

Negative Change in Sex Ratio: A Burning Issue in Ahmednagar District (Maharashtra)

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Abstract: *Declining Sex Ratio is one of the burning issues not only Ahmednagar District but also many districts of India. This issue putting adverse impact on society therefore in present study attempted has been made to statistically analysis of sex ratio of Ahmednagar District during 1951 to 2011 for understanding changing pattern of sex ratio. The results are shocking all 14 tehsils of district had recorded negative sex ratio but Sangamner, Newasa, Pathardi and Karjat tehsils were recorded high negative change during 1951 to 2011. There is urgent need to change the pattern of sex ratio with putting some steps like to take strong action against the illegal ultrasound centres, strictly implementation of the Anti- Dowry Act, to improve the girl child chances of survival with providing nutritional food and empowerment of women.*

Keywords: Sex Ratio, Negative Change, Burning Issue, Anti- Dowry Act, Girl child

1. Introduction

Today India is emerge as fastest growing economy in the world but the evidences shows that the declining Sex Ratio is one of the burning social problem, usually refers as the number of females per thousand males populations not only in backward states but also in developed and urbanized states like Maharashtra. According to census 2011, only 940 females per 1000 males at national level while Maharashtra recorded 925 females per 1000 males, which is below national average. But there is large fluctuation at district level, the highest sex ratio was recorded in Sinddudurgh (1037), Ratanagiri (1123), Gondia (996) etc. while the lowest was recorded in Mumbai city (838), Mumbai Suburban (858), Thane (880) etc. Although there are several laws on female foeticide and schemes to encourage the families to have a girl child, the sex ratio in India has gone down. It clearly point out that people are still prefers son not only in rural areas but also in urban and highly educated areas like Mumbai, Thane, Pune etc. It has been also observed that the trend of sex determination and sex selective abortion is increasing rapidly not only in cities and towns but also in rural areas with the availability of better road and transport facilities (Babita Sinha, P.N. Mari Bhat and S.C. Gulati (2005). Thus it is necessary to take strong action against the illegal ultrasound centres for check on sex selective abortion. Dowry system is also one of the key causes of negative sex ratio hence there is need to strictly implement the Anti- Dowry Act against people demanding and also providing dowry. Sex ratio may be varies Spatio-temporally, age group depending on age specific mortality and sex specific migration. Therefore present study has been focus on tehsil wise investigation for understanding pattern of sex ratio and negative change and cause of negative change in Ahmednagar district.

2. Study Area

Ahmednagar district is the largest district of Maharashtra state with geographical area of 17 418 sq. km. which is 5.66 Per Cent of total area of the State. It lies between 18° 2' N to

19° 9' N latitude and 73° 9' E to 75° 5' E longitude with covering 14 tehsils. The climate of the region is characterized by hot summers and general dry throughout the year except during the southwest monsoon season. The mean maximum temperature is 39.1°C and the mean minimum temperature is 12.3°C. The average annual rainfall in the district is 568.7 mm. about 77 Per Cent of the annual rainfall in the district is received during the SW monsoon season (June–September). The population of district is 45, 43,083 (Provisional Census, 2011) out this 573698 (12.62 %) is belong to Scheduled Castes including 291521 male and 282177 female population. According to the Census Hand Book sex ratio was 971 in 1951, 962 in 1961, 955 in 1971, 959 in 1981, 949 in 1991, 940 in 2001 and 939 in 2011. It shows that overall change of sex ratio is negative.

3. Methodology

For the present study tahsil has selected as a basic unit of micro level investigation. The period selected for the present study is during 1951- 2011. The present study is entirely based on secondary data which is collected from the Census Handbook of Ahmednagar 1951 to 2011. Sex Ratio was computed by using following formula through MS Excel.

$$\text{Sex Ratio} = \frac{P_f}{P_m} \times 1000$$

Where,

P_f = Population of Female

P_m = Population of Male

Lastly, on the base of finding, decades with negative changes were find out and maps were prepared using ArcGIS 9 software

4. Results and Discussions

Data regarding sex ratio of each tehsil were collected from census handbook of Ahmednagar district during 1951 to 2011. Sex ratio was calculated with applying formula and absolute change and change in percentage was calculated, changing pattern of sex ratio in district during 1951 to 2011 was presented. (Table1).

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Table 1: Changing Pattern of Sex Ratio in Ahmednagar District during 1951 to 2011

Sr. No.	Tehsil	Sex Ratio 1951	Sex Ratio 1961	Absolute Change	Change in percentage	Sex Ratio 1961	Sex Ratio 1971	Absolute Change	Change in percentage
1	Nagar	973	935	-38	-3.91	935	901	-34	-3.64
2	Rahuri	977	953	-24	-2.46	953	952	-1	-0.10
3	Shrirampur	947	929	-18	-1.90	929	929	0	0.00
4	Newasa	985	973	-12	-1.22	973	975	2	0.21
5	Shevgaon	997	976	-21	-2.11	976	974	-2	-0.20
6	Pathardi	983	973	-10	-1.02	973	967	-6	-0.62
7	Jamkhed	974	963	-11	-1.13	963	976	13	1.35
8	Karjat	956	950	-6	-0.63	950	946	-4	-0.42
9	Shrigonda	955	945	-10	-1.05	945	949	4	0.42
10	Parner	1016	1008	-8	-0.79	1008	1025	17	1.69
11	Akole	1007	1020	13	1.29	1020	959	-61	-5.98
12	Sangamner	987	987	0	0.00	987	974	-13	-1.32
13	Kopargaon	956	943	-13	-1.36	943	943	0	0.00
Sr. No.	Tehsil	Sex Ratio 1971	Sex Ratio 1981	Absolute Change	Change in percentage	Sex Ratio 1981	Sex Ratio 1991	Absolute Change	Change in percentage
1	Nagar	901	894	-7	-0.78	894	912	18	2.01
2	Rahuri	952	952	0	0.00	952	943	-9	-0.95
3	Shrirampur	929	943	14	1.51	943	941	-2	-0.21
4	Newasa	975	953	-22	-2.26	953	945	-8	-0.84
5	Shevgaon	974	984	10	1.03	984	954	-30	-3.05
6	Pathardi	967	994	27	2.79	994	957	-37	-3.72
7	Jamkhed	976	981	5	0.51	981	955	-26	-2.65
8	Karjat	946	953	7	0.74	953	939	-14	-1.47
9	Shrigonda	949	958	9	0.95	958	949	-9	-0.94
10	Parner	1025	1042	17	1.66	1042	1017	-25	-2.40
11	Akole	959	1007	48	5.01	1007	996	-11	-1.09
12	Sangamner	974	973	-1	-0.10	973	953	-20	-2.06
13	Kopargaon	943	945	2	0.21	945	939	-6	-0.63
Sr. No.	Tehsil	Sex Ratio 1991	Sex Ratio 2001	Absolute Change	Change in percentage	Sex Ratio 2001	Sex Ratio 2011	Absolute Change	Change in percentage
1	Nagar	912	901	-11	-1.21	901	931	30	3.33
2	Rahuri	943	934	-9	-0.95	934	934	0	0.00
3	Shrirampur	941	949	8	0.85	949	962	13	1.37
4	Newasa	945	937	-8	-0.85	937	934	-3	-0.32
5	Shevgaon	954	953	-1	-0.10	953	953	0	0.00
6	Pathardi	957	951	-6	-0.63	951	926	-25	-2.63
7	Jamkhed	955	949	-6	-0.63	949	920	-29	-3.06
8	Karjat	939	933	-6	-0.64	933	914	-19	-2.04
9	Shrigonda	949	939	-10	-1.05	939	923	-16	-1.70
10	Parner	1017	988	-29	-2.85	988	955	-33	-3.34
11	Akole	996	974	-22	-2.21	974	974	0	0.00
12	Sangamner	953	945	-8	-0.84	945	943	-2	-0.21
13	Kopargaon	939	929	-10	-1.06	929	942	13	1.40
14	Rahata	-	-	-	-	938	940	2	0.21

(Source: Computed by Researcher)

Table 2: Negative Change in Sex Ratio in Ahmednagar District during 1951 to 2011

Sr. No.	Tehsil	Sex Ratio Change in percentage (1951 to 2011)						Decade with Negative Change	%
		1951-61	1961-71	1971-81	1981-91	1991-01	2001-11		
1	Nagar	-3.91	-3.64	-0.78	2.01	-1.21	3.33	04 (06)	66.66
2	Rahuri	-2.46	-0.10	0.00	-0.95	-0.95	0.00	04 (06)	66.66
3	Shrirampur	-1.90	0.00	1.51	-0.21	0.85	1.37	02 (06)	33.33
4	Newasa	-1.22	0.21	-2.26	-0.84	-0.85	-0.32	05 (06)	83.33
5	Shevgaon	-2.11	-0.20	1.03	-3.05	-0.10	0.00	04 (06)	66.66
6	Pathardi	-1.02	-0.62	2.79	-3.72	-0.63	-2.63	05 (06)	83.33
7	Jamkhed	-1.13	1.35	0.51	-2.65	-0.63	-3.06	04 (06)	66.66
8	Karjat	-0.63	-0.42	0.74	-1.47	-0.64	-2.04	05 (06)	83.33
9	Shrigonda	-1.05	0.42	0.95	-0.94	-1.05	-1.70	04 (06)	66.66
10	Parner	-0.79	1.69	1.66	-2.40	-2.85	-3.34	04 (06)	66.66
11	Akole	1.29	-5.98	5.01	-1.09	-2.21	0.00	03 (06)	50.00
12	Sangamner	0.00	-1.32	-0.10	-2.06	-0.84	-0.21	05 (06)	83.33
13	Kopargaon	-1.36	0.00	0.21	-0.63	-1.06	1.40	03 (06)	50.00
14	Rahata	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.21	00(01)	00

(Source: Computed by Researcher)

The negative change in sex ratio in Ahmednagar district during 1951 to 2011 was calculated. Decades with negative change divided by total decades (6) for calculated percentage of negative change (Table 2).

Change in 1951 to 1961

It is observed that 11 tehsils was recorded Negative Sex Ratio, are Nagar (935), Rahuri (953), Shirampur (929), Newasa (973), Shevgaon (976), Pathardi (973), Jamkhed (963), Karjat (950), Shrigonda (945), Parner (1008), and Kopargaon (943) whereas only Akole (1020) and in Sangamner tehsils were recorded Positive Sex Ratio.

Change in 1961 to 1971

In this decade picture was changed, 7 tehsils was recorded Negative Sex Ratio and the most striking tehsils were, Nagar (901), Rahuri (952), Shevgaon (974), Pathardi (967), Karjat (946), Akole (953) and in Sangamner (974) while the Positive Sex Ratio were recorded in Newasa (975), Jamkhed (976), Shrigonda (949) and Parner (1025) tehsils. Shirampur (929) and Kopargaon (943) tehsils were recorded constant sex ratio.

Change in 1971 to 1981

Tremendous change was occurred in this decade, only 3 tehsils were recorded Negative Sex Ratio and the most striking tehsils were Nagar (894), Newasa (953) and Sangamner (973). Positive Sex Ratio was recorded in 10 tehsils which were Rahuri (952), Shirampur (943), Shevgaon (984), Pathardi (994), Jamkhed (981), Karjat (953), Shrigonda (958), Parner (1042), Akole (1007), and Kopergaon (945).

Change in 1981 to 1991

It is observed that 12 tehsils were recorded Negative Sex Ratio including Rahuri (943), Shirampur (941), Nevasa (945), Shevgaon (954), Pathardi (957), Jamkhed (955), Karjat (939), Shrigonda (949), Parner (1017), Akole (996), Sangamner (953), Kopergaon (939). Only Nagar (912) tehsil was recorded Positive Sex Ratio.

Change in 1991 to 2001

Negative Sex Ratio was recorded in 12 tehsils the most striking tehsils were Nagar (901), Rahuri (934), Newasa (937), Shevgaon (953), Patardi (951), Jamkhed (949), Karjat (933), Shrigonda (939), Parner (988), Akole (974), Sangamner (945) and Kopergaon (929). The Positive Sex Ratio was recorded in Shirampur (949) tehsil.

Change in 2001 to 2011

In this decade Newasa (934), Pathardi (926), Jamkhed (920), Karjat (914), Shrigonda (923), Parner (955) and Sangamner (943) were recorded Negative Sex Ratio whereas Positive Sex Ratio was recorded in Nagar (931), Shirampur (962), Kopergaon (942) and Rahata (940). The constant Sex Ratio was recorded in Rahuri (934), Akole (974) and Shevgaon (953).

Negative Change during 1951 to 2011

Negative Sex Ratio is one of the burning issues in India; it is observed that sex ratio pattern is not constant during 1951 to 2011 period in district. Most of the tehsils were recorded Negative Sex Ratio but high change was recorded in

Sangamner, 5 decades had negative change and only 1 decade (1951 to 1961) recorded constant change. Newasa tehsil also recorded negative change in 5 decades only 1 decade (1961 to 1971) recorded positive change. Pathardi tehsil was also recorded negative change in 5 decades only 1 decade (1971 to 1981) recorded positive change. Karjat was also recorded negative change in 5 decades only 1 decade (1971 to 1981) recorded positive change. All these four tehsils indicates that 83.33 percentage negative change in sex ratio. Remaining tehsils Kopergaon, Akole, Shirampur, Shevgaon, Rahuri, Parner, Nagar, Shrigonda and Jamkhed are also shows negative change between 33 to 66 percentages (Fig.1). It is a wakeup call to all of these four tehsils of district; it is time to put urgent steps for positive change in sex ratio in not only in these tehsils but also in entire district.

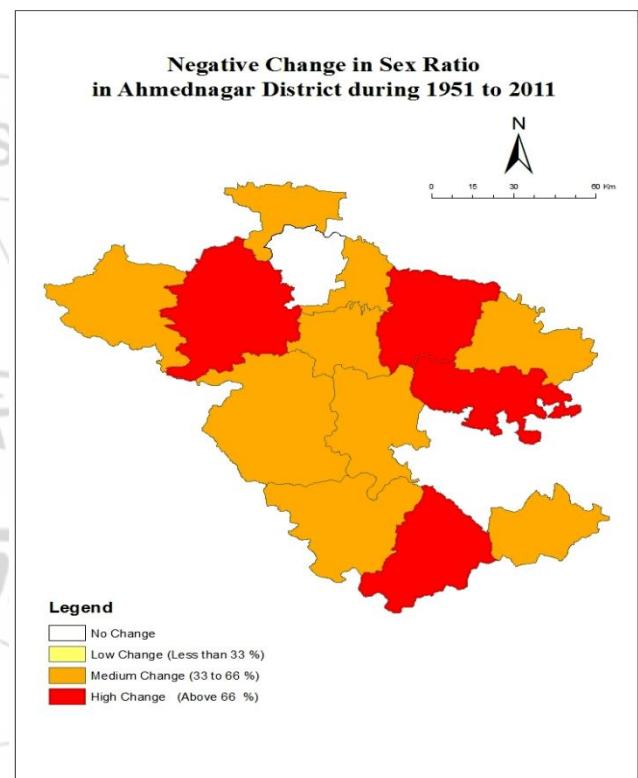


Figure 1: Negative Change in Sex Ratio in Ahmednagar District during 1951 to 2011

5. Conclusion

Negative change in Sex Ratio is the one of the foremost challenge for the society; present attempt has been focus on this burning issue in Ahmednagar district. The results are shocking all 14 tehsils of district had recorded negative sex ratio but Sangamner, Newasa, Pathardi and Karjat tehsils were recorded high negative change during 1951 to 2011. There are several causes of negative change in sex ratio; strong son preference is one of the main causes, sexes selective abortion, Dowry system is still one of the major causes of declining female number, poverty, illiteracy, low women status in society etc.

It is time to take strong action against the illegal ultrasound centres for check on sexes selective abortion, the Anti-Dowry Act should be strictly implemented against people

demanding and also providing dowry, it is necessary for improve the girl child chances of survival with providing nutritional food and better health care within the household, through employment opportunities, empowerment of women should be done for uplifting socio-economic status of women.

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