

# Women Empowerment in India Vis-‘A-Vis Sex Ratio

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**Abstract:** *Empowerment as a process of awareness, effective decision-making power and control leading to transformative action. This involves ability to get what one wants and to influence others on our concerns. With reference to women the power relation that has to be involved includes their lives at multiple levels, family, community, market and the state. Importantly it involves at the psychological level women’s ability to assert themselves and this is constructed by the ‘Gender Roles’ assigned to her especially in cultural which resists change like India.*

**Keywords:** Women Empowerment, Gender Roles, Sex Ratio, Rural and Urban in India

## 1. Introduction

Empowerment as a process of awareness, effective decision-making power and control leading to transformative action. This involves ability to get what one wants and to influence others on our concerns. With reference to women the power relation that has to be involved includes their lives at multiple levels, family, community, market and the state. Importantly it involves at the psychological level women’s ability to assert themselves and this is constructed by the ‘Gender Roles’ assigned to her specially in cultural which resists change like India.

In many societies around the world, women never belong wholly to themselves; they are the property of others throughout their lives. Their physical well-being – health, security and bodily integrity – is often beyond their own control. Where women have no control over money, they cannot choose to get health care for themselves or their children. Where having a large number of children confers status on both men and women – indeed, where childbearing may be the only marker of value available to women – frequent pregnancy and labor can be deadly. In view of the above discussion an attempt is made to examine the sex ratio in India by considering rural and urban areas as unit of analysis.

Data on Sex Differentials in India were taken from 2001 Census Report of India. According (Table1) to Child Sex Ratio in India has dropped to 914 females against 1000 males (Census Report, 2011). Despite a slew of laws to prevent female foeticide and schemes to encourage families to have girl child, the ratio has declined from 927 females against 1000 males in 2001 to 914.

**Table 1:** Sex Ratio for India, Rural and Urban

Ratio	India	Rural	Urban
Sex Ratio	992	995	984
Child Sex Ratio	943	942	946

According to Census 2001 reports, an increasing trend in the child sex ratio (0-6 years) has been seen in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, in all

remaining 27 states and Union Territories, the child sex ratio shows decline over Census 2001.

The highest child sex ratio has been reported in Mizoram (971 females against 1000 males) and Meghalaya (970).

Notably, Punjab and Haryana, which have traditionally seen low sex ratio, have recorded an increasing trend but still remained at the bottom of the list. Haryana has 830 female children and Punjab 846 against per 1000 male child.

Uttar Pradesh (29.7 million), Bihar (18.6 million), Maharashtra (12.8 million), Madhya Pradesh (10.5 million) and Rajasthan (10.5 million) constitute 52 per cent children in the age group of 0-6 years. Population (0-6 years) 2001-2011 registered minus 3.08 per cent growth with minus 2.42 for males and minus 3.80 for females.

However, in some good news, the overall sex ratio at the national level has increased by 7 points since the 2001 Census to reach 940 females per 1000 male at Census 2011.

This is the highest sex ratio recorded since 1971 and a shade lower than 1961. Increase in sex ratio has been recorded in 29 states and UTs while three major states - Bihar, Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir - have shown a decline in sex ratio as compared to Census 2001.

Kerala with 1084 has the highest sex ratio followed by Pondicherry with 1038. Daman and Diu has the lowest sex ratio of 618.

## 2. Conclusions and Suggestions

Under these circumstances, intellectuals, law makers and executive heads should gather on a platform and concerned efforts towards women empowerment be made faster pace in bringing equality and gender justice.

## 3. Acts

- Proper implementation should be there.
- Societies must be awareness to empower the women.
- Education should be improved.

- Improved Health facilities.
- Government voluntary organizations should involve in proper implementation of Schemes and programs to Empower the Women in India.

## **References**

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