WWW.IJRPR.COM

International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

Deficit of Girl Children in India: A Manner of Dishonour

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ABSTRACT

Male and female population is essential to continue of human society. The gender composition of the child population is largely determined by factors such as mortality and migration character of the population. Sex structure of child population is one of the primary demographic characteristics of human population, determined by past vital events mainly births, deaths at child ages and governs future vital aspects like rate of births, deaths, migration, labour force, marriage etc. It is one of the most widely used tools to measure gender equity in a population and cross sectional analysis to measure gender balance and female status in a society. The child sex ratio determines the overall sex ratio. The child sex ratio is the number of female children per 1000 male children in the age group of 0-6 years. In India, The child sex ratio has fallen due to several reasons. Secondary data and descriptive research design were used in the article. It explores the deficit of girl children mainly in seven census periods, narrates causes, and can be useful for policy makers.

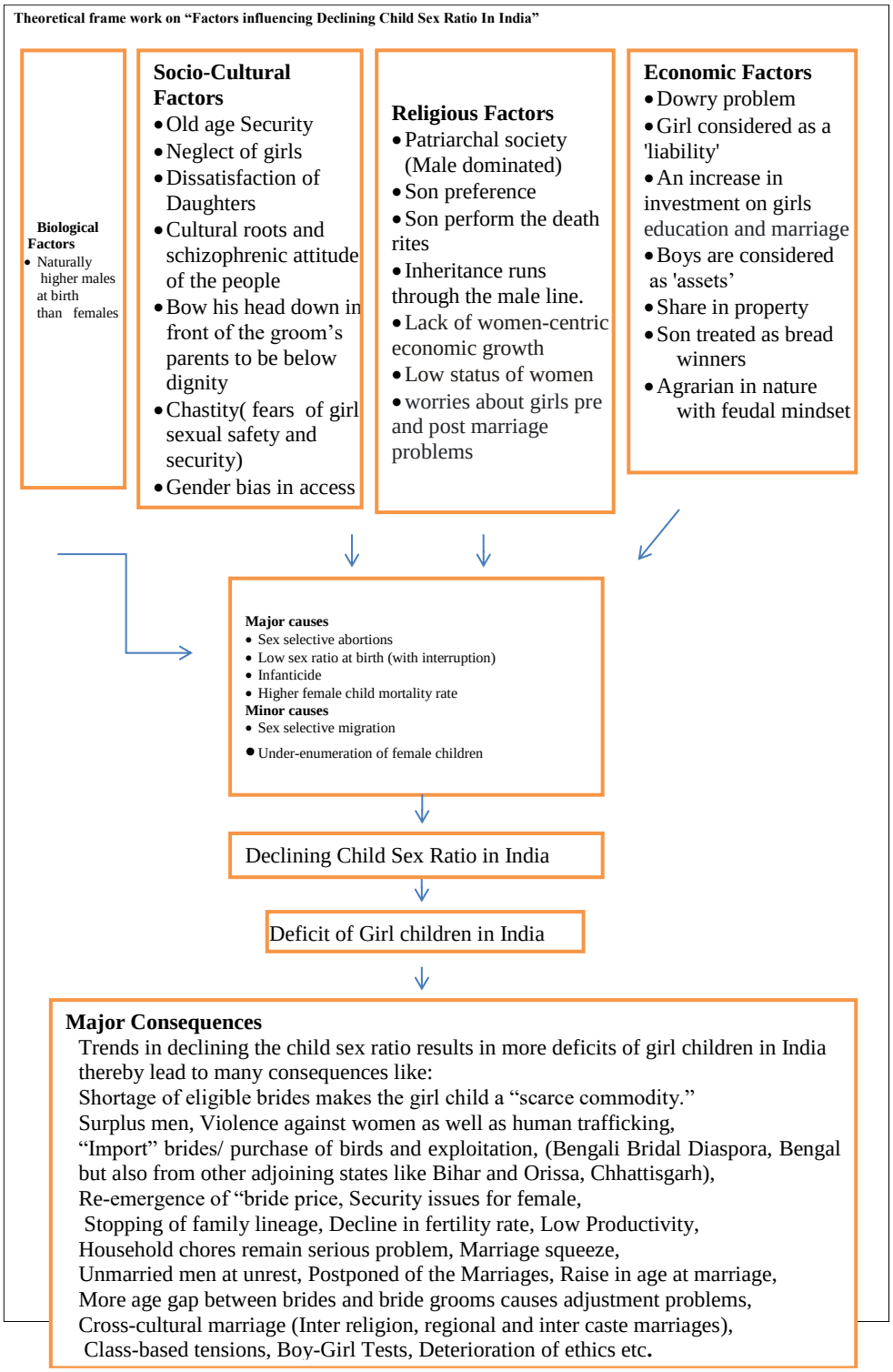
Keywords: *Girl child deficit, Child Sex Ratio, Sex selective abortion, female foeticide and son preference*

Introduction

The gender composition of children is considered the most important element of the population. Information on sex ratio is important for health managers and health workers to plan various improvements and to start health programs cleanly. Child Sex Ratio is the ratio of girls to boys in the population ages of 0-6 years. Information on Child Sex Ratio is important in determining gender equality. Ideally, it should be 1:1. India's transition: 943-980 women for every 1,000 men. Gender in a country; it depends on many factors such as culture, birth rate, death rate, migration and government policies (Hesketh T and Xing ZW, 2006). Gender ratio constitutes the most important part of the population and shows the social, economic and cultural development of a country. Another characteristic of the population is the relative number of men and women. In addition, the gender of the child is an important social factor that simultaneously measures the equality of men and women in society. Changes in child sex ratio during childhood reflect changes in cultural and social norms (Kaur, Kamaljeet, & Kumari, Vinod. 2017). Child sex ratio refers to the number of girls per 1000 boys in the age group of 0 to 6 years. This is an important aspect of gender equality in today's world (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, 2014)

The census brought into focus the declining in child sex ratio results to deficit of girls in India. The child sex ratio in India has been on the decline since 1991 and the worst since independence. According to the 1991 census, there were 945 girls for every 1000 boys and in 2001,927 girls for every 1000 boys, in 2011 it has come down further to 914 (Registrar General of India, 2011). This trend brings forth female's low status and causes a serious threat to the cultural, socio-economic and ethical structures and values of Indian society. Moreover, the imbalance in child sex ratios stems from strong son preference combined with declining fertility, and the availability of and access to sonographic scanning during pregnancy (United Nations Population Fund, 2020). A low sex ratio among children can be due to one or both of two factors. First, pre-natal discrimination as the sex ratio at birth may be lower (that is, dominated by males) than normal. Second, post-natal discrimination as female mortality may be higher than male mortality during infancy and early childhood ages. The effect of migration and sex-selective under-enumeration can also create an imbalance in the enumerated population; however, with improvement in the quality of age sex reporting in recent census enumerations, this issue has become less important (Guilmoto CZ and Rajan SI, 2013). Factors directly influencing the child sex ratio is, mainly, sex selective abortions, sex ratio at birth, infanticide and higher female child mortality rate. These factors in turn indirectly regulated by socio-cultural, religious and economic aspects are shown in theoretical framework.

Theoretical Frame Work



Methodology

The article is based on descriptive research design and data collected from census of India, National Family Health Survey, Sample Registration System and Civil Registration.

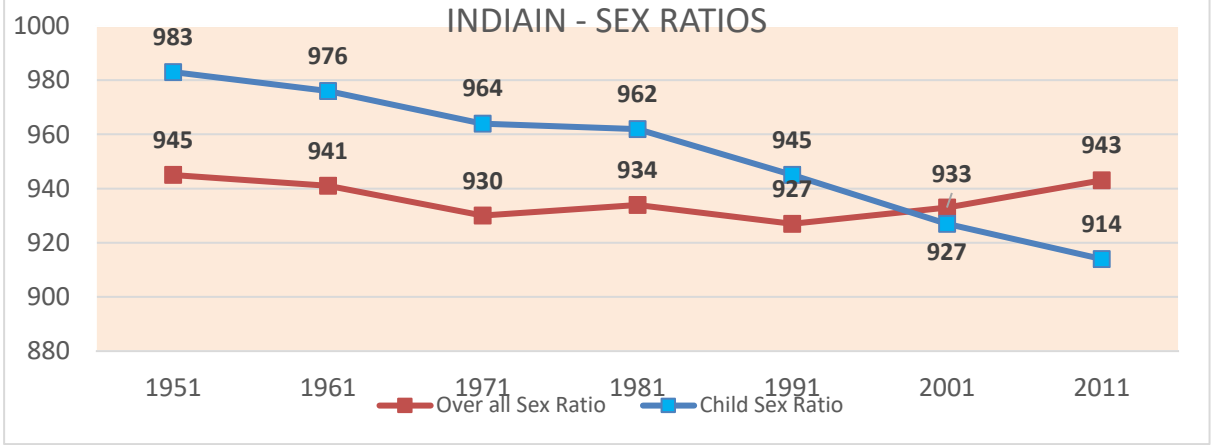
Results and Discussions

The Child sex ratio worked out for population with the segment aged 0-6 years is an indicative of clear picture to know whether it is favourable to females or otherwise. The sharp declining trend in child sex ratio is matter of serious concern and considered as a manner of dishonor. It generally affected by two factors namely extent of medical interferences, which influence sex ratio at birth that effects on overall sex ratio also and mortality differentials by sex in 0-6 ages. Hence, child sex ratio is always considered as the best indicator to understand the sex ratio at birth when the data on births by sex are not easily available. Declining trend in child sex ratio explain the more deficit of girl child population, which signs dishonor of female children over period of time in India.

Table-1: Trends in Child Sex Ratio in India, 1951-2011.

Sex Ratios	Census Years						
	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Over all Sex Ratio	945	941	930	934	927	933	943
Child Sex Ratio	983	976	964	962	945	927	914
Source: Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Indi a, Census of India, 2011							

Table-1 depicts that Over all Sex Ratio (Number of females per 1000 males) was 945 in 1951, comedown to 934 in 1981 and recorded as 943 in 2011, implying some improvement in the overall sex ratio in recent decade; while, the child sex ratio (0-6 years of ages) deteriorated over the decade, from 983 in 1951 to 927 in 2001, thus declined sharply with 56 points in five decades and it further declined to 914 in 2011, such least had never recorded after independence. Thus, it causes to severe deficit of girl children and clearly shows gender biased with unfavorable situation to girls children in the fabric of Indian society. In recent decades, an upward trend found in overall sex ratio, while steep declining trend recorded in child sex ratio and theses two trends are shown in graph-1.



Source: Source: Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Indi a, Census of India, 2011

Graph-1: Overall sex ratio and Child Sex Ratio of India in 1951-2011.

In a 'natural' population, it is assumed that the sex ratio would be roughly 1:1. Amartya Sen coined the term 'missing girls' to refer to the number of girls expected in the population if there were roughly the same number of boys as girls and estimated put the number of 'missing females' (unborn girls) in India as high as 37 million (Sen, 1992).

Table-2: Child sex ratio of India

Child Sex ratio by Residence	Census Year					
	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Total	976	964	962	945	927	914
Rural	957	968	963	948	934	919
Urban	951	948	959	935	906	902
Rural-Urban Gap	6	20	4	13	28	17

Source: Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Indi a, Census of India, 2011

Table-2 shows Child Sex Ratio has declined in both Rural and Urban areas. This decline in Rural India is more than three times as compared to drop in Urban India in 2011 – a matter of great concern. In 1961 census, the child sex ratio at the National was 976; whereas the rural child sex ratio stands at 957 and urban child sex ratio was 951. The corresponding figures in 2011 census are 914, 919 and 902 respectively. Further, the gap in rural-urban child sex ratio was 6 in 1961, rose to 17 in 2011 leads to more shortage of female children in urban areas. Thus, the child sex ratio had been drastically declined and gap had been widened. It clearly reveals dishonour of girl children in Indian society. The main causes for low child sex ratio and further decline, gap in rural-urban in the country are: sex selective abortions and female infanticide, neglect of girl child resulting in their higher mortality rates at younger ages apart from sex selective migration as well as under-enumeration are minor reasons.

Change

Analysis of the child sex ratio in 2001 and 2011census depicts two types of change in the data of 2011 from 2001 i.e. positive change where child sex ratio in 2011 improved from 2001 and negative change where child sex ratio reduced in 2011 as compared to 2001, shows unfavourable condition thereby causes to deficit of large number of girl children.

Table-3: Change in Child Sex Ratio in States of India

State	Census year (2001)	Census year (2011)	Decadal change	State	Census year (2001)	Census year (2011)	Decadal change
Andhra Pradesh	961	939	-22	Manipur	957	930	-27
Arunachal Pradesh	964	972	8	Meghalaya	973	970	-3
Assam	965	962	-3	Mizoram	964	970	6
Bihar	942	935	-7	Nagaland	964	943	-21
Chhattisgarh	975	969	-6	Orissa	953	941	-12
Goa	938	942	4	Punjab	798	846	48
Gujarat	883	890	7	Rajasthan	909	888	-21
Haryana	819	834	15	Sikkim	963	957	-6
Himachal Pradesh	896	909	13	Tamil Nadu	942	943	1
Jammu and Kashmir	941	862	-79	Tripura	966	957	-9
Jharkhand	965	948	-17	Uttar Pradesh	916	902	-14
Karnataka	946	948	2	Uttar Pradesh	916	902	-14
Kerala	960	964	4	West Bengal	960	956	-4
Madhya Pradesh	932	918	-14	Manipur	957	930	-27
Maharashtra	913	894	-19	India	927	914	-13

Source: Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Indi a, Census of India, 2011

Table-3 reveals that positive change was observed in only ten states where the figure of child sex ratio improved from 2001. The state which has shown highest positive change was Punjab with 48 points. But, negative change recorded in eighteen states where the child sex ratio in 2011 has decreased from 2001 with higher points. This shows our discrimination and biasness towards the girl child. Maximum negative deviation was shown in Jammu and Kashmir with 79 points.

In 2011 census, the states with highest child sex ratio in India were Arunachal Pradesh (972), followed by Mizoram and Meghalaya both with 960; while the states that registered lowest sex ratio were Haryana (834), Punjab (846) and Jammu and Kashmir (862). Nine states in India had child sex ratio below national average and seven out of them had child sex ratio below 900 and most of them were western states of India. Punjab Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh with the lowest child sex ratio in the country are the most economically prosperous states in India still the condition of child sex ratio is worst causes to more number of girl children deficit due to human interruption by way of sex selective abortions and female feticide . But, in fact, some of the poorest states like Bihar, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh etc. have a child sex ratio well above the national average.

Table-4: Districts by ranges of Child Sex Ratio in India, 2001 and 2011

Ranges of CSR (0-6 years)	Census Year (Total)		Ranges of CSR (0-6 years)	Census Year (Rural)		Ranges of CSR (0-6 years)	Census Year (Urban)	
	2001	2011		2001	2011		2001	2011
Total districts	640	640	Total districts	640	640	Total districts	640	640
<800	18	6	Nil (No rural districts)	9	9	Nil (No urban districts)	18	9
800-849	36	52	Up to 850	54	74	Up to 850	86	59
850-899	71	135	851-900	61	188	851-900	110	121
900-949	224	266	901-999	500	**363**	901-999	417	447
950-999	279	178	1000+	16	12	1000+	9	4
1000+	12	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Source: Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Indi a, Census of India, 2011.								

Table-4 shows that decline in the child sex ratio in range of 900 and above in total districts recorded at 68 districts in 2011, though an increase in some of the states. In similar category of range, decline child sex ratio is found in 141 rural districts and 65 urban districts. It clearly shows drastic decline leads to deficit of girl children in general and higher rate in rural districts of India, where two-third of Indian population resides.

Table-5: Change in points in Child Sex Ratio in Districts, 2001-2011.

Change in points	**Districts**	**No Change**	20
Total number of districts	640	**Increase**	159
Decline	146	Up to 10 points	74
More than 100 points	7	11 t 20 points	134
50 to 99 points	31	21 to 30 points	17
20 to 49 points	178	31 to 49 points	19
1 to 19 points	245	50+	15
Source: Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Indi a, Census of India, 2011.			

Table- 5 depicts that the child sex ratio declined in 461 districts which are about three- fourth of total districts in the country with gender biased favouring for male offspring's. In 38 districts, decline has been more than 50 points with more unfavourable situation. On positive side only in 51 districts increase has been 21 points and above causes to improvements in some states. Deficit of more number of girl children clearly shows gender biased and discrimination of female children in many ways.

Categories

One the basis of data collected from Census of India, child sex ratio of states in 2001 and 2011 has been classified into three categories with low, medium and high. The states are varied with socio-cultural, economic and technologically advancement, causes to differentials in child sex ratio.

Table-6: Categories of districts with child sex ratio in 2001 and 2011

Category	Census year (2001)	Census year (2011)
Low (<900)	Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat (4 States)	Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra (7 States)
Medium	Bihar, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir,	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Himachal

(900-950)	Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand (10 States)	Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh (12 States)
High (>950)	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal (14 States)	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal (9 States)
Source: Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Indi a, Census of India, 2011		

Low Child Sex Ratio States (<900): The number of states in this category has increased from four in 2001 to seven in 2011. In 2001 the states that were under this category were Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat and in 2011 the states under this were Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Most of these districts in this category were from western India.

Medium Child Sex Ratio States (900-950): The number of district in this category was ten which increased to twelve in 2011.

High Child Sex Ratio States (>950): In 2001, the number of districts under this category was fourteen which decreased to nine in 2011 which reflect how much discrimination on daughters in India.

The major causes for sharp declining in child sex ratio in India are Sex-selective Abortions, Sex Ratio at Birth and higher rate mortality of female children; while minor causes with sex selective at migration and un-enumeration of female being least effect.

Sex-Selective Abortions

In India, sex-selective abortions are a result of a cultural preference for sons over daughters. The misuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex determination that could eventually leads to elimination of the female foetus and thereby creates a gender imbalanced society. The child sex ratio in India has been a concern since the first census in 1871, and in 2011 it was 914 girls per 1,000 boys, down from 964 in 1971. In 2020, a Plos One study projected that selective abortions could lead to 6.8 million fewer female births by 2030 (Anisha Sharma, 2023). In India there are approximately 50,000 to 100,000 female abortions each year, significantly affecting the human sex ratio (Nandi. A, 2015)

Table-7: Estimated Number of Abortions in India, its states and Union Territories

State/UTs	**Total Abortions, 1991(000)**	**Induced Abortions, 1991 (000)**	**Abortion per 1000 Couples, 1991**	**Induced Abortions per 1000 Couples, 1991**
Andhra Pradesh	887	532.2	74	44.4
Arunachal Pradesh	11	6.6	86	51.6
Assam	299	179.4	91	54.6
Bihar	1152	691.2	73	43.8
Goa	15	9.0	93	55.8
Gujarat	551	330.6	80	48.0
Haryana	220	132.0	82	49.2
Himachal Pradesh	69	41.4	80	48.0
Jammu & Kashmir	NA	NA	NA	NA
Karnataka	600	360.0	82	49.2

Kerala	388	232.8	91	54.6
Madhya Pradesh	883	529.8	76	45.6
Maharashtra	1052	631.2	79	47.4
Manipur	24	14.4	103	61.8
Meghalaya	24	14.4	92	55.2
Mizoram	NA	NA	NA	NA
Nagaland	16	9.6	112	67.2
Orissa	422	253.2	81	48.6
Punjab	270	162.0	91	54.6
Rajasthan	587	352.2	77	46.2
Sikkim	5	3.0	98	56.4
Tamil Nadu	745	447.0	79	47.4
Tripura	37	22.2	89	53.4
Uttar Pradesh	1855	1113.0	78	46.8
West Bengal	908	544.8	83	49.8
A & N Islands	4	2.4	84	50.4
Chandigarh	8	4.8	79	47.4
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	1.2	76	45.6
Daman & Diu	1	0.6	93	55.8
Delhi	125	75	82	49.2
Lakshadweep	1	0.6	81	48.6
Pondicherry	11	0.6	85	51.0
India	**11185**	**6711**	**78**	**46.8**
Source: M. E. Khan, Sandhya Barge and George Philip, Abortion In India – An Overview cited from Chhabra and Nuna (1994)				

Table-7 shows rate of abortions and induced abortions in India, its states and Union Territories. Though data on rate abortions by sex does not exist in above table, it is one of the prime determinants of child sex ratio in most of parts in India. Consequently, the child sex ratio in India declined sharply, plummeting from 964 girls per 1,000 boys in 1971 to 914 girls per 1,000 boys in 2011.

Sex Ratio at Birth

Child sex ratio is highly influenced by pre-maternal interruption with miss use of advance medical technology, though it is illegal. It leads to high rate of sex selective abortions for female feticide lower sex ratio at birth. No exception to India, where sex ratio at birth has been declined in many parts in recent decades (Rajan, Irudaya S, et al, 2017). SRB declined from 905 in 2001 (female births per 1,000 male births) to 899 by 2011 (Rajan, Irudaya S, et al, 2015). Pew Research Center has pointed out that "son bias" is on a decline in India and the average annual number of baby girls "missing" in India fell from about 480,000 (4.8 lakh) in 2010 to 410,000 (4.1 lakh) in 2019 (The Hindu daily News, 2022). In populations without gender preference, the sex ratio at birth slightly favours males, but it is much more extreme in India, reaching 914 girls/1000 boys in 2011 (Registrar General of India, 2011).

Table-8: Trends in Sex ratio at birth (female per 1000 male)

Census year	**1981**	**1991**	**2001**	**2011**
Sex ratio at birth and one year	934	927	933	940
Civil Registration System	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**
Sex ratio at birth (SRB)	908	898	887	881
Sample Registration System	**2015-17**	**2016-18**	**2017-19**	**2018-20**

Sex ratio at birth	896	899	904	907
National Family Health Survey (N.F.H.S)	II (1993-97)	III (2000-04)	IV (2015-16)	V (1919-21)
Sex ratio at birth for children born in last fivers	938	914	919	952
0-6 years sex ratio	926	918	919	929
Note: Both SRS and CRS provide SRB whereas NFHS provides SRB for children born in the last five years. The Census data refers to at ages 0 and 1 combined. Sources: (1) Office of the Registrar General (2012, 2014, 2016b); Census of India, 1981-2011, Civil and Sample Registration System; N.F.H.S: International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai and ICF				

Table-8 reveals that different national surveys found that sex ratio at birth had been declining. As per Civil Registration system, it was 908 in 1981 and fallen to 881 in 2011, though other surveys show an improvement in 2011. The declining trend clearly shows son preference and reflects the economic and socio-cultural aspects affecting sex ratio at birth and thereby causing to affect child sex ratio. This reflects a grim picture of the status of the girl child in the country and majority of the states

Higher Female Child Mortality Rate

Declining in child sex ratio is driven by two factors: (1) excess mortality of girls before birth and (2) excess female mortality compared with males post-birth (Ram et al., 2013). Sex differences in mortality can reveal important biological, genetic, and sociocultural factors contributing to health and disease outcomes (Chao F et al, 2023). In children younger than 5 years, mortality is higher for boys than for girls. Boys are more likely to be born prematurely, and the burden of congenital malformations and respiratory conditions is larger in boys than in girls (Costa JC et al, 2017). But discriminatory practices related to health care and nutrition also play a role and can reduce increase mortality for girls (Sawyer CC, 2012). Differentials in mortality are due to a multitude of factors, including gender-based differences in feeding practices, health-care-seeking behaviour and immunization rates (Mishra V et al, 2004). Girls in India face many forms of discrimination, including gender inequality, poverty, and lack of access to basic facilities causes higher deaths among female than male children at later child ages. Infant Mortality Rate is the number of deaths per 1000 live births, which are under 1 year of age. Children aged 0-4 years mortality rate is the number of deaths per 1000 live births in the ages of 0-4 years. The under-five mortality rate refers to the probability a new born would die before reaching exactly 5 years of age, expressed per 1,000 live births.

Table- 9: Infant mortality rates, Children aged 0-4 years and Under-five Mortality Rates (U5MR) by sex and residence, India and bigger States, 2011

India and bigger States	Infant mortality rates			Children aged 0-4 years			Under-five Mortality Rates		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Andhra Pradesh	43	40	46	9.7	9.1	10.3	45	42	49
Assam	55	55	56	17.0	16.5	17.5	78	75	82
Bihar	44	44	45	12.4	12.0	12.8	59	56	62
Chhattisgarh	48	47	50	13.1	11.8	14.4	57	49	66
Delhi	28	25	31	6.3	5.7	6.9	32	29	35
Gujarat	41	39	42	12.1	11.5	12.8	52	49	54
Haryana	44	41	48	11.3	10.3	12.5	51	45	58
Himachal Pradesh	38	36	39	9.3	8.9	9.7	46	43	49
Jammu & Kashmir	41	40	41	10.3	10.1	10.6	45	45	45
Jharkhand	39	36	43	12.2	10.8	13.8	54	45	63
Karnataka	35	34	35	8.6	8.2	9.1	40	38	42
Kerala	12	11	13	2.6	2.4	2.8	13	12	14
Madhya Pradesh	59	57	62	18.8	17.9	19.7	77	72	82
Maharashtra	25	24	25	5.1	5.0	5.2	28	27	28

Orissa	57	55	58	15.8	15.4	16.2	72	70	74
Punjab	30	28	33	7.4	6.3	8.5	38	33	43
Rajasthan	52	50	53	15.0	13.5	16.8	64	57	72
Tamil Nadu	22	21	23	5.0	4.7	5.4	25	23	27
Uttar Pradesh	57	55	59	17.9	16.4	19.5	73	67	81
West Bengal	32	30	34	7.8	7.5	8.1	38	37	40
India	**44**	**43**	**46**	**12.2**	**11.5**	**13.0**	**55**	**51**	**59**
Source: Office of the Registrar General, India, Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2011, Report No. 1 of 2013.									

Table-9 shows that infant and Children aged 0-4 years mortality rates are slightly higher for female than male and again much higher in Under-five Mortality Rates. These rates much more in rural areas than urban causes for skewed child sex ratio in India thereby leads huge deficit of girl children in India. Gender inequality in several ways has been found in India society favouring of male children than females offspring's. Girls are often denied equal rights to boys, including education, healthcare, and employment. Cultural norms may also prioritize boys' education over girls showed signs of becoming more imbalanced child sex ratio resulted in more deficit of female children of aged 0-6 years.

Laws

Medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) has been legalized in India since 1971 considering the huge burden of unsafe abortions and utilised for the purposes of detecting genetic abnormalities or other sex-linked disorders in the foetus. Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Amendment Act, in 2021which continues to criminalise "causing a miscarriage. The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, was enacted and brought into operation from 1 January, 1996, in order to check female foeticide. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 aims to protect children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography.

Initiatives

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save girl child, educate girl child), aims to generate awareness and improving the efficiency of delivery of welfare services meant for the girl child & women. **The Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)** is a small savings scheme backed by the Government of India exclusively meant to help families' save for their daughters. **Engendering Young Boys and Girls in Educational Institutions through Gender Champions** for sensitize at school level itself. **National Girl Child Day (NGCD)** is celebrated in India on January 24th with an aim to raise awareness about Child Sex Ratio (CSR) levels and promote the empowerment of girl children.

Conclusion

Though the overall sex ratio has risen in recent decades, but the child sex ratio had been declining sharply since 1951 and comedown to 914 in 2011 census. In 18 states and 146 districts, declining trend recorded in 2011, categorized as 'gender critical' with low sex ratio. The disturbing feature in Census 2011 has been the spread of declining trend in new areas. It was much lower in urban than rural areas and also some of western states, it was 900 in 2011. Thus, it was significantly differ among the states and districts. In India, we have to save 'our' daughters from their journey from womb to tomb otherwise we shall land into 'no girl zone' one day. The sharp declining in child sex ratio since 1951 leads to deficit of girl children indicates gender imbalance. It clearly show gender biased and is a manner of dishonour of female children in Indian Patriarchal society due to extreme son preference with traditions and downgraded beliefs, female children treated as burden fears of girl sexual safety and security. The decline in Child Sex Ratio is a serious matter of concern and has been arrested by removing the existing break social attitudinal barriers among parents, young generation and advocacies by all the stakeholders at the grass root level on seriousness of this issue and propagating severe consequences. The problem of attitudes, out-dated beliefs and perception of the girl child needs to be addressed with change the mind-set of the people. Effective implementation of laws related to sex determination tests and female foeticide, attitude of equality from birth in access of food, health care, education etc with equal rights and encourage of male to settle at female natives after marriage are some of the measures to improve child sex ratio in India.

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