



CHANGING PATTERN OF SEX RATIO IN POPULATION OF GANGANAGAR AND HANUMANGARH DISTRICT OF NORTHERN RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT:

The Sex Ratio is adverse to women in study region. Both districts recorded the lowest sex ratio 797 in 1931. Tehsils situated along Punjab and Haryana interstate border Sadulshahar (859) and Sangria (900) recorded the lowest sex ratio in 2011 census. It cannot be denied that the psyche of the people that propagates the idea of son preference is still deep rooted in our traditional society. Abuse of prenatal sex determination technology has further added an imbalance in the sex ratio. Empowerment of women can improve the decreasing sex-ratio in the study region.

KEYWORDS:

INTRODUCTION

Sex Ratio is the most universal social indicator to assess gender equality at a given point of time. It is mainly the outcome of the interplay of sex differential in mortality, sex selective migration and sex ratio at birth.

The classification by sex is one of the most important in almost all types of population statistics, and at the same time, one of the easiest to obtain in causes. A balance between the two sexes is essential for a healthy society. Imbalance leads to a number of social and economic problems, such as prostitution, promiscuity and perversion etc. (Census of India, 1961.p-471). The disparity in the number of males and females originate from demographic and other causes. Migration, birth rates and death rates influence the male female ratio in any society. Non demographic influences causing a sex imbalance include such features occupation, war and the relative treatment mated out males and females in a particular society. Inferior status of females and hazards of child bearing in many less developed countries give higher female death rates and thus lower sex ratio. War leads to more mortality among young males, results to higher sex ratio (Trewartha, Glen. T., 1969.p-114,115). Sex ratio is an index of the socio economic conditions prevailing in an area and is a useful tool for regional analysis (Franklin, 1956.p-162).

In itself, the sex ratio is a function of three basic factors, sex ratio at birth, differential in mortality of the two sexes at different stages of life, and sex selectivity among the migrants (Clarke, 1960.p-29). Sex ratio has a profound effect on growth of population, marriage rates, occupational structure, etc. (Shyrock, 1976.p-105). Sex ratio is an area in view of the partly contrasting and partly complementary roles of the two sexes in the economy and society, thus the study of sex ratio becomes an interesting topic.

STUDY AREA

The study area is comprised of Ganganagar and Hanumangarh districts, lies in the extreme northern part of Rajasthan state. Ganganagar district is located in the northern part of Rajasthan. Geographically, the district is located between 28°54' to 30°12' north latitudes and 72°39' to 74°18' east longitudes. At present for the purpose of administration, the district is divided into five sub-divisions and nine tehsil. These five sub-divisions are Sri Ganganagar (Ganganagar and Sadulshahar tehsils), Karanpur (Karanpur and Padampur tehsils), Raisinghnagar (Raisinghnagar and Vijaynagar tehsils), Suratgarh (Suratgarh tehsil) and Anupgarh (Anupgarh and Gharsana tehsils). Hanumangarh district is situated in the northern boundaries of Rajasthan state. This district is located in between 28°46' to 29°57' north latitude to 74°43'to 75°31' east longitude. The present day status of the historical importance 'Bhatner area' of the princely state Bikaner founded by Rao Bikaji of Rathor dynasty came into existence as Hanumangarh district on 12.07.1994. Seven tehsils of Ganganagar districts of Bikaner division viz. Sangaria, Tibi, Hanumangarh, Pilibanga, Rawatsar, Nohar and Bhadra were included into the newly created district of Hanumangarh.

OBJECTIVES

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE PRESENT STUDY ARE

1. To analyses the pattern and trend of sex ratio of population of the study area since 1901.
2. To study spatial distribution of sex ratio of 2001 and 2011 at tehsil level.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The data for the present analysis have been obtained from the secondary sources like, Census of India, Directorate of Economics and statics, Jaipur. The data have been processed, tabulated and presented in the form of tables

and choropleth maps to identify and describe the changing patterns of sex ratio of the study area's population.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

TABLE 1
DISTRICT WISE CHANGING PATTERN OF SEX RATIO 1901-2011
(FEMALES PER 1000 MALES)

Census Year	Ganganagar District			Hanumangarh District		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1901	853	854	819	853	837	1065
1911	818	817	873	818	806	1039
1921	857	857	850	857	842	976
1931	797	810	636	797	788	888
1941	814	825	713	814	809	869
1951	828	845	752	848	849	834
1961	843	859	769	840	843	815
1971	863	879	803	887	892	846
1981	859	875	808	892	903	842
1991	865	871	847	891	897	867
2001	873	883	845	894	898	879
2011	887	890	871	906	908	900

Source: Census of India 2001, General Population Tables Rajasthan (Tables A-1 to A-4),

Directorate of census operations, Rajasthan, P-89

Census of India (2011), Provisional Population Totals, Paper 2, Vol. II, Data on

Urban & rural areas, Table-4, census of operations Rajasthan, P-32.

TEMPORAL TRENDS OF SEX RATIO (1901-2011)

Ganganagar district has recorded a fluctuating trend in sex ratio since 1901. The district witnessed the lowest sex ratio of 797 females per 1000 males in 1931 census. It was very low sex ratio in the district in comparison to Rajasthan's 907 females per 1000 males in 1931. It was the second lowest sex ratio in the state after Dhaulpur district which recorded the lowest sex ratio of 795 females per 1000 males in the state in 1991 census. Opening of the Gang Canal in 1927 for both drinking water and irrigation in the district could explain this very low sex ratio. In 1931, Ganganagar district was part of erstwhile princely Bikaner state. At that time, desert and some desert conditions were prevailed in the district. But, water of the Gang Canal attracted a large number of people not only from adjoining states but also from different districts of the state. As a result of this, the decadal population growth rate of the district increased a whopping 102.5 percent in 1931. The male population growth rate of 109.26 was higher than that of the female population growth rate of

94.63 percent in 1931 in Ganganagar district. And,

therefore, more male population in comparison to female immigrated in the district in 1931. Hence the sex ratio of the district reached the lowest level of 797 females per 1000 males in 1931. Pronounced deficiency of females over males, as the north western states of India are facing this alarming situation, has gradually been improving since 1931 in the district. During the last eighty years (1931-2011), paucity of females over males has improved by 90 points. It is an improvement of 11.29 percent over the same period. But in 1981 census, the sex ratio of the district decreased by four points from 863 in 1971 to 859 females per 1000 males in 1981. There after the number of females per 1000 males have continuously been increasing over the successive decades. It increased from 865 in 1991 to 887 females per 1000 males in 2011. But, the sex ratio of the district is still termed as very low.

The sex ratio of Hanumangarh district has witnessed the same temporal trends up to 1941 from 1901, as shown by the Ganganagar district sex ratio. It is mainly attributed to fact that Hanumangarh district was part of Ganganagar district recently up to 1994. The sex ratio of Hanumangarh district was 853 females per 1000 males in 1901, since then there has been considerable fluctuation in the sex

ratio and it reached the lowest level at 797 females per 1000 males in 1931. There after the sex ratio of the district in the twentieth century has shown an increasing trend except some marginal decline in the census of 1961 and 1991. The sex ratio of the population of the district declined by 8 points in 1961 and one point in 1991 (Table

5.1). The sex ratio of the district always remained lower than that of the state since 1901. For the first time in 2011, the sex ratio of Hanumangarh district crossed Nine hundred marks and it reached at 906 females per 1000 males. But, it is still below the state average of 926 females per 1000 males.

TABLE 2

GANGANAGAR DISTRIC: SEX RATIO BY TEHSILS

Tehsil	2001			2011		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Karanpur	895	897	887	900	903	891
Ganganagar	856	887	829	875	892	860
Sadulshahar	846	841	874	869	859	902
Padampur	902	906	883	905	906	899
Raisinghangar	904	913	855	907	914	873
Anupgarh	893	903	848	900	903	889
Gharsana	889	890	864	891	892	887
Vijaynagar	884	887	868	895	891	910
Suratgarh	840	893	842	873	865	899
District	873	883	842	887	890	871

Source: Census of India (2011), Provisional Population Totals, Paper 2, Vol II, Data on Rural and Urban areas Table 4 Series 9, Rajasthan, P.32.

Census of India (2001), District Census Handbook, , Rajasthan, Part XII,

A -B, Ganganagar, Directorate of Census Operation, Rajasthan,Jaipur,

SEX RATIO AT TEHSIL LEVEL

The tehsil wise distribution of sex ratio in Ganganagar district is not uniform. It varies from 869 in Sadulsahar tehsil to 907 in Raisinghnagar tehsil in 2011. The sex ratio of the district 887 females per 1000 males stands nearly midway between the two extremes and lies well below the state average 926. The scarcity of females, though a common feature in the state, is relatively considerable magnitude in the district. Out of nine tehsils of the district

there tehsil have lower sex ratio than that of district average (887) in 2001. These there tehsil are Sadulsahar with 869 followed by Suratgarh tehsil with 873 and Ganganagar tehsil with 875 females per 1000 males. And remaining six tehsils have higher sex ratio in comparison to district average. These tehsil are Gharsana with 891 followed by Vijaynagar tehsil with 895, Anupgarh tehsil and Karanpur tehsil with 900, Padampur with 905, Raisinghnagar with 907 the highest sex ratio in the district.

TABLE 3

HANUMANGARH DISTRIC: SEX RATIO BY TEHSILS

Tehsil	2001			2011		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Sangria	892	896	881	900	901	897
Tibi	898	898	0	918	918	0
Hanumangarh	880	889	863	900	904	893
Pilibanga	895	899	876	902	904	892
Rawatsar	905	907	895	916	917	912

Nohar	900	900	899	905	904	912
Bhadra	898	898	900	909	908	913
District	894	898	879	906	908	900

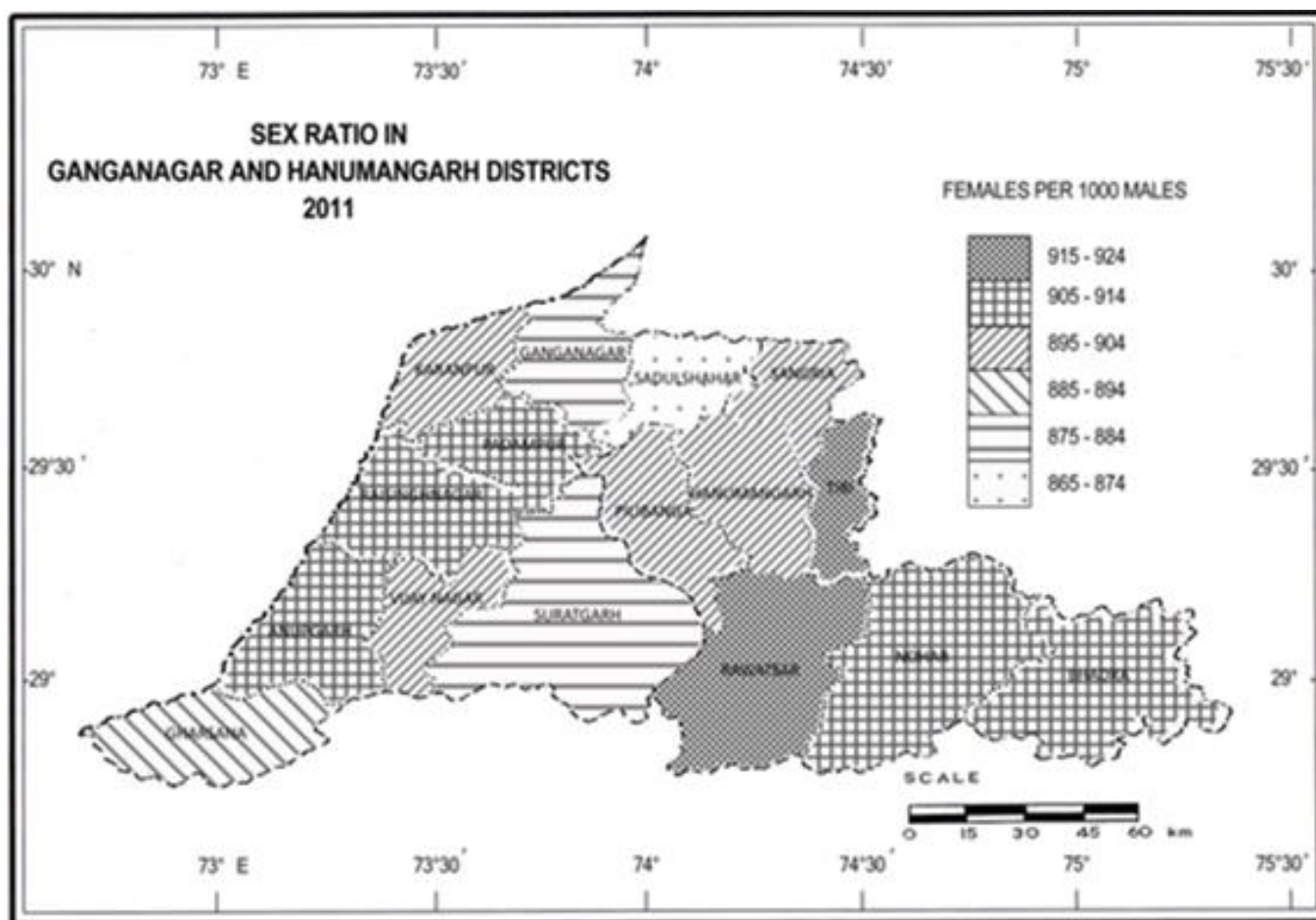
Source: Census of India (2011), Provisional Population Totals, Paper 2, Vol II, Data on Rural and Urban areas Table 4 Series 9, Rajasthan, P.32.

Census of India (2001), District Census Handbook, , Rajasthan, Part XII,

A –B, Hanumangarh, Directorate of Census Operation, Rajasthan,Jaipur, P.27.

As table 3 reveals that the sex ratio in Hanumangarh district at tehsil level is comparatively higher than that of Ganganagar district tehsils. The highest sex ratio of 918 females per 1000 males was registered in Tibi tehsil and the lowest of 900 each Sangria and Hanumangarh tehsil. All seven tehsils of the district recorded an improvement in its sex ratio in the census of 2011. The highest improvement of 20 points was by each Tibi and Hanumangarh tehsil. The sex ratio of Tibi tehsil increased from 898 females per 1000 males in 2001 to 918 in 2011 and of Hanumangarh tehsil from 880 in 2001 to 900 in

2011. In rural areas, the highest sex ratio of 918 was reported in Tibi tehsil followed by Rawatsar tehsil with 917 Bhadra with 908 females per 1000 males in 2011. The lowest rural sex ratio of 901 was recorded in Sangria tehsil followed by each Hanumangarh, Pilibanga and Sangria tehsil with 904 females per 1000 males in 2011. On the other side, the highest urban sex ratio of 913 reported by Bhadra tehsil followed by each Rawatsar and Nohar tehsil with 912 females per 1000 males in the census of 2011. The lowest urban sex ratio of 897 females per 1000 males was registered in Sangria tehsil in 2011.



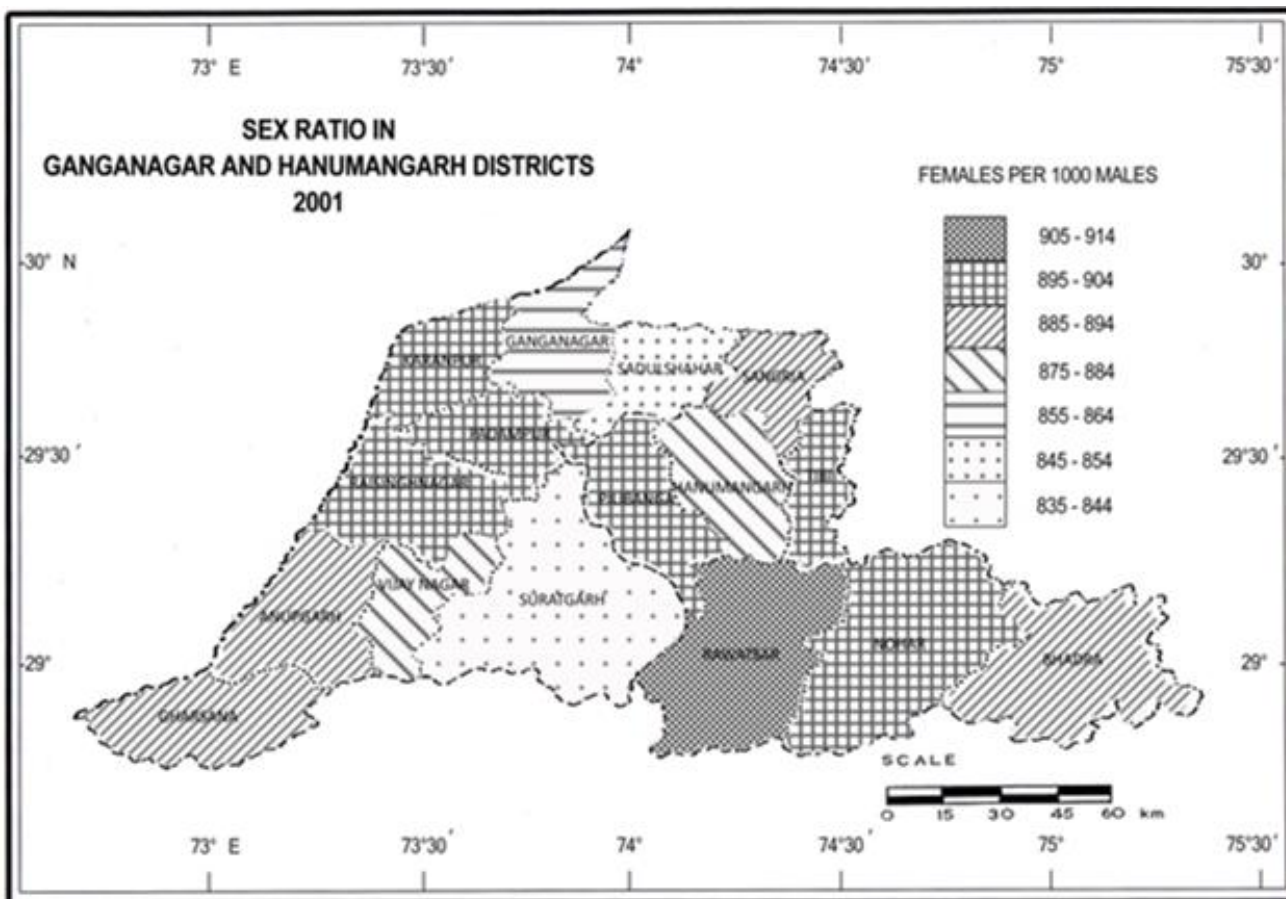


TABLE 4

GANGANAGAR DISTRICT: SEX RATIO OF CHILD POPULATION IN THE AGE GROUP 0-6

Tehsil	2001			2011		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Karanpur	829	831	822	846	845	849
Ganganagar	811	821	802	829	839	819
Sadulsahar	810	816	779	851	854	842
Padampur	831	841	786	845	841	868
Raisinghnagar	855	853	871	863	862	867
Anupgarh	878	892	799	876	883	838
Gharsana	883	887	816	870	869	872
Vijaynagar	870	876	826	864	868	844
Suratgarh	887	895	854	866	863	876
Dist.	850	861	814	854	859	841

Source: Census of India (2011), Provisional Population Totals, Paper 2, Vol II, Data

On Rural and Urban areas Table 4 Series 9, Rajasthan, P.32.

Census of India (2001), District Census Handbook, , Rajasthan, Part XII,

A -B, Ganganagar, Directorate of Census Operation, Rajasthan,Jaipur, P.28.

CHILD SEX RATIO:

Child sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years has declined at

national level as well as at the state level. At national level child sex ratio has declined by 13 points, from 927 in 2001 to 914 in 2011. Child sex ratio of Rajasthan was 909 in 2001 which declined by 26 points in 2011 and reached at 883. But, in Ganganagar district child sex ratio was marginally improved by 4 points, from 850 in 2001 to 854 in 2011. But Ganganagar district included in the districts of the state where child sex ratio was the lowest in the state in 2011. Ganganagar district has fourth lowest child sex ratio in the state. The lowest child sex ratio was recorded in Jhunjhunu (831) followed by Sikar district (841), Karauli (844), Ganganagar (854) and Dhaulpur (854) in

2011. The highest child sex ratio was witnessed by newly created tribal district Pratapgarh (926) followed by Banswara district (935) and Udaipur (920).

At tehsil level, the lowest child sex ratio (829) was registered in Ganganagar tehsil followed by Padampur tehsil (845), Karanpur tehsil (846) Sadulsahar tehsil (851), and Raisinghnagar tehsil (863) in 2011. All these five tehsil has shown an improvement in child sex ratio over 2001 census. But, still the child sex ratio in these tehsils except Raisinghnagar is below the district child sex ratio (954). On the other hand, the highest child sex ratio (876) was recorded by Anupgarh tehsil followed by Gharsana tehsil (870), Suratgarh tehsil (866) and Vijaynagar tehsil (864) in 2011.

TABLE 5

HANUMANGARH DISTRICT: SEX RATIO OF CHILD POPULATION IN THE AGE GROUP 0-6

Tehsil	2001			2011		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Sangria	841	849	810	827	838	788
Hanumangarh	844	876	854	869	875	845
Tibi	881	881	-	873	873	-
Pilibanga	867	874	836	868	876	825
Rawatsar	918	917	927	899	910	841
Nohar	892	889	911	883	881	894
Bhadra	869	874	837	866	870	843
Hanumangarh Dist.	872	876	854	869	875	845

Source: Census of India (2011), Provisional Population Totals, Paper 2, Vol II, Data

On Rural and Urban areas Table 4 Series 9, Rajasthan, P.32.

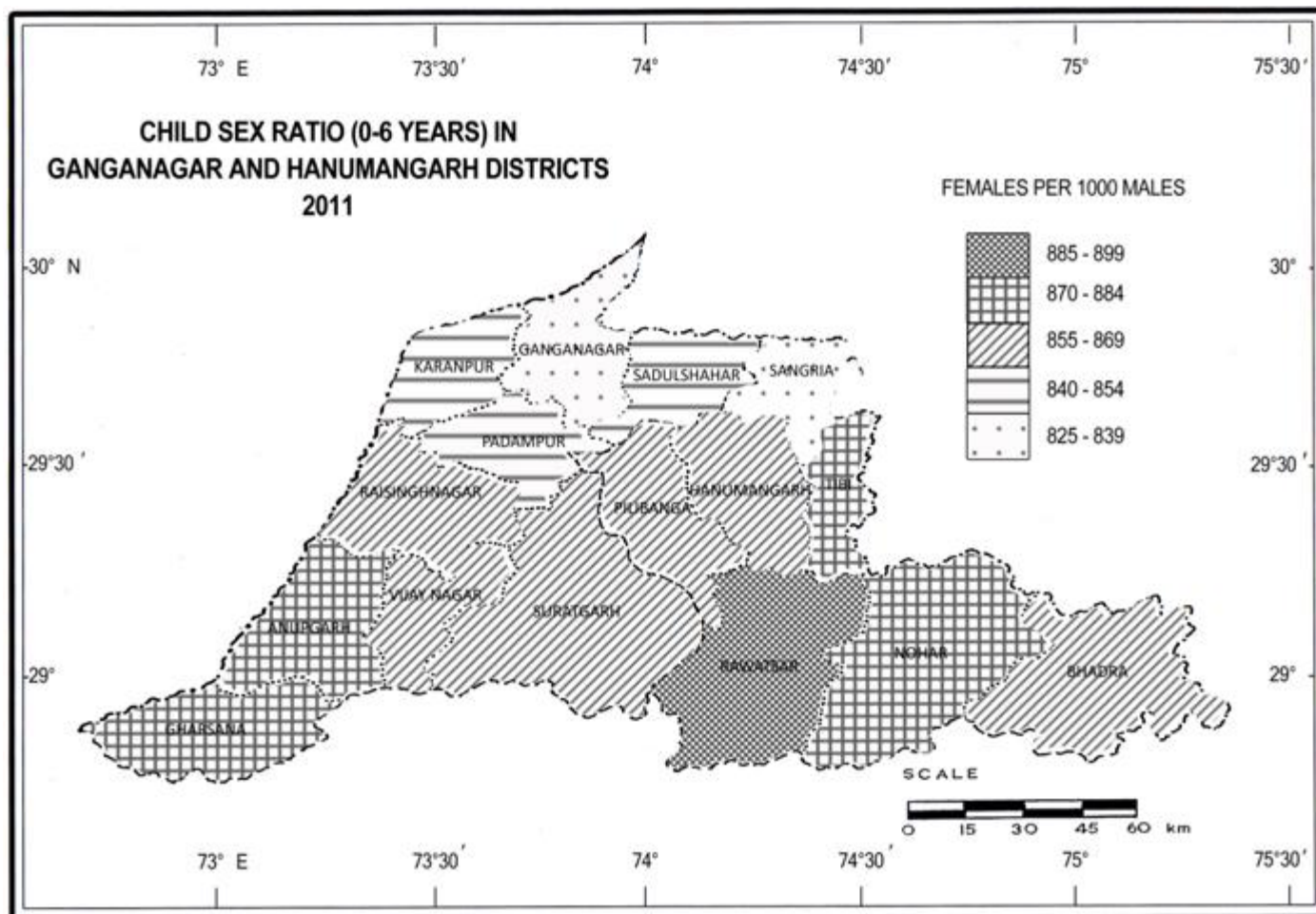
Census of India (2001), District Census Handbook, , Rajasthan, Part XII,

A -B, Hanumangarh, Directorate of Census Operation, Rajasthan, Jaipur, P.28.

As table 5 reveals that the child sex ratio of Hanumangarh district in all three categories, i.e. total, rural and urban sex ratio, decreased in census of 2011. The child sex ratio of the district was decreased by 3 points from 872 in 2001 to 869 in 2011. The highest child sex ratio of 899 was recorded in Rawatsar tehsil and the lowest 827 by Sangria tehsil in 2011. Sangria also recorded the lowest child sex

ratio of 827 in its rural areas followed by Bhadra tehsil with 870, Tibi with 873 and Pilibanga with 876. The highest rural child sex ratio of 919 was registered by

Rawatsar tehsil and the next 881 by Nohar tehsil. In urban areas, the highest rural child sex ratio of 894 was witnessed in Nohar tehsil followed by Hanumangarh tehsil with 845 and Bhadra with 843. The lowest rural child sex ratio of 788 was recorded in Sangria tehsil followed by Pilibanga with 825 and Rawatsar with 841 in its urban areas. As table 5 represents that Hanumangarh district has maintained higher child sex ratio in all three categories, i.e. total, rural and , urban child sex ratio in comparison to Ganganagar district.



CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The present study data analysis concludes that the sex ratio of both districts is in the favour of sons than daughters. Sex ratio of the study area, comprising of Ganganagar district (887) and Hanumangarh district (906), was low than that of the state average (926) recorded by census of India, 2011. Sex ratio of both districts remained lower than the state average at every census since 1901. Further, the sex ratio of Ganganagar district has never crossed the 900 mark till now. Son preference is still deep rooted in our traditional society.

Thus, continued son preference attitude of society is threat to unborn girl child and sex determination technology of unborn child, yet it is banned, further aggravates the sex ratio in favour of males. To improve sex ratio it may be suggested that creating awareness in the society by spiritual leaders and saints to avoid the dubious practices like sex selection of unborn child, if it is female, then female foeticide. Second, the doctors found responsible for practicing of sex determination tests and guilty of abortion should be punished and their licenses be cancelled once for all. Third, to neutralize the son preference factor of

society the people should be motivated to perform rituals by daughters in lieu of sons at parents' cremations. Fourth, the couples having a single female child should be provided free medical care and a handsome old age

pension. Those in government service should be given some additional annual increments for talking greater care of the female child. Fifth, the empowerment of women through reservation of jobs in public as well as private sector institutions would improve their status in the society. This would also increase their decision-making skills and would be helpful in opposing the family's pressure for sex-selective abortion.

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