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AN ASSESSMENT OF DECLINING CHILD SEX RATIO IN SAMBA DISTRICT (J&K)

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted with an objective to analyze the declining trend in child sex ratio in Samba district. The census of 2011 shows the declining of child sex ratio in district samba. (Jammu and Kashmir). This shows that there is a great biasness in respect of gender in district Samba. According to the field survey, the respondents think that negligence of girl results in high mortality rates, which led to the imbalance in the child sex ratio. Majority of the respondents think that in order to deal with these problems, selective abortions of girls should be legally banned. Dowry demand should be stopped forcefully and government must carry out serious and continue efforts to change the attitude of people towards girl's child. Female insecurity is also the main reason of feticide.

KEYWORDS

Abortion, Sex ratio, Girl's child, Gender biasness, Female insecurity and Dowry.

INTRODUCTION

CHILD SEX RATIO. The child sex ratio attempts to bring out the recent changes in our society in its attitudes and outlook towards the girl child. It is a broad indicator which reveals the ground realities that exist in fabric of the society. Present sex composition of child population determines the future vital events such as marriage rate, labour force, age structure, birth and deaths, migration and replacement etc. It is the ratio of males and females in a age group of 0-6. The different Countries of the world use different criteria for obtaining sex ratio. In India the sex ratio is the ratio of female to per thousand of males. Sex composition of a population refers to the balance between male and female in any population. (Chandana, 1986, p 103).

Sex ratio is an important component of demography which affects not only the other demographic attributes but also the social, economic and political structure. The balance between the male and female in any population at a given point of time, in fact depend on three factors. They are:

1. Sex ratio at birth.
2. Sex differential at death.
3. Sex ratio among migrants.

OBJECTIVES

- To analyze the declining child sex ratio in the study area.
- To find out the causes which are responsible for low child sex ratio in the study area.
- To assess the challenges related to this issue.
- To device solutions to come out from the concerned problem.

DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

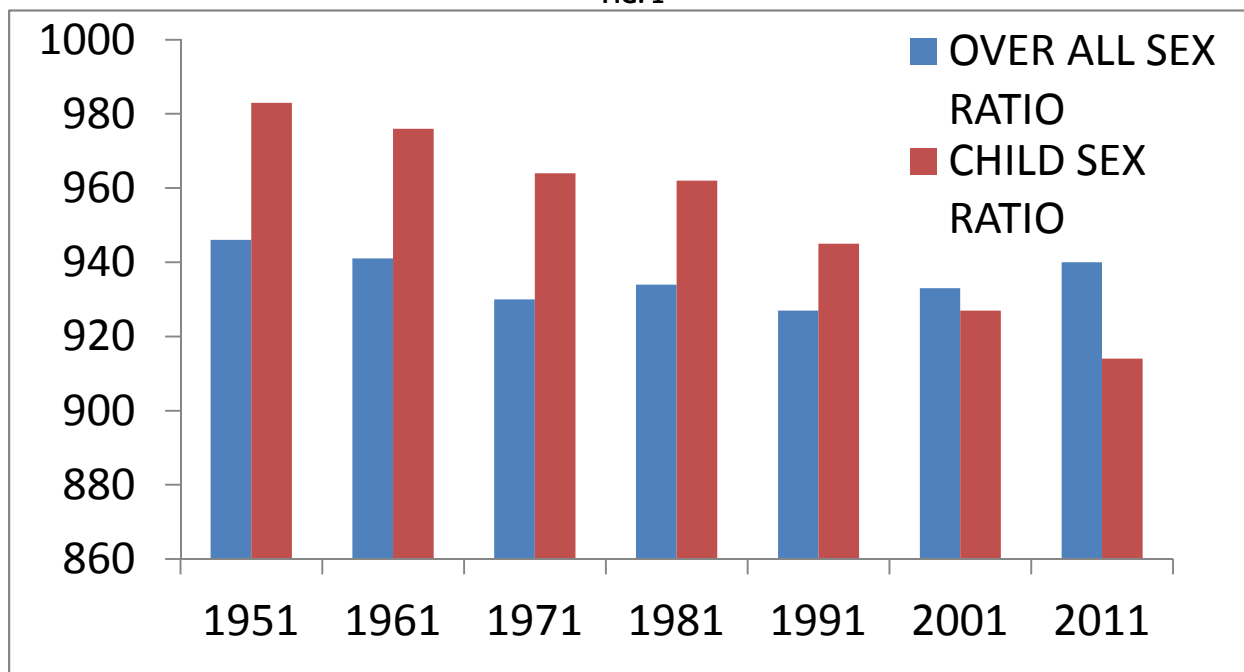
- The empirical research is cumulative product of primary and secondary sources of data. The present study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary sources of data have been collected from different government offices and local agencies and organizations. The primary data has been gathered through personal interviews and field surveys.
- Secondary data has been collected through various sources such as central census statistical department and others official and non-official agencies to draw relevant result. Simple mean and statistical techniques used for concrete results.
- Internet websites, brochures, books, journals, newspapers, etc has also been used to gathering the relevant data. After collecting and tabulating the data suitable statistical techniques has been applied for analyzing the result.

CHILD SEX RATIO OF INDIA

India is the one of the most populous country of the world, having the world population of 17.64% which leads to the world second largest populous country of the world only after china. The phenomenon of population is dynamic where the process of demographic is varying from country to country, state to state or region to region. As per 2011 census the total population of the country is 1210.2 million (1210193422, persons) in which the 623724248 are males and 586469174 are females. The sex ratio of India is 940, but the national level sex ratio is raised by 7 point in 2011. In India child sex ratio is defined as the number of females per thousand of males in the age group of 0-6 years in a human population. Imbalance in this age group will extend to older age groups in future years. Currently the ratio of males to females is generally significantly greater than one. i.e. there are more boys than girls. However, in recent decades, the drastic decline in child sex ratio is an issue of grave concern in India. According to recent census of 2011, there is decrease in child sex ratio that came as a shock figures shows 914 girls per 1000 boys, and this is the lowest ever since independence, slipping from 927 in 2001. The increasing trend has been seen in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Mizoram while in all others the rate has shown decline.

COMPARISON OF OVER ALL SEX RATIO AND CHILD SEX RATIO OF INDIA (1951-2011)

FIG. 1



Source: Census of India (1951-2011)

TABLE 1: TREND OF CHILD SEX RATIO IN INDIA (1951-2011)

S.NO.	YEARS	CHILD SEX RATIO
1	1951	983
2	1961	976
3	1971	964
4	1981	962
5	1991	945
6	2001	927
7	2011	914

Source: Census of India (1951-2011)

The above table (table No.1) shows that the trend of the child sex ratio in India from 1951 to 2011. The trend of child sex ratio in India is declining from 983 in 1951 to 914 in 2011. This shows that the lot of variation in 1951 to 2011, there are 69-point decline in child sex ratio . There are various factors, which are responsible for the declining of sex ratio in India.

CHILD SEX RATIO IN J&K

Jammu and Kashmir is a northern most state of India which lies in the lap of Himalaya. The total population of the state is 1254896 person which is the 19th most populous state of India having the sex ratio is 883. As per the census of 2011, the state having the child sex ratio (0-6 years) is 859. The whole country faces the problem of sex ratio i.e. the problem of gender imbalance. The state lies in the bottom three states of India having lowest child sex ratio i.e. Haryana (830), Punjab (846), Jammu & Kashmir (859).

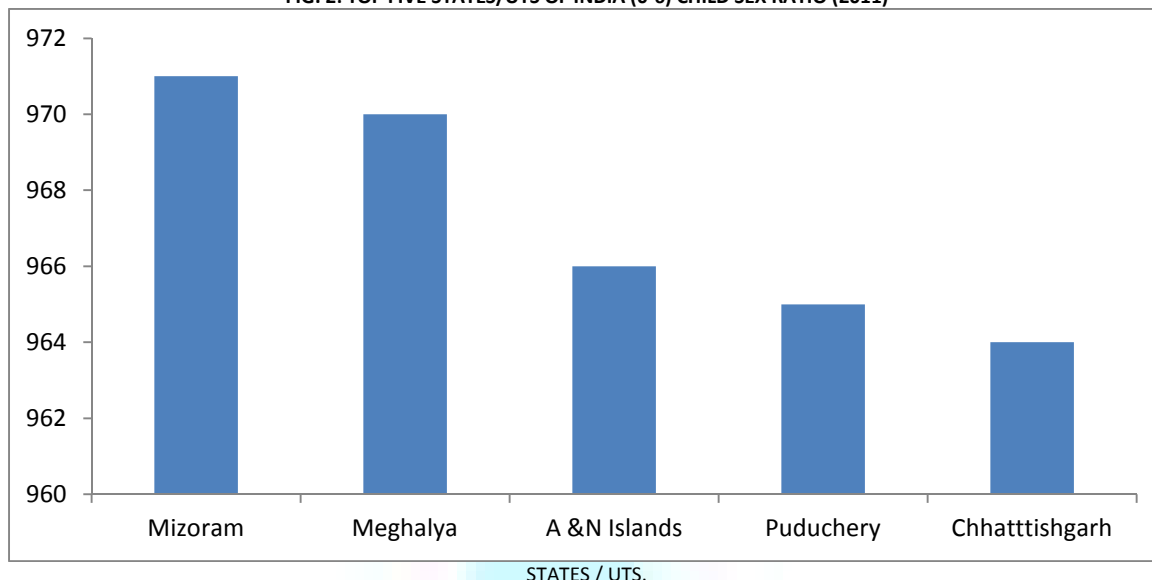
As of census 2011 top five states / Uts for child sex ratio are Mizoram has the highest child sex ratio of 971 girls per 1000 boys followed by Meghalaya with 970 girls per 1000 boys and Andaman & Nicobar Islands with 966 girls per 1000 boys, Puduchery with 965 girls per 1000 boys and Chhattisgarh with 964 girls per 1000 boys. Though Meghalaya has a negative growth of 0.31% for child sex ratio, the state still stands on the second position.

As of census 2011 bottom five states/Uts for child sex ratio are Haryana has the lowest child sex ratio of 830 girls per 1000 boys followed by Punjab with 846 girls per 1000 boys and Jammu and Kashmir with 859 girls per 1000 boys. Though J&K has the highest decline in child sex ratio in India from 941 in 2001 to 859 in 2011 i.e. 82 point decline (Table2).

TABLE 2: INDIA: CHILD SEX RATIO (0-6) TOP FIVE AND BOTTOM FIVE STATES / UTS. (2011)

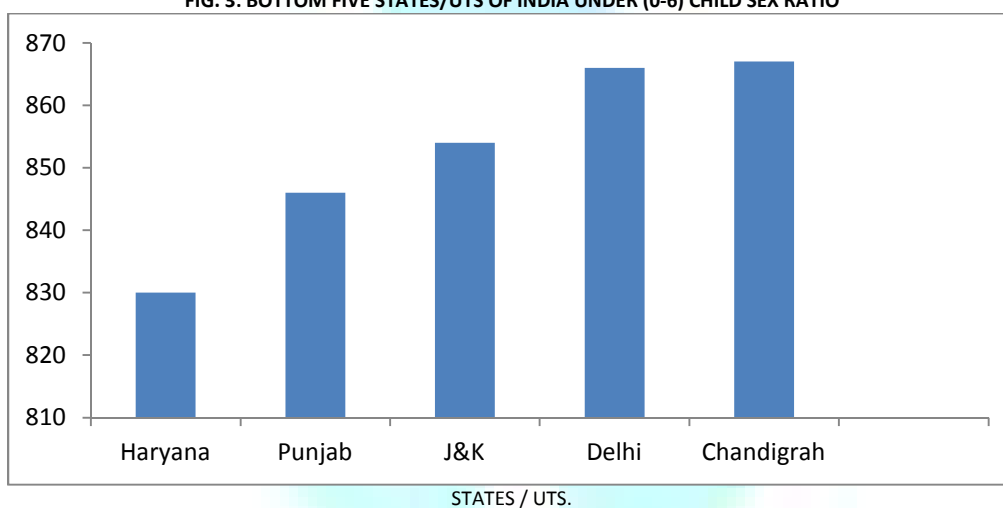
S. No	States/uts	Sex ratio	States/uts	Sex ratio
1	Mizoram	971	Haryana	830
2	Meghalaya	970	Punjab	846
3	A & N Islands	966	J&K	859
4	Puduchery	965	Delhi	866
5	Chhattisgarh	964	Chandigarh	867

FIG. 2: TOP FIVE STATES/UTS OF INDIA (0-6) CHILD SEX RATIO (2011)



Source: Census of India

FIG. 3: BOTTOM FIVE STATES/UTS OF INDIA UNDER (0-6) CHILD SEX RATIO



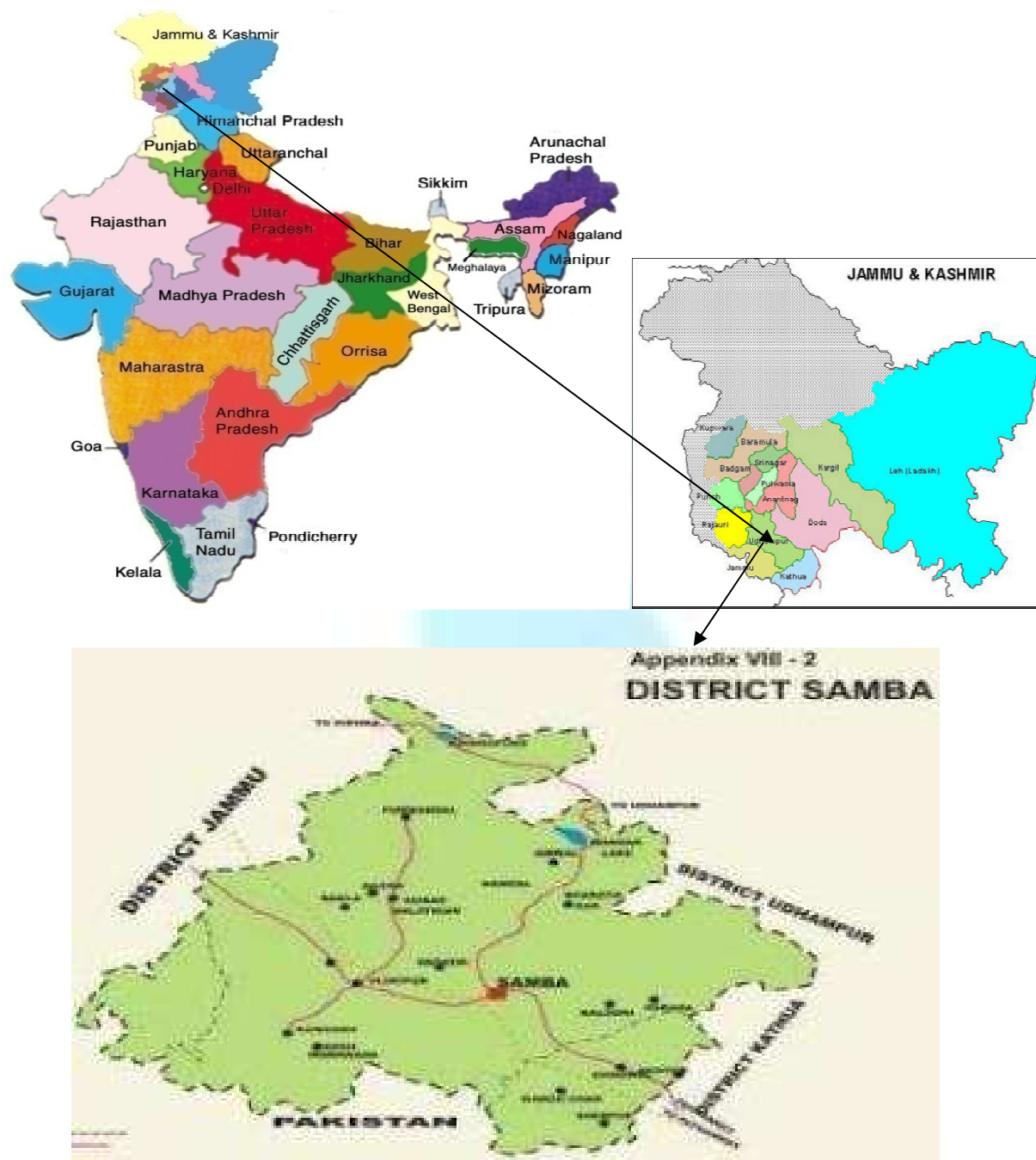
Source: Census of India

STUDY AREA

Samba district is a newly formed district in the Indian administered state of Jammu & Kashmir. Before the formation of district the area now under the district was part of Jammu district. This district is geographically situated 32°33' North latitude and 75°07' East longitude respectively. It is said that Samba was principality established somewhere in 1400 AD. As per folklore Malh Dev, the younger son of Rai Saidu of Lakhanpur was the founder of Samba principality, who married in to the family of Ghotar a local tribesmen. After his marriage he stayed at Samba and made himself the master of the tract with Samba as its capital. Samba ultimately come under the supremacy of Jammu, during the period of Hari Dev, in 1816 AD and in 1846 AD it become an integral part of the Jammu and Kashmir state. District Samba is bounded by District Udhampur in the North, District Kathua in the east, tehsil Jammu and Bashana of District Jammu in the west while on the southern side it has international Border with Pakistan. About two third of the area of district Samba is Kandi and rain fed. The area on the southern side and downside in the national highway is irrigated through Ravi, Tawi irrigation canal network. Samba situated at National highway of India is emerging as an industrial hub in the state. The temperature ranges between 6°C and 47°C. (Rayaz 2011, p19).

Demography: According to the census, Samba District has a population of roughly equal to the nation of Bahamas. This gives it a ranking of 568th in India (out of total 640). The district has a population density of 318 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth rate over the decade of 2001 to 2011 was 16.9%. Samba has a sex ratio of 886 females for every 1,000 males, and a literacy rate of 82.48%.

MAP OF STUDY AREA



AN ASSESMENT OF DECLINING CHILD SEX RATIO IN SAMBA DISTRICT

The total population of samba as per 2011 census is 318611, out of which male population is about 168948 and the female population is 149663 approximately. The density of the said district is 318 persons per sq. km. This census has also revealed that the sex ratio of this district is 886 females per 1000 males. Whereas the child sex ratio between the age group of 0-6 years is 787 girls per 1000 boys.

The district Samba is one of the bottom child sex ratio administered unit rank fourth in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The rank one Jhajjar district (Haryana) 774, Mehadrarh (Haryana) 778, Rewari (Haryana) 784 and Samba 787 girls per 1000 boys (census of India 2011).

The national average of child sex ratio is 914 girls per 1000 boys between the age group of 0-6 years. The child sex ratio of district samba is 787 which is far below from the average national child sex ratio. This revealed the significance of this crucial issue which needs to be addressed. Because imbalance in sex composition is not in favor of development. Decline in child sex ratio is one of the crucial problem of the concerned region. It not only affects the demographic structure of the region but also the socio-economic and cultural aspects. Low child sex ratio in the study area is not the gift of one or two factors, but it is the result of collective factors like biological factors, patriarchal structure of society, preferences of son, inferior status of girl child, selective abortions, gender biasness, considering of female child as a liability and insecurity etc which has actually led to many societal problems like rape, sexual harassment, abduction, bride selling and forced marriages. It is the crucial issue which needs to be treated earlier otherwise in the coming future worse conditions would prevail in the society. It indicates that we cannot say our self a modern society because we have still traditional faith of gender biasness, inferiority, etc. we should understand the status of women and try to empower them more and more. The region or the nation where women are not honored cannot be counted as civilized. We need to overcome from this situation. Society needs to broaden their outlook. Government alone cannot fight with the concerned problem. Collective efforts from each and every corner of society can only tackle the situation. Different private and government agencies have been trying to overcome from the concerned problem by different means.

For dealing with this situation, a new pilot project has been launched in the 12 selected districts of the country. Samba is also one of them. This project is being headed by prime minister of India who is personally monitoring the progress of this project in 12 districts. This program have the provision of women empowerment in decision making process in poverty, landownership, equal rights, laws etc and organization of awareness among them

TABLE 3: BOTTOM TEN DISTRICTS IN RESPECT TO LOWEST CHILD SEX RATIO (0-6) IN INDIA

S. No	Districts	States	Child Sex Ratio
1	Jhajjar	Haryana	774
2	Mahendragarh	Haryana	778
3	Rewari	Haryana	784
4	Samba	Jammu	787
5	Sonapat	Haryana	790
6	Jammu	Jammu	794
7	Bid	Maharashtra	800
8	Ambala	Haryana	806
9	Rohtak	Haryana	807
10	Pithoragarh	Uttarakhand	812

Source census of India 2011.

The above table (Table No 3) shows that the ten bottom district of India which leads to the lowest sex ratio. There are various factors which are responsible for lowest sex ratio in different district of India. The state Haryana has number of district which leads to lowest sex ratio. Haryana has six (6) districts, Jammu and Kashmir has two (2) districts, Maharashtra has one (1) and Uttarakhand has one (1) district which leads to bottom ten district of lowest sex ratio in India.

SUGGESTIONS

The decline in child sex ratio in the study area is the result of so many factors as we have already discussed in the preceding discussion. This can be control and we can come out from the concerning problem by adopting the following provisions.

- As we are aware that the government of India' ministry of health and family welfare has undertaken several measures to implement the 'pre conception and pre Natal Diagnostics technique act (PC and PNDT Act). The act provides for the prohibition of sex selection for the prevention of female feticide. All the clinics of the study region which are using pre natal diagnostic techniques require being registers. Violation of this act is punishable with imprisonment.
- Inferior status to girl child should be removed by awaking the concerned region through different sources like taking the help of NGO's, volunteers, using government schemes etc.
- Start campaign against female feticide. Rigorous policies should be there for controlling female feticide.
- The outlook of the people of concerning region should be broaden as they consider the girl child as a liability for them.
- Female security should be improved by making some more effective laws as current violence against female is also the main reason of declining child sex ratio.
- In the study area, gender biasness should be removed and the literacy among the females should be increased in higher education as well.

CONCLUSION

In the above perusal it is clear that the decline in child sex ratio in India is one of the major problem of current demographic phase. The process of decline in child sex ratio is continuous and is still in progress. Low child sex ratio in the study area is not the gift of one or two factors, but it is the result of collective factors like biological factors, patriarchal structure of society, preferences of son, inferior status of girl child, selective abortions, gender biasness, considering of female child as a liability and insecurity etc which has actually led to many societal problems like rape, sexual harassment, abduction, bride selling and forced marriages. The current issue of child sex ratio requires effective treatment to tackle this problem. This cannot be solved by individual efforts or by government only but it requires the response of all i.e. the whole community. There is a need to broaden our outlook toward girls; the need is to be empowering them. Awareness regarding the importance of girl child should reach in the corners of each and every household so that a collective and organized effort can be possible. This kind of initiatives will surely help us in dealing with the issue.

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