

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SEX-RATIO WITH REFERENCE TO BEED DISTRICT
1961 TO 2021

Dr. Sunil Ambrushi Gond

Assistant Professor

Dept. of Business Economics

Dhananjayrao Gadgil College of Commerce,

(An Autonomous)

Satara, Maharashtra, India

Abstract

The sex composition of population is the basic demographic characteristic depending on directly incidence of birth, death and marriages. Sex-ratio is one of the important indicators to comprehend women's health and the position in any society. Sen first addressed this disturbing trend by recognizing that millions of women in India and China are the only countries in the world in which female infant mortality rates are higher than that of males. The skewed child sex ratio in India is a shameful testimony about development of girls and women developed in India. After independence, we are facing a big social problem about the decreasing sex-ratio in the society. The most alarming trends in India is that son preference, which can be a normal attribute for couples who have only girls, is accompanied by the neglect and deaths of millions of females through lack of medical care, improper nutrition, infanticide and sex selective abortions. The present paper shows that, the overall and child sex-ratio in India, Maharashtra and Beed district during the period 1961 to 2021.

Keywords: Overall Sex-Ratio, Child Sex-Ratio, Birth Rate, Death Rate, Infant DeathRate

Introduction

The process of economic development along with the physical, material capital the quality of human capital, which comprises men-women alike, too is considered as a vital element. From this perspective in its initial stage of economic planning, human resource gives more importance in economic planning policies. Unfortunately, various problems have erupted causing hazardous effects on girls and women: the second factor of the human resource. One of these problems is declining sex-ratio at national, state and particularly in Beed district. Beed district is counted amongst backward districts in India.

Moreover, it ranks 25th in the list of human development index in Maharashtra. Further, this district the sex-ratio is decreasing day by day. In other words, the issue of sex-ratio in Beed district is apparently interlinked with the economic, social, educational and cultural fields. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct research in this direction that will be instrumental in controlling the disastrous effects of declining sex-ratio.

Objectives of the Research Paper:

- To study the trends at National, Maharashtra state and Beed district sex-ratios.
- To examine factors affecting sex-ratio in Beed District.

Research Methodology of the Research Paper:

The present study is based on secondary data. This data has used for getting a real result from research paper. Secondary data has been collected from the Census Reports and Statistics office, Beed, Annual Vital Statistics of Maharashtra Published by the Director of Health services and the Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths, Bombay, Gazetteers of Beed district and Government Web-Portal.

Sex-Ratio in India, Maharashtra and Beed District:

Status of women in India depends upon social and economic condition. Sex-ratio depends upon the sex-ratio at birth, sex-ratio of in-migrants and out-migrants. Table No. 1 illustrates the situation regarding sex-ratio in India, Maharashtra and Beed district and its trends.

Table No. 1
Residence-wise Sex-Ratio and Its Trends in India, Maharashtra and Beed District
(1961 to 2021)

Sr. No.	Census Year	India			Maharashtra			Beed		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	1961	941	966	847	936	945	801	969	974	921
2	1971	930	950	859	930	985	820	954	964	885
3	1981	934	952	880	937	987	850	965	975	916
4	1991	927	941	893	934	972	875	944	952	906
5	2001	933	946	900	922	960	873	936	928	922
6	2011	940	949	929	929	948	899	916	912	933
7	2021	1022	NA	NA	923*	NA	NA	916*	NA	NA

Source: -

1. Census of India 1961-2011, India series, Primary census abstract, general population tables.
2. Census of India 1961-2011, Maharashtra series, Primary census abstract, general population tables.
3. Census of India 1961-2011, Maharashtra series, Primary census abstract, General Population tables.
4. Census of India 1961-2011, District census handbook, Beed district.
5. National Family Health Survey (NFHS 2019-21).
6. Census 2011 & *UIAI for 2021 Estimates.

Note- NA = Not Available

The table reveals that, there is a declining trend in sex-ratio in rural areas. But it remained comparatively higher than the total and urban except in census year 2011. During the decade 1971-81, the sex-ratio in rural areas has considerably increased to 975 in 1981 as compared to 964 in 1971. It is because of the decade female birth rate has high as compared to in the decade 1961-71 and in 1971-81 decadal female infant death has reduced as compared to 1961-71, and in 1981 female death rate and the infant death rate has been less as compared to 1961. During the decade 1991-2011, the sex-ratio in rural areas has considerably decreased to 912 in 2011 as compared to 952 in 1991. It is because of the female death rate has continuously increased in this decade.

It shows that, the sex-ratio for urban areas has increasing trends. The increasing trend in sex-ratio for urban areas has been observed due to the gradual increase in female birth rate in urban than rural areas throughout the period under study.

However, the sex-ratio in urban areas remained less than in rural areas. It is due to higher female death rate in urban areas than in rural areas.

Hence, it can be concluded that the cause of increasing trends of sex-ratio in urban areas has been attributed to the higher birth rate of female in urban areas than that of in rural areas and rural to urban migration has increased during the same period.

India's overall sex ratio is now at a level seen in developed countries. For every 1,000 men, India has 1,020 women. If that's a reason to celebrate, there is a cause for concern, too, since the sex ratio at birth continues to be lower than what is naturally expected. The fifth National Family Health Survey (NFHS), from where this data comes, has also found that the sex ratio is better in rural areas compared to urban centres.

During the period under study, it is found that; total sex-ratio in Beed is greater than a total sex - ratio of India and Maharashtra except census year of 2011 and 2021.

During the period under study, it is found that rural sex-ratio of Beed district is less than India's rural sex-ratio in census year of 2001 and 2011 and it is more in remaining 4 census years. While rural sex-ratio of Maharashtra is less in 5 census years, except the census year of 1961.

For the same period, it is found that; urban sex-ratio of Beed district is greater than urban sex-ratio of India and Maharashtra.

From the table No. 1 it is observed that-

1. Total sex-ratio in Indiashows inclining trends. In 1961 it was 941 and in 2021 it is 1022.
2. Total sex-ratio in Maharashtra and Beed shows declining trends. This decrease is by 9 and 57 respectively. The decrease in sex-ratio more in Beed district while it is less in India as compared to Maharashtra.
3. During the period under study, rural sex-ratio of India and Beed district is decreasing and it has been decreased by 17 and 65 respectively. On the other hand rural sex-ratio in Maharashtra has been slightly increased by 3.
4. During the period under study, it is found that, urban sex ratio of India, Maharashtra and Beed district shows increasing trends and it has been increased by 82, 98 and 5. This increase is more in Maharashtra while it is less in Beed district.

Hence, the responsible factors of decreasing or increasing the sex - ratio in rural and urban areas in Beed district has birth, death and infant death.

In rural area, though the government provided infrastructural facilities, but the quality of such infrastructural facilities is very poor which is the main obstacle in the way of women empowerment and girls' education. Due to this reason sex-ratio in rural areas in Beed district decreasing day by day.

Child Sex Ratio in India, Maharashtra and Beed District:

Trends and condition of child sex-ratio in India, Maharashtra and Beed district is depicted in table No. 2 and it is as follows.

Table No. 2

Total, Rural and Urban Child Sex-Ratio in India, Maharashtra and Beed District

Sr. No.	Census Year	India			Maharashtra			Beed		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	1961	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2	1971	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3	1981	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4	1991	945	948	935	946	953	934	939	941	930
5	2001	927	934	906	914	916	908	894	893	895
6	2011	919	923	905	894	890	899	807	796	854

Source-

1. Census of India 1961-2011, India series, Primary census abstract, general population tables.
2. Census of India 1961-2011, Maharashtra series, Primary census abstract, general population tables.
3. Census of India 1991-2011, District census handbook, Beed district.

Note-The data of child sex-ratio is not available because the census office Mumbai started collecting this particular data since from 1991.

Table No. 2 clears that, total child sex-ratio during 1991 to 2011 ranges between 919 to 945, 894 to 946 and 807 to 939 in India, Maharashtra and Beed district respectively.

During 1991 to 2011 the total child sex-ratio of India has been gradually decreased from 945 to 919. Whereas in case of Maharashtra it has been gradually decreased from 946 to 894.

The total child sex-ratio of Beed district was 939 in 1991, which has considerably declined to 807 in 2011.

The rural child sex-ratio of Beed district was 941 in 1991 which has considerably declined to 796 in 2011.

The urban child sex-ratio of Beed district was 930 in 1991 which has considerably declined to 854 in 2011.

It is serious fact that, the child sex-ratio for total, rural and urban areas shows decreasing trends. The decreasing trend in child sex-ratio for overall, rural and urban areas has been observed due to in female registered infant death continuously increased in the areas from 1991 to 2011.

It is observed from the above table No. 2 that-

During the period 1991-2011, total, rural and urban child sex-ratio of Beed district shows decreasing trend, it is more in rural child sex-ratio.

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During the period 1991-2011, urban child sex-ratio has greater than rural and overall child sex-ratio, except in the census in 1991 while rural child sex-ratio has lower than overall and urban child sex-ratio, except in census 1991.

Rural and urban child sex-ratio of Beed district has lower than total, urban and rural child sex-ratio of India and Maharashtra. It means that condition of child sex-ratio in Beed district is very serious.

Summary:

The lower sex-ratio creates social and economic problem. Government must implement such schemes for development. The enlightenment must occur in society about child daughter. If the thinking and psychology of society will be changed, then there might be a different situation and circumstances and then there will be equality between men and women thus, will bring real social development of the nation.

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