

SEX RATIO

Population of any society is divided into two segments on the basis of gender – males and females. Both the sexes are complementary to each other and they play distinctive roles in the social and economic activities of a community. Sex ratio, defined as the number of females per thousand males is an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equality between males and females in a society at a given point of time. The sex ratio in India has remained unfavourable to females. It was 972 at the beginning of the 20th century and thereafter it showed continuous decline until during 1941- 51(impact of second world war and other political turbulences), during 1971-81and during 2001-11. The sex ratio from 1901 to 2011 is shown in the following table.

Trend of Urbanization

Census Year	Sex Ratio (females per thousand males)
1901	972
1911	964
1921	955
1931	950
1941	945
1951	946
1961	941
1971	930
1981	934
1991	927
2001	933
2011	940

Sex ratio in India as per Census 2011 has improved by seven points attaining the figure of 940 as against 933 in Census of 2001. This is the highest sex ratio at the national level since Census 1971. In March 2011, India's population stood at 1,210 million of which 623.7 million were males and 586.5 million were females.

However, the area of grave concern remained in the low value of child sex ratio which is 914 as per Census 2011. The Census data indicates a decline of 13 females per 1000 males in the age group of 0-6 years; from 927 in 2001 to 914 in 2011. The decline in child sex ratio would result in negative trend of sex ratio in coming decades. In developed countries sex ratio is generally in favour of females because of higher mortality rates among males. Contrary to this, in the developing countries sex ratio is skewed towards males as in younger age groups, more attention for male child health care is paid. But in older age groups, more females survive being biologically stronger than males.

Total sex ratio as per Census 2011 is 940; it shows an increase of seven points from the sex ratio of 933 as per Census 2001. Total sex ratio varies from one region to another. Out of 640 districts in the country, two hundred districts are having the sex ratio ranging between 901 and 950. Twenty one districts fall in the range of 850 and below. Ninety eight districts have total sex ratio above 1001. The belt of highest sex ratio is found along the western coastal region and in a few districts of Chhattisgarh, Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Out of 640 districts, one hundred forty seven districts show a decline of up to 240 females per 1000 males. These districts form contiguous pockets in Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and southern part of Tamil Nadu. Ten districts show no change in sex ratio.

Regarding urban sex ratio, out of 640 districts, forty four districts show a decline of up to 434 females per 1000 males. Five hundred eighty nine districts show improvement in urban sex ratio; all these are scattered in different parts of the country. The concentration of contiguous patches of the districts with the improvement in urban sex ratio of more than 50 points, lies in northern and northeastern parts of the country. Regarding child sex ratio, sixty one districts have sex ratio in the category of 850 and below. One hundred and thirty six districts have a child sex ratio ranging between 851 and 900. Two hundred sixty eight districts have a child sex ratio between 901 and 950. One hundred and seventy two districts have a child sex ratio ranging between 951 and 1000. Three districts are having a child sex ratio of above 1000; these three districts are all rural districts. The districts that have shown improvement in urban child sex ratio are found in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and north eastern states. This positive change has probably taken place due to change in attitude of the family towards girl child, facilities provided by the government for girl child, fear of the laws imposed by government in favour of girl child. In 2001, the National Policy for Empowerment of Women was formulated as the blueprint for the future, with the express goal of bringing about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. The NPEW laid down detailed prescriptions to address discrimination against women,

strengthen existing institutions which include the legal system, provide better access to health care and other services, equal opportunities for women's participation in decision making, and mainstreaming gender concerns in the development process, etc. To realize the goal of gender equality, government has undertaken several initiatives that seek to achieve the holistic empowerment of women. In keeping with the goal, the focus of planning process has evolved from a purely welfare oriented approach to recognizing women's centrality in the developmental plan. With this fundamental change in approach, future is envisioned in which women are empowered and self-reliant and live in a healthy and secure environment. A new Scheme for pregnant and lactating women has been introduced by government of India for implementation on a pilot basis in 53 districts in 2011. It is a Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme under which cash incentive of rupees 4,000 in three installments is provided to pregnant women of 19 years and above, for their first two live births, between the second trimesters of pregnancy till the infant completes six months of age. The scheme aims to provide part compensation for wage loss so that the women are not under economic compulsion to work up to the last days of pregnancy and immediately after delivery.

The adjacent map shows sex ratio of 2011 Census, district wise. The districts having a good sex ratio of above 980 are Kangra (1012), Mandi (1007), Hamirpur (1095), Chamba (986) and Bilaspur (981) in Himachal Pradesh; Pakur (989), Khunti (997), Gumla (993), Simdega (996), Paschimi Singhbhum (1005) and Lohardaga (985) in Jharkhand; Bagalkot (988), Raichur (1000), Koppal (986), Gadag (982), Bellary (983), Shimoga (998), Udupi (1094), Chikmagalur ((1008), Tumkur ((983), Mandya (995), Hassan (1010), Dakshina Kannada (1020), Kodagu (1019), Mysore (985), Chamarajanagar (993) and Yadgir (989) in Karnataka; Kasaragod (1079), Kannur (1136), Wayanad (1035), Kozhikode (1098), Malappuram (1098), Palakkad (1067), Thrissur (1108), Ernakulam (1027), Idukki (1006), Kottayam (1039), Alappuzha (1100), Pathanamthitta (1132), Kollam (1113) and Thiruvananthapuram (1087) in Kerala; Barwani (981), Dindori (1002), Mandla (1008), Seoni (982), Balaghat (1021), Jabua (990) and Alirajpur (1011) in Madhya Pradesh; Bhandara (982), Gondiya (999), Gadchiroli (982), Satara (988), Ratnagiri (1122) and Sindhudurg (1036) in Maharashtra; Bishnupur (999), Thoubal (1002), Imphal West (1031) and Imphal East (1017) in Manipur; West Garo Hills (984), West Khasi Hills (980), East Khasi Hills (1011) and Jaintia Hills (1013) in Meghalaya; Aizawl (1009) and Champhai (984) in Mizoram; Kendujhar (988), Mayurbhanj (1006), Bhadrak (981), Kendrapara (1007), Jagatsinghpur (968), Ganjam (983), Gajapati (1043), Khandamal (1037), Baudh (991), Balangir (987), Nuapara (1021), Kalahandi (1003), Rayagada (1051), Nabarangapur (1019), Koraput (1032), and Malkangiri (1020) in Odisha; Yanam (1038), Puducherry (1029), Mahe (1184) and Karaikal (1047) in Puducherry UT; Pa;li (987), Rajsamand (990), Dungaarpur (994), Banswara (980) and Pratapgarh (983) in Rajasthan; Thiruvallu (987), Chennai (989), Kanchipuram (986), Vellore (1007), Thiruvannamalai (994), Viluppuram (987), Namakkal (986), Erode (993), The Nilgiris (1042), Dindigul (998), Karur (1015), Tiruchirapalli (1013), Perambalur (1003), Ariyalur (1015), Cuddalore (987), Nagapattinam (1025), Thiruvarur (1017), Thanjavur (1035), Pudukkottai (1015), Sivaganga (1003), Madurai (990), Theni (991), Virudhunagar (1007), Ramanathapuram (983), Thoothukkudi (1023), Tirunelveli ((1023), Kanyakumari (1019), Coimbatore (1000), and Tiruppur (989) in Tamil Nadu; Chamoli (1019), Rudraprayag (1114), TehriGarhwal (1077), Garhwal (1103), Pithoragarh (1020), Bageshwar (1090), Almora (1139), Champawat (980) in Uttarakhand; Pratapgarh (998), Sultanpur (983), Deoria (1017), Azamgarh (1019) and Jaunpur (1024) in Uttar Pradesh; Adilabad (1001), Nizamabad (1040), Karimnagar (1008), Medak (991), Nalgonda (983), Warangal (997), Khammam (1011), Srikakulam (1015), Vizianagaram (1019), Visakhapatnam (1006), East Godavari (1006), West Godavari (1004), Krishna (992), Guntur (10030), Prakasam (981), Sri PottiSriramulu Nellore (985), Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy (985), Kurnool (988), Anantapur (977) and Chittoor (997) in Andhra Pradesh; Gopalganj (1021) and Siwan (988) in Bihar; Jashpur (1005), Raigarh (991), Janjgir-Champa (986), Kabirdham (996), Rajnandgaon (10150), Durg (988), Uttar BastarKanker (1006), Bastar (10230), Narayanpur (994), DakshinBastarDantewara (1020) and Bijapur (984) in Chhattisgarh; East Kameng (1029), Papumpare (980), Upper Subansiri (998), East siang (980), Lower Subansiri (984) and KurungKumey ((1032) in Arunachal Pradesh; Diu (1031); South Goa (986); Dohad (990), The Dangs (1006) and Tapi (1007) in Gujarat.