child and the bias mind-set of the people, belonged to various strata of society. Now it becomes imperative to require constant efforts to encourage the people to overcome the problem of the gender-bias attitude among the people, belong to different strata of society.

To promote the sex-ratio in rural and urban areas, the public representatives like *Sarpanches* of *Gram Panchayats*, can be proved a catalytic to motivate the people to emancipate on the prejudices against the girl child, and educate the people, belonged to different strata of society; who indulged in the practices of female-foeticide and implement the public policy in an effective way. To boosting up the sex-ratio, only legislative and executive measures are not enough to control over this problem. It urgently require an active participation of the people and execute the PNDDT Act in accordance with prevailing local conditions to get the desired results of raising sex ratio in the state.

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