



Gender Composition in Indian Population – Trends, Issues And Concerns

Dr. Shailaja Dhruva, Dr. Chandrika Raval

Associate Professor and Head,
S.L.U Arts and H&P Thakor
Commerce College for women

Professor,
Department of Sociology,
Gujarat University

Abstract

The composition of population by gender is one of the primary demographic characteristics of human population. Gender composition reflects fertility, mortality and migration character of a given population. There are different indicator, but sex-ratio is one of the best indicators to measure gender balance in urban and rural life.

The overall sex-ratio (OSR) nationwide (the number of females per 1000 males) in 2011 census has improved by seven percent to 940 against 933 in census of 2001. The provisional data in 2011 census shows that the child sex-ratio (0 to 6) comes down to 914 female per 1000 males against 927 in 2001. This trend creates issues and challenges before urban and rural Indian population. This is an issue of great concern.

Aims / Objectives

The present paper aims at studying the trends and patterns of child sex-ratio in India.

The main objectives are to examine the causes for declining ratio of girl-children and its challenges.

Methodology

The study is based on secondary data such as census of India. It is also confined to various previous empirical researcher and our own observations.

Discussion

The gender composition in population focuses the trends and issues of status of girl child. Why millions of female-foetuses in India are killed before they are born way many of girl children do not reach the age of six ? What are the causes of such discrimination? What are our challenges? Is that due to gender bias? These are some of the points of concern & discussion.

Conclusion

This paper examines the spatial as temporal analysis on trends as well as patterns of sex-ratio. There are many causes, but preference for male-child and socio-cultural values are still the major cause for gender inequality. Declined child sex-ratio leads to future challenges. Therefore rigorous efforts are need to solve the issues of gender balance so far as Indian population is concerned.

Keywords : Gender, Sex-Ratio, Sex-Selection, Patriarchy, gender discrimination.

INTRODUCTION

Equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace. (Beijing platform for Action, CUN Fourth Conference on Women)

The composition of population by gender is one of the basic demographic characteristics and provides meaningful analysis demographically.



Gender composition reflects nativity, mortality and migration character of a given population. Distribution pattern of male and female in a population affects relative role and economic relationship. There are different tools to measure gender equality in population. Population sex-ratio is one of the best indicators to measure gender balance in urban and rural life. Changes in gender composition largely reflect the underlying social, economic and cultural pattern of the society in different ways.

Sex ratio is an index of male-female (im)balance in population. Sex-ratio in India is defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the population. Internationally sex ratio is defined as number of males per 100 females. The Child Sex-ratio is defined as a number of female children per 1000 male children in the age group of 0-6 years.

Sex ratio of 0-6 years will be principally influenced by

- Sex ratio at birth
- Sex selective mortality at younger age.

The sex ratio at birth is usually a biological constant with a value that lies between 943 to 954. As the male infant mortality is higher than female in normal populations, the child sex ratio would tend to increase and improve over the globally accepted constant.

Child sex-ratio is a powerful index to examine the social response and attitude towards girls children. Present gender composition of child population determines the future vital events such as age structure, birth and death, marriage rate, migration, labour force etc. therefore imbalance of gender composition of population leads various serious societal problems. This is an issue of great concern.

AIMS / OBJECTIVES

- The present paper aims at studying the trends and patterns of child sex-ratio in India.
- The main objectives are to examine the causes for declining ratio of girl-children and its challenges.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this paper comprises four stages. In the first stage, we seek to build some earlier studies about this issues and global scenario of sex-ratio. In the second stage, we explain about Indian Trends and issues of child Sex-ratio at urban and rural level. In the third stage, we state its main causes and issues and the last part shows the conclusions and suggestions.

The study is based on secondary data such as census of India and provisional census data of India-2011.

I

The sex-ratio imbalance in India continues to fascinate the perplex social scientists in general and demographers in particular. In the last two census reports of India discussion about gender composition has attracted the attention of researchers. Visaria 1971; Miller 1981,1985; Sen 1990; Rajan 1992; Kishor 1993; Agnihotri 2000; Croll 2000; Bose 2001; Bhat 2002; Patel 2004; Das Gupta 2009; Chakraborty and Sinha 2006; Sauced Unisa 2009; Chandrika and Shailaja 2008; The census of 2001 and 2011 of India generated debate about the issue of child sex-ratio. In a significant article titled as 'More than 100 million women are missing', Amartya Sen (1990) brought in to focus the increasing gender discrimination by analyzing the male-female ratio. He has argued that the problem of missing women is clearly one of the more momentous; and neglected problem facing the World. Godey (Ibid:9) B.D. Miller (1981) related this problem with culture. The present study examines the trends and issues as well as patterns of child sex-ratio in India. This paper is expected to provide vital clues for policy makers and future researchers.

GLOBAL TRENDS

The sex-ratio of India in comparison to some other countries is shown in Table 1.

Table : 1

Sr. No	Country	Sex Ratio
	World	984
1	Russian Federation	1,165
2	France	1,056
3	Japan	1,054
4	Germany	1,038
5	United Kingdom	1,037



6	Brazil	1,031
7	South Africa	1,028
8	United State of America	1,026
9	Republic of Korea	1,020
10	Australia	1,011
11	Ethiopia	1,010
12	Indonesia	1,003
13	Nigeria	995
14	Malaysia	970
15	Iran	968
16	Saudi Arab	828
17	China	327
18	India*	940

Source: World population prospects (midyear estimates), 2010 revision, sex and age United Nation.

* Sex Ratio as per Provisional Result, Census 2011

The Table-1 show the trends of sex ratio of world level. India, U.S.A. Russian federation, Japan and Brazil females outnumber males. Other countries have balance in sex ratio but in India, China, Saudi Arab have less female compared to males.

Sex ratio of India and highborn country 2001-2011

The comparison with neighbouring countries is presented in Table : 2.

Table : 2

India among its neighbours 2001-2011		
Female's per 1000 male's		
Countries	2001	2011
India	933	940
China	944	926
Pakistan	938	943
Bangladesh	958	978
Shri Lanka	1010	1034
Nepal	1005	1014
Afghanistan	930	931
Bhutan	919	897
Myanmar	1011	1048

The situation in the immediate neighbourhood of India reveals a mixed picture. Myanmar (1048), Sri Lanka (1034) and Nepal (1014) have more females in their populations whereas in all other countries the sex ratio shows male domination.

II

Trends in sex-ratio in India: an overview

India is a country of striking demographic diversity. India is also increasing as a country of rapid demographic change.

The sex ratio in India has been seen unfavorable to female.

Table : 3

Sex ratio, India : 1901-2011

Sr. No.	Census Years	Sex ratio - Females per 1000 males
1	1901	972
2	1911	964
3	1921	955
4	1931	950
5	1941	945
6	1951	946
7	1961	941
8	1971	930
9	1981	934



10	1991	927
11	2001	933
12	2011	940

Source : - Provisional Population Totals India – 81

The data shows that sex ratio declined consistently upto 1951 when it rose marginally. In post independence period, the trend continued and sex ratio slipped down for two consecutive decades after 1951 to reach 930 in 1971. During 1991-71 a steep fall of 11 point was seen in the sex ratio. After 1971 census trends were not consistent, showing increase in one decade and decline in the next. However, it was hovering around 930. The sex ratio as per provisional results is the highest since 1971 and a shade below the level of 1961/ (provisional population totals of census-2011) (Gender composition of population:81)

Population by Rural-Urban Residence, India – 2011

India is a country of rural society. The growth of rural and urban population and sex-ratio in rural and urban area is more important.

Table : 4 - Population of India

Persons :	
Total :	1,210,193,422
Rural :	833,087,662
Urban :	377,105,760

Table : 5 - Population by Residence

Rural Urban Distribution Persons :	
Total :	100.0%
Rural :	68.84%
Urban :	31.16%

Source : Census 2011- Provisional Population Totals – India

- Out of the total of 1210.2 million population in India, the size of Rural population is 833.1 million (or 68.84% of the Total population)
- Urban population 377.1 million (or 31.16%)
- During 2001-2011 the population of the country increased by 181.4 million.
- Increase in Rural areas : 90.4 million
- Increase in urban area : 91.0 million

Table : 6
Sex Ratio in India – Difference (2001-2011)

	2001	2011	Difference
Overall			
India	933	940	+7
Rural	946	647	+1
Urban	900	926	+26
0-6 years			
India	927	914	-13
Rural	934	919	-15
Urban	906	902	-4

Source : Census of India – 2001 and provisional population totals of census 2011

The data shows that

- The improvement in overall sex ratio is largely in urban areas
- Though the Urban Child sex ratio is far worse than in the rural areas, the fall in Child sex ratio in rural areas is around 4 times greater than in urban areas. In fact the decline is more gradual in urban areas.
- There is a decline of 8.9 million children in Rural areas, while Urban areas have shown increase of 3.9 million.

Table : 7
Sex ratio of population – India, State and Union Territories by residence, 2011

State/UT Code	India/State/UT *	Sex ratio (number of females per 1000 males)		
		Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5
-	INDIA	940	947	926



01	Jammu & Kashmir	883	899	840
02	Himachal Pradesh	974	988	853
03	Punjab	893	906	872
04	Chandigarh *	818	961	821
05	Uttarakhand	963	1000	883
06	Haryana	877	880	871
07	NCT of Delhi *	866	847	867
08	Rajasthan	926	932	911
09	Uttar Pradesh	908	914	888
10	Bihar	916	919	891
11	Sikkim	889	883	908
12	Arunachal Pradesh	920	929	889
13	Nagaland	931	942	905
14	Manipur	987	966	1038
15	Mizoram	975	950	1000
16	Tripura	961	956	976
17	Meghalaya	986	983	997
18	Assam	954	956	937
19	West Bengal	947	950	939
20	Jharkhand	947	960	908
21	Orissa	978	988	934
22	Chattisgarh	991	1002	956
23	Madhya Pradesh	930	936	916
24	Gujarat	918	947	880
25	Daman & Diu *	618	867	550
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli *	775	863	684
27	Maharashtra	925	948	899
28	Andhra Pradesh	992	995	984
29	Karnataka	968	975	957
30	Goa	968	997	951
31	Lakshadweep *	946	954	944
32	Kerala	1084	1077	1091
33	Tamil Nadu	995	993	998
34	Puducherry *	1038	1029	1043
35	Andaman & Nicobar Islands *	878	871	891

* Union Territories

Source : Census of India Provisional Population Totals : 2011 33.34

According to the Provisional Population Totals of Census 2011, India's sex ratio is 940 for the country as a whole and it is 947 in rural and 926 in urban respectively. The highest sex ratio of 1084, 1077 and 1091 is recorded by Kerala and the lowest sex ratio of 877, 880, 871 is recorded by Haryana state.

Among the Union Territories the highest sex ratio of 1038, 1029, and 1043 is recorded by Pondicherry and the lowest sex ratio of 618,867,550 is recorded by Daman & Diu during 2011 Census.

TRENDS OF CHILD SEX-RATIO

The child sex ratio is a sensitive indicator that displays the status of girl child. Table-8 shows the trends of child sex ratio in India after independence.

Table : 8
Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and Overall Sex Ratio (OSR)

Year	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
CSR	983	976 (-7)	964 (-12)	962 (-2)	945 (-17)	927 (-18)	914(-13)
OSR	946	941 (-5)	930 (-11)	934 (+4)	927 (-7)	933 (+6)	940(+7)

Source: Census of India, 1951, 1961, 1981, 2001 & 2011.

The child sex ratio has been declining faster than overall sex ratio. The overall sex ratio in 2011 Census had gone up by seven points to touch 940 against 933 in 2001 census, the child sex ratio plummeted to 914 from 927. It was



983 in 1951, declined to 964 in 1971, 945 in 1991, 927 in 2001 and come down to 914 in 2011. While, the corresponding ratios for overall sex ratios were 946, 930, 927, 933 and 940 respectively. In recent decades, the child sex ratio has drastically declined. It recorded highest fall, dropping 18 points from 945 to 927. Moreover, in 2011, the child sex ratio (914) is lower than overall sex ratio (940) which reverts to the severity of the problem.

TRENDS OF SEX RATIO IN INDIA IN RURAL-URBAN AREAS

Sex ratio of child population in the age-group 0-6 years - It is also equally needed to examine the sex ratio among the population of 0-6 years in India, states and Union Territories.

Table : 9

The given below presents the data by residence- 2011

Sex ratio of Child population in the age-group 0-6 by residence- India, State and Union Territories, 2011

State/UT code	India/State/UT *	Sex ratio of child population in age-group 0-6		
		Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5
-	INDIA	914	919	902
01	Jammu & Kashmir	859	860	854
02	Himachal Pradesh	906	909	878
03	Punjab	846	843	851
04	Chandigarh *	867	862	867
05	Uttarakhand	886	894	864
06	Haryana	830	831	829
07	NCT of Delhi *	866	809	868
08	Rajasthan	883	886	869
09	Uttar Pradesh	899	904	879
10	Bihar	933	935	906
11	Sikkim	944	952	917
12	Arunachal Pradesh	960	964	944
13	Nagaland	944	932	979
14	Manipur	934	929	945
15	Mizoram	971	966	978
16	Tripura	953	955	945
17	Meghalaya	970	972	957
18	Assam	957	957	955
19	West Bengal	950	952	943
20	Jharkhand	943	952	904
21	Orissa	934	939	909
22	Chhattisgarh	964	972	932
23	Madhya Pradesh	912	917	895
24	Gujarat	886	906	852
25	Daman & Diu *	909	925	903
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli *	924	961	878
27	Maharashtra	883	880	888
28	Andhra Pradesh	943	942	946
29	Karnataka	943	945	941
30	Goa	920	924	917
31	Lakshadweep *	908	888	915
32	Kerala	959	960	958
33	Tamil Nadu	946	937	957
34	Pondicherry *	965	957	969
35	Andaman & Nicobar Islands *	966	975	947

* union territories

Source : Provisional Population Totals : 2011

According to the Provisional Population Totals of 2011 Census, the sex ratio of child population in the age-group 0-6 which has been recorded as 914 for India, the country as a whole and 919 has been recorded for rural and 902 is for urban. Thus it is clear that it is higher in rural areas than in urban areas.



The highest sex ratio of child population has been recorded in Mizoram state, i.e. 971, 966 (rural) and 978 (urban) respectively and the lowest is recorded in Haryana state i.e., 830, 831 (rural) and 829 (urban) respectively.

But, in the case of Union Territories, the highest child sex ratio of 975 in rural areas and 947 in urban areas has been recorded in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the lowest child sex ratio of 866, 809 in rural areas and 868 in urban areas has been recorded in NCT of Delhi in 2011.

PATTERNS OF CHILD SEX RATIO IN INDIA

The pattern of child sex ratio in India shows different and various disparities which will be a helpful for making regional policy. The child sex ratio for India and it's states / union territories are given in Table : 10.

Table : 10
Decline in Sex Ratio of child population in age group (0-6) 2001-2011

India / States	Census Year		Decline in 2011 over 2001
	2001	2011	
All India	927	914	13
North Western States	889	875	14
Haryana	819	830	11
Himachal Pradesh	896	906	+10
Jammu & Kashmir	941	859	82
Punjab	798	846	+48
Rajasthan	909	883	26
Gujarat	883	886	+3
Maharashtra	913	883	30
Goa	938	920	18
Chandigarh	845	867	+22
Delhi	868	867	01
Northern State	931	923	08
Uttar Pradesh	908	886	22
U.P.	916	899	17
Bihar	942	933	09
Madhya Pradesh	932	912	20
Chattisgarh	975	964	11
Jharkhand	965	943	22
East States	957	942	15
Orissa	953	934	19
West Bengal	960	950	10
Southern States	952	948	04
Kerala	960	960	00
Karnataka	946	943	03
Tamil Nadu	942	946	+04
Andhra Pradesh	961	943	18
North Eastern States	965	954	11
Assam	965	957	08
Arunachal Pradesh	964	960	04
Meghalaya	973	970	03
Manipur	957	934	23
Nagaland	964	944	20
Sikkim	963	944	19
Tripura	966	953	13
Mizoram	964	972	+08
Union Territories Excluding Chandigarh, Delhi	963	934	29
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	957	966	+09
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	976	924	55
Daman & Diu	926	909	17
Lakshadweep	956	908	51
Puducherry	967	965	02



Sources: Census of India, 2011: Total Population; Provisional Figures.
Census of India, 2001, series-I, India: Primary Census Abstract, Total Population: Table A-5

The sharpest decline in sex ratio of the child population has been in North Eastern States, and East States during 1981 to 2001 while in south Indian states, it declined moderately, which reveals favorable to girl child. Among the states, in 1981 to 2001 drastic decline in child sex ratio is recorded in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, and Union territory of Chandigarh and Delhi during 1981-2001. However, in recent decade a sharp decline is recorded in states of Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Manipur, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland. Union territory of Dadara & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep also recorded high loss of child population.

Some argue that natural population trends are causing this shift, but demographic factors alone cannot explain the disparities in the number.

The data shows imbalance of gender composition. There are many causes for decline in child sex ratio.

III

Causes for decline in child sex ratio

Several causes are attributed to the decline in the number of child sex ratio

Biological Factors

Some scholars have speculated that different couples have different biological propensities to have male child. Biological factors are responsible for natural birth sex-ratio. The causes of missing daughter's before birth calling pre-natal i.e. Female feticide, physical, sexual, emotional abuse

Migration

Male and female migration creates unequal sex ratio in population. Economic growth and economic development increase male migration. Marriage, for women, is also responsible for the migration. Higher education, medical treatment, service etc and also related with migration. Brain drain is a source of migration urbanization with migration process is related. This way migration from rural-urban is a cause for changes in population and sex ratio.

Patriarchal structure of the society

Many studies have established that patriarchal economic structure, coupled with perceived cultural norms (religious or caste based institution norms) and economic utility of boys over girls are important determining factors of the degree of son preference and inferior status of the girl child. (Perianayagam Arokiasmy, Srinivas Goli : E.P.W. Oct. 20, 2012, Vol: XL VII, No. 42-85) (Dyson and Moore 1983, Miller 1985, 2001, Das Gupta 1987, Kishor 1993; Behraman 1998, Arokiasmy 2007, Sekher and Hatti 2010 a)

Preference of Son

In many countries, however the sex ratio deviates from these norms because of the tradition of son preference because they believe that sons have a higher wage earning capacity, especially in agrarian economics,

- They continue the family line.
- They are generally recipients of inheritance.
- Preference for a son by family and society (as he carries forward the name of family, is considered a source of support during old age and also performs the last rites at the time of cremation).
- Social and family pressure on women to produce sons.
- There are some cultural and economic reasons. Once a daughter marries, she leaves the parental home to live with her in-laws.
- A study of Das Gupta (2006) has convincingly proved that there has been strong son preference and the sex ratio is closely related to the sex composition of children already born in family, people are pressurized to bear sons while limiting the number of daughters in order to conserve scarce household resource (Sen, 1999 and Coale, 1991)

Inferior Status of the Girl Child

The study of (Dyson and Moore 1983, Miller 1985, 2001, Das Gupta 1987, Kishor 1993, Behraman 1998, Arokiasmy 2007, Sekher and Hatti 2010 a) says that in the family and society the inferior status of girl child leads gender bias and discrimination and preference of son leads imbalance in the sex ratio. The Committee on Status of Women in India (1975) concluded that an increase in the neglect of female lives as an expendable asset is the only reason for the declination of the females in Indian society.



Economic Reason

Child rearing cost vis-à-vis benefits that may accrue when the child becomes adult. In Indian society people believe that sons are perceived to support their parents, both before and after marriage, while daughters move to their husband's family and provide very little economic or emotional support to their own parents (Bhasin 1993, Geeta 2007) Daughters are considered a brain drain on parental resources. (Das Gupta 2000)

Sex – Selective Abortion

There is evidence that advanced medical technologies such as those used for prenatal sex identification have been exploited as a tool for the selection of children by sex of the foetus. “In India low sex ratio is a stark indicator of the inferior position of women in Indian Society”.

Cultural Factors

Cultural explanations of son preference focus on factors that systemically marginalize women, thus making daughter less socially valuable to parents than son. In rural India socio-cultural values have strong effect for gender bias. Selective discrimination against women shows for traditional socio-cultural values like early marriage. Culture shaped both the values of girls and economic restraints of household (Vishwanath 1997, Ray 2005, Chamar bagwala and Ranger 2006).

Other Factors

Several researchers have also found that imbalance of sex ratio is due to poverty, economic system, level of education of the parents, cultural practice, low fertility and land holding dimension (Perianayagam Arokiasmy, Srinivas Goli : E.P.W. Oct. 20, 2012, pp. 85:93).

A lot of sex selective abortions are taking place today. It affects the sex ratio at birth, Mortality differentials reflect in many states. Biologically female children have higher longevity, but at every stage of life, they are discriminated and neglected for basic nutrition, education and living standard which causes to mortality rate, thereby deficit in child sex ratio is seen in different states and rural-urban areas.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

There are some issues and challenges related with declining sex ratio.

- Gender imbalance in the society will create many problems.
- 1) Preference of son will create imbalance of males and females.
- 2) Fertility and morality rate will create social issues and age related problems.
- 3) Many men will remain single and will be unable to have families in future. The adverse effect will be seen in marriage and family system.
- 4) Decreasing number of females in the society is likely to increase sex related crimes against women.
- 5) It will lead to increase in social problems like rape, abduction, bride selling, forced polyandry, etc.
- 6) There will be increase of prostitution, sexual exploitation and increase in cases of STD and HIV/AIDS.
- 7) Growth in crime against women and cause various physical, physiological and psychological disorders in women.
- 8) Health of women is affected as she is forced to go for repeated pregnancies and abortions.
- 9) An additional problem is that many of the young boys from rural peasantry and low socio-economic class with limited education, will remain unmarried and therefore, will create a problem for the society.
- 10) There will be shortage of women in the marriage market, women can ‘marry up’ inevitably leaving the least desirable men with no marriage prospects.
- 11) There is a chance that antisocial behavior and violence will create kidnapping and trafficking of women will increase. So, level of violence against women will increase.
- 12) Traditional division of labour in society will be changed.
- 13) House hold economy will change.

IV

CONCLUSIONS

- 1) Women have an important role with men in creating better life of family. They constitute about half of the world's population.
- 2) In the census of India, 2001 and 2011 the sex ratio in Indian states and union territories has changed. The child sex ratio has rapidly declined dropping 18 points from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and recorded as 914 in 2011.
- 3) The sex ratio India is less than our neighbor country except China and Saudi Arab.
- 4) As per provisional data of census 2011 of India sex ratio is 940 which is highest after census 1971.



- 5) According to the provisional population totals census 2011, the highest sex ratio is recorded by Kerala and lowest in Haryana State.
- 6) Among the union territories, the highest sex ratio is in Pondicherry and lowest in Daman and Diu.
- 7) In recent decade, a sharp decline of child sex ratio is recorded in state of Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Manipur, Jharkhand, Uttranchal, Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland union territory of Dadara and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep also recorded high loss of child population.
- 8) The improvement in overall sex ratio is largely in urban areas.
- 9) Urban child sex ratio is far worse than in the rural areas, the fall in child sex ratio in rural areas is around four times lower than that in urban areas.
- 10) There is a decline of 8.9 million children in rural areas, while in urban areas has shown increase of 3.9 million.
- 11) Several reasons are adduced to explain the consistently low level of child sex ratio. It is widely accepted that socio, economic and cultural factors are responsible for decline in sex ratio, but sex selective abortions, preference of a son and neglect of the girl child are more responsible factors for it.
 - Patriarchy structure of the society is a base of declining sex ratio.
 - Land and socio-cultural environment is linkage for declining sex ratio.
 - There are many challenges for the gender imbalance. They create social and economic problems.

SUGGESTIONS

- The state should initiate to modify the two child norm with the combination of one son and one daughter, so that imbalances in the child sex ratio could be removed.
- People and religious leaders should be motivated to perform rituals by daughter over son at parent's cremation and at every death anniversary thereafter.
- Women should take interest in decision making process in property, landownership, equal right, law etc.
- Awareness programmes should be organized among different stakeholders and community at large, about the declining sex ratio and its negative impact on the society.
- Rational response should be created for gender balance, especially at economic and socio-cultural level.
- Gender discrimination should be reducing at all level. We should improve the status of women and empower them.
- Researchers should analyse advantages and disadvantages of imbalance of gender composition. The strong and useful finding of social scientists would be useful for demographers and policy makers.
- The availability of reliable and affordable old age pensions, social security and life insurance programmes should accessed to rural and urban area, which will be helpful in reducing dependence on son.
- Law should be enacted to share the earning of married daughters for old parents, which would reduce the amount of preference for son.
- We should create a value for balance between son and daughter. People should give equal attention for son and daughter's socialization, education and their way of life.
- There is an urgent need to improve health care facilities in rural India, so parents will be more assured of the survival of their children.
- Government should provide maximum employment for all strata of the society, so women can improve their status and accept the role and responsibilities for son and daughter.
- The population policy of India should focus on the need to have a right-based and gender sensitive approach to population stabilization.

Thus, gender composition in Indian population is important. The trends of sex ratio strongly support patriarchal and secondary status of girl child. The low sex ratios are trends of increasing masculinization and discrimination against women. Sex selective abortion is a matter of great concern. There are, clear indications that the essential fundamental change in attitudes has started to happen. We believe that the difference in the population sex ratio as well as in sex ratio at birth will gradually decrease over the next decade.

*This paper was jointly presented in 18th International Congress of Rural Health and Medicine – Goa.

REFERENCES

1. Acharya A. K. (2004), Gender Preference and India's Missing Girls : Evidence from some selected states of India. Annual Meeting of Population Association of America (PAA), Boston, USA, April 1-3
2. Agnihotri S.B. (2000) Sex Ratio Patterns in the Indian Population, A Fresh Exploration, New Delhi, Sage Publications.
3. Ashesh Das Gupta (2003) : Culture and Fertility : Son Preference and Reproductive Behaviors, Sociological Bulletin, 52(2), September 2003, New Delhi.



4. Arnold Fred, Sunita Kishor and T. K. Roy, (2002): "Sex Selective Abortions in India," Population and Development Review, 28 (4): 759- 785
5. Altekar, A S (1962): The Position of Women in Hindu Civilization (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass).
6. Basu, Alaka (1992) Cultural, the Status of women and demographic behaviors. Oxford : Clarendon Press.
7. Bhat, Mari P.N. (1994) : Levels and Trends in Indian Fertility, Economic and Political Weekly, 29 (51-52) : 273-80.
8. —(2002), 'On the trail of 'Missing' Indian Females' (I and II), Economic and Political Weekly, 37 (51 and 52) : 5105-18 and 5244-63.
9. Bhasin, K (1993): What Is Patriarchy? New Delhi: Kali for Women.
10. Bose, A (2001): "Fighting Female Foeticide: Growing Greed and Shrinking Child Sex Ratio", Economic & Political Weekly, 8 September, pp 3427-29.
11. Committee on status of women in India 1975. Towards Equality : Report of the Committee of the status of Women in India. New Delhi, Government of India, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Department of Social Welfare.
12. Census (2011) – Provisional Population Totals – India. www.censusindia.gov.in
13. Chakraborty, Lekha and Sinha, Darshy, (2006): "Determinants of Declining Child Sex ratio in India: An Empirical Investigation"; Center for Development Studies, Kerala, India.
14. Croll, E (2000): Endangered Daughters: Discrimination and Development in Asia (London and New York: Routledge).
15. Chandrika and Shailaja : (2008), Samaj no Suraj, Parshwa Publication, Ahmedabad.
16. Das Gupta, M. (2005): "Explaining Asia's Missing Women: A New Look at the Data", Population and Development Review, 31 (3): 529-535.
17. Das Gupta, M (1987): "Selective Discrimination against Female Child in Rural Punjab", Population and Development Review, Vol. 13, No 1, pp 77-100.
18. (2009): "Family System, Political System, and Asia's Missing Girls: The Construction of Son Preference and Its Unraveling", Policy Research Working Paper, Human Development and Public Service Team, Development Research Group, World Bank, Washington DC.
19. Das Gupta, P (2000): "Population and Resources: An Exploration of Reproductive and Environmental Externalities", Population and Development Review, Vol. 26, No 4, pp 643-89.
20. Das Gupta, M, W Chung and L Shuzhuo (2009): "Evidences for an Incipient Decline in Numbers of Missing Girls in China and India", Population and Development Review, Vol. 35, No 2, pp 401-16.
21. G. Janaki Ramaiah, T. Chandrasekarayya and P. Vinayaga Murthy (2011) : Declining Child Sex Ratio in India : Trends, Issues and Concerns, Asia – Pacific Journal of Social Sciences, Vol III (1) Jan-June 2011, P.P. 183-198.
22. Geeta, V (2007): Patriarchy (Kolkata: Stree).
23. Harris, R (2007): "India: Aryan Patriarchy and Dravidian Matriarchy", available at www.inter-world/harris12.html
24. Hatti, N, T V Sekher and M Larsen (2004): "Lives at Risk: Declining Child Sex Ratios in India", Lund Papers in Economic History No 93, Population Economics.
25. Kishor, S (1993): "May God Give Sons to All: Gender Differences in Child Mortality in India", American Sociological Review, Vol. 58, pp 247 -65.
26. Mies, M (1980): "Capitalist Development and Subsistence Reproduction: Rural Women in India", Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars, Vol. 12, No 1, pp 2-14.
27. Miller, Barbara D (1981): The Endangered Sex: Neglect of Female Children in Rural North India (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press).
28. Patel, T (2004): "Missing Girls in India", Economic & Political Weekly, 28 February, pp 887-89.
29. Perianayagam Arokiasamy, Srinivas Goli : Explaining the Skewed Child Sex Ratio in Rural India – Revisiting the Landholding Patriarchy, Hypotheses, Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) October 20, 2012. Vol- XLVII, No.42.
30. Provisional Population Total – India (2011) Chapter-5, Page. 78-96.
31. Rajan, I (1992): "Decline in Sex Ratio: An Alternative Explanation Revisited", Economic & Political Weekly, 14 November.
32. Sen, A (1990): "More Than 100 Million Women Are Missing", New York Review of Books, Vol. 37, No 20, pp 61-66.
33. Shrivastava, S K (1998): "Female Infanticide in Bihar", Economic & Political Weekly, Vol. 32, No 17.
34. Srinivasan, K (2000): "Trends in Sex Ratio: Revisit Needed", Economic & Political Weekly, Vol. 35, No 32.
35. Sayeed Unisa, (2009): "An Investigation into Masculinization of sex ratio in India", paper presented at XXXI IUSSP International Population Conference, 27th September to 2nd October, Marrakech.
36. Sen, Amartya, (1990): "More than 100 Million Women are Missing," New York Review of Books, 20, December, 61-66.



37. Sudha, S. and S. Irudaya Rajan, (1999): "Female Demographic Disadvantage in India,1991: Sex Selective Abortions and Female Infanticide-1981-1991", Development and Change, Vol. 30, No. 2 , pp 585-61.
38. Thakkar Dhwanee & Others (2011) : Male Child Preference for the First Child Decreasing among Women in Surat City, National Journal of Community, Medicine-2011, Vol.2, Issue-1.
39. T.V. Sekher and Neelambar Hatti (2010) : Disappearing Daughters and Intensification of Gender Bias : Evidence from Two Village Studies in South India, Sociological Bulletin, 59(1)January-April, PP. 111-133, New Delhi.
40. Visaria, P (1971): The Sex Ratio of the Population in India, Monograph No 10, Census of India (New Delhi: Manager of Publications).
41. Vishal D. Pajankar and Pranali Pajankar (2011) Paper 'Gender Disparity in the Population of India : A Statistical View, Stud Tribes Tribal's, 9(1) : 61-69.