

DECLINING SEX RATIO IN INDIA: PROSPECTUS, EFFECTS AND REMEDIES

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ABSTRACT

In India sex-ratio is declining it is a fact, but more important and serious thing is that with social, educational, economic development, it is declining. In 2011 Census it is seen that in all states except Bihar, Gujarat and Jammu Kashmir the sex ratio is increased, it is also increased in UTs except Dadra & Haveli and Daman & Diu. FMR is observed to be very low in most of parts of Northern India. But comparatively sex ratio is high in Southern States of India. In the present study is purely depends upon primary data. Researchers have selected Sangli district as a study area. Five villages were selected from each Taluka with the help of grid system. Again households were selected from each village. Approximately 10 households were taken from each religion and community. In this way 500 households were taken for survey purpose. Researchers have studied basic reasons and consequences of declining sex-ratio in India and suggest the suggestions to tackle this problem.

Keywords: Female-Male Ratio, Girls' Education, Hindu Marriage Act, Human Race and Gender Discrimination etc.

INTRODUCTION

Sex ratio is an important parameter that reflects the status of women in society. Some of the worst gender ratios, indicating gross violation of women's rights are found in south and East Asian countries such as India and China. Maharashtra state in India is no exception to this. In India sex-ratio is declining it is a fact, but more important and serious thing is that with social, educational, economic development, it is declining. For this study researchers have selected Sangli district in western Maharashtra and consider that what are the reasons behind it and what will be consequences of it and how can be tackle this problem.

Sex- Ratios in States and Union Territories of India

Female - male ratio (FMR) is one of the crucial manifestations of the wide spread disparities existing between the female and male. In India FMR averaged 933 in 2001 and it is 940 in 2011, which is one of the lowest in the world. In 1901 the states like Bihar, Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu had sex ratio 1061, 1004, 1037 and 1044 respectively while UTs like

Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram had Sex-ratio 1046, 1091, 1032, 1063, 103, 1037, 1036 and 1113 respectively. This shows FMR is greater than unity, a phenomenon akin to developed countries like Europe and America.

After independence i.e. from 1951 to 1961 the position of all the above states and UTs was good but from 1971 to 2001 the declining trend in sex ratio was shown except Kerala and Pondicherry. But in 2011 Census it is seen that in all states except Bihar, Gujarat and Jammu Kashmir the sex ratio is increased, it is also increased in UTs except Dadra & Haveli and Daman & Diu. FMR is observed to be very low in most of parts of Northern India. But comparatively sex ratio is high in Southern States of India.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study sex- ratios at micro level in Sangli district.
2. To study correlation between sex-ratio and some socio-economic variables i.e. education, income, inflation and marriage expenditure etc.
3. To analyse the causes of declining sex-ratios in sample households in Sangli district.
4. To suggest the remedial measures to raise the Sex-Ratio in India.

HYPOTHESIS

1. There is positive correlation between education and sex-ratio.
2. There is no impact of Male Dominancy on Sex-Ratio.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the present study is purely depends upon primary data. Purposive Random Sampling Method was used in conducting the study. Researchers have selected Sangli district as a study area. Data was collected from households, experts, rural youth, women Sarpanch and members of self help groups, in the sample villages. Five villages were selected from each Taluka with the help of grid system. Again households were selected from each village. Approximately 10 households were taken from each religion and community. In this way 500 households were taken for survey purpose.

Total Expenditure on Various Contents in Daughter's Marriage

The table No. 01 shows total expenditure on various contents in daughter's marriage. Out of total expenditure, 43.83% expenditure was on gold and cloths and it was highest. Followed by 20.42% expenditure was on felicitate and other. It is clearly indicated that dowry system was not completely abolished. Though Dowry Prohibition Act, 1985 prevailed in society, still the implementation of this act did not get successfully. The variation in expenditure on the factors such as dowry, food, marriage, gold and cloth and felicitate from its mean, (standard deviation) was Rs. 29989.08, 15438.32, 13700.47, 48008.36 and 19980.53 respectively and the maximum expenditure on the same factors was Rs. 2,00,000, 2,00,000, 1,50,000, 3,00,000 and 3,00,000 respectively. Average of Rs.112840 was spent by the families on marriage which causes the indebtedness of parents. This concludes that in Indian culture marriage ceremony is significant responsible factor behind declining sex-ratio.

Table 1. Total Expenditure on Various Contents in Marriage (In Rs.)

Sr. No	Contents	Amount	%	Mean	Standard Deviation	Min.	Max.
1.	Dowry	3793000	6.72	7601.2	29989.08	0	200000
2.	Food	9008100	15.96	18016.2	15438.32	0	200000
3.	Marriage	7371000	13.07	14742	13700.47	0	150000
4.	Gold and Cloths	24734000	43.84	49468	48008.36	0	300000
5.	Felicitate	6225500	11.03	12451	19980.53	0	300000
6.	Other	5288500	9.38	10577	16370.57	0	200000
	Total	56420100	100				

Source: Field Survey

Classification of Respondents on the Basis of Expenditure on Girls' Education

Table 2 shows the classification of respondents on basis of expenditure on girl's education. Out of total respondents 89.8% respondents spent on girl's education less than Rs.20,000, Only 1.4% respondents' expenditure on girl's education was more than Rs. 1,00,000. Most of the respondents' expenditure on girls education was very low and not more than Rs. 20,000. The cumulative percentage of the group up to Rs. 60,000 to 80,000 was 98.4%. One of the main reasons might be the poor condition of households and another might be that up to 12th standard girl's education was free. From this data we conclude that lack of awareness about girl's education is the major reason behind the declining sex-ratio.

Table 2. Amount of Expenditure on Girls' Education (In Rs. and %)

Sr. No.	Expenditure	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1.	Less than 20000	449	89.8	89.8
2.	20000-40000	24	4.8	94.6
3.	40000-60000	16	3.2	97.8
4.	60000-80000	3	0.6	98.4
5.	80000-100000	1	0.2	98.6
6.	More than 100000	7	1.4	100.0
	Total	500	100.0	

Source: Field Survey

Distribution of the Girls on Basis of Age at Marriage

In India since the ancient time, the tradition of child marriage is prevailing. Mainly parents are aware that their daughters should get married as early as possible. They are suffering from burden and responsibility. So child marriage is prevailing in many parts of India even today. So these girls are far away from the education and they have to compel to take the responsibilities of the household in early age. It adversely affects their health. The table no.03 shows that 31% women got married at the young age ranging between 14to18 years

and only 2% at the age of 26-30 years and nobody get married above age of 30. There is a Hindu Marriage Act in India and mostly in rural area the law is violated. Very few girls those who were taking higher education and got married at the age of 26 years or more. Due to early marriage and repeated pregnancies the health of women affects adversely. Maternity deaths also occur in families. This is also one important cause of declining sex – ratio in Sangli district and in India.

Table 3. Distribution of the Girls on Basis of Age at Marriage (In %)

Sr. No.	Age of the Girl at Marriage	Frequency	Percent
1.	00	229	45.8
2.	14-18	155	31.0
3.	18-22	97	19.4
4.	22-26	17	3.4
5.	26-30	2	0.4
6.	More than 30	00	00
	Total	500	100.0

Note: 00-means no marriageable girl in Families.

Source: Field Survey

Fields of Equal Treatment to Boys and Girls

Table 4 shows that out of total respondents 40.6% (maximum) respondents said that boys and girls were treated equally in education. Only 12.6% (minimum) respondents said that they gave equal treatment to boys and girls in job. Equality in education between son and daughter is highest, but at the same time sex-ratio in study area and in India is lower. It clearly indicate that there is no correlation between educational equality and sex-ratio.

Table 4. Fields of Equal Treatment to Boys and Girls (In %)

Sr. No.	Treatment	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1.	Education	203	40.6	40.6
2.	Diet	83	16.6	57.2
3.	Job	63	12.6	69.8
4.	Use of Vehicles	81	16.2	86
5.	Freedom of Movement	70	14	100
	Total	500	100	

Source: Field Survey

Effects of Declining Sex-Ratio

If we cannot keep the natural balance between the number of male and female in population, what will be the future of society in future? It has explain as follows;

1. Too many male and few female will be seen in society. Male will be marry with male.
2. Daughters will demand dowry and they will choose their bridegroom.

3. Insecurity for female will be increased and crimes against women will be more.
4. Family system will be broken and will shaken the base of the society.
5. Religion and caste system will be collapse and secular state will emerged.
6. Practice of homo-sex will be expand.
7. Men will get marry with Robot to run the house.
8. The working of marriage bureau will be more difficult than now because number of bridegroom will be more than brides.
9. In India after the year 2020 to get brides will be impossible. So 20% youths will be remain unmarried.
10. Lastly if there will be no mothers for procreation of human race then how the human race will remain?

SUGGESTIONS

1. Society must break the vicious circle of poverty and female illiteracy.
2. Strict implementation of law in case of honour killing must be followed everywhere.
3. Free education up 12th stand for girls' should not remain only the slogan. But its implementation in reality is necessary.
4. The government should promote more higher and technical educational facilities in the rural areas. There should be special incentive package for women education.
5. In the schools no gender discrimination should be followed.
6. The Anti- Dowry Act should be strictly implemented.
7. Motivation and assistance should be given to collective marriage system.
8. Through employment opportunities, empowerment of women should be done.
9. Finally mentality of human being should be changed.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of above data researchers have concluded that equality between male and female is important. It is hard to think the effects of imbalance between male and female. There are many responsible factors behind the declining sex ratio in India such as education, poverty, male dominancy, lack of women empowerment, social status of women and finally thinking of the human being etc. To avoid this social problem Government should implement various social, employment and educational policies. At the same time Government should implement all legislations about the gender discrimination. But very simple way but equally important way is that changes the mentality of male and give the proper status to female like in developed countries USA, Norway, UK. Because in India is now marching towards "High Power ". So there will be female development. The vision of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru will be fulfilled i.e. "If you want me to tell you what a nation is like, or what a social organisation is like, tell me the position of women in that country."

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