



“A Study of Changing Sex Ratio in Nandurbar District”

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Introduction:

Sex ratio means the number of females per thousand males. Sex ratio is an index of socio-economic conditions prevailing in an area and is useful tool for regional analysis. It has a profound effect on the demographic structure of a region. It is an important feature of any landscape.

Sex ratio is a function of three basic factors of sex ratio at birth differential in mortality of the two sexes at different stages of life and sex selectivity among the migrants. Sex ratio generally affects our process of social life up to great extent. Its effective impact is seen both on demographic element like marriage, birth rate etc and non-demographic elements like migration, war business etc the disequilibrium in the number of men and women affects our social and economic lives. Sex ratio will be equal to one in the society of high birth and death rate and the proportion of male and females are equal on the contrary, if these rates birth death are low, it means there is abundance of adults and old persons and number of males will be lesser in the society.

Study Area:

For the research, Nandurbar district has been selected as study area. On 1 July 1998 Dhule was bifurcated as two separate districts now known as Dhule and Nandurbar. 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 Tahsil of the District with 1282.31 sq.km., area while Talode is the smallest Tahsil 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.

Study Area : Nandurbar District

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.

Nandurbar district is the 4th largest tribal district of Maharashtra. The district has now been declared as most backward and undeveloped district of Maharashtra. The district comprises of six taluka's viz., Nandurbar, Navapur, Taloda, Shahada, Akkalkuwa and Akrani. As a whole the district is divided into two river basins viz., Tapi and Narmada. Tapi river flow from east to west in the district. The Tapi river basin in the southern part is fertile plain. Narmada flow through Satpuda Mountain ranges a very few hilly part of the district lies in Narmada basin. The district has Satpuda mountain ranges in northern side. Most of the tribal population lives in the hilly and forest areas in the north and west of Nandurbar district. Ahirani and Pawari dialects dominate the district. The district has Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh state bordering. As a result the life style is slowly changing but it has strong hold of custom and culture.

Objectives:

- 1) To Study the tahsilwise sex-ratio in the region.
- 2) To study the spatial distribution of sex ratio in the region.

**Database & Methodology:**

For the present study only secondary data was considered. The census data of 2001 and 2011 was used. The information regarding census has been also used from the website of Census of India. The general and geographical information of Nandurbar district was collected by Government Gazetteer and Government website of the district. The help of District Statistical Office was taken in order to collect the data. To include the tahsilwise data regarding literacy, occupational structure, population growth, Annual District Statistics book was used.

The sex ratio is calculated in terms of number of females per thousand males. It is calculated as under.

$$\text{Sex Ratio} = \frac{\text{Population of female}}{\text{Population of male}} \times 1000$$

Sex Ratio for Nandurbar District:

Sex ratio is a dynamic factors. For the study of changing pattern of sex ratio, decade 1901 to 2011 has been considered. The statistics of sex ratio from 1901 to 2011 has been presented in following table 1.

Table No.1

Changing Pattern of Sex Ratio in Nandurbar District (1901 to 2011)

Census	Sex Ratio (No. of Females per Thousand Males)		
	Total	Rural	Urban
1901	980	972	1036
1911	978	973	1030
1921	976	971	1023
1931	969	974	938
1941	969	974	939
1951	973	977	950
1961	975	982	935
1971	968	975	929
1981	982	992	930
1991	975	985	922
2001	977	986	930
2011	978	996	893

Source: Nandurbar district Handbook & District Socio-Economic Abstract, 2011



Table 1 shows that, Nandurbar district has 978 females per thousand males. Since 1901 the sex ratio of Nandurbar district shows ups & downs. In 1901, total sex ratio was 980, further it decreased upto 969 in decade 1941. After 1941, the sex ratio was increased upto 975 in 1961. During the last 11 census the sex ratio of Nandurbar district was fallen by 2. The highest sex ratio was found in the census 1981 (982) and the lowest sex ratio has been observed for the census of 1931 and 1941 (969). Unlike rural sex ration shows that it is highest in the census 2001 (986) whereas lowest in the census 1921 (971). Rural sex ratio shows increase in its volume (972 to 976). The urban sex ratio has shown different trend. It is decreasing in the course of time (1036 to 893). At the starting for 1901 census it was 1036, which is highest whereas least sex ratio has been noticed from the census of 2011 (893).

Tahsilwise pattern of sex ratio in Nandurbar district has been depicted in table 2

Table No. 2

Tahsilwise sex-ratio in Nandurbar district (2011)

Sr. no.	Tahsil	Total	Rural	Urban
1	Akkalkuwa	926	995	542
2	Akrani	999	1003	897
3	Talode	1001	1005	982
4	Shahade	980	985	954
5	Nandurbar	968	984	934
6	Nawapur	1010	1019	960
	Nandurbar district	978	996	893

Source: Nandurbar district census Handbook 2011

Table 2 reveals that, total sex ratio in Nandurbar district ranges from 926 for Akkalkuwa tahsil to 1010 for Nawapur tahsil which is highest and lowest. Below 1000 sex ratio has been noticed from the tahsils of Akkalkuwa, Akrani, Shahade, Nandurbar whereas above 1000 sex ratio has been noticed from the tahsils of Talode and Nawapur. In rural area of the district, highest sex ratio has been noticed from the tahsils of Nawapur (1019) where as lowest has been noticed from tahsils of Shahade (985). Akrani (1003) and Nawapur (1019) has shown above 1000 sex ratio whereas remaining



tahsils like Akkalkuwa (995), Shahade (985), Nandurbar (984) has shown below 1000 sex ratio. Rural sex ratio shows no great variation in its volume. As far urban sex ratio is concerned, tremendous variation has been noticed. The least urban sex ratio has been noticed from the tahsil of Akkalkuwa (542) whereas highest sex ratio has been noticed from the tahsil of Talode (982). The district urban sex is 893.

Conclusion:

The study reveals that, the district has fluctating trends of sex ratio from 1901 to 2011 but has not shown much variation. There is only variation of 2 for 11 decades. The rural sex ratio has same trends but urban sex ratio has shown some variation. It has difference of 43 during the course of time. Tahsilwise statistics of sex ratio for 2011 census shows that, rural sex ratio is good, but urban sex ratio is bad especiall for the tahsil of Akkalkuwa (542). It is very essential to improve the situation of imbalanced sex ratio in the district. If the decreasing population of women cannot stopped, it will create a critical problem in society. To control this imbalance, sex identifying test should be prohibited and Literacy ratio should be increased.

References:

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