



GENDER IMBALANCE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES IN JAOLI TAHSIL

Dr. Zodage S. B.

Department of Geography
Chhatrapati Shivaji College, Satara.
(Maharashtra)

Pawar V. V.

Department of Geography
A.S.S. Mahavidyalaya, Medha.
(Maharashtra)

ABSTRACT

In India rapid fertility declines and the advent of technologies for sex determination have contributed to the birth of fewer girls. As a result, today we have an excess of males and a shortage of females. So far much of the work on adverse sex ratios has been largely dealt with the identification, patterns, and causes of skewed sex ratios, and not their consequences, and to examine the emerging literature on the social consequences of the gender imbalance, and explores the relationship of sex ratios with other social dimensions.

KEY WORDS: *Gender imbalance, sex ratio.*

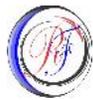
INTRODUCTION

According to India's recently completed 2011 census, gender imbalance has grown. The 2011 census showed 914 girls for every 1,000 boys. That was a drop from 927 girls for every 1,000 boys a decade previously. Experts say such ratios are the result of abortions of female fetuses, or sheer neglect leading to a higher death rate among girls. Part of the reason Indians favor sons is the enormous expense of marrying off girls. In India, girls from 1 to 5 years age die from discrimination in every four minutes 132,000 deaths per year within the first year of life, because parents didn't give the same medical care and attention that boys received. The male to female natural ratio falls from 1.07 to 1.02 in India.

Commonly, country's gender imbalances has three characteristics in common. The first is a rapid decline in fertility, either because of preference for smaller families or to comply with their nation's population control measures. Second, there is the pressure for women to give birth to sons, often because of cultural preferences for male heirs. Third, families have widespread access to technology to selectively abort female fetuses.

Gender imbalance may arise as a consequence of various factors ranging from natural factors and war casualties to intentional gender control and deliberate genocide. Gender imbalance is a disparity between male and females in a population. As stated above, males usually exceed females at birth but subsequently experience different mortality rates due to many possible causes such as differential natural death rates, war casualties, and deliberate gender control.

Some of the factors are suggested as the causes of a gender imbalance are excess of females, excess of males, and large-scale migration, such as that by male labourers are unable



to bring their families with them. Gender imbalance may result the threat of social unrest, especially in the case of an excess of low-status young males who are unable to find spouses, and being recruited into the service of militaristic political factions.

STUDY AREA

The study area Jaoli Tahsil in Satara district of Maharashtra lies between 17⁰, 57" and 17⁰, 25" north latitude to 73⁰, 32" and 73⁰, 57" east longitudes. It is situated among the Sahyadri mountain ranges. There are 162 villages in the five circles having the total population of 127000 in 12282 houses and density of population is 144.22 people per sq km. It covers the total area 58009.69 hectares in Satara district.

The physiography of the study region is typical and interesting because the tahsil is located in the Sahyadri mountain ranges. Most of the villages have foothill location and have strategic importance in Jaoli Tahsil. The tahsil is located in the north-west of Satara, which forms the water of Koyana river, Venna river and Niranjana river having various spurs and small valleys. Jaoli Tahsil and surrounding region experiences a monsoon type of climate and it is favorable and healthy and it is also favorable for the agriculture.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on secondary data. It is collected from published and unpublished data and this data has been collected from various sources such as census book, socioeconomic data review, district statistical abstracts, articles, books, journals and webs.

SEX RATIO

Human sex ratios, either at birth or in the population as a whole, might be quoted in any of four ways: the ratio of males to females, the ratio of females to males, the proportion of males, or the proportion of females. Few definitions are as follows:

- In anthropology and demography, the human sex ratio is the sex ratio for males to females in a population.
- The proportion of males to females in a given population is usually expressed as the number of males per 100 females.

JAOLI TAHSIL SEX RATIO

The human sex ratio is generally affected natural, environmental, economic and social factors. And create a situation gender imbalance is a disparity between male and females in a population. Males usually exceed females at birth but subsequently experience different mortality rates due to many possible causes such as differential natural death rates, war casualties, and deliberate gender control.

Changes in Sex Ratio (1971 to 2011)

Years	India	Change	Maharashtra	Change	Satara District	Change	Jaoli Tahsil	Change
1971	931	-	930	-	1037	-	1188	-
1981	934	3	937	7	1061	24	1231	43
1991	927	-7	934	-3	1029	-32	1076	-155
2001	933	6	922	-12	955	-34	1101	25
2011	940	7	929	7	988	33	-	-

*Source: Census of India of concern years and concern region.



The above table shows details of census during 1971 and 2011 i.e. for last five decades. The table details out the sex ratio of India, Maharashtra, Satara district and the Jaoli Tahsil in the Satara district. The figures in the table show that the sex ratio of India for last five decades is more or less constant though some variations are visible. There were 931 women per 1000 men in the 1971 census and there are 940 women per 1000 men in the 2011 census. The average of the five decades is 933 women per 1000 men which could be noticed with slight ups and downs. Similar ratio is seen in case of the state of Maharashtra. The average no. of women per 1000 men is 930.4 with some ups and downs during last five decades. In case of the Satara district, situations are pathetic because decline in the number of women per 1000 men can be seen. The number of women per 1000 men in 1971 was 1037 and the 2011 census shows the number 988. This is a clear indication of gender bias among people.

However, the same change is not noticed in Jaoli tahsil though it is a hilly, economically backward and an area lacking of educational awareness and facilities. The sex ratio during the 1971 census was 1188 which increased to 1231 in 1981 census. The ratio decreased to 1076 in 1991 which again increased to 1101 in 2001 census. The ratio of men and women in Jaoli tahsil is far greater than the ratio found anywhere in the district or the state.

CAUSES

- 1) Major cause of increase in the number of women in the tahsil is its economic backwardness. Heavy rains during the rainy season and dry weather during the rest of the year limits people only to a limited number of sources of earning. Whatever they grow in the farm is insufficient for survival. Hence, they migrate to Mumbai and other urbanities. Migrated men leave women behind to take care of the farms. Women have to manage households besides working in the farm. They take care of the old people and children at home.
- 2) Educational awareness among people is far less because of their short contentment. People do not want to give their children higher education because they have a general perception that job opportunities after higher education are less because highly educated people may not take up low profile jobs. Hence, it is convenient for them to be less educated and do whatever job they get.
- 3) Boys after their secondary schooling leave for Mumbai and other urban areas in search of job so that they can increase their family income and help the family to come out of the pathetic economic conditions or sometimes to prosper.
- 4) The traditional Indian belief of the boy as the rightful heir is common in Jaoli tahsil as well. Because of the strict laws against feticide, women keep delivering babies till they give birth to a boy. This tradition, in a way increases number of girls in a family.
- 5) Because of shortage of adequate medical facilities in different localities cause a lot of infanticide. This is a major cause of frequent deliveries by women.
- 6) Traditionally people believe that girls, though educated, have to work at home. Hence they are not given the higher education in this area. Education of girls stops only after the primary schools. These girls stay at home and are automatically forced to work with their



mother at home and at farm. In a way, they help the family to increase income of the family or help to reduce the manpower used for different types of work.

- 7) Most of the girls get married generally in their adolescent age. This provides greater fertility period for them.

CONSEQUENCES

- 1) The gender imbalance that is less number of men compared to women is a serious problem if it is restricted only to Jaoli tahsil.
- 2) Education of women is ignored completely.
- 3) Women in the locality overwork and face many physical problems towards the old age.
- 4) It is scientifically proved that men are physically more efficient than women. Men are working in some urban areas and women are working in the farms only to cultivate the meager land they have inherited from their predecessors. This creates imbalance in the family and disturbs family life.
- 5) Most of the boys work in urban area and have comparatively better income so they prefer educated girls for marriage. Girls of Jaoli tahsil are facing problems in match-making due to their less education.

CONCLUSION

In villages in India, women are often discouraged to seek education. However, recent studies document remarkable success in efforts to improve girls' primary education. However, when it comes to secondary education, girls are still disadvantaged. Moreover, women's employment rates are still low and seem to have further declined in recent years. Recent studies also document unequal access and control over family resources for Indian women including control over land and bank accounts as well as severe limitations on their geographical mobility.

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