

Declining Child Sex Ratio: An Analysis with Special Reference to Karnataka State

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Abstract

Karnataka is the Eighth Largest State regarding the geographical area and Ninth Largest State in respect of population in India. It has studied on the basis census of 2001-2011. The sex ratio is usually defined as the number of girls per thousand boys (0-6years). In this study analysis the data of sex ratio among children less than 7years. Demographically the Overall Sex Ratio of state is 968 in 2011 have been improved by up to 965 in 2001. But the Child Sex Ratio is 946 in 2001 and it decreased up to 943 in 2011. Decline in child sex ratio is serious problem of gender imbalance in the state. The sex ratio is large variation from one district to another district in Karnataka State. Bagalkot (929), Bijapur (930), Belgaum (931), Davanagere (931), Chitradurga (933), trend decline the sex ratio in all these districts during 2001-2011. Among all the district of the Karnataka, Kodagu (977), Hassan (964), Chikmagalur (963), Shimoga (960), Ramanagara (960), districts are increased rate of child sex ratio. Some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the consistently low levels of sex ratio are son preference, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age. In this paper discussed the decaling sex ratio in Karnataka.

KEYWORDS: Child Sex Ratio, Demography

Introduction

Sex ratio is an important theme that reflects the status of women in society. Some of the worst gender ratio, indicating a gross violation of women's rights is found in south and East Asian countries such as India and China (*Arjun B.Doke. 2016*). Karnataka state in India is no exception to this. In India, sex-ratio is declining it is a fact, but more important and serious thing is that with social, educational, economic development, it is declining. Sex ratio is not lowest in the poor tribal district or other backward areas, but in the relatively prosperous Karnataka, it's economically better off districts.

Child population encompasses that proportion of the total population of the Karnataka state which lies in the age group of 0-6 years which is an important indicator since it overlooks a delicate segment of the population. Old Karnataka demographic history records that in the matter of sheer numbers, the female ratio in total population had always remained unfavourable. In this regard, the 2011 census reveals that a decline in the child sex ratio for the age group 0-6 has crossed all limits and has remained alarmingly at its lowest. The issue of the survival of the girl child is a critical one, and needs systematic effort in mobilizing the community.

Definition of sex ratio:

Sex Ratio is a term used to define number of females per 1000 males. It's a great source to find the equality of males and females in a society at a given period of time. The sex ratio is the ratio of males to females in a population. In most sexually reproducing species, the ratio tends to be 1:1. This tendency is explained by Fisher's principle (*Hamilton, W.D. (1967). "Extraordinary sex ratios"*). Improvement of sex ratio indicates a healthy growth rate among the female to male population in India.

Child sex ratio:

Child sex ratio is the number of girl children per 1,000 boy's children in the age group 0–6 years in a human population. Changes in Child Sex Ratio index reflect underlying socio-economic and cultural patterns of the society, especially its attitude towards the girl child. This presentation is based on provisional population data of 2001 to 2011 Census on sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years.

Objectives

1. To analysis of district wise child sex ratio in Karnataka
2. To find out declining pattern of child sex ratio and over all sex ratio during 2001-2011
3. To analysis the causes for decline girl children in Karnataka state
4. To find out the government initiatives for girl child improvement

Data base and Methodology

The present study is primarily based on secondary data collected from decennial census Reports of Government of India. This paper has been covering child sex ratio of thirty districts in Karnataka. The data have been analysed for child sex ratio as the number of girls per 1000 boys. Sex ratio is measured in terms of number of girls per thousand boys.

Status of child sex ratio in India

Child sex ratio as per Census 2011, Child sex ratio of the country is 919; it is the lowest since 1947. It has declined from 927 in 2001 to 919 in 2011. The proportion of Child Population in the age group of 0-6 years to total population is 13.1% in 2011 while the corresponding figure in 2001 it was 15.9 percent. In 2011, Arunachal Pradesh state having the best child sex ratio (972) in entire country. Punjab and Haryana continue to have the lowest child sex ratios with 846 and 834 respectively.

Child Sex Ratio in India (2001-2011)

S. No.	State/UTs	Child Sex Ratio (0-6)	
		2001	2011
	INDIA	927	919
1	Jammu & Kashmir	941	862
2	Himachal Pradesh	896	909
3	Punjab	798	846
4	Chandigarh	845	880
5	Uttarakhand	908	890

6	Haryana	819	834
7	NCT of Delhi	868	871
8	Rajasthan	909	888
9	Uttar Pradesh	916	902
10	Bihar	942	935
11	Sikkim	963	957
12	Arunachal Pradesh	964	972
13	Nagaland	964	943
14	Manipur	957	936
15	Mizoram	964	970
16	Tripura	966	957
17	Meghalaya	973	970
18	Assam	965	962
19	West Bengal	960	956
20	Jharkhand	965	948
21	Odisha	953	941
22	Chhattisgarh	975	969
23	Madhya Pradesh	932	918
24	Gujarat	883	890
25	Daman & Diu	926	904
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	979	926
27	Maharashtra	913	894
28	Andhra Pradesh	961	939
29	Karnataka	946	943
30	Goa	938	942
31	Lakshadweep	959	911
32	Kerala	960	964
33	Tamil Nadu	942	943
34	Puducherry	967	967
35	A & N Islands	957	968

(Source: Census of India 2011)

Status of child sex ratio in Karnataka

Refers to the Karnataka state total female sex ratio is increasing to 968, as per 2011 census but child sex ratio is decline to 943 in the same 2011 census. Karnataka District wise variation of child sex ratio for 2001-2011 is given in the table. It is observed that the highest variation in sex ratio is found in Bijapur district (41) and such things are also observed in Bidar (33), Kolar (21), Davanagere (19), Chamarajanagar (16) The highest reduction in sex ratio is observed in 5 districts. Only in Ramanagara, Koppal, Belagaum, Ballery and Hassan districts are significant increasing of child sex ratio.

Child Sex Ratio in Karnataka (2001-2011)

S. No.	State/District	Sex ratio 2001	Sex ratio 2011	Absolute change 2001-2011
	Karnataka	946	943	-3
1.	Belgaum	924	931	7
2.	Bagalkot	939	929	-10
3.	Bijapur	971	930	-41
4.	Bidar	967	935	-33
5.	Raichur	962	949	-13
6.	Koppal	938	953	14
7.	Gadag	951	944	-7
8.	Dharwad	944	942	-2
9.	Uttara Kannada	946	947	1
10.	Haveri	961	945	-15
11.	Bellary	949	954	5
12.	Chitradurga	946	933	-13
13.	Davanagere	949	931	-19
14.	Shimoga	959	960	1
15.	Udupi	955	955	0
16.	Chikmagalur	964	963	-1
17.	Tumkur	952	952	0
18.	Bangalore	940	941	1
19.	Mandya	937	934	-3
20.	Hassan	964	964	1
21.	Dakshina Kannada	952	946	-7
22.	Kodagu	977	977	0
23.	Mysore	970	956	-14
24.	Chamarajanagar	957	942	-16
25.	Gulbarga	937	935	-2
26.	Yadgir	952	942	-10
27.	Kolar	976	955	-21
28.	Chikkaballapura	952	945	-7
29.	Bangalore Rural	939	947	8
30.	Ramanagara	945	960	15

(Source: Census of India 2011)

Top three and Bottom three districts in the Karnataka state child sex ratio

In Karnataka among the district while comparing the child sex ratio 2011 Bagalkot district is in the bottom of child sex ratio (929) followed by Bijapur (930), Belgaum (931), and Kodagu (977), Hassan (964), Chikmagalur(964), districts sex ratio is highest in the Karnataka state child sex ratio.

Causes of Declining Sex Ratio

Recent period there is some primary evidence that sex ratio at birth in the Karnataka as a whole possibly lower than generally accepted range of 946-943 male children get preferential treatment while female children are neglected. More female children die in Karnataka, at infancy, as well as reproductive period. Several reasons are the consistently low levels of child sex ratio and further decline in the Karnataka. Some of the important reasons commonly as given below.

- 1) **Neglect of the girl child:** - India is basically male oriented society, they choose only boy child at the time of delivery and they neglecting girl children's. Therefore child sex ratio declining rapidly.
- 2) **Social factors on Sex selection:** - patriarchal society with more male oriented thoughts forces one family to have male child with old beliefs like family nomination hence girl child had been neglected. Lack of education in family members makes them unable to follow right attitude towards selection of sex.
- 3) **Lack of empowerment of women:** - There is a lack of empowerment of women especially in the rural areas. Women do not enjoy opportunities as men do. Due to lack of education, women are unable to establish their roles in many places. The state of Uttar Pradesh has become like a grave for girls.
- 4) **Female infanticide:** - Female infanticide is an age old practice among human populations to regulate the numbers of children and eliminate the unwanted off spring. Most of the female infants were killed by parents due to the burden of the girl child and preference for boy child.
- 5) **Infant and Maternal Mortality:** - Infant mortality rate is the number of death of babies before the age of one. Due to female foeticide, the sex ratio declines terribly. Maternal mortality also contributes to the declining sex ratio as most of the women die during the childbirth due to improper care and less facilities.
- 6) **Ultrasonography centre for natal test:** - advent of science and technology like ultrasonography has made it possible for antenatal sex detection. It led to lowering sex ratio.

Government Initiatives for improving girl child sex ratio

India and Karnataka governments have been concentrating on the improvement of the girl child ratio by implementing several welfare schemes with common eligibility condition. The following are some of the schemes.

1) **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao:**

This national scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on 22nd January 2015 with following objectives: first is Prevention of gender biased sex selective elimination, second is ensuring survival & protection of the girl child and Ensuring education and final is participation of the girl child. Since coordinated and convergent efforts are needed to ensure survival, protection and empowerment of the girl child, Government has announced Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative. (Dr.Parupally Anjaneyulu,2016)

2) Sukanya Samridhi Account (2015):

Sukanya Samridhi Account scheme is under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. It is a channelize small savings scheme, this scheme for girl child which can be opened in banks and post offices and half of the funds can be withdrawn for her higher education and marriage. While the scheme has been notified by the government, the special interest rate applicable to it would be determined later.

3) New Girl Child Protection Scheme:

New girl child protection scheme is aimed at preventing gender discrimination by empowering and protecting rights of girl children through direct investment from Government. It is enhancing status of girl child and promotes adoption of small family norm by ensuring holistic development of the girl child for a bright future entailing improved sex ratio besides preventing female infanticide. (gcps.ap.nic.in/ 2016)

4) Bhagyalakshmi Scheme:

This programme was launched in the year 2006-07 and the scheme was slightly modified in August 2008. This scheme is restricted to two girls in BPL families. This benefit will not be available unless the father or mother of the beneficiary girl has undergone terminal family planning methods so that the total number of children of the BPL family does not exceed three in the said family. The girl child is enrolled after due verification by the department and each beneficiary is given an amount of Rs.10,000, which is deposited in her name in fixed deposit and for children's born on or after 01-08-2008, an amount of Rs.19,300 will be deposited with the financial institution in the name of the first girl beneficiary and Rs. 18,350 in name of the second girl beneficiary of the same family. The amount deposited in the financial institution will be maximized and paid along with interest to the beneficiary on her attainment of 18 years of age. (*Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Bangalore-2013-2014*)

5) The National Plan of Action for the Girl Child (1991 –2000):

The National Plan of Action for the Girl Child the Plan of Action is to ensure survival, protection and development of the girl child with the ultimate objective of building up a better future for the girl child.

6) PCPNDT Act:

The Indian government has passed Pre-Conception and Pre natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) (PCPNDT) Act in 2004 to ban and punish prenatal sex screening and female foeticide. It is currently illegal in India to determine or disclose sex of the foetus to anyone. However, there are concerns that PCPNDT Act has been poorly enforced by authorities.

Suggestion

- 1) Strict enforcement of Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act including penalty provision for doctors and diagnostic centres.
- 2) Establish more government new schemes for improving child sex ratio.
- 3) Strictly punish for girl child foeticide.
- 4) Awareness should be given for the rural families regarding the government programs and schemes via different kind of media.

Conclusion

The sex ratio of Karnataka State large variation during the study period. Proportion of girls per thousand boys is not satisfactory in the study region. According to 2011 there are 968 females per 1000 males but child sex ratio 943 girls per 1000 boys. Attitude of preference of boy children and neglecting girl children result this type of imbalance. The paper examined the inter temporal and spatial trends and socio-economic of the spatial variations in the relative neglect of girl child in Karnataka. The argument that economic value of women increases, higher educational attainment and participation in economic activity. Rather, the aggregate evidence could be interpreted as the improving female education and despite the improving socioeconomic characteristics. The existence of gender discriminatory practices which starts even before birth, which require resurgent attention of public policy, as improving literacy and economic value of women is necessary but not sufficient for enhancing the relative life chances of girl child.

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