Child Sex Ratio: A Comparative Analysis From Telangana State

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Abstract: In India, the declining trend of Child Sex Ratio is alarming and the newly formed state, Telangana is not an exception. As per Census 2001, Telangana had 43.7 lakhs child population and the sex ratio was 957 girls for 1000 boys whereas in 2011, it has declined at 932 girls for 1000 boys. The decline sex ratio is a cause of great concern in the state. The paper deals with comparative analysis of child sex ratio in the state, on the basis of 2001 & 2011 Census data. In addition to the districts level analysis, and also focused on rural & urban comparison between the study period. Based on secondary data using GIS techniques the results has been presented and following are the key findings: Telangana is having (child population) is declining rate of 10.9% from 2001 to 2011 & districts like Karimnagar, Khammam and Warangal are having the highest decline rate and only Rangareddy having increasing rate. The sex ratio of rural Telangana is better than the urban one in both the decades. Among the rural districts, Nalgonda is having the lowest sex ratio. Whereas in urban areas, Hyderabad is having the lowest sex ratio which is even far behind than the state average. Among all the district of the Telangana, Medak and Nizamabad districts are increased rate of child sex ratio (in person).

Key words: Child sex ratio, Rural and Urban, GIS.

Introduction

Child population encompasses that proportion of the total population of the country which lies in the age group of 0-6 years which is an important indicator since it overlooks a delicate segment of the population. A century old Indian demographic history records that in the matter of sheer numbers, the female ratio in total population had always remained unfavorable. In this regard, the 2011 census, reveals that a decline in the child sex ratio (CSR) for the age group 0-6 has crossed all limits and has remained alarmingly at its lowest. The issue of the survival of the girl child is a critical one, and needs systematic effort in mobilizing the community.
earlier known as Andhra Pradesh. The newly created state consisting of the parts carved out of the ten north-western districts of erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh. Telangana comprises 10 districts and 459 Mandals. It is triangular with the Penganga, Wardha, Pranahita and Godavari as its northern boundary, while the rivers Krishna and Tungabhadra serve as the southern boundary. There is no prominent feature to serve as a boundary in the west. As per the AP Reorganisation bill, Central government sanctioned one Major irrigation project called as Polavaram Irrigation project due to this reason, Telangana state lost 7 mandals from the Khammam district. In that 7 Mandals five mandals are completely merged and other two mandals such as Bhadrachalam and Burgampad mandals are lost most of the area.

**Percentage of Total Child population**

The total population of Telangana state was 3.09 crores as per census 2001. Among the total population 43.7 lakhs (14.1%) were children (22.3 lakhs boys and 21.4 lakhs girls). In terms of the child population Mahbubnagar district (15.6%) was the highest. Other districts like Adilabad (15.1%), Medak (15.1%) and Nizamabad (14.4%) were having more than the state average (14.1%). Hyderabad (12.7%) district was having the lowest child population in the state.

As per Census 2011, India has 121 crores population in that only 16.4(13.5%) crores are children (0-6years). In that 7.87 crores are girls and boys are 8.57 crores. Telangana has 39.2 lakhs child population out of 3.5 crores total population. Telangana state is having boys 20.28lakhs and 18.92 lakhs girls.

The overall child population is 11.1% child population to total population in Telangana. It is showing decreasing in child population compare to the 2001 Census. Again like 2001 in 2011, Mahbubnagar having highest child population with 13% of the total district population. Five districts (Medak, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Adilabad, and Nizamabad) are having above the state average. Remaining three districts such as Nalgonda (10.7)
Warangal (10), Khammam (9.7) are close to state average. Karimnagar (8.9 %) district is having the lowest child population in the state. The data shows that all districts of the Telangana state has declined the population of children in compare to the total population. Karimnagar district (27.9%) is having highest declining rate followed by Khammam and Warangal. Hyderabad (3.5%) district having lowest declining rate. But unfollowing the trends, district like Rangareddy has increased the child population (26.6%) in 2011.

Figure 3: Mandal wise Percentage of Child population to Total Population in Telangana State

The figure 3 shows mandal wise child population to total population in Telangana state. Out of 459 mandals, only 14 mandals are having more than 14% of child population and 195 mandals are having 11 to 14% of child population. Total 250 mandals are having less than 11% of child population to total population of the Telangana State. Asper 2011 Census data and this map also depict Karimnagar and Warangal and part of the Khammam district mandals are having very low child population.

Child Sex Ratio (CSR)

As per Census 2011, Child sex ratio of the country is 914, it is the lowest since 1947. It has declined from 927 in 2001 to 914 in 2011. The proportion of Child Population in the age group of 0-6 years to total population is 13.1% in 2011 while the corresponding figure in 2001 it was 15.9 percent. Kerala states having the best child sex ratio (1048) in entire country. Punjab and Haryana continue to have the lowest child sex ratios with 846 and 830 respectively.
Telangana state is having decent child sex ratio compare to the national average. The child sex ration in is only 914 whereas Telangana’s child sex ratio is 933. Even in 2001, Telangana (957) had above the country (927) average in the total child sex ratio. In compare to rural and urban child sex ratio in entire country, rural is having decent ratio in compare to urban even in Telangana the same trend continues for last two decades.

Figure 4: District Wise Child Sex Ratio in Telangana State

The child sex ratio (CSR) in Telangana State is 933 (girls for 1,000 boys) against a national average of 919, a disturbing trend was the decline in the ratio in all rural areas and in 3 out of 10 districts as far as urban centers were concerned. Yet, compared to urban areas (930), the CSR was better in rural areas (934), a possible pointer to the prevalence of sex determination tests in the former. The child sex ratio in the State has decreased from 957 (women per 1,000 males) in 2001 to 933 in 2011. It is better in rural areas with a ratio of 934 against 930 in urban. In 2001, rural Telangana had 961 and urban was 948. Overall the state rural areas are having best CSR compare to all other areas.

Telangana has the very low child sex ratio compare to the all other states of the country. Census 2001 data shows Khammam district was having highest girls (971) for 1000 boys and Hyderabad was having lowest child sex ratio with 943 girls. Asper the 2011 Census, Khammam is having 932 girls for 1000 boys in whole Telangana districts, whereas Hyderabad is having the lowest sex ratio (914). Figure 3 shows the child sex ratio in the state is...
declining rate (in persons) from 2001 to 2011. In 2001 it was 957 and now it is 932 for the entire state so 25 girls are decreasing for the 1000 boys. Overall in the state, Warangal district is having the highest declining rate (32 girls for 1000 boys). Other districts like Hyderabad (29), Adilabad (28), Nalgonda (28), Mahbubnagar (27), Karimnagar (27), and Rangareddy (26) have declining rate which is more than the state average (25). Only three districts such as Khammam (17), Medak (12) and Nizamabad (11) has a declining rate which is less than state average rate. Shockingly after so much emphasis in programmes for girl children, not a single district has increased sex ratio.

Rural Telangana has good child sex ratio in compare to the urban during the 2001 to 2011 period. The 2001 Census data shows all districts were having above the 950 girls per 1000 boys. Khammam was having highest child sex ratio with 973. Adilabad, Rangareddy, Medak and Karimnagar lies between 965 to 970 girls per 1000 boys. Nalgonda (951) was having the lowest child sex ratio in the state.

Asper Census 2011, Rural Khammam district has highest child sex ratio with 956 and Medak (951) districts having above the 950 girls. Nizamabad (944), Rangareddy (938), Adilabad and Karimnagar (937) districts are having 935 to 950 girls per 1000 boys. Mahbubnagar (923) and Nalgonda (919) is having very less child sex ratio and district like Warangal is having the lowest child sex ratio (916). The figure 4 shows the declining rate across the state from 2001 to 2011. In terms of the persons declining rate, in rural Telangana 27 girls are decreased per 1000 boys. Warangal having highest (38) persons declining rate followed by Adilabad (33), Nalgonda (32), Rangareddy (30), Karimnagar (28) and Mahbubnagar (28). Only four districts are having below the state declining rate (27) like Khammam (17), Nizamabad (16) and Medak (15). Hyderabad district filled with urban population so it’s not in the list of rural district. In rural Telangana all districts are showing declining rate.

Asper the 2001 census, the urban Telangana was having 948 girls per 1000 boys. Warangal (961) was the highest followed by Khammam (958), Nalgonda (955), Medak (954), Mahbubnagar and Nizamabad (953) and Rangareddy (950). Karimnagar (948), Hyderabad (943) and Adilabad (939) district are having below state child average. Adilabad is showing the lowest child sex ratio (939 girls per 1000 boys). Nizamabad comes top place for child sex ratio in the overall the state as per Census 2011 data. It is having 962 girl per the 1000 boys and lowest is Hyderabad (914) followed by Adilabad.

Declining child sex ratio is a cause of great concern in the urban districts of the state. All districts are recorded very high declining rate during the period of 2001 to 2011. In terms declining rate (in person) during the same period, the state declining rate is 18 girls per 1000 boys. Hyderabad is declining 29 girls per the 1000 boys followed by Warangal (21), Rangareddy (19) and Mahbubnagar (19). Warangal has the highest declining rate in total and rural but in urban, it is having second highest declining rate (21). Four districts like Karimnagar (16), Adilabad (14), Nalgonda (13) and Khammam having declining rate which is below state average. Surprisingly only two districts having increased number of girls during the study period. Medak district has increased 1 girl and Nizamabad district increased 10 girls per 1000 boys.
Causes

It is a travesty that a nation that aspires to be a world power has no social respect for its women. Various social, economic and demographic indicators provide evidence of a gender bias as well as deep-rooted prejudice and discrimination against women and girl children. India experienced demographic challenge of declining child sex ratio since Independence. The situation becomes graver by a decline from 927 females per 1000 males in 2001 to 914 females in 2011. Son preference or daughter aversion, selective abortion, female foeticide, infanticide are some of the reasons for this constant decline.

Telangana being a new state is not an exception. Issues like girl child's discrimination begins before birth in the form of female foeticide and which is the main causes of declining the child Sex-ratio. Sex selective abortions is common in the state mainly because of preference for son. Government is trying to fight against sex selection and abortion by implementing the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994. This act amended in 2003 the name is Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act. Even though the ever diminishing numbers of girl’s show that nothing has changed.

The Census evidence points towards a strict cultural preference for male children as observed from the pattern that emerges across state. Changing the social norms towards smaller family size the availability and access to new technologies provides an easy way for parents to realise their desired goals. Prof Amartya Sen describes this particular situation as ‘technological revolution of a reactionary kind’ (UNFPA). Girl children are murdered shortly after being born when the family comes to know the sex of the child or killed slowly through neglect and abandonment.

Ongoing schemes for improving girl child sex ratio

India and Telangana governments has been concentrating on the improvement of the girl child ratio by implementing several welfare schemes with common eligibility condition. The following are some of the schemes

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

This national scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on 22nd January 2015 with following objectives: first is Prevention of gender biased sex selective elimination, second is ensuring survival & protection of the girl child and Ensuring education and final is participation of the girl child. Since coordinated and convergent efforts are needed to ensure survival, protection and empowerment of the girl child, Government has announced Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative. This is being implemented through a national campaign and focussed multi sectoral action in 100 selected districts (including Hyderabad from Telangana) low in Child Sex Ratio (CSR), covering all States and UTs. This is a joint initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Sukanya Samriddi Account (2015)

This scheme is under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. It is a channelise small savings scheme, this scheme for girl child which can be opened in banks and post offices and half of the funds can be withdrawn for her higher education and marriage. While the scheme has been notified by the government, the special interest rate applicable to it would be determined later.

New Girl Child Protection Scheme

This Scheme is aimed at preventing gender discrimination by empowering and protecting rights of girl children through direct investment from Government. It is enhance status of girl child and promotes adoption of small family norm by ensuring holistic development of the girl child for a bright future entailing improved sex ratio besides preventing female infanticide.

Bangarutalli Scheme

Telangana government continue this scheme. Actually it was framed in united AP state period. Bangarutalli is meant to take care of the girl child in every household from her birth till she completes her graduation. If she gives birth to a baby girl, Rs 2,500 will be deposited into her account. Rs 1000 will be given for the first 2 years at the time of immunization. Rs 1,500 will be given every year to the family through Anganwadis till the baby attains the age of 5 years from 3rd year onwards.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Telangana state is in alarming situation in the context of the declining child sex ratio. When compare to 2001 census data with 2011, Hyderabad and Rangareddy districts are having very least child sex ratio. In the context of the child sex ratio, in 2001 all districts of the Telangana state except Hyderabad having above 950 girls for the 1000
boys, but in 2011 out of ten, only two districts have reached 950 mark. Rural Telangana has best child sex ratio compare to the urban child sex ratio. This situation clearly reveals that there is an immediate need for attention from the government to implement/focus on act Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act specifically in urban areas. The Government of India has started a "save the girl child" campaign with the slogan "A happy girl is the future of our country". The aim of the campaign is to create a positive public image for girls in society and hence change the perceptions and values of families that opt for boy children. Through the campaigns this slogan spread across the state.

The following recommendation can be considered to improve the rate of child sex ratio in the new born state:

2. Reduce gender difference through awareness generation and sensitization. Invest on girl’s education and more employment to women will help to reduce gender gap.
3. Reservation for women in social, economic and political sphere that will help to reduce the gender gap hence the preference for male child will be minimised if females are equally valued.
4. All these efforts will leads to improvement of the girl child ratio in Telangana districts.

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