



**CHILD SEX RATIO IN NANDURBAR DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA :
RECENT TRENDS AND PATTERNS**

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Abstract

Sex ratio is an important component of population which expresses the proportion of females per thousand males in a region. The aim of the present paper is to throw light on the pattern and trend of declining sex ratio in nandurbar district of maharashtra. It also endeavors to suggest some recommendations over the issue. The data is obtained from 2011 primary census abstracts of the district. Child sex ratio is calculated for the age group of 0-60 years with simple formula. The results suggest decline is child sex ratio throughout the study region. The decline is higher in urban child sex ratio which may further result into lower general sex ratio in future. Some serious measures are to be implemented to combat this burning problem otherwise it may a serious social issue in future and its intensity will also be more.

Key words : *child sex ratio, nandurbar district, trends*

Introduction :

Human resources have been defined as 'energies, skills, talents and knowledge of the people which should be applied to the production of goods and rendering useful services. "among various elements of population composition, sex composition, age composition and economic composition hold a prime place for population geographers." (chandana, 2011) the process of economic development of any country depends on the quality of its population. The composition of population to a certain extent throws light on the man power of a country and is responsible for its progress. Sex ratio is one of the important components of population. It denotes number of females per thousand males in a population. If this ratio is higher, then the status of woman in the society is better, while lower sex ratio represents socio-economic backwardness or the other socio-economic factors which affect on the changing rate of sex ratio. The sex ratio at birth is an important demographic indicator that was initially studied in the late 17th century (graunt, 1662, arbutnot j., 1974). The sex composition of a population is determined, in part, by the number of male births relative to the number of female births. The sex ratio at birth also affects critical demographic measures. For example, the "doubling-time" of a population (the number of years required for the population to double its size given a rate of population growth) rises as

the ratio of males to females at birth increases (markle, 1974, petersen & petersen, 1986). Moreover, data about the sex ratio at birth is necessary to understanding trends in infant morbidity, such as low birthweight and mortality, since male infants are more susceptible to illness and have higher infant mortality rates, including rates of sudden infant death syndrome, than females (stevenson, verter & fanaroff, 2000, mathews, menacker & maddorman, 2004, getahun, amre , rhoads & demissie, 2004). The present study focuses on the trends and patterns of general sex ratio and child sex ratio in nandurbar district of maharashtra.

Objective : the objective of the present paper is to study the trends and patterns of child sex ratio in nandurbar district of maharashtra.

Research methodology :

Data : the data required for the present study are obtained from the secondary sources. The map of study region is prepared by using the topographical maps, district planning map etc. The data about demographic aspects are obtained from website of census department, government of india, (primary census abstract, 2011), socio-economic abstract of jalgaon district.

Methodology : a simple methodology is used for conducting the present study. The total, urban and rural child sex ratios are taken into consideration. The age group of 0-6 years is

considered for calculating child sex ratio. For calculating trends of tribal sex ratio, the data of nandurbar district are obtained from district census handbook of nandurbar district (2011). The tribal sex ratio from 1901 to 2011 is taken

$$\text{Sex Ratio} = \frac{\text{Total Females}}{\text{Total Males}} \times 1000$$

The pattern and trends in child and general sex ratio in the study region, thus obtained are explained thoroughly with the help of tables, charts and maps.

into consideration for the study of trend. The graphical method is used to explain the trend in tribal sex ratio. The following formula is used for calculating the sex ratio.

The study region :

Nandurbar district is surrounded by the states of madhya pradesh, gujarat and dhule district of maharashtra. Madhya pradesh lies at its eastern and northern side and districts surat

LOCATION OF NANDURBAR DISTRICT

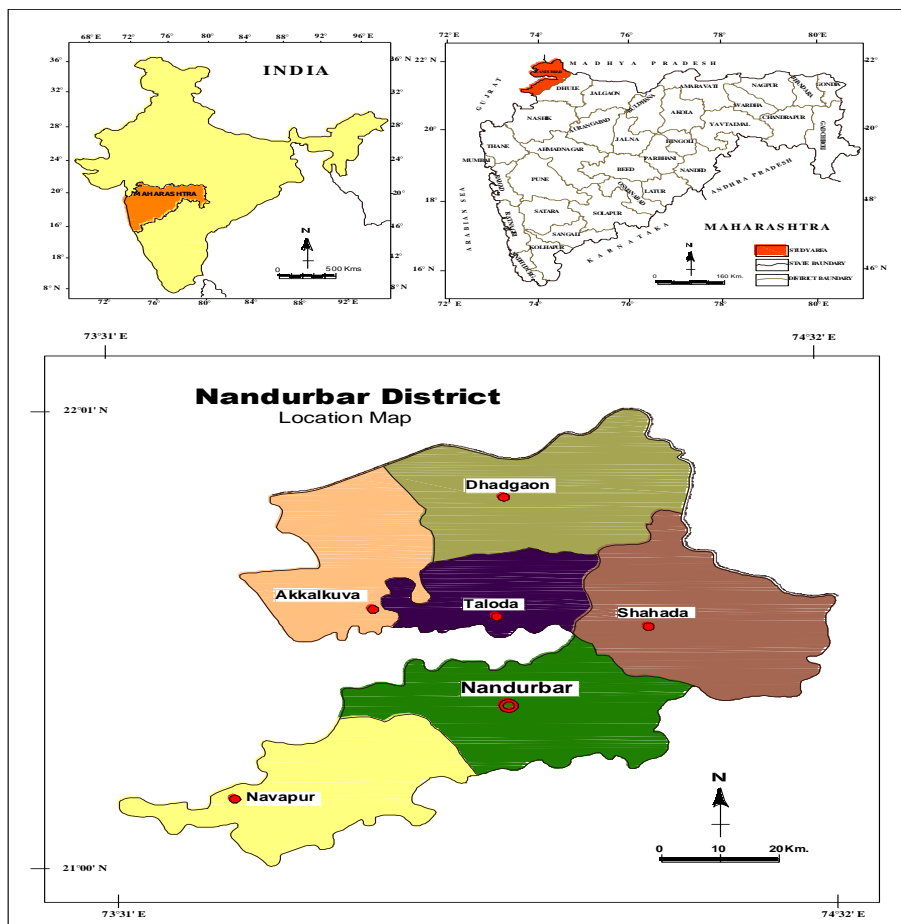


Fig. No. 1

And baroda of gujarat are at its western side and dhule district is at southern side. The district lies between 20° 50' and 22° 17' north latitude and 73° 30' and 74° 50' east longitudes. Nandurbar district with an area of 5955.00 sq. Km. Occupies 1.9 per cent total area of maharashtra state. Akrani is the largest tehsil of the district with 1282.31 sq. Km., area while talode is the smallest tehsil with 455.10 sq.km., area. As per 2011 census, the district has a population of 1,648,295. The density of population is 277 persons per sq. Km. The district headquarters, nandurbar is the main railway station in the district on the ahmadabad–howrah route of

western railway. It is 401 kms. Away from the state headquarters mumbai city. Nandurbar town is connected with other towns and places by railway as well as by road. There are four municipal councils viz., nandurbar, talode, shahade and nawapur, which are the headquarters of respective tehsils in the district.

Results and discussion :

The fig. No. 02 shows trends of sex ratio of total population, rural population and urban population in nandurbar district from 1901 to 2011. The bar graph shows that sex ratio has declined by only 8 females per thousand males from 1901 to 2011, but there were considerable

changes in this trend. From the year 1901, the sex ratio in nandurbar district shows declining trend up to 1941. It was as low as 969 after which it reached up to 1975 in 1961. With slight declines in 1971, it showed the highest sex ratio of 982 females per thousand males in the year 1981. Though, the decline was detected immediate after this, but there is slight and constant increase during the last two decades. The total sex ratio for the year 2011 was 978 females per thousand males in nandurbar district. The total sex ratio in the study region is quite

satisfactory in the study region. According to 2011 census, it was 978 females per thousand males. Only akkalkuwa tehsil had sex ratio less than 950 while nandurbar and shahade tehsils had total sex ratio 968 and 980 females per thousand males respectively. In akrani and talode tehsils, the total sex ratio figure shows equal males and females in the population. In nawapur tehsil, the total sex ratio was in favour of females. The females were surplus. The total sex ratio in nawapur tehsil was 1010 females per thousand males.



Fig. No. 02

Table no. 02 : nandurbar district : general and child sex ratio, 2011

Sr. No.	Tehsils	Child sex ratio			General sex ratio
		Rural	Urban	Total	
1	Akkalkuwa	949	978	951	926
2	Akrani	983	872	980	999
3	Talode	948	886	939	1001
4	Shahade	941	906	936	980
5	Nandurbar	931	836	904	968
6	Nawapur	972	939	967	1010
	Total	953	885	944	978

Source : www.censusofindia.gov.in

The figures of child sex ratio are very important because it give us idea about future general sex ratio in the region because after 15 years, this group will acquire the status of adult in the population. Unfortunately, the figures of child sex ratio are not satisfactory in the study region. The child sex ratio for rural population was 953 females per thousand males in nandurbar district. The lower rural child sex ratios, 931 and 941 females per thousand males were found in nandurbar and shahade tehsils of the district.

These two tehsils have comparatively less proportion of tribal population. The sex ratio is comparatively low in the non-tribal population in the district. Talode and akkalkuwa tehsils also had low sex ratio, i.e. 948 and 949 females per thousand males respectively. Nawapur and akrani tehsils had higher sex ratio, i.e. 972 and 983 females per thousand males respectively. These two tehsils have higher proportion of tribal population

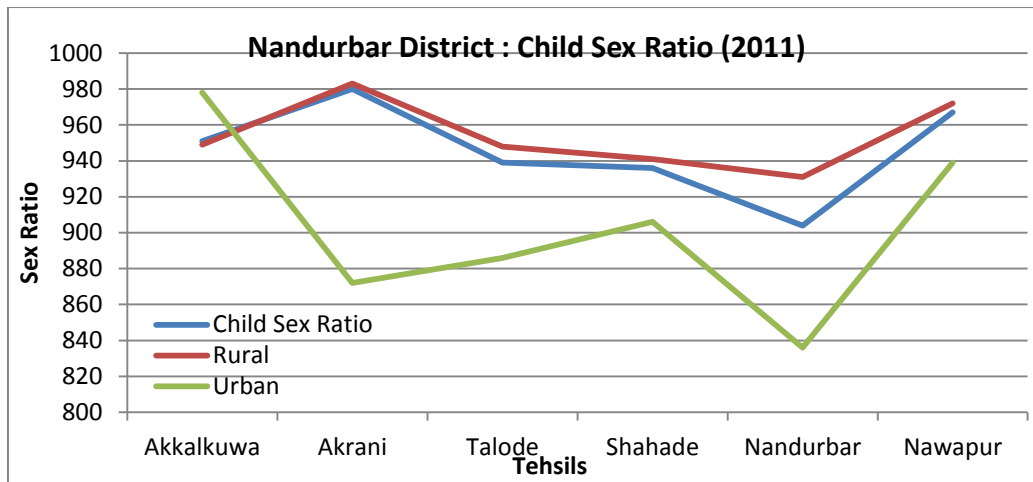


Fig. No. 03

The child sex ratio for urban population in nandurbar district was very low. It was only 885 females per thousand males. The lowest urban child sex ratio was calculated for nandurbar tehsil. Nandurbar city is the headquarters of the district and has comparatively higher proportion of urban population. Akrani and talode tehsils

also had urban child sex ratio less than 900 females per thousand males. Shahade and nawapur tehsils had urban child sex ratio as 906 and 939 females per thousand males respectively. Akkalkuwa tehsil had the highest urban sex ratio, i.e. 978 females per thousand males.

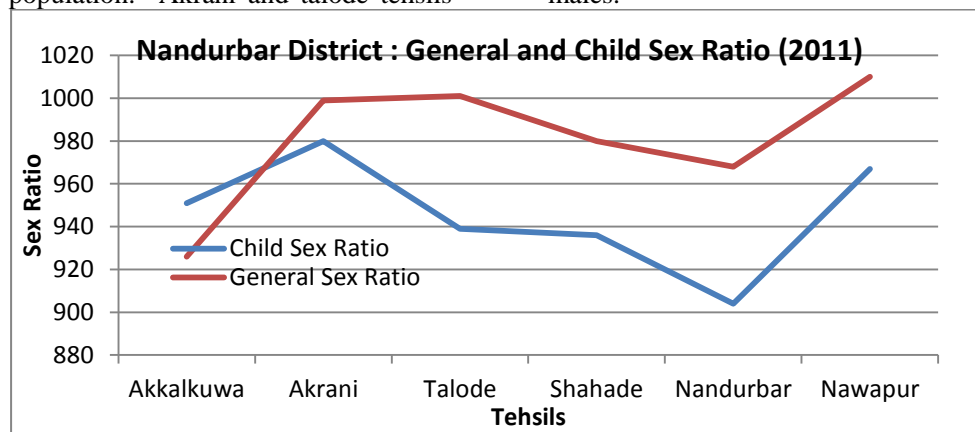


Fig. No. 04

The total child sex ratio in the study region was also not much satisfactory. It was only 944 females per thousand males in 2011. The lowest total child sex ratio was calculated for nandurbar tehsil. It was only 904 females per thousand males. The total child sex ratio was 936 and 939 females per thousand males in shahade and talode tehsils respectively. Akkalkuwa tehsil had 951 females per thousand males. The highest total child sex ratio was recorded in nawapur tehsil. It was 967 females per thousand males.

Conclusion :

The sex ratio in nandurbar district has changed drastically. The total sex ratio of the study region has reported declining trend up to the middle part of the last century. But during the last three decades, the total sex ratio has shown increasing trend. The child sex ratio has declined alarmingly, especially in urban areas of

the district. The lower child sex ratio will result in low general sex ratio in next 15 years. The low sex ratio in the urban area may be the result of higher living cost as compared with rural one. Due to low income, they keep their families small and give preference to male child. This socio-economic phenomenon results in low sex ratio in the urban areas and its counterpart, high sex ratio in rural areas.

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