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A Spatio-Temporal Analysis of Sex-Ratio in Districts of Jammu and Kashmir, India

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Abstract *: In the present an attempt has been made to analyze the sex ratio in districts of Jammu and Kashmir and is based on decennial census report. Sex-ratio is one of the most fundamental demographic and social attribute to measure prevailing equality between males and females in the society. According to Census 2011, the national average of sex ratio was 943 while it was only 889 Jammu and Kashmir, which was much lower than the national average, as a result of patriarchal society, religious belief, traditions and customs and also aided with modern medical technology. Jammu and Kashmir State along with Gujarat and Bihar experienced low sex ratio in 2011 in comparison to 2001 census. The sex ratio in Jammu and Kashmir has always remained unfavorable in spite of various social, educational, economic and cultural developments in the society. In addition in India Kannur district in Kerala state has highest sex ratio of 1133 females per 1000 males has also a Ladakh district in Jammu & Kashmir state has lowest sex ratio of 583 females per 1000 male. The present study shows many ups and downs in sex ratio over a period of time in 1901 to 2011.The declining sex ratio is an indicator of low status of female and unequal roles assigned to females, which is one of the grave concern and demographic threats for the state.*

Keywords *: sex ratio; decline; patriarchy; son preference; dowry deaths; foeticide and maternal mortality.*

I. Introduction

Sex-ratio is generally defined as number of females per thousand males and is considered one of the important social and demographic factor to show the status and condition of women in the society. The sex compositions of a population play a vital role in the population analysis, since it affects the incidence of births, deaths, and marriage. The migration rates and almost all population characteristics, including socio-economic characteristics, community life are influenced by the sex composition of population, and are in turn affected by these attributes. In addition, the development of a region also affects the sex composition of population of that area (Jain 1975). In India Kannur district in Kerala state has highest sex ratio of 1133 females per 1000 males has also a Ladakh district in Jammu & Kashmir state has lowest sex ratio of 583 females per 1000 male.

Sex ratio is one of the important indices of women's health and position in any society (Barakade2012). According to some scholars, the low sex ratio is the outcome of high female mortality because of biasness against female who are deprived of basic needs such as food, nutrition and health care [2-5]. The problem of declining sex ratio is many-sided and there is no one single reason for it and many researchers are of the view that traditional mindset of the society is the main reason behind the declining sex ratio [6-10]. Some of the scholars are of the view that preference of boy child leads to it [11-13], while others consider the differential stopping behavior to be the important reason [14-17]. In India dowry is regarded as one of the major reasons for the preference of boy child [3] and torture of brides and dowry death is another reason for declining sex ratio[18,19]

II. Objectives

The present studies has been carried out to fulfills the following objectives:
- To Comparison the sex ratio of Jammu and Kashmir state with national level (1901-2011).
- To analyze decadal changes in sex ratio among various districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

III. Data Base and Methodology

The present study is primarily based on secondary data collected from the Census of India from 1991 to 2011. The collected data has been processed and analyzed with the help of statistical techniques.

IV. Results and Discussions

Jammu and Kashmir State stood at 30th position in terms of sex ratio which made it one of the worst hit states in terms of sex ratio in India (Census, 2011). In the beginning of the twentieth century, the sex ratio in Jammu and Kashmir was 882, 876, 870, 865,867, 873,878,878, 892, 896, 892 and 889 in 1901, 1921, 1931, 1941, 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively. In the state as a whole, there were only three districts where sex ratio has positive growth that is in Anantnag (9927) followed by Doda (905) and Srinagar (900). While the districts which have highest negative growth in sex ratio were Leh (690) followed by Kargil (810) and Kupwara (835).

As recorded in the 2001 census the sex ratio at national level was 933females per 1000 males, showing the rise of 6 points from 927 per 1000 males in 1991., the figure stood at 946 females per 1000 males at independence .The sex ratio which declined to 930 in 1971, again

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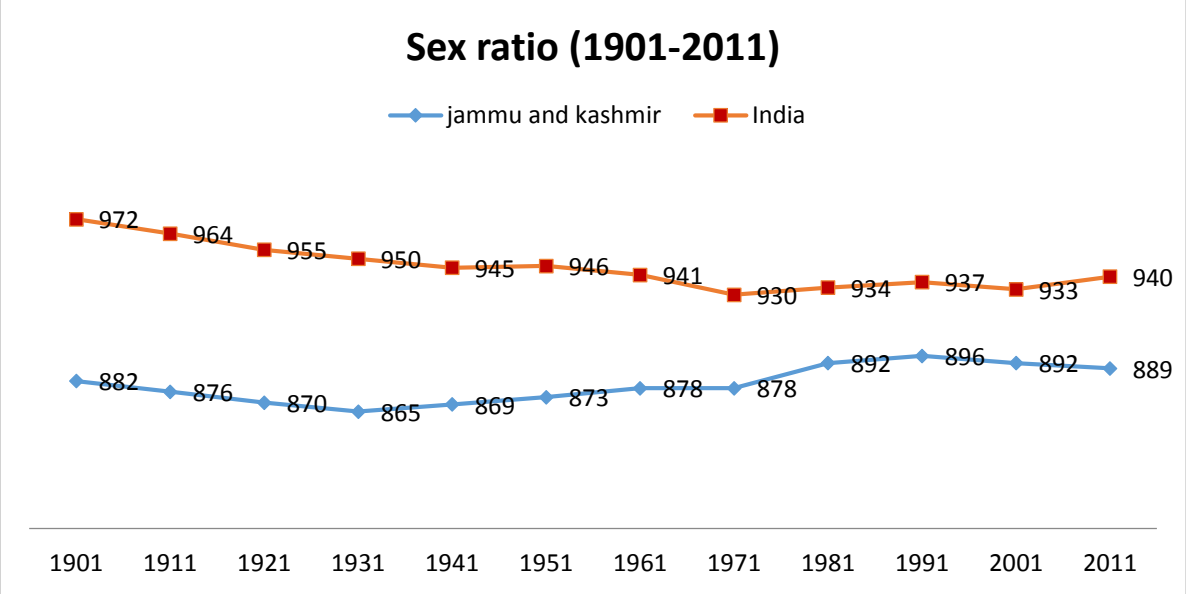
went up to 934 in 1981. It came down by seven in 1991and stood at 927. It rose to 933during the decade 1991-2001and went further up to 940 in 2001-2011(fig1).

The present study analyze that all the districts of Jammu And Kashmir State had sex ratio below national average. On the basis of sex ratio in three decades, the districts are categorized into three categories (Table 1):

- Above 900: The number of districts in this category increase from 05 to 9 from 1991 to 2001 which is reduced to 3 in 2011 as a result of increasing literacy rate. In 1991, the districts in this category were located mostly in north-west while in 2011, the area under this category decreased and comprised of districts from north to south-west only (Fig. 1).
- 875-900: The number of districts under this category decrease from7 in 1991 to 2 in 2001 which subsequently decreased to 5 in 2011.
- Below 875: Under this category, the number of districts increased from 2 to 3 from 1991 to 2011. (table 2)

Fig. 1: Trend of Sex Ratio in Jammu and Kashmir against India



Source: Census of India

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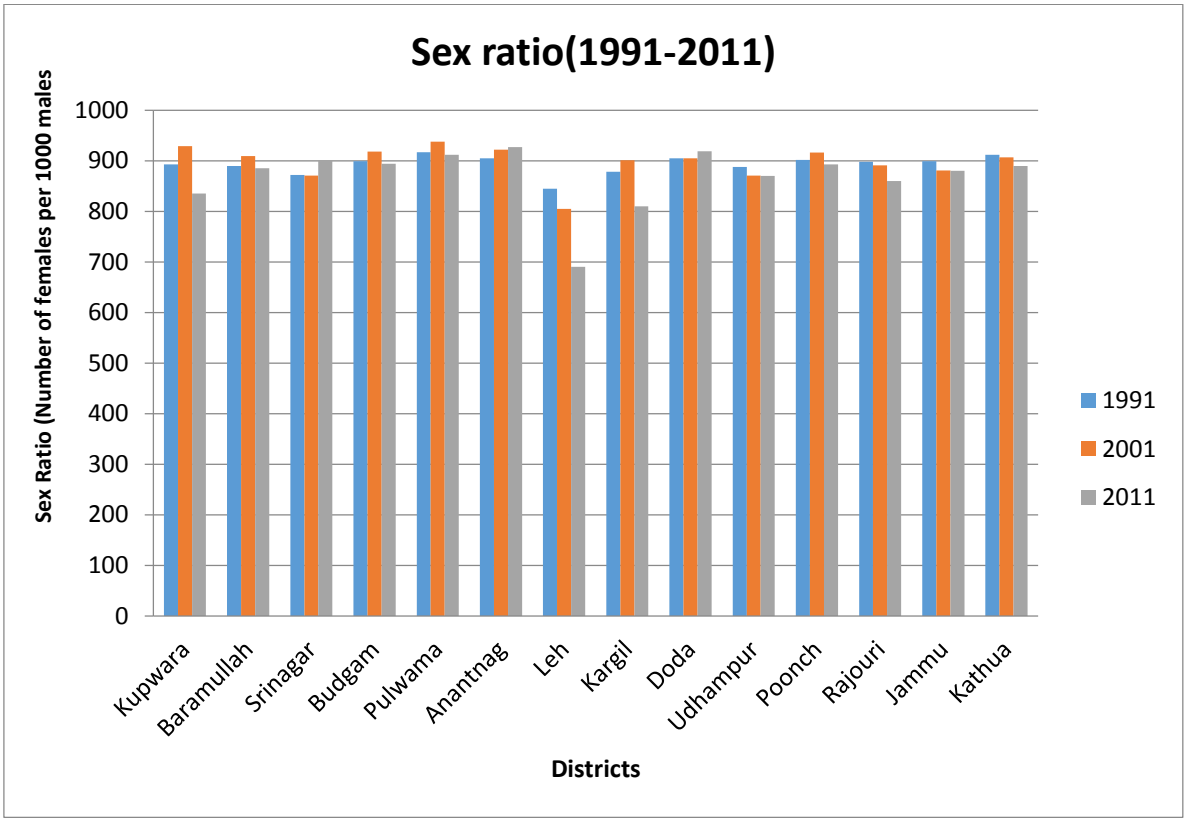
Fig. 2 : Trend of Sex Ratio in Jammu and Kashmir



Source: Census of India

Table-1: Categorization of Sex Ratio in Jammu and Kashmir (1991-2011)

Catagory	**1991**	**2001**	**2011**
Above 900	Anantnag, Pulwama, Doda, Poonch and Kathua.(05)	Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam, Baramullah, Kupwara, Kargil, Doda, Poonch and Kathua.(09)	Anantnag, Srinagar, Doda and Leh.(04)
875-900	Jammu, Rajouri, Udhampur, Kargil, Baramullah, Kupwara and Budgam.(07)	Jammu, Rajouri.(02)	Baramullah, Budgam ,Jammu, Poonch and Kathua.(05)
Below 875	Srinagar and Leh.(02)	Srinagar, Udhampur and Leh.(03)	Rajouri, Udhampur, Kargil Leh and Kupwara.(05)

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After analyzing sex ratio in 1991, 2001 and 2011, it has been found that there occurred two types of deviation in the data of 2001 from 1991 and 2011 from 2001 i.e; positive deviation and negative deviation.The Positive deviation (Where sex ratio increased from the last years). In 2001, out of total14 districts in Jammu and Kashmir, 3 districts that is Pulwama ,Kargil and Anantnag had shown positive deviation from 1991 data while in 2011there were also 3 districts that is Anantnag,srinagar and Kupwara had shown positive deviation in sex ratio from 2001 data. In 2001 and 2011, maximum positive deviation was shown in Srinagar and Doda respectively.

Table-2: Trend of Sex Ratio in Jammu and Kashmir (1991-2011).

District	**1991**	**2001**	**2011**	**Deviation in 2001 from 1991**	**Deviation in 2011from 2001**
Kupwara	893	929	835	--36	-94
Baramullah	890	909	885	-19	-24
Srinagar	872	871	900	--1	+29
Budgam	899	918	894	--19	-24
Pulwama	917	938	912	+21	-26
Anantnag	905	922	927	+17	+5
Leh	845	805	690	-40	--115
Kargil	878	901	810	+23	-91
Doda	905	905	919	0	+14
Udhampur	888	871	870	-17	--1
Poonch	902	916	893	-14	-23
Rajouri	898	891	860	-7	-31
Jammu	899	881	880	-18	-1
Kathua	912	907	890	-5	-17

Source: Census of India and calculated by the author

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Negative deviation (Where sex ratio decreased from the last years): in 2001, there were 11 districts where sex ratio decreased from 1991 while. in 2011, there were aiso 11 that shown negative sex ratio from 2001. In 2001-2011 the maximum negative deviation was shown in Leh Kargil and Kupwara respectively.

Reasons behind low sex ratio in hammer and kashmiri.

The various probable reasons behind the low sex ratio in Jammu and Kashmir are:

Fig-3: Reasons of Low Sex-Ratio in Jammu and Kashmir

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V. Conclusion and Recommendations

It is certain that the child sex ratio in Jammu and Kashmir State is very low. The sex ratio is declining continuously and it has reached to ever low to 889 in 2011. There are various factors related to low sex ratio in Jammu and Kashmir mainly are the preference of son because of social and cultural factors. Many other factors attributed to the decline in the number of women are neglect of the girl child, female infanticides, female foeticide, dowry deaths, discrimination in health treatment and maternal mortality. Therefore, it needs an adequate study to know the real causes of this decline. It is only when the causes are known that fruitful steps can be taken to prevent the further drop and at the same time make some necessary efforts to increase the child sex ratio. Increasing child sex ratio is not only the responsibility of the administration but It is a sociological crisis. No doubt it is the society have a responsibility of society to contribute in this field.

Government need to devise policies to encourage girl child. A Ladli type scheme of Delhi can be planned. In addition, a proper investigation should be carried out tlocate the unregistered clinics in the state. A strict action should be taken against those who deal with in sex determination tests. It is compulsory that these steps are taken seriously and at the earliest. It is only then our state Jammu and Kashmir can prevent further decline in the sex ratio and make certain increase in child sex ratio. Awareness regarding the significance of female child should be spread and campaigns like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao should be given full support.

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