

The Dynamics of Population: Sex Ratio in South Bihar Plain (1901-2011)

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Abstract: *The proportion of females to male, in other words number of female per thousand male, helps us in understanding the status of women or the prevailing equality between males and females at a particular time in our society. Sex ratio are among the most basic demographic characteristics and provide an understanding of the relative survival of both males and females. The sex ratio becomes favourable to women, when the number of females exceeds that of males, and is said to adverse, when the number of males exceeds to female. Sex ratio in Indian society normally remained adverse to women, as it has been rapidly declining decade after decade. There are many socio-economic factors which are intimately related with the inequality between the number of males and females, which affects the socio-economic and cultural characteristic of our society in different ways. In a state like Bihar, especially South Bihar plain, sex ratio becomes a key factor in understanding the development, because it has both demographic and social implications. The data regarding sex ratio helps in various types of planning in the study area and also helps us in the analysis of other demographic indicators like, fertility, mortality, migration and socio-economic structure of the study area. It has generally influenced the form and tempo of life in the state of Bihar and south Bihar plain. The decrease in number either men or women of adult age will reduce the marriage rate and will ultimately affect the crude birth rate, which will be resulted into many social evil. In this research paper, we will examine the district wise spatio-temporal variation in sex ration as well as growth of male and female population in South Bihar plain and state of Bihar as a whole. Through this research paper we will also try to find out the reasons behind this unprecedented decline in sex ratio from 1931, onward in the districts of South Bihar plain. This research paper will also help in understanding the consequences due to the continuous decline of sex ratio in the study area. As we know the South Bihar plain has been formed by the sediments brought by several rivers, especially river Ganga, which helped to develop a fertile land. From time immemorial, it has been A tendency of human population, that they settled in those region, which are fertile and water sufficient. It is only because of this fact that agriculture has become main stay of economy in the region. Therefore study of the sex ratio will help in understanding the socio-economic and cultural aspect of the study area. It is a matter of grave concern that the sex ratio in the study area has been continuously declining and always remained adverse to women after 1931, but upto 1961, it remain in favour of women in the state as a whole.*

Keywords: Bihar, South Bihar plain, Sex ratio, Growth of Male and Female Population, Variation in Sex Ratio 1901-2011, Sex Ratio in Bihar

1. Introduction

In India, especially in Hindi speaking state like Bihar, gender discrimination is a common problem due to cultural preferences. If one born as a girl in our society, she has to face the gender discrimination everywhere, right from her own home to other places. In our society females are confined to household's works, like raising children and looking after their families, even, if they are well educated. This gender discrimination is only due to patriarchal nature of our society, which is reflected in the form of disparity between males and females at all levels. In the year 1955 Professor Money introduced the term gender and distinguished it from the concept of sex, because sex is a biological identity, whereas, gender refers to social identity, which means social value of male and female. In our society gender inequality is increasing day by day. In the year 1901, there were 238.40 million population, out of which 120.80 million were males and 117.36 million were females, which was 3.44 million lower than male population. In the year 1951, there were 185.52 million males and 165.56 million female. Therefore, the difference between males and females increased from 3.44 million in 1901 to 9.96 million in 1951, which further increased to 37.35 million in 2011. Therefore, we can say that the sex ratio has been gradually declining from 1901 till date. In the year 1901, there were 972 females per thousand males, which has now decreased to 943 females per thousand males in 2011. Bihar reflected the higher sex ratio in 1901, i.e., 1060 females per thousand

males which has decreased to 917 females per thousand male sin 2011, almost same conditions are found in South Bihar plain, it was 1052 females per thousand males in 1901, which reached to 913 females per thousand males in 2011.

Sex ratio is one of the most important aspect of demographic studies; because it affects the socio-economic and cultural status of an area, sex ratio is basically a ratio between female and male population, which is generally defined as, number of females per thousand males. It is one of the basic demographic characteristics and useful in demographic analysis. It is a key factor in the development of any region, and helps in various types of planning, because it reflects the biological, social, economic and migration characteristics of the population. An imbalance between male and female will lead lower fertility and slower growth of population and this imbalance, originates from various social and demographic factors. An understanding of the sex ratio of population in terms of spatial variation, especially at district levels is of fundamental importance for a proper understanding of various demographic attributes of any region. Sex ratio is influenced by birth rate, death rate and migration, apart from these factors, sex ratio is also affected by natural calamities like famine, flood, earthquake and even due to war.

Sex ratio has been continuously declining and its consequences are already evident. The skewed sex ratio has led to more violence against women and human trafficking.

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Because of this people do not want girls as they feel that it is difficult to keep them safe. Apart from this women who give birth to girl child face much more domestic violence.

Therefore, we can say that the problem of declining sex ratio is multifaceted and there is no single reason behind it.

2. Study Area

South Bihar plain is located in the eastern part of India, and is the southern part of Bihar state, and geographically it is southern part of Middle Ganga plain. It is bounded by river Ganga and North Bihar plains to the north, the Bengal Basin to the east, Ayodhya (Oudh) plains to the west and Chhota Nagpur plateau to the south and is located between 24°46'48" north to 25°30'21" north latitude and 83°36'20" east to 86°59'20" east longitude. This region has been mentioned in the Hindu Epic Ramayana and Mahabharata. It extends over southern part of Bihar and covers an area of 46179 sq.km. It is narrower than north Bihar plain, and is triangular in shape and extends from Kaimur district in the west to Banka in the east. It is wider towards the west and center and gradually tapers towards the east. The elevation decreases from 500 feet in south to only 100 feet towards south, it means there is general slope from south to North. Ganga is the master stream; which flows west-east in the middle of Bihar state. It is joined by three large rivers viz., Ghaghra, Gandak and the Son. South Bihar Plain has been formed due to deposition of sediments brought by river Ganga and other rivers. South Bihar plain has continental climate with three district seasons. As there is variation in the climate across the region, therefore, we can say that it is modified monsoon climate. It is primarily an agricultural area, due to its soil and abundant water resources, but small quantities of minerals are also available in this region. Stone quarries, rice mills and few sugar factories are the main industrial activity in this region. Apart from this large number of handlooms and power looms are found especially in Gaya and Bhagalpur districts. Bihar is the third most populous state of India with a population of 38551925 persons. Sex ratio in the state of Bihar is 918 females per thousand male; which is little bit greater than the sex ratio of South Bihar plain, with a sex ratio of 913 female per thousand male.

3. Objective of the Study

This research paper has been designed to understand the decadal variation in sex ratio, at district level in south Bihar

plain, as well as Bihar state, as a whole, we will also try to find out sex wise decadal population growth as well as trends of male and female population growth at district level. Apart from this there will be a comparative study of sex ratio in the districts of south Bihar plain, and will also analyse the decadal change in sex ratio. Through this research paper we will also try to find out the reasons behind this variation is sex ratio, and will try to understand the implications of declining sex ratio in South Bihar plain and state of Bihar as a whole.

4. Database and Methodology

The present research paper depicts the districtwise comparative analysis of decadal variation in sex ratio from 1901 to 2011. Therefore the present study has been primarily accomplished through secondary source of data in published form, especially from Census records published by Government of India as well as office of Director, Census of Bihar. District Census Handbook of different districts of south Bihar plain. Present study covers seventeen districts from South Bihar plain, therefore, for purposeful organization of collected data from different secondary sources, has been tabulated computed and analysed with the help of suitable statistical technique, to make the comparative analysis of sex ratio more accurate and relevant. Apart from this different cartographic methods, like bar graph, line graph and choropleth methods have been applied to represent the statistical data, obtained from different secondary sources.

District level variation in sex ratio must be studied temporally apart from spatial study. Therefore, it has been analysed in time perspective too. This research paper extends over a time period from 1901-2011, but the growth of population occurred at faster pace from 1951, therefore, the main thrust of discussion will be from 1951 to 2011, but a general overview of comparative analysis of sex ratio will be done from 1901 to 1951, too.

Trends of male and female population growth

According to table 1 there is a perceptible variation in growth rate of male and female population from 1901 to 2011. In the state of Bihar, from 1901 to 2011, the highest growth of male population occurred in the year 2001, with a percentage growth

Table 1: District wise Decadal Variation in Sex Ratio and Growth of Male and Female Population

Year	Bhagalpur					Banka					Munger				
	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio
ca	291,529		308,217		1057	203,669		215,328		1057	166,088		173,590		1045
1911	299,013	3	310,914	0.87	1039	208,898	3	217,212	0.87	1039	171,191	3	179,121	3	1046
1921	280,556	-6	288,519	-7	1028	196,003	-6	201,567	-7	1028	164,769	-4	168,341	-6	1021
1931	329,976	18	325,827	13	987	230,529	18	227,632	13	987	187,747	14	187,348	11	997
1941	380,888	15	368,577	13	967	266,098	15	257,498	13	967	212,225	13	211,824	13	998
1951	432,846	14	408,463	11	943	295,835	11	291,925	13	986	241,539	14	227,107	7	940
1961	530,094	22	492,228	21	928	346,935	17	341,879	17	985	286,091	18	269,742	19	942
1971	659,252	24	591,102	20	896	433,427	25	407,322	19	939	346,349	21	311,041	15	898
1981	833,892	26	748,861	27	898	537,948	24	500,726	23	930	423,560	22	377,511	21	891

1991	1,024,840	23	885,127	18	863	682,666	27	609,838	22	893	508,487	20	435,096	15	855
2001	1,291,658	26	1,131,514	28	876	843,293	24	765,480	26	907	607,730	20	530,067	22	872
2011	1,615,663	25	1,422,103	26	880	1,067,140	27	967,623	26	906	729,041	20	638,724	20	876

Source: Census Reports. / Percentage Growth and Sex Ratio calculated by author

Year	Lakhisarai					Sheikhpura					Nalanda				
	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio
1901	112,111		117,177		1045	74,683		78,043		1044	294,589		300,420		1019
1911	115,557	3	120,909	3	1046	76,965	3	80,495	3	1045	296,475	1	292,835	-2	987
1921	111,222	-4	113,632	-6	1021	74,098	-4	75,663	-6	1021	296,394	0	281,269	-3	948
1931	126,732	14	126,463	11	997	84,455	14	84,232	11	997	350,260	18	326,164	16	931
1941	143,255	13	142,984	13	998	95,486	13	95,257	13	997	405,996	16	379,623	16	935
1951	159,089	11	157,254	10	988	105,098	10	105,817	11	1006	470,347	16	455,842	20	969
1961	176,674	11	175,774	12	994	122,749	17	123,779	16	1008	552,627	17	534,345	17	966
1971	225,982	28	213,274	21	943	151,061	23	143,765	16	951	674,899	22	629,933	18	933
1981	276,853	23	256,987	20	928	180,577	20	170,100	18	941	851,035	26	788,887	25	926
1991	343,795	24	302,600	17	880	221,667	23	198,593	17	895	1,051,773	24	944,484	20	897
2001	417,672	21	384,553	27	920	273,992	24	251,510	27	917	1,238,599	18	1,131,929	20	913
2011	526,345	26	474,567	23	901	329,743	20	306,599	22	929	1,497,060	21	1,380,593	22	922

Continue

Year	Patna					Bhojpur					Buxar				
	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio
1901	508,999		519,074		1019	306,140		335,426		1095	186,753		204,618		1095
1911	512,259	1	505,967	-2	987	295,778	-3	313,973	-6	1061	180,431	-3	191,532	-6	1061
1921	512,116	0	485,985	-3	948	292,697	-1	301,099	-4	1028	178,553	-1	183,678	-4	1028
1931	605,188	18	563,556	15	931	327,017	12	325,451	8	995	199,488	12	198,534	8	995
1941	701,493	16	655,923	16	935	384,800	18	377,331	16	980	234,738	18	230,181	16	980
1951	826,023	18	774,272	18	937	438,512	14	441,376	17	1006	270,519	15	266,235	16	984
1961	969,595	17	892,216	15	920	503,366	15	517,743	17	1028	318,965	18	317,023	19	993
1971	1,190,637	23	1,060,246	18	890	622,215	24	607,837	17	976	392,063	23	373,031	18	951
1981	1,597,844	34	1,421,357	34	889	763,064	23	727,650	20	953	475,444	21	441,442	18	928
1991	1,938,340	21	1,679,871	18	866	941,745	23	851,026	17	903	577,205	21	510,471	16	884
2001	2,519,942	30	2,198,650	31	872	1,179,611	25	1,063,533	25	901	738,354	28	664,042	30	899
2011	3,078,512	22	2,759,953	26	896	1,430,380	21	1,298,027	22	907	887,977	20	818,375	23	921

Year	Kaimur					Rohtas					Aurangabad				
	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio
1901	151,448		165,936		1095	289,176		316,840		1095	229,488		237,957		1036
1911	146,322	-3	155,324	-6	1061	279,388	-3	296,576	-6	1061	240,781	5	249,143	4	1034
1921	144,799	-1	148,954	-4	1028	276,479	-1	284,415	-4	1028	243,639	1	244,453	-1	1003
1931	161,776	12	161,002	8	995	308,897	12	307,418	8	995	270,612	11	270,878	11	1000
1941	190,362	18	186,666	16	980	363,478	18	356,423	16	980	314,393	16	314,811	16	1001
1951	221,740	16	213,543	14	963	425,107	17	406,026	14	955	349,621	11	346,494	10	991
1961	266,312	20	259,939	22	976	522,756	23	501,377	23	959	415,260	19	415,729	20	1001
1971	339,999	28	316,906	22	932	668,831	28	618,152	23	924	517,473	25	498,621	20	963
1981	410,650	21	372,395	18	906	829,404	24	753,876	22	908	632,537	22	604,535	21	955
1991	516,346	26	456,603	23	884	1,017,689	23	910,047	21	894	804,038	27	735,950	22	915
2001	670,620	30	604,959	32	902	1,290,488	27	1,173,755	29	909	1,040,945	29	972,110	32	933
2011	847,006	26	779,378	29	920	1,543,546	20	1,416,372	21	917	1,318,684	27	1,221,389	26	926

Year	Gaya					Nawada					Jamui				
	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio
1901	388,382		402,714		1036	202,326		209,793		1036	168,752		176,377		1045
1911	407,493	5	421,646	5	1034	212,283	5	219,655	5	1034	173,939	3	181,995	3	1046
1921	412,330	1	413,709	-1	1003	214,802	1	215,521	-1	1003	167,413	-4	171,042	-6	1021
1931	457,979	11	458,429	11	1000	238,582	11	238,818	11	1000	190,760	14	190,355	11	997
1941	532,074	16	532,780	16	1001	277,182	16	277,551	16	1001	215,631	13	215,224	13	998
1951	590,635	11	587,458	10	994	300,849	9	312,875	13	1039	236,589	10	239,578	11	1012
1961	697,632	18	694,840	18	995	360,989	20	380,644	22	1054	284,040	20	289,794	21	1020
1971	880,137	26	845,446	22	960	443,211	23	450,726	18	1016	359,553	27	354,183	22	985
1981	1,093,989	24	1,056,417	25	965	549,120	24	550,057	22	1001	438,558	22	424,031	20	966

1991	1,386,528	27	1,278,275	21	921	702,249	28	657,445	20	936	552,543	26	498,984	18	903
2001	1,792,163	29	1,681,265	32	938	929,960	32	879,736	34	945	729,138	32	669,658	34	918
2011	2,266,566	26	2,124,852	26	937	1,144,668	23	1,074,478	22	938	916,064	26	844,341	26	921

Jehanabad					Arwal					Bihar					South Bihar Plain				
Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio	Male	% growth	Female	% growth	Sex Ratio
116,747		121,055		1036	75,308		78,087		1036	10,308,300		10,935,332		1061	3,766,188		3,960,652		1,052
122,492	5	126,746	4	1034	79,014	5	81,757	5	1034	10,516,050	2	11,051,109	1	1051	3,818,279	1	3,945,800	-0.3	1,033
123,946	1	124,360	-1	1003	79,951	1	80,219	-1	1003	10,573,105	1	10,785,800	-2	1020	3,769,767	-1	3,782,426	-4	1,003
137,667	11	137,804	11	1000	88,803	11	88,890	11	1000	11,748,053	11	11,690,318	8	995	4,296,468	14	4,218,801	11	982
159,940	16	160,153	16	1001	103,170	16	103,307	16	1001	13,138,759	12	13,164,012	12	1002	4,981,209	16	4,866,113	15	977
178,874	12	175,259	9	979	115,383	12	113,051	9	979	14,545,921	11	14,539,096	10	1000	5,658,606	14	5,522,575	13	976
207,486	16	207,576	18	1000	133,307	16	134,429	19	1008	17,375,442	19	17,465,526	20	1005	6,694,878	18	6,549,057	18	978
253,826	22	241,788	16	952	166,304	25	159,941	19	961	21,530,724	24	20,595,512	17	957	8,325,219	24	7,415,992	13	891
306,949	21	292,194	21	951	196,300	18	188,326	18	959	26,850,116	25	25,452,549	23	948	10,397,724	25	9,675,352	30	931
370,605	21	339,257	16	915	241,484	23	223,554	19	925	33,838,238	26	30,692,316	20	907	12,882,000	24	11,517,221	19	894
481,194	30	445,295	31	925	303,752	26	284,074	27	935	43,243,795	28	39,754,714	29	919	16,349,111	27	14,832,130	28	907
585,582	22	539,731	21	921	363,497	20	337,346	19	928	54,278,157	26	49,821,295	25	918	20,147,474	23	18,404,451	24	913

of 28 percent and the same is true about female population, the highest growth rate has been observed in the year 2001, with a growth rate of 29 percent, which is 1 percent higher than the male growth rate. In the same way, in the census year 1991, female population, with a growth rate of 20 percent, recorded 1 percent higher growth rate than male population in the South Bihar Plain, with a growth rate of 19 percent. Similarly, in South Bihar Plain, the highest growth of male population was recorded in the year 2001 with a growth rate of 27 percent, but the growth of female population was 28 percent, which is again 1 percent higher than the population growth of male. But, in the same year, 1981, female population recorded the highest growth rate, with a growth rate of 30 percent, which is 5 percent higher than the growth rate of male population. Year 2011 also recorded 1 percent higher growth in female population, with a growth rate of 24 percent, as compared to 23 percent growth rate in male population.

Therefore if we compare the growth of male and female population from 1901 to 2011 in Bihar as a whole and south Bihar plain, we find that the growth of population generally remained lower in South Bihar plain as compared to Bihar state.

In 1951, Bihar recorded a growth of 11 percent in male, whereas female recorded a growth rate of 10 percent which is 1 percent lesser than the growth rate of male population, but South Bihar plain male recorded a growth rate of 14 percent as compared to 13 percent growth rate, recorded by female population.

According to 1951 census, there are only seven districts of South Bihar plain, where female growth rate is higher than the male growth rate, namely, Banka, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Bhojpur, Buxar, Nawada and Jamui, but the highest growth rate was recorded by Nawada, with a growth rate of 13 percent as compared to 9 percent growth in male population. There is only one district, namely Patna, which recorded similar growth rate, both in male and female, with a growth rate of 18 percent, whereas the lowest growth of population was recorded by Munger. This increase in growth of female population amongst seven districts of South Bihar plain may be attributed to the tendency of outmigration of male population for higher opportunities to the neighbouring districts or neighbouring state.

In the year 1961 Bihar recorded a lower growth in male population, with a growth rate of 19 percent as compared 20 percent growth in female population, whereas, South Bihar plain recorded similar growth rate of 18 percent in both male and female population. It is very surprising that out of seventeen districts, ten districts recorded higher growth in female population as compared to male, whereas, four districts, namely, Banka, Nalanda, Rohtas and Gaya, recorded similar growth rate, both in male and female population. It means there are only three districts, namely Bhagalpur, Sheikhpura and Patna, which recorded higher growth in male population. This increment in the growth of female population may be due to greater care and social recognition of baby girls.

In South Bihar plain, year 1971, female population growth rate drastically declined from 18 percent in 1961 to 13 percent, whereas, male population recorded a growth rate of 24 percent, which is much higher than the female. In the same year male population recorded a growth of 24 percent and female, 17 percent in the state of Bihar, as a whole. It is very surprising that none of the district recorded lower growth rate of female population than the growth rate of South Bihar plain, and the lowest growth of female population was recorded by Munger, with a growth rate of only 15 percent, which is 2 percent higher than the growth rate of South Bihar Plain. Despite an absolute increase in population in the census year 1971, female population recorded a retarded growth rate, which may be attributed to mortality in females, and this excess mortality of females, may be due to discrimination against women, which includes less favourable access to food and health care.

Census Report of 1981 reveals that in South Bihar plain, female population recorded a highest growth of population till date, with a growth rate of 30 percent, whereas, male growth rate was 24 percent. On the other hand Bihar as a whole recorded a growth of 24 percent in male and 17 percent in female. There are only two districts, namely Bhagalpur and Gaya, recorded a higher growth rate in female population, whereas, three districts, namely Patna, Jehanabad and Arwal, recorded similar growth rate of both male and female population. It has been observed from the table 1 that there has been a tendency of decline in population growth in almost all the districts in the census year 1981. This overall decrease may due to revival of

political support for the family planning programme, but the implementation was very difficult because of its bureaucratization. There was an enthusiastic support for it amongst the people, but the political compulsion was not supportive and appropriate for the family planning.

The census year of 1991 reveals that there was an overall decline in population in both Bihar and South Bihar plain, but male population recorded a 1 percent higher growth rate than previous census of 1981, with a growth rate of 26 percent. According to 1991 census none of the district recorded higher growth rate of female population and the highest growth rate of male population was observed by Nalanda, with a growth rate of 28 percent. If we go through all the districts there has been a decrease of growth rate in both male and female population, in almost all the districts, except few, in the census year 1991. This decrease in growth of both male and female population may be attributed to control over birth rate, which was created by the awareness among people by Government policies. Government implemented the national population policy which emphasized on adolescent education, child bearing and delayed marriage. Apart from this there was rising rate of literacy among people.

The census report of 2001, recorded a higher growth of male and female population in both Bihar and South Bihar plain, but female population registered higher growth rate as compared to male population. It is surprising that out of seventeen districts in South Bihar plain, sixteen recorded higher growth rate as compared to male population and only one district, namely, Bhojpur recorded equal growth rate of

male and female population with a growth rate of 25 percent. Year 2001 indicates a slight improvement in growth of female population over the census report of 1991. This gain can be attributed to the improvement in the status of women in society and better health facilities. But it may also be attributed to the fact that large number of male population migrated to Delhi, Haryana and Mumbai in search of better job opportunities.

In the year 2011, there has been a general decline of growth of male and female population, as compared to census report of 2001, in both Bihar and South Bihar plain. But in South Bihar plain female population recorded a higher growth rate as compared to male. Out of seventeen districts, eight districts, namely, Bhagalpur, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Patna, Bhojpur, Buxar, Kaimur and Rohtas, recorded higher growth of female population as compared to male, whereas, three districts, namely, Munger, Gaya and Jamui recorded equal growth rate of male and female population, separately. There has been a general decline in population growth rate in Bihar, as Bihar's population continued to surge in the past decades, whereas state of Bihar is among the top three populated state of the country. This decrease in general growth rate of population may be attributed to the fact that women are using contraceptives for birth control as well as using modern method of family planning, but child marriage is still a problem in Bihar. This census report of 2011, indicates that there is a continued preference of male children over female children, which is a matter of grave concern.

Table 2: District wise Trends of Male and Female Population Growth (1951-2011)

District	1951	2011	% Growth	District	1951	2011
	Male	Male			Female	Female
Bhagalpur	432,846	1,615,663	273	408,463	1422103	248
Banka	295,835	1,067,140	261	291,925	967623	231
Munger	241,539	729,041	202	227,107	638724	181
Lakhisarai	159,089	526,345	231	157,254	474567	201
Sheikhpura	105,098	329,743	214	105,817	306599	189
Nalanda	470,347	1,497,060	218	455,842	1380593	202
Patna	826,023	3,078,512	273	774,272	2759953	256
Bhojpur	438,512	1,430,380	226	441,376	1298027	194
Buxar	270,519	887,977	228	266,235	818375	207
Kaimur	221,740	847,006	282	213,543	779378	264
Rohtas	425,107	1,543,546	263	406,026	1416372	248
Aurangabad	349,621	1,318,684	277	346,494	1221389	252
Gaya	590,635	2,266,566	284	587,458	2124852	261
Nawada	300,849	1,144,668	280	312,875	1074478	243
Jamui	236,589	916,064	287	239,578	844341	252
Jehanabad	178,874	585,582	227	175,259	539731	207
Arwal	115,383	363,497	215	113,051	337346	198
BIHAR	14,545,921	54,278,157	273	14,539,096	49821295	242
SOUTH BIHAR	5,658,606	20,147,474	256	5,522,575	18404451	233

Source: Census Reports

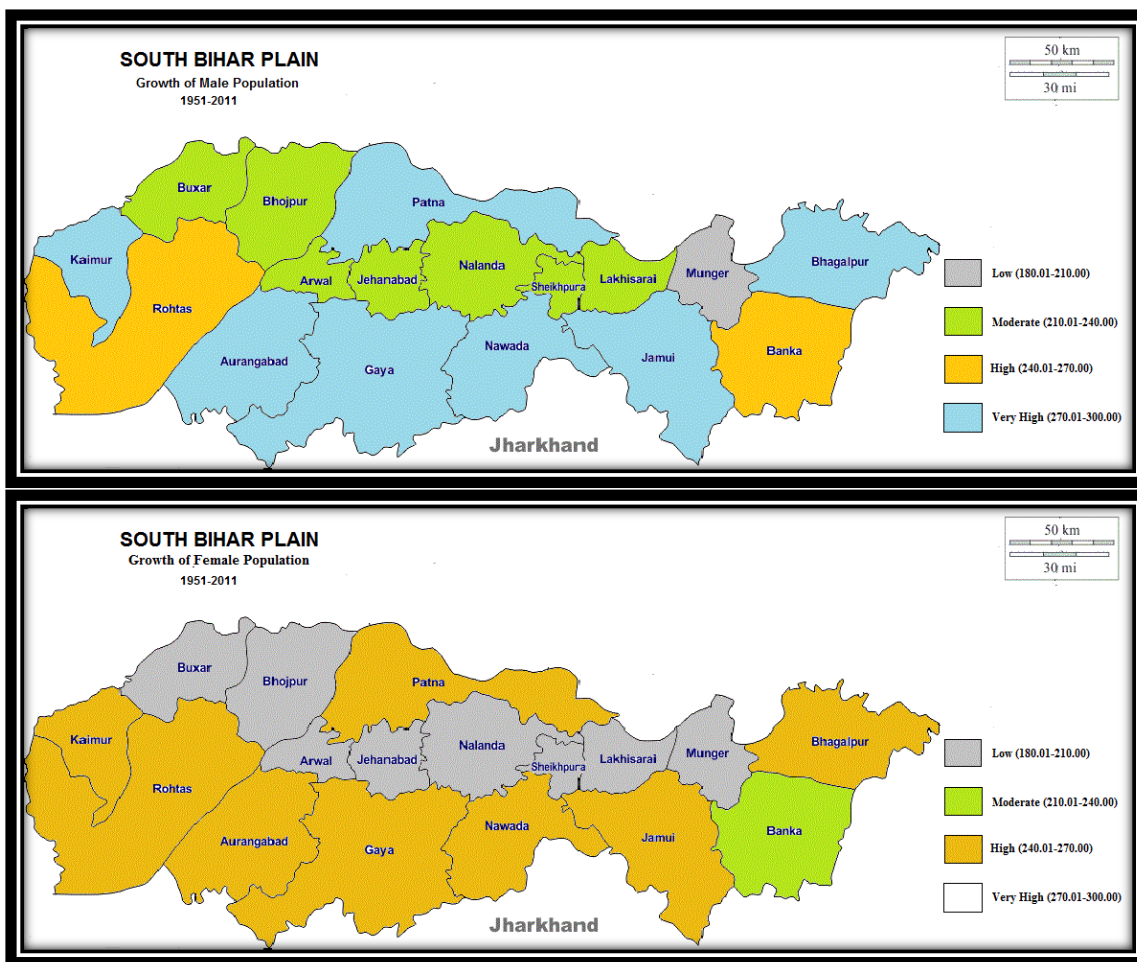
According to table 2, there is a great difference between the growth rate of male and female population during last six decades (1951-2011). Bihar as whole recorded a growth 273 percent in male population, which is much higher than the growth of female population with a growth rate of 242 percent. Almost same conditions prevail in South Bihar plain, with a growth of 256 percent in male as compared to

233 percent growth in female, which is, 23 percent lesser than the growth rate of male population these decades. During these sixty years, highest growth rate among male population was recorded by Jamui, with a growth rate of 287 percent, which is followed by Gaya (284 percent) and Kaimur (282 percent), whereas the lowest growth rate was observed by Munger, with a growth rate of 202 percent. If we see the growth rate of female population during this

period, we find that the highest growth rate was observed by Kaimur with a growth rate of 264 percent which is 18 percent lower the male population growth. Kaimur is followed by Aurangabad and Jamui, with the same growth rate of 252 percent, whereas the third highest growth rate was observed by Rohtas and Bhojpur, with the same growth rate of 248 percent.

On the basis of Table-2, we have observed that all the districts of South Bihar plain have recorded lower growth of female population over sixty years from 1951 to 2011. The districts of Bihar and South Bihar Plain, according to the percentage growth of male and female population during six decades from 1951 to 2011, can be categorized into Low (180.01-210.00), Moderate (210.01-240.00), High (240.01-270.00) and Very High (270.01-300.00). If we go through the female population, there are eight districts, namely, Munger, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Bhojpur, Buxar, Jehanabad and Arwal, which recorded low growth of

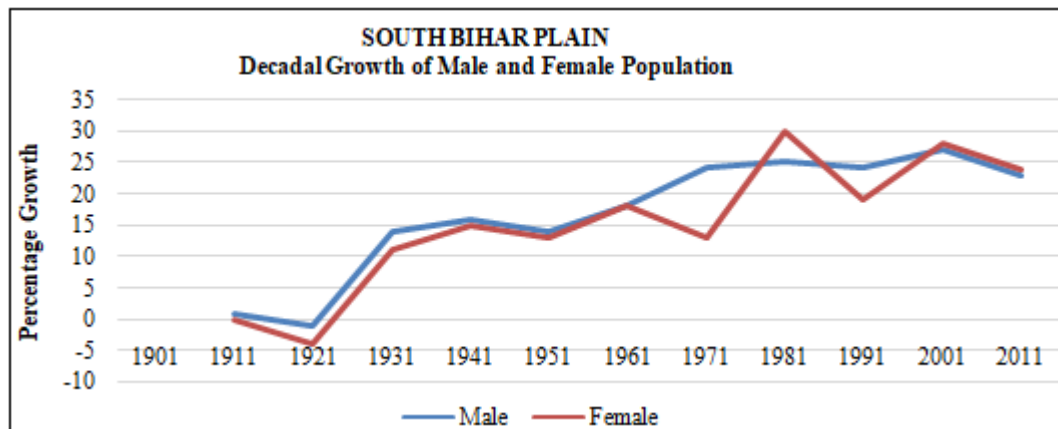
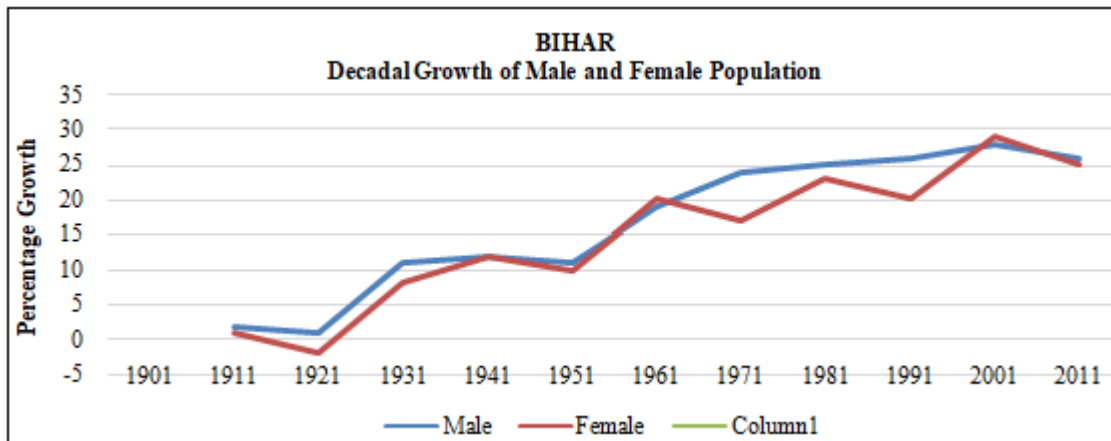
population, whereas, there are only one district, namely, Banka, is categorized under moderate growth of population. Apart from these there are eight districts, namely, Bhagalpur, Patna, Kaimur, Rohtas, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada and Jamui, can be categorized under high growth of population, whereas, none of the district can be put under very high growth rate among female growth of population. In the same way if we go through the percentage growth of male population during these six decades, we find that there is only one district, namely, Munger, which is categorized under low growth of population, whereas, seven districts, namely, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Bhojpur, Buxar, Jehanabad and Arwal are categorized under moderate growth of population. Apart from these eight districts, there are only two districts, namely, Banka and Rohatas, which can be categorized under high growth of population. Out of these seventeen districts there are



seven districts, namely, Bhagalpur, Patna, Kaimur, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, and Jamui, which can be categorized under very high growth of population.

It is apparent from table 2 that the percentage growth of population during six decades from 1951 to 2011 is higher among male population. This high growth of male population over sixty years may be due to preference for the sons, because there is a general feelings amongst people that

sons provide economic support to the household, especially during the old age of their parents. Since daughters leave their parental home to live with husband's family after marriage, they are not considered to be any kind of support to their parents. Above all daughters are not preferred, because parents are



required to pay large sums of their hard earned money as a dowry. Apart from this one of the most important reason for the high growth of male population is that the sons are considered to light their funeral pyre. The reasons which, have been mentioned above leads to female infanticide and sex selective abortion.

District wise variation in sex ratio

Sex composition is extremely vital for any fruitful demographic analysis, because changes in sex ratio largely reflects the underlying socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the society, and is an important social indicator to measure the equality between male and female at a given point of time. We will analyse the variation in sex ratio on the basis of district wise Census data regarding male and female population from 1901 to 2011 in South Bihar plain. Since the Census data regarding male and female population from 1901 to 1951 is not regular, and it has been observed that there has been a significant variation in the growth of population before 1951 due to socio-economic variation, therefore a detailed account of the sex ratio will be presented after 1951.

According to the census 2011 the sex ratio of India fares among the worst in South Asia, because India with a sex ratio of 940 females per thousand male recorded lowest among the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh (978), Pakistan (943), Sri Lanka (1034) and Nepal (1014), except China, which has reported poorer than India, with a sex ratio of only 926 females per thousand male. Apart from this Afghanistan and Bhutan also represented lower sex ratio than India. If we take into account the sex ratio of the study area, i.e., South Bihar plain and Bihar as a whole, the 2011

census reveals an alarming scenario. The sex ratio for South Bihar Plain remained favourable to female till 1921, with a sex ratio of 1003 females per thousand male, but, it reveals a declining trend from 1052 in 1901 to 1003 in 1921. But different conditions prevails in Bihar, with somewhat higher sex ratio than South Bihar Plain, with a sex ratio of 1061 in 1901 to 918 in 2011. Sex ratio has always remained favourable to female till 1961, except the year 1931. After 1961, there has been a continuous decline till 1991, but census report of 2001 and 2011 reported an improvement in sex ratio. Improvement in sex ratio from 2001 onward may be attributed to multi-pronged strategy adopted by the government to build a favourable environment for girl child by adopting gender sensitive policies. Government have intensified the implementation of Prohibition of Sex Selection Act (1994) which has been further amended at various stages. All the state governments were requested by Ministry of Health and family welfare to strengthen the implementation of the Act to stop the illegal sex determination.

Sex Ratio during 1901 – 1921

Sex ratio for women always remained unfavourable for female because of patriarchal society in India, but Bihar as a whole and South Bihar plain recorded a favourable sex ratio for woman from 1901 to 1921. It has always been higher than that of the country as a whole during this period. Higher sex ratio between 1901 to 1921, may be attributed to the fact that the Indian religion and philosophy considered womanhood nearer to divinity, and respectable position of pride has been assigned by our religions scriptures. Our history witnesses high respect to womanhood. Social reform like sati pratha, child marriage, prevention of widow

remarriage, female infanticide, etc. were brought by social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar, Swami Vivekanand and Dr. Anne Besant. The great saint, Swami Vivekananda stated that, the country which had no respect for womanhood could never become great. Under Gandhiji's leadership, the India's nationalist movement, brought changes in the prevailing attitude towards women. Therefore, lot of efforts were made to promote gender equality, which can contribute in the overall development of the society and affected the sex ratio in favour of women.

During 1901 to 1921, South Bihar plain as a whole recorded the sex ratio of 1052 female per thousand male in 1901, but Bihar recorded even higher sex ratio of 1061 female per thousand male 9 point higher. From 1901, onward sex ratio started declining and reached 1003 in South Bihar plain and 1020 female per thousand male in Bihar which is 17 points higher than South Bihar plain. Out of seventeen districts in South Bihar plain, six districts namely, Bhagalpur, Banka, Bhojpur, Buxar, Kaimur and Rohtas recorded higher sex ratio as compared to South Bihar plain in 1901; but there are four districts, namely, Bhojpur, Buxar, Kaimur and Rohtas recorded similar sex ratio of 1095 female per thousand male which is 36 points higher than the sex ratio of Bihar (1061). In the year 1921, six districts, namely, Bhagalpur, Banka, Bhojpur, Buxar, Kaimur and Rohtas recorded similar sex ratio of 1028 female per thousand male, which is 25 points higher than sex ratio of South Bihar plain and 8 points higher than the sex ratio of Bihar.

Sex Ratio during 1921-1951

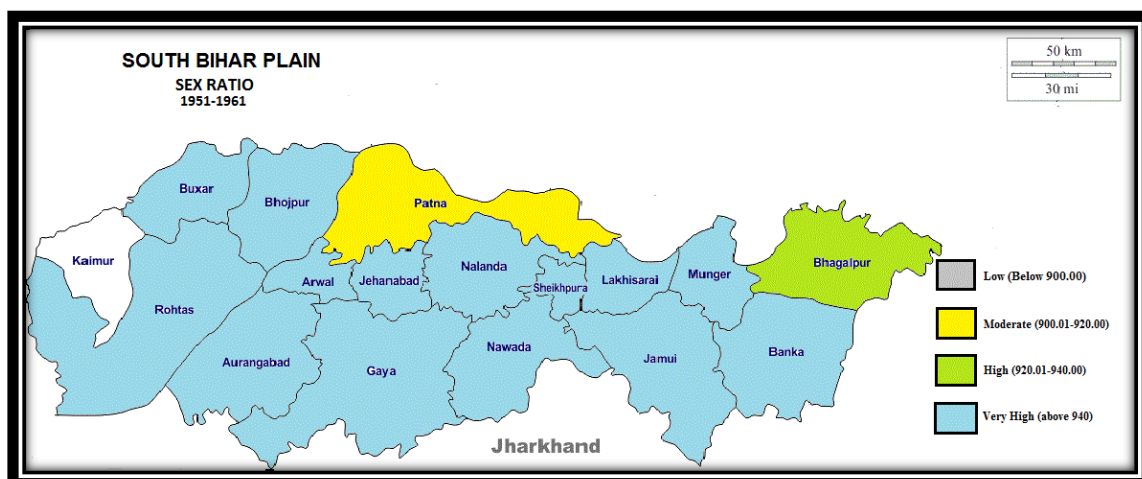
From 1921 onward there has been a marked decline in sex ration, and remained continued till 1951, with sex ratio of 982 female per thousand male in 1931 to 976 in South Bihar plain. If we look at the sex ratio of Bihar, we find that there is a significant variation in sex ratio from 995 female per thousand male in 1931, which is 25 points lower than the previous census year of 1921, but in the census year 1941, it again raised to 1002 female per thousand male and again declined to 1000 female per thousand male in 1951, therefore, there is a decline of 20 points from the census year 1921.

If we go through the sex ratio of all the seventeen districts of South Bihar plain, during this period from 1921-51 we find

that all the districts registered a continuous decline from 1921 onward, same as revealed by state of Bihar and South Bihar plain. Out of seventeen districts, fifteen districts namely, Bhagalpur, Banka, Munger, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Bhojpur, Buxar, Kaimur, Rohtas, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamni, Jehanabad and Arwal, recorded sex ratio higher than South Bihar plain during this period, extending from 1921 to 1951, but there are five districts, namely, Aurangabad, Nawada, Gaya, Jehanabad and Arwal recorded sex ratio, which is equal to male, i.e., 1000 female per thousand male, it can be attributed to the fact, that these districts, where no outmigration of male population occurred, because of their engagement in agricultural activities, as these districts are agriculturally rich area because of the irrigation facilities available by different rivers and fertile alluvial soil deposited by these rivers. Nawada is only one district, with a sex ratio of 1039 female per thousand male, recorded higher sex ratio than 1901 (1036) and is the only district, which recorded higher sex ratio favourable to women till 1981, with a sex ratio of 1001 female per thousand male, even recorded highest sex ratio of 1054 female per thousand male in 1961, among all the seventeen districts of South Bihar plain. Therefore we can say that there is a significant variation in sex ratio during 1921-1951, among all the districts of South Bihar plain. It gives an idea that the birth of girl child started declining in South Bihar plain and state as a whole after 1921. Declining sex ratio became a grave concern after 1921, but government did not take it into consideration, seriously. After 1921, women living in the South Bihar plain might have faced the family and social pressures to produce baby boy. It is only because of the fact that gradually baby boy occupied a superior position in the society for different reasons like kinship, inheritance, marriage, identity, status, lineage and economic security. The preference for baby boy prevailed all over South Bihar plain after 1921, and it cut across caste and religion, which led to the discrimination against girl child even before their birth.

Sex Ratio during 1951-61

In the year 1961, South Bihar plain as a whole recorded a sex ratio of 978 female per thousand male, which is 2 points higher than the sex ratio of 1951, but at the same time Bihar recorded even higher sex ratio than South Bihar plain with a sex ratio of 1005 female per thousand male, which is 5 points higher than the sex ratio of 1951. Out



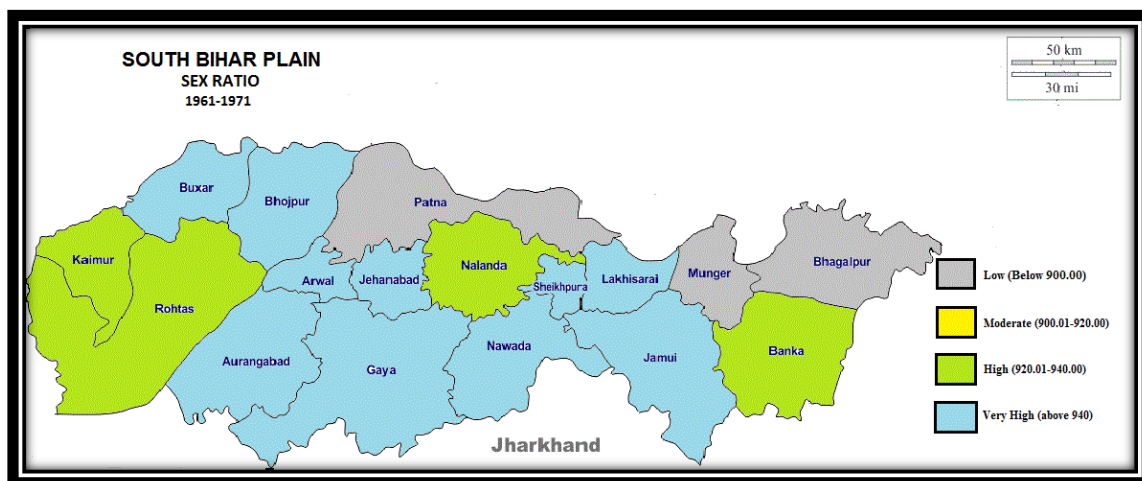
of seventeen districts, eleven districts, namely Banka, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Bhojpur, Buxar, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui, Jehanabad and Arwal recorded a sex ratio higher than South Bihar plain, as a whole, and out of these eleven districts, seven districts, namely Sheikhpura, Bhojpur, Aurangabad, Nawada, Jamni, Jehanabad and Arwal recorded sex ratio, favourable to women, which is more than 1000 female per thousand male, whereas, the highest sex ratio was observed by Nawada with a sex ratio of 1054 female per thousand male, which is followed by Bhojpur (1028) and Jamui (1020). The high sex ration in Nawada district may be contributed due to literacy rate which remained higher as compared to other districts.

If we classify the South Bihar plain according to sex ration in 1961 into Low (Below 900) Moderate (900.01-920.00), High (920.01-940.00) and Very High (above 940), none of the district can be categorized under low sex ratio, it is only because of the fact that it was the beginning when the actual decline in sex ratio was observed in South Bihar plain, because upto 1921, sex ratio remained in favour of women, but from 1921 to 1951, no doubt there were decline in sex ratio but it remained irregular, throughout South Bihar plain, as well as state of Bihar as a whole. Patna is the only district which recorded moderate sex ratio (900.01-920.00), with a sex ratio of 920 female per thousand male. In the same way Bhagalpur is the only one district which recorded high sex

ratio(920.01-940.00) of 928 female per thousand male. Apart from these two districts, fifteen districts, namely, Banka, Munger, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Nawada, Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui, Jehanabad, Nalanda and Arwal recorded very high sex ratio (above 940).

Sex Ratio during 1961-71:

In the year 1971, the sex ratio in South Bihar plain declined to 891 female per thousand male from 978 in 1961, whereas Bihar recorded as sex ratio of 957 female per thousand male, which is 66 point higher than South Bihar plain. Bihar, with a sex ratio of 957 also registered a decline of 48 point from the year 1961. Out of seventeen districts, sixteen districts namely, Bhagalpur, Banka, Munger, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Bhojpur, Buxar, Kaimur, Rohtas, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui, Jehanabad and Arwal recorded sex ratio higher than South Bihar plain, whereas, districts, namely Bhojpur, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui and Arwal recorded higher sex ratio than the sex ratio of Bihar. Among all the districts of South Bihar plain, Nawada, recorded the highest sex ratio (1016), which remained in favour of women, but it declined 38 points from the year 1961, whereas Patna recorded lowest sex ratio of 890 female per thousand male.



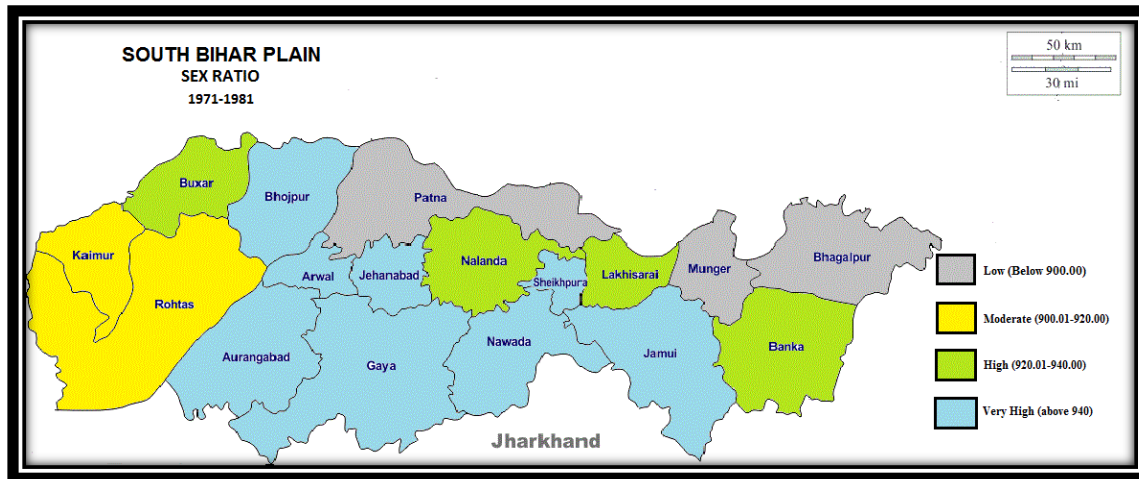
If we classify the districts of South Bihar Plain according to the variation in sex ratio into low, moderate and high, we find that there are three districts, namely Bhagalpur, Munger and Patna, which are categorized under low sex ration (below 900) and none of the district can be categorized as moderate sex ratio (between 900.01-920.00). Table 1 reveals that there are four districts, namely, Banka, Kaimur, Rohtas and Nalanda which are categorized under high sex ratio (between 920.01-940.00). Apart from these district, there are ten districts, namely, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Bhojpur, Buxar, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui, Jehanabad and Alwar, which recorded very high sex ratio (above 940).

Sex Ratio during 1971-81:

According to the census year 1981, South Bihar plain recorded a sex ratio of 931 female per thousand male, which is 40 points higher than the year 1971, this may be attributed to emigration of male population to the distant places from

Bihar to other states in search of better job opportunities. Bihar recorded a sex ratio of 948 female per thousand male, which is 17 points higher than South Bihar plain, but it is 9 points lower than the sex ratio of Bihar in 1971. Out of seventeen districts there are eight districts, namely Sheikhpura, Bhojpur, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui, Jehanabad and Arwal recorded sex ratio higher than South Bihar plain, but seven districts namely, Bhojpur, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui, Jehanabad and Arwal, recorded, sex ratio higher than Bihar. Apart from this Nawada registered the highest sex ratio of 1001 female per thousand male, which remained favourable from 1901 till 1981. It is very surprising that there is only one district, namely Bhagalpur with a sex ratio of 898 female per thousand male recorded, 2 points higher than 1971, whereas; Patna, the capital city of Bihar recorded the lowest sex ratio (889 female per thousand male) among all the district of

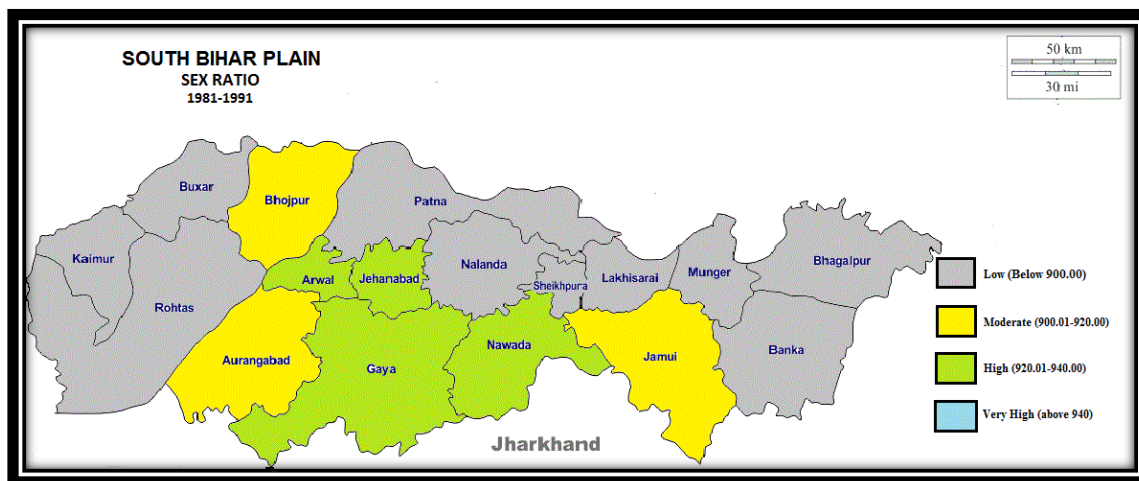
South Bihar plain. The stratification of district according to sex ratio



ratio shows that there are only three districts namely, Bhagalpur, Munger and Patna, which can be categorized under low sex ratio (below 900), whereas, only two districts, namely, Kaimur and Rohtas come under moderate sex ratio (900.01-920.00). Apart from these five districts, only four districts namely, Banka, Lakhisarai, Nalanda and Buxar are categorized under high sex ratio (920.01-940.00), whereas, rest of the districts, namely, Sheikhpura, Bhojpur, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui, Jehanabad and Arwal can be put under very high sex ratio (above 940). The higher number of the districts, which are categorized under high sex ratio (above 940) is a positive sign towards the improvement in the declining sex ratio which may be attributed to the awareness of government policies towards saving girl child.

Sex Ratio during 1981-91:

The census year of 1991, again registered a decline of 37 points with a sex ratio of 894 female per thousand male, as compared to 931 (year 1981) in South Bihar Plain. Almost same conditions prevailed in Bihar, with a decline of 41 points, registered sex ratio 907 female per thousand male, as compared to 948 in the year 1981. Out of seventeen districts in South Bihar plain there are ten districts, namely, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Bhojpur, Rohtas, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui, Jehanabad and Arwal recorded sex ratio higher than South Bihar Plain, and there are only five districts,



namely, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jehanabad and Arwal, recorded sex ratio, higher than the sex ratio of Bihar. Nawada with a sex ratio of 936 female per thousand male again recorded the highest sex ratio among all the districts of South Bihar plain, but the lowest sex ratio was observed in Munger with a sex ratio of 855 female per thousand male.

If we categorize all the districts in low, moderate, high and very high, on the basis of sex ratio, we find that there are nine district, namely, Bhagalpur, Banka, Munger, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Patna, Buxar, Kaimur and Rohtas, which can be categorized under low sex ratio (below

900), whereas only three districts, namely, Bhojpur, Aurangabad, Jamui recorded moderate sex ratio (900.01-920.00). Apart from the above twelve districts, only four districts, namely, Gaya, Nawada, Jehanabad and Arwal, recorded high sex ratio (920.01-940.00), but none of the district can be categorized under very high sex ratio (above 940). The higher number of districts under the category of low sex ratio (below 900) is a matter of grave concern. The declining population of girl child is a challenge as well as responsibilities towards our society and the government. This decline in sex ratio may be attributed to the literacy rate, because there can be a link between growing literacy

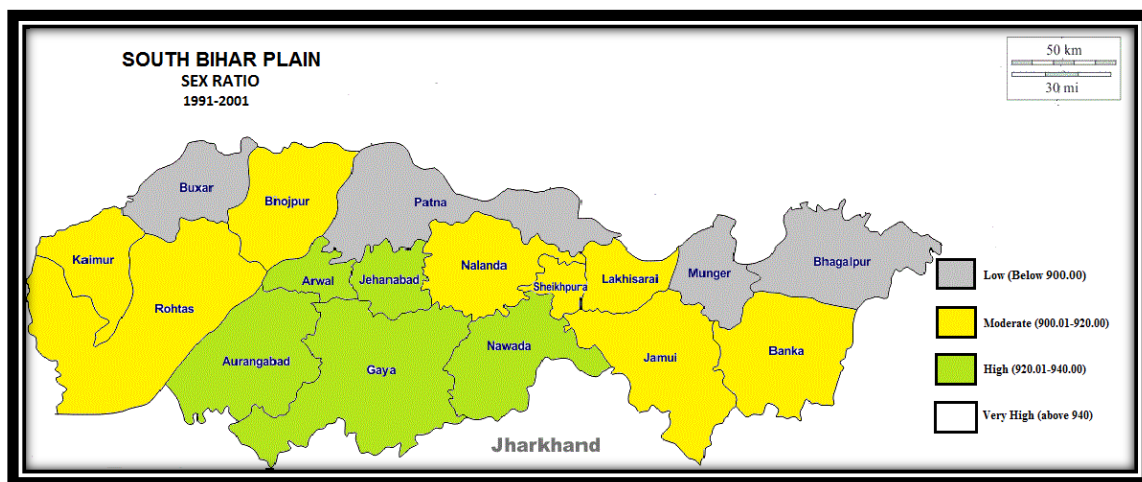
rate and declining sex ratio. Due to the growing literacy rate, the women of the rural areas are opting for institutional deliveries, as they have become aware. These women from the rural areas, whenever visit the clinics, they also come to know about the techniques of sex determination, and without giving second, thought they go for sex determination and because of girl child prejudice, as they come to know that they are having a girl child; they immediately opt for abortion.

Sex Ratio during 1991-2001:

Census year 2001, presented a data regarding sex ratio, which helps to take respite from the gloomy data of declining sex ratio since 1901. Bihar as a whole recorded 12 points higher, with a sex ratio of 919 per thousand male, than the sex ratio of 1991. In the same way South Bihar plain with a sex ratio of 907 female per thousand male also recorded 13 points higher sex ratio than the year 1991. Out of seventeen districts, all the districts recorded higher sex ratio as compared to previous census year, except, Bhojpur, with a sex ratio of 901 female per thousand male, 2 points

lower than the previous census year of 1991. Among all the seventeen districts, there are six districts, namely Lakhisarai, Gaya, Nawada, Jehanabad, Arwal and Aurangabad, recorded sex ratio, higher than the Bihar as a whole; but there are twelve districts, namely, Banka, Lakhisaria, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Rohtas, Buxar, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui, Jehanabad, Arwal and Aurangabad, recorded sex ratio higher than South Bihar plain, as a whole. Again Nawada recorded highest sex ratio, with a sex ratio of 945 female per thousand male and the lowest sex ratio has been observed by two districts namely, Munger and Patna with the similar sex ratio of 872 female per thousand male.

There are only four districts, namely, Bhagalpur, Munger, Patna and Buxar, which are categorized under low sex ratio (below 900), whereas, eight districts, namely, Banka, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Bhojpur, Kaimur, Rohtas and Jamui can be put under moderate sex ratio (between 900.01-920.00). Apart from these twelve



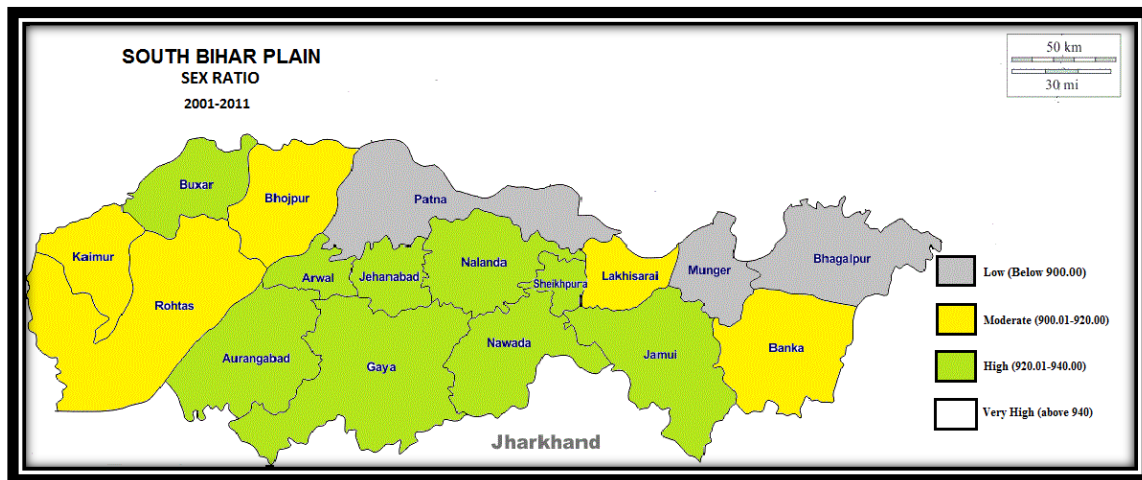
districts, five districts, namely, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jehanabad and Arwal are categorized under high sex ratio (between 920.01-940.00), but none of the districts can be categorized under very high sex ratio.

Therefore, overall increase in sex ratio in the census year 2001 represents a good sign against female prejudice in the study area. This increase in sex ratio in the year 2001 may be attributed to the multipronged strategy adopted by government to build a positive environment for girl child; by means of gender sensitive policies, legislations and other provisions. The census data regarding sex ratio in the year 2001 seems encouraging, at first glance, as they show remarkable increase in sex ratio. This increase in sex ratio

can also be attributed to better health facilities and improvement in the status of women. This gain in sex ratio may also be due to out-migration of male labour force to Delhi, Haryana and Punjab for better job opportunities.

Sex Ratio during 2001-2011:

The census year of 2001 registered a 1 point decline in sex ratio of Bihar as a whole, with a sex ratio of 918 females as compared to 919 females per thousand males in 2001; but South Bihar plain recorded 6 points higher, with a sex ratio of 913 female per thousand male. District level sex ratio data according to census year 2011, is somewhat discouraging, because, out of seventeen districts, seven districts, namely,



Banka, Lakhisarai, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jehanabad and Arwal, reported sex ratio, which is lower than the previous census year of 2001. Out of seventeen districts, there are eleven districts, namely, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Buxar, Kaimur, Rohtas, Aurangabad, Jehanabad, Arwal, Gaya, Nawada and Jamui, recorded sex ratio, which is higher than state of Bihar, in the same way there are eleven districts, namely, Sheikhpur, Nalanda, Buxar, Kaimur, Rohtas, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui, Jehanabad and Arwal, recorded higher sex ratio than South Bihar plain as a whole. As usual Nawada, with a sex ratio of 938 female per thousand male recorded the highest sex ratio among all the district of South Bihar plain. Nawada is followed by Gaya with a sex ratio of 937 female per thousand male, but the lowest sex ratio has been registered by Munger with sex ratio of 876 female per thousand male, which is 4 points higher than the previous census year of 2001.

There are three districts namely, Bhagalpur, Munger and Patna, which can be categorized under low level of sex ratio (below 900), whereas, there are five districts, namely, Banka, Lakhisarai, Bhojpur, Kaimur and Rohtas, can be put under moderate sex ratio between (900.01-920.00). Apart from the above mentioned eight districts, there are nine districts, namely, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Buxar, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui, Jehanabad and Arwal, are categorized under high level of sex ratio (920.01- 940.00), but none of the district can be recognized under very high sex ratio (Above 940), which is very discouraging and unfavorable to women in the state of Bihar and south Bihar plain as a whole.

One of the most surprising element we have gone through the discussion of sex ratio of all the districts of south Bihar plain, that the sex ratio of Patna normally remained below low level in the respective census year. It may be attributed to literacy rate, which must have encouraged women, may be under the pressure of family, to go under sex selective abortion due to dominant female prejudice in the society. It has also been encouraged by the criminal tendencies evident in medical profession to earn quick money. Therefore, medical professionals should be held responsible the misuse of ultrasound technology.

Overall there is a slight improvement in sex ratio since 2001, but we have along way to go. The improvement in the sex

ratio from 2001 to 2011 may be attributed to the multipronged strategy adopted by the government to develop a positive environment to protect the girl child. Under National Rural Health Mission, many interventions have been launched to improve sex ratio. Government has intensified effective implementation of the prohibition of Sex Selection Act (1994). State has been advised by the Central government to focus at all level from village to district level, to find out the causes behind low sex ratio and religious leaders, women achievers etc. are being involved to campaign against discrimination of girl child. Above all increasing literacy rate among women has a positive bearing on the sex ratio, because there will be an improvement in sex ratio for every increase in women literacy rate.

5. Conclusion

South Bihar plain extends over the area which is located south of river Ganga in the state of Bihar, which is characterized by high population growth and low sex ratio as compared to the country. But one of the most important thing, which is necessary to mention here that the sex ratio for the state remained favourable till 1961, except the year 1931, when sex ratio went down to 995 female per thousand male. Census year 1951 also recorded 1000 female per thousand male, which is equal to the male population. But in South Bihar plain sex ratio remained favourable to women upto 1931, almost same trend has been observed among all the district of South Bihar plain except, Patna, where the sex ratio remained favourable to women only in the year 1901. After 1931 sex ratio always remained unfavourable to women in the study area, therefore the position of sex ratio is not satisfactory. The sex ratio started declining from 1061 female per thousand male in 1901 to 918 female per thousand male in 2011, almost same conditions prevailed in South Bihar plain, it declined from 1052 in 1901 to 913 female per thousand male in 2011. The skewed sex ratio is very unfortunate, alarming and is a cause of concern. There are various factors, which are related with low sex ratio in the study area. One of the major cause of low sex ratio is the son preference. Son preference is most common in Bihar as a whole and South Bihar plain, because they continue the family line, as well as they have higher wage earning in a state like Bihar, where the economy is based on agriculture. Apart from this they are recipients of inheritance, whereas girls are considered as a burden, because of dowry system,

which is deep rooted in the society. This preference to son leads to sex selective abortions due to availability of sex determination facilities, which has become a major reason for imbalance in the sex ratio. Apart from this, female infanticide, abandonment and neglecting, remained in practice in the society. Postnatal discrimination against girl child leads to neglecting their health care and nutrition, which causes higher female deaths. There are several other indirect socio-economic and cultural causes which lead to adverse effect on sex ratio, and therefore women find themselves in a web of problem, which is not going to solve in near future, for the sake of patriarchal society.

Therefore, apart from the government policies, there is an urgent need of people's attention towards saving girl child. We have seen a ray of hope, since 2001, because the sex ratio has been started improving. But the declining sex ratio has led to imbalance in sex composition, which has several consequences to the society, like; increase in crime against women, lowering of society's reproductive potential, decline in new household formation and problem of marriage for males, as Haryana is facing nowadays, due to low sex ratio. Therefore, we can say that declining sex ratio has got its profound and frightening impact on our society as well as on whole country and above all, whole mankind.

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