

## Spatial variation in sex ratio: A geographical study of Haryana, 2011

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### Abstract

Sex Ratio is a tool to find out gender equity of the population. Haryana is the most affected state regarding declining and imbalance of sex ratio. The evidences indicate that female birth is as burden on family in many districts of Haryana. Lowest sex ratio is reported by 2011 census in this state. Increasing number of son preference and ignorance of daughters in many districts in Haryana are the responsible factors of declining sex ratio. The main objective of this study is to assess the regional pattern of sex ratio in Haryana. This study shows that people of Haryana always favoured birth of son as compared to the daughter. Haryana has a total population of 25351462, with males 13494734 and 11856728 females with sex ratio of 879. According to Census 2011, five districts which have the highest sex ratio are Mewat (907) followed by Fatehabad (902), Rewari (898), Sirsa (897) and Mahendragarh (895). Five districts which have the lowest sex ratio are Gurgaon (854), Sonipat (856), Jhajjar (862), Panipat (864) and Rohtak (867). ARC GIS 9.3 and MS Office software have been used for mapping and statistical analysis respectively. District wise spatial variation in sex ratio has been shown on maps by using choropleth method.

**Keywords:** Sex Ratio, gender equity, Census of India, son preference.

### Introduction

Sex ratio is one of the social indicators which compute equity between males and females in an area and shows the status of women. In India, sex ratio is defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the population. In foreign, sex ratio is defined as number of males per 100 females. According to Census of India 2011, there are 943 females per 1000 of males in India. Census 2001 exposed that there were 933 females to that of 1000 males. So there has been a small increase in the sex ratio. There are many factors affecting sex ratio like sex selective migration, sex differentials in mortality, female foeticide, ignorance of daughters and son preference etc. Female foeticide is a major cause of decreasing number of girls to boys in India. The declining sex ratio is a matter of great anxiety. Haryana has the lowest rate of sex ratio in India. There are 879 females per 1000 of males (Census of India 2011).

### Study Area

The present study relates to the state of Haryana, which covers an area of about 44212 square km. It constitutes 1.44 percent of the total geographical area of the country. It extends from 27°03'N to 30°55'N North latitudes and from 74°02'80"E to 77°03'05"E East longitude. The state Haryana is established on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov.1966 and the capital of the state is Chandigarh which is a union territory and it is also the capital of Punjab. Haryana is the most affected state regarding declining and imbalance of sex ratio. It has the lowest rate of sex ratio in India. Therefore, this state is chosen for the study. In Haryana, there are variations in sex ratio at district level.

### Objectives

The present study has the following main objectives.

- To analyze the regional pattern of sex ratio at districts level in Haryana.
- To find out the possible causes for spatial inequality in sex ratio in Study Area.

### Methodology and Database

In the present study the analysis of sex ratio is based on secondary data sources. Census will be the main secondary source of data. ARC GIS 9.3 software has been used to display the data on map. Microsoft word has been used basically for the presentation of the research. An attempt has been made to tabulate process, analyze and interpret the data by applying suitable statistical and cartographic techniques. District wise spatial variation in sex ratio has been shown on maps by using choropleth method.

### Discussion

#### Sex Ratio: Haryana

According to Census of India 2011, total population of India is 1210569573 with the sex ratio of 943 females per 1000 males. Haryana has a total population of 25351462 with sex ratio of 879. As per Census 2011, top five districts which have the highest sex ratio are Mewat (907) followed by Fatehabad (902), Rewari (898), Sirsa (897) and Mahendragarh (895). Five districts which have the lowest sex ratio are Gurgaon (854), Sonipat (856), Jhajjar (862) Panipat (864), and Rohtak (867).

**Table 1:** Haryana: District Wise Sex Ratio, 2011

Sr. No.	State/Districts	Sex Ratio
1	Haryana	877
2	Panchkula	870
3	Ambala	882
4	Yamuna Nagar	877

Continuous....

5	Kurukshetra	889
6	Kaithal	880
7	Karnal	886
8	Panipat	861
9	Sonipat	853
10	Jind	870
11	Fatehabad	903
12	Sirsa	896
13	Hisar	871
14	Bhiwani	884
15	Rohtak	868
16	Jhajjar	861
17	Mahendragarh	894
18	Rewari	898
19	Gurgaon	853
20	Mewat	906
21	Faridabad	871
22	Palwal	879

Source: - Primary Census Abstract, Census of India, 2011.

**Table 2: Haryana: Spatial Pattern of Sex Ratio**

Categories	No. of Districts	Name of Districts
High Sex Ratio (900-925)	2	Mewat, Fatehabad
Moderate Sex Ratio (875-900)	10	Rewari, Sirsa, Mahendragarh, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Bhiwani, Ambala, Kaithal, Palwal, Yamuna Nagar,
Low Sex Ratio (850-875)	9	Hisar, Faridabad, Panchkula, Jind, Rohtak, Panipat, Jhajjar, Sonipat, Gurgaon.

Source:- Table 1

**Areas having High Sex Ratio (900-925)**

District Mewat and Fatehabad are included in this category. Sex ratio in these districts is 906 and 903 females per 1000 males respectively which are above state average (877 females per 1000 males).

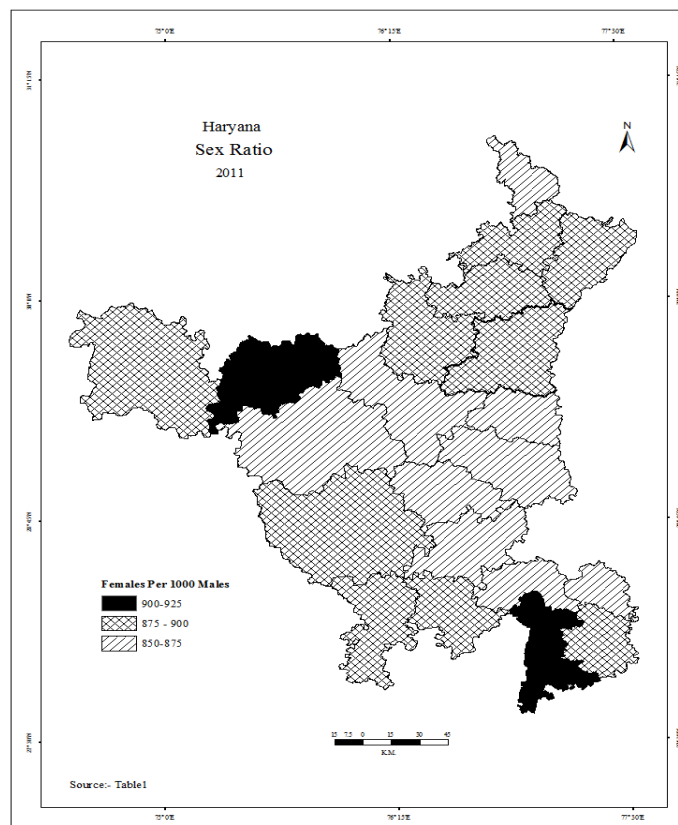
**Areas having Moderate Sex Ratio (875-900)**

Ten districts have been included in this category namely Rewari (898), Sirsa (896), Mahendragarh (894), Kurukshetra (889), Karnal (886), Bhiwani (884), Ambala (882), Kaithal (880),

Palwal (879) and Yamuna Nagar (877). Sex ratio of these districts is above sex ratio of Haryana (877 females per 1000 males).

**Areas having low Sex Ratio (850-875)**

Nine districts have been included in this category namely Hisar (871), Faridabad (871), Panchkula (870), Jind (870), Rohtak (868), Panipat (861), Jhajjar (861), Sonipat (853), Gurgaon (853). Sex ratio of these districts is below sex ratio of Haryana (877 females per 1000males).



Source:- Table 1

### **A.) Regions having Sex Ratio above the State's Average (Above 879 females per 1000 males)**

Eleven districts (about half of the districts) out of the total of 21 districts have sex ratio above the state average (879 females per 1000 males). Mewat district has the highest sex ratio of 907 females per 1000 males. Literacy rate has also been found in lowest category in Mewat district in overall literacy rate as well as in case of both male and female literacy rates. The lowest literacy rates are the result of social conservatism of Meo-Muslim society which dominates the scene in the district. People are found more rigid in their religious manner because of low literacy and they do not want to obstruct in Allah's creations. So, the family planning measures are not used by them, in spite of government through its anganwari workers are providing these measures free of cost in every village of Haryana. The result is shown in Mewat district. Fatehabad (903), Rewari (898), Sirsa (896), Mahendragarh (894), Kurukshetra (889), Karnal (886), Bhiwani (884), Ambala (882), Kaithal (880), Palwal (879) are other districts which included in this category. Low status given to women, Low rural female literacy rate, high fertility rate because of early marriage of girls, poor decision making power in family with regard to number and sex of new-borne baby.

### **B) Regions having Sex Ratio below the State's Average (Below 879 females per 1000 males)**

Ten districts (about half of the districts) out of the total of 21 districts are having sex ratio below the state average (879 females per 1000 males). Amongst them, Sonapat and Gurgaon districts have the lowest sex ratio of 853 females per 1000 males. It shows that practice of female foeticide is more common in these districts because of easy access to sex-selective technology. Other districts are Yamuna Nagar (877), Hisar (871), Faridabad (871), Panchkula (870), Jind (870), Rohtak (868), Panipat (861), Jhajjar (861), Sonapat (853), Gurgaon (853). Commonness of the practice of female foeticide due to illegal use of sex-selective technology, better economic conditions of people for easy access to the use of sex-selective technology, high infant mortality rate, pre-mature deliveries due to mal-nutrition and high maternal mortality rate etc. are the responsible factors for low sex ratio in these districts.

The attainment of higher education and high work participation rate of women i.e. selection against highly paid jobs, to take self-determining decision with regard to number and sex of new-borne baby is another possible cause for low sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 years. Our patriarchal society is the cause low child sex ratio where a deep-rooted attitude of son preference still exists for perpetuating the family name. So, most of the families, even educated, have a preference of SON as their first child. It can be shown in many times, if both the parents are working and have first child as boy, they do not try for second issue; if they have first baby as girl, only then they try for the second one. Strong wants to have a son, impact of population policies on sex ratio, economic concern connected with daughters, social anxiety for girls, declining child sex ratio and low literacy rate (particularly in rural areas) are another factors that responsible for the lowest sex ratio in these districts.

### **Conclusion**

It can be seen in many areas that there has no social respect for its girl children. In Haryana various social, economic and demographic indicators have provided evidences of gender bias and inequity against girls. Haryana also reveals a wide disparity

in sex ratio across districts. The lowest sex ratio (below 875 females per 1000 males) is found in central part of the Haryana. On another side, highest sex ratio is reported in only two districts Mewat and Fatehabad 906 and 903 females per 1000 males respectively. North, South-West and North West part have been laid in moderate category. The sex ratio is worse in Haryana due to strong son preference among people. The awareness programmes, increasing level of acceptance of son and daughter on equal footing, and strong decision power of female with regard to number and sex of new-borne baby, high rural literacy rate as well as overall literacy, especially among females are some solutions to decrease the gender discrimination. Female participation in workforce is also increasing which make her self-dependent and more confident to take decisions about her life and family. It requires strict action from the state authorities and mass movement to change the mindset and equal order of the patriarchal society.

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