

Interrelationship of literacy and Sex ratio in Punjab

Mridula Pushkarna
Assistant Professor
Department of Geography
R K Arya College, Nawanshahr

For the development of any nation or any society, literacy rate and sex ratio plays a very important role, these are the two most important aspects for the social and economic growth of that area. The areas where there is trend of low sex ratio and literacy rate are considered as backward or undeveloped area of the world. Literacy is one of the important aspects of demography and considered as a fairly reliable index of socio-cultural and economic advancement (Chandna, 2015). Literacy rate was earlier calculated by taking the whole population in consideration but later in the census of 1981, this is calculated on the basis of literate person aged 7 years and above to the total population of the country or state at a particular period of time. Literate person can better understand the problems of the society and have better knowledge and can create non discriminatory environment for the females. So, this can be assumed that in a literate society, sex ratio will be high and the number of male and females in total population will be approximately equal. Sex ratio is also an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equity between males and females in a society at a given point of time (Majumdar, 2013). According to the available data, in the the world there are 986 females for every 1000 males in 2001, where as in India the number of females 1000 per thousand males were 933 and the sex ratio in 2011 was 940. So, there is a wide gap between male and female population in India. This is a matter of serious concern as India is among the largest economy in the world and more than 17 percent world's population lives here in just 2.4 percent of livable earth surface area with a diverse socio-cultural environment. Bhullar Gurinderjit (2011) explains the most prosperous region i.e Punjab in terms of sex ratio imbalance and gender discrimination, the author tries to explain the factors responsible for this. In the paper author also suggested the course of actions to be taken so that the scenario of the imbalanced trend should be reversed. The lower status of women, high maternal mortality rate, and economic backwardness of females are some of the responsible factors for gender imbalance. The author reveals that the state boasts for the rich culture, heritage and social values is facing the situation of sex ratio imbalance with strong preference of sons. Peeyush Bajpai et al. (2005) termed sex ratio as the measurement of the degree of gender bias. They studied the Indian scenario of gender bias from independence and concluded that the areas where people are better educated, economically better and more urbanised tend to have lower sex ratios. They also reveal that sex ratio is worse in north and western part of India as compare to south and east India.

Study Area

Punjab is the classic example of fast growing economy. It enjoys the credit of ushering the green revolution in the country. The land of five rivers, Punjab lies in the North West corner of India. It is one of the world's oldest civilisations that are the Indus Valley civilisation.

Geographical Set up:

The present Punjab occupies 1.54% of the total geographical area of the country and has the total area covered is 50,362 square kilometres

Latitude Extent: 29°30'N-32°32'N

Longitude Extent: 73°55'E - 76°50'E

The state is bordered by Pakistan from the western side and Jammu and Kashmir in the north, Himachal in the north east and Haryana and Rajasthan in the south. On the whole the state lies in the western part of northern plains of India. It is predominantly a alluvial plain region having three major rivers that Sutlej, Beas and Ravi. These rivers are of great physiographic, economic and cultural importance. Study area experience continental monsoonal climate due to its interior location in the lower mid latitudes. The state face three seasons i.e. hot and dry summers, rainy and cold weather season. As far as the natural vegetation is concerned Punjab shows abundance of forest cover in the past but due to rapid development process at present the occupied area by forests is only 6.07 percent.

The administrative structure is concerned Punjab has:

Divisions	5
Districts	22
Sub divisions	81
Tehsils	81
Sub Tehsils	86
Blocks	146
Towns	143
Total villages	12673

Source – www. pbplanning.govt.in (2012-13)

Punjab is a small state having an area of 50362sq km. which is 1.56% of the total area of India. According to latest census reports there lived around 2.4% people of India in Punjab.

Demographic profile:

Description	2011	2001	1991	1981	1971
Approximate Population	2.77 cr.	2.44 cr.	135 cr.	167 cr.	202 cr.
Actual Population	27,743,338	24,358,999	20281969	16788915	13551060
Male	14,639,465	12,985,045	7569423	6444464	5533475
Female	13,103,873	11,373,954	6719321	5696694	4801406

Objectives

There are following objectives of present research work-

- To study the growth of sex ratio and literacy rate in Punjab.
- To study the interrelationship between sex ratio and literacy rate in Punjab.

Database and Methodology

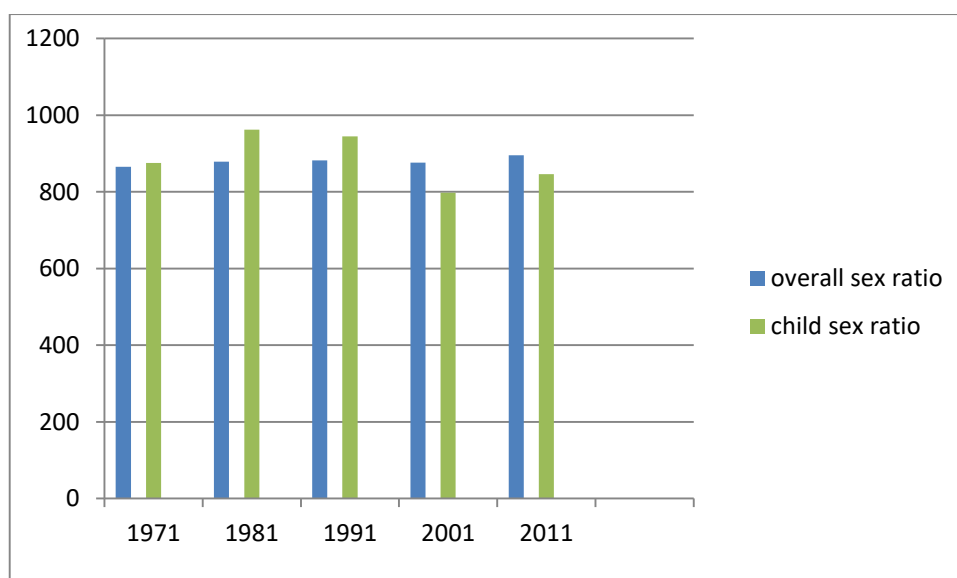
The present study is based on the secondary data obtained from the variety of authentic government sources. Some of the data is available in the published form while remaining is downloaded from the official websites of the government offices from the internet. The main sources of data are census publications, various books, research papers in the journals, Statistical Abstract of Punjab and Punjab-at-a-Glance, district wise. This study of district Sangrur is done at block levels

Gender differentials in Punjab- sex Ratio 1971-2011

Description	2011	2001	1991	1981	1971
Sex Ratio	895	876	882	879	865
Child Sex Ratio	846	798	875	962	875

Source: Economic and Statistical Organisation, Punjab, Director, Census operations, Punjab

Table depicts the sex ratio and child sex ratio in Punjab from 1971 to 2011 after the reorganisation of Punjab. Sex ratio increases from 865 to 895. Child sex ratio was maximum in 1981 and it is more than 900 and it was minimum in 2001 that is 798.



InterDistrict sex ratio in Punjab

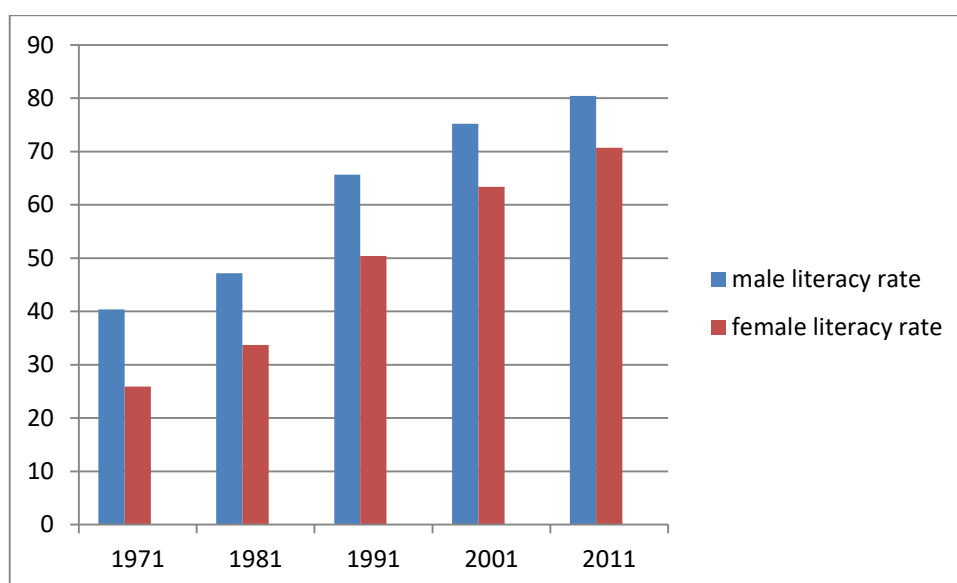
District	Sex Ratio
Ludhiana	873
Amritsar	889
Gurdaspur	895
Jalandhar	915
Ferozepur	893
Patiala	891
Sangrur	885
Hoshiarpur	961
Bathinda	868
Tarn Taran	900
Moga	893
Mohali	879
Muktsar	896
Kapurthala	912
Mansa	883
Rupnagar	915
Faridkot	890
SBS Nagar	954
Fatehgarh Sahib	871
Barnala	876

The low sex ratio in Punjab has always been a matter of concern. With the efforts of state government and public awareness, it has improved during the last decade but it is still low. As per the figures of census 2011, the number of females per thousands males is 895. It is 905 in case of rural areas and 875 in urban population. Sex ratio in Punjab in 0-6 age group is just 846 which will create problem in the coming times. In rural areas it is 844 as compare to 852 in urban areas. (www.punjabdata.com) Some of the demographic features about sex ratio in districts of Punjab are that Females constitute 47.23% of total population of the state as compared to 48.5% at national level. Although sex ratio has improved from 854 in 1961 to 895 in 2011 in the state yet it still lagged behind the national average which was 941 in 1961 and 943 in 2011. On the other hand, sex ratio in 0-6 year's age-group has decreased from 901 in 1961 to 846 in 2011 which is a serious cause of concern. At the national level also, this ratio declined from 976 in 1961 to 914 in 2011. Among districts in the State, Hoshiarpur has the highest sex ratio i.e. 961 (2011 census) which is comparable to Tamil Nadu (996). Doaba region districts of the state are the top ranking districts in terms of sex ratio where range of Sex Ratio is between 912 to 961. The district with lowest sex ratio was Bathinda (868) which is close to sex ratio of Delhi (866). Sex ratio in the 0-6 age group as per 2011 census was highest (885) in SBS Nagar followed by Jalandhar (874). It was lowest in district Tarn Taran (820) and Gurdaspur (821).

Literacy in Punjab 1971-2011

Description	2011	2001	1991	1981	1971
Literacy	75.84 %	69.65 %	58.51	40.86	33.67
Male Literacy	80.44 %	75.23 %	65.66	47.16	40.4
Female Literacy	70.70 %	63.36 %	50.41	33.69	25.9
Total Literate	18,707,137	14,756,970	9,248,757	6,860,349	4,562,123
Male Literate	10,436,056	8,442,293	5,739,194	4,214,878	2,934,281
Female Literate	8,271,081	6,314,677	3,751,266	2,645,471	1,627,842

Source: Economic and Statistical Organisation, Punjab, Director, Census operations, Punjab.



The literacy rate of Punjab is 75.84% i.e better than the national average of 73.0%. One major fact is that the male literacy rate is 80.4% which is slightly less than the national average. The proud fact for Punjab is that the female literacy is 70.7% which is much better than the national average of 64.6%..(wwwpunjabdata.com)

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Inter District disparities of literacy rate in Punjab

District	Literacy Rate
Ludhiana	82.20
Amritsar	76.27
Gurdaspur	79.95
Jalandhar	82.48
Ferozepur	68.92
Patiala	75.28
Sangrur	67.99
Hoshiarpur	84.59
Bathinda	68.28
Tarn Taran	67.81
Moga	70.68
Mohali	83.8
Muktsar	65.81
Kapurthala	79.07
Mansa	61.83
Rupnagar	82.19
Faridkot	69.55
SBS Nagar	79.98
Fatehgarh Sahib	79.35
Barnala	67.82

It is well established that female literacy has significant positive outcomes for the immediate family and nation as a whole. High female literacy is generally associated with positive health and education outcomes for the family especially that of children.

As per 2011 Population census, the literacy rate in Punjab is 75.8% which is higher than the literacy rate of 69.65% in 2001. In 2011, only 70.7% of females in Punjab were literate compared to 80.4% of men. The male and female literacy rates were 75.6% and 63.55% respectively in 2001. Inter-District Analysis reveals that female literacy is highest in Hoshiarpur district(80.3%) which is comparable to Delhi (80.8%) whereas lowest literacy rate was in Mansa district (55.7%) which was comparable to Jharkhand (55.4%).

Gap in literacy rate of male & female in Punjab has also decreased over the years.

During 2001 and 2011, the literacy gap came down from 11.9% to 9.7% respectively.

Conclusions

Literacy rate and sex ratio are two most important aspect of any society or country as they determine the development stage of society or country. The area having low sex ratio and low literacy rate are considered as backward or undeveloped area of the world. Literacy is one of the important aspects of demography and considered as a fairly reliable index of socio-cultural and economic advancement (Chandna, 2015). However, in case of present study literacy rate and sex ratio are independent and the district where there is high literacy rate and shows higher sex ratio, The above data shows the literacy rate and sex ratio in different districts of Punjab. It reveals that in those districts where sex ratio is more than 900 males per thousands per males have the literacy

rate around 80 percent. These districts are Jalandhar, Rupnagar, SBS Nagar and Pathankot. But it is surprising that SAS Nagar, Mohali has the higher literacy rate of 83.8 percent but sex ratio is quite low, the similar feature can be seen in other districts like Fazilka , Fatehgarh Sahib and Ludhiana. Other districts like Ferozepur, Sangrur, Muktsar and Mansa are Educationally Backward with low literacy rate and having low sex ratio also.

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