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RESEARCH PAPER
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Comparative Study of Regional Disparity of Sex-Ratio in Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Statistics reveal that in India, males significantly outnumber females and this imbalance has increased over time. According to 2011 census report, the sex ratio stands at 936 per 1000 males. Since childhood, Women face discrimination. In childhood and adulthood, males are fed first and better. The social tradition also requires that women eat last and least throughout their lives even when they are pregnant and in lactating condition. Underfed women give birth to malnourished children. Across the World, women receive less healthcare facilities than men. Many women in rural areas die in childbirth due to easily preventable complications. According to census 2011, Uttar Pradesh has huge population (199581477 persons) and continues to be the most populous state in the country. Here in Uttar Pradesh the birth of the male is rejoiced, whereas the birth of a female filled with pain. Boys are showered with love, respect, better food and proper health care. Similarly, Males are promoted to be tough and outgoing while females are encouraged to be homely and shy. All these differences are gender differences and they are created by our society. In the present study, an attempt has been made to examine the Comparative Study of Regional Disparity of Sex-Ratio in Uttar Pradesh.

Key Words : Regional Disparity, Eastern Region, Western Region, Central Region, Bundelkhand Region, Sex Ratio

INTRODUCTION

According to census 2011, Uttar Pradesh has huge population (199581477 persons) and continues to be the most populous state in the country. Here in Uttar Pradesh the birth of the male is rejoiced, whereas the birth of a female filled with pain. Boys are showered with love, respect, better food and proper health care. Males are promoted to be tough and outgoing while females are encouraged to be homely and shy. All these differences are gender differences and they are created by our society.

Review of Literature:

Barro and Jong-wha (1994) use a panel data set of 138 countries to examine the empirical determinants of growth, including measures for both male and female schooling. In what they see as a "puzzling finding", female education is negatively correlated with growth. Barro and Lee attribute this to a sign of "backwardness" in the society, where gender differences are picking up on aspects of undeveloped countries that may not have been captured with an initial GDP variable. Therefore, such less developed countries may experience higher growth rates due to a convergence mechanism.

Psacharopoulos (1994) finds that returns to female education are positive and higher than, their male counterparts. This micro literature also points to indirect benefits from gender equality.

Quibria (1995) "Gender and Poverty: Issues and Policies with Special Reference to Asian Developing Countries." has studied and found that across the globe, women are less educated and receive worse healthcare than their male counterparts receive.

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Bils and Klenow (1998) assert that it is not education that leads to growth, but growth that leads to education. As has been shown in past studies, returns to education increase substantially as an economy becomes more developed.

Behrman *et al.* (1999) find that children of more literate mothers in India study nearly two more hours a night. In addition, gender inequality has been shown to influence a number of development related goals, such as lower fertility rates, higher education rates, and better child health.

Seguino (2000a; 2000b) has studied and found that in a sample of export-oriented Asian nations, higher rates of growth are actually correlated with higher rates of gender inequality. She attributes this to the ability of firms to pay female labor less than males without fear of backlash or revolution, thus spurring investment.

Sen (2001), in his essay "Many Faces of Gender Inequality", opined that there is need to take a plural view of gender inequality, which can have many different faces. The prominent faces of gender injustice can vary from one region to another, and also from one period to the next. He further described that the Gender inequality hurts the interests not only of girls and grown-up women, but also of boys and men, through biological connections (such as childhood undernourishment and cardiovascular diseases at later ages) and also through societal connections (including in politics and in economic and social life).

Esteve-Volart (2004) finds that when studying different states in India, those with higher rates of gender discrimination exhibit lower growth rates compared to others. However, do these concerns impact the growth of the country.

Awoyemi and Adetola (2006) have examined the effect that gender inequality in employment has in rural cassava farm holdings in southwest Nigeria, and found that increased gender inequality decreases productive efficiency.

Quentin (2008), "The Effect of Gender Inequality on Growth: A Cross-Country Empirical Study" has studied and found that an underinvestment in women's education has a negative effect on growth.

Objective of the Study:

The main objective of the study is:

To Highlight the Regional Disparity of Sex-Ratio in Uttar Pradesh.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on secondary data source. The data are collected from Census of India and Department of Statistics. The time series and cross sectional data are collected for 4 different regions of Uttar Pradesh. We have taken 71 districts of Eastern Region, Western Region, Bundelkhand Region and Central Region for comparison of the Sex Ratio in Uttar Pradesh.

Limitations of the study:

Doing research on Sex-Ratio is very complicated in nature because society has traditional as well as modern characteristics simultaneously. Moreover, the secondary data source has its own limitations. In spite of the above difficulties, an attempt is made here to bring out information and analyze it with all care.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Meaning of Sex-Ratio:

Sex ratio is the simple way to understand gender inequality. Generally, if the sex ratio of any society is high it means gender equality otherwise, it seems gender inequality. Statistics reveal that in India, males significantly outnumber females and this imbalance has increased over time. According to 2011 census, report the sex ratio stands at 936 per 1000 males. Out of the total population, 180 million are women who live in abject poverty. The maternal mortality rate in rural areas is among the world's highest. The deaths of young girls in India exceed those of young boys by over 300,000 each year and every 6th infant death is specifically due to gender discrimination.

Regional Disparity of Sex Ratio in Uttar Pradesh:

It would be quite useful to analyze sex ratio in different regions of Uttar Pradesh and compare it with not only each other but national average as well. Uttar Pradesh has 4 regions, namely Eastern Region, Western Region, Central Region and Bundelkhand Region. We have taken Eastern Region, Western Region, Bundelkhand Region and Central Region for comparison of the Sex Ratio in Uttar Pradesh.

Sex Ratio in Eastern Region of Uttar Pradesh (1951-2011):

It can be observed from the Table 1 that as far as eastern region of Uttar Pradesh is concern it consists of 27 districts. Most of the districts are backward in nature.

However, this eastern reign of Uttar Pradesh is having better Sex-Ratio compared to other region in Uttar Pradesh.

In 1951, the average of 27 districts is 976 per thousand, which is highest in U.P. Moreover, few districts of this region mainly, Baliya (1041) Pratapgarh (1039), Deoria (1031), Azamgarh (1024), Jaunpur (1024), SantRavidasNagar / Bhadohi (1022), Mau (1001) and Gajipur (1000) have more than thousand Sex-Ratio. These districts are not only highest in all regions of Uttar Pradesh but also National too. However, this bright picture of Sex Ratio has diminished in 2001, where the average of 27 districts declined to 941 per thousand.

Due to awareness of society and Government incentives this declining situation of Sex Ratio has changed in 2011 and significantly increased up to 947 per thousand, which is not only greater than U.P's Average Sex-Ratio (908) but also National average of 936 per thousand.

Sex Ratio in Western Region of Uttar Pradesh (1951-2011):

It can be clearly observed from the Table 2 that as far as western region of Uttar Pradesh is concern it also consists of 27 districts. In this reign most of the districts are forward in nature. However, this western reign of Uttar Pradesh is having worse Sex-Ratio compared to

Table 1 : Sex Ratio in Eastern Region of Uttar Pradesh (1951-2011)

Districts of Eastern Region of Uttar Pradesh
Sex-Ratio 1951-2011
(In 1951 U.P's Average Sex-Ratio : 908)
(In 2001 U.P's Average Sex-Ratio : 898)
(In 2011 U.P's Average Sex-Ratio : 908)
(In 2011 India's Average Sex-Ratio : 936)

Districts	Year		
	1951	2001	2011
Pratapgarh	1039	1004	994
Kaushambi	958	895	905
Allahabad	943	879	902
Faizabad	961	939	961
Ambedkar Nagar	974	978	976
Sultanpur	998	980	978
Bahraich	903	868	891
Shrawasti	917	857	875
Balrampur	931	895	922
Gonda	931	906	922
Siddharth Nagar	965	948	970
Basti	945	938	959
Sant Kabir Nagar	964	974	969
Mahrajganj	964	934	938
Gorakhpur	996	960	944
Kushi Nagar	975	963	955
Deoria	1031	1002	1013
Azamgarh	1024	1020	1017
Mau	1001	986	978
Ballia	1041	953	933
Jaunpur	1024	1014	1018
Gazipur	1000	976	951
Chandauli	971	922	913
Varanasi	923	903	909
Sant Ravidas Nagar	1022	917	950
Mirzapur	985	897	900
Sonbhadra	966	899	913
Average of 27 Districts	976	941	947

Table 2 : Sex Ratio in Western Region of Uttar Pradesh (1951-2011)

Districts of Western Region of Uttar Pradesh
Sex-Ratio 1951-2011
(In 1951 U.P's Average Sex-Ratio : 908)
(In 2001 U.P's Average Sex-Ratio : 898)
(In 2011 U.P's Average Sex-Ratio : 908)
(In 2011 India's Average Sex-Ratio : 936)

Districts	Year		
	1951	2001	2011
Saharanpur	928	865	887
Muzaffarnagar	926	871	886
Moradabad	860	875	903
Rampur	863	879	905
Meerut	825	872	885
Baghpat	836	847	858
Ghaziabad	854	860	878
Gautam Budha Nagar	875	839	852
Bulandshahar	883	879	892
Aligarh	860	862	876
Mathura	846	840	858
Agra	847	846	859
Firozabad	848	851	867
Mahamaya Nagar	852	858	870
Bijnor	886	896	913
Jyotiba phule Nagar	879	885	907
Auraiya	835	856	864
Farrukhabad	842	848	874
Knnauj	833	866	879
Etawah	844	858	867
Etah	872	850	863
Mainpuri	865	857	876
Budaun	844	842	859
Bareilly	844	871	833
Pilibhit	857	877	889
Shahjhapur	825	841	865
Kashiram Nagar (Kasganj)	867	849	879
Average of 27 Districts	859	861	876

other region in Uttar Pradesh. In 1951, the average of 27 districts is 859 per thousand, which is lowest in U.P. Moreover, few districts of this region mainly, Meerut (825), Shahjhapur (825), Shahjhapur (825), Auraiya (835), Baghpat (836), Etawah (844), Budaun(844), Bareilly (844), Mathura (846), Agra (847), Firozabad (848) and Ghaziabad (854), have very low Sex-Ratio. These districts are not only lowest in all regions of Uttar Pradesh but also National too. However, this worst situation of Sex Ratio has slightly increased in 2001, where the average of 27 districts declined to 861 per thousand.

Due to awareness of society and Government incentives this increment of Sex Ratio has further improved in 2011 and increased up to 876 per thousand. However, this is not only lower than U.P's Average Sex-Ratio (908) but also National average of 936 per thousand.

Sex Ratio in Bundelkhand Region of Uttar Pradesh (1951-2011):

It can be observed from the table no.3 that as far as Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh is concern it consists only 7 districts. Most of the districts are not only backward in nature but also have less rainfall compared to other region. However, this region of Uttar Pradesh is having terrible Sex-Ratio compared to other region in Uttar Pradesh.

Table 1 : Sex Ratio in Bundelkhand Region of Uttar Pradesh (1951-2011)

Districts of Bundelkhand Region of Uttar Pradesh
SEX-RATIO 1951-2011
(In 1951 U.P's Average Sex-Ratio : 908)
(In 2001 U.P's Average Sex-Ratio : 898)
(In 2011 U.P's Average Sex-Ratio : 908)
(In 2011 India's Average Sex-Ratio : 936)

Districts	Year		
	1951	2001	2011
Jalaun	908	849	865
Jannsi	916	871	885
Lalitpur	931	882	905
Hamirpur	937	852	860
Mahoba	958	864	880
Banda	931	860	863
Chitrakoot	910	872	879
Average	927	864	877

In 1951, the average of 7 districts is 927 per thousand. Furthermore, few districts of this region mainly, Mahoba (958) Hamirpur (937), and Lalitpur (931) have quite good Sex-Ratio. However, this diminish picture of Sex Ratio has become more diminished in 2001, where the average of 7 districts declined to 864 per thousand.

Though, awareness of society and Government incentives has changed the situation a little. Consequently, the Sex Ratio in this region has somewhat changed in 2011 and slightly increased up to 877 per thousand, which is still showing worse Sex-Ratio in this region. Because of continuous drought, illiteracy and poverty in this region the society has become worse in sex-ratio.

Sex Ratio in Central Region of Uttar Pradesh (1951-2011):

It can be clearly observed from the table no.4 that as far as Central Region of Uttar Pradesh is concern it consists of 10 districts. In this region most of the districts are forward in nature. However, this Central Region of Uttar Pradesh is having worse Sex-Ratio compared to other region in Uttar Pradesh. In 1951, the average of 10 districts is 870 per thousand. Kanpur Nagar has sex-ratio of 770, which is lowest in U.P. Moreover, few districts of this region mainly, Lucknow (842), Kheri (850), Kanpur Dehat (855), Sitapur (860), and Hardoi (864), have very low Sex-Ratio. However, this situation of Sex Ratio has slightly increased in 2001, where the average of 10 districts slightly increased to 880 per thousand. It has further improved a little in 2011 and increased up to 888 per thousand. This is because of industrial development in this Central Region. Mostly men

Table 2 : Sex Ratio in Central Region of Uttar Pradesh (1951-2011)

Districts of Central Region of Uttar Pradesh
SEX-RATIO 1951-2011
(In 1951 U.P's Average Sex-Ratio : 908)
(In 2001 U.P's Average Sex-Ratio : 898)
(In 2011 U.P's Average Sex-Ratio : 908)
(In 2011 India's Average Sex-Ratio : 936)

District	Year		
	1951	2001	2011
Kheri	850	871	887
Sitapur	860	864	856
Hardoi	864	844	901
Unnao	902	898	906
Lucknow	842	888	941
Rae Bareli	954	951	862
Kanpur Dehat	855	852	862
Kanpur Nagar	770	855	852
Fatehpur	915	893	900
Barabanki	888	887	908
Average	870	880	888

came here for employment reason from other parts of Uttar Pradesh and make the sex-ratio unfavorable to the female. However, this is not only lower than U.P's Average Sex-Ratio (908) but also National average of 936 per thousand.

Central Region vs. Bundelkhand Region vs. Eastern Region vs. Western Region:

This is quite interesting to compare Sex Ratio of Eastern Region, Bundelkhand Region, Central Region and Western Region of Uttar Pradesh. Since 1951 the average Sex Ratio of Eastern Region (976 in 1951), (941 in 2001) and (947 in 2011) is greater than the average Sex Ratio of Western Region (859 in 1951), (861 in 2001) and (876 in 2011). Since 1951 the average Sex Ratio of Bundelkhand Region (927 in 1951), (864 in 2001) and (877 in 2011) is greater than the average Sex Ratio of Central Region (870 in 1951), (880 in 2001) and (888 in 2011). Eastern Uttar Pradesh (976 in 1951, 941 in 2001 and 947 in 2011) have the highest sex ratio, followed by Bundelkhand Region (927 in 1951, 864 in 2001 and 877 in 2011), Central Region (870 in 1951, 880 in 2001and 888 in 2011) and Western Region (859 in 1951, 861 in 2001 and 876 in 2011).

Hence, As far as Sex Ratio is concerned, it is clearly evident that Eastern Region is significantly better than Bundelkhand Region, Central Region and Western Region of Uttar Pradesh. Besides, Western Region is placed rear as compared to other regions in Uttar Pradesh.

It can be indicated that as far as sex-ratio is concerned the four regions of Uttar Pradesh have following order-

Eastern Uttar Pradesh > Bundelkhand Region > Central Region > and Western Region

Conclusion:

From the above discussion it can be concluded that Eastern Uttar Pradesh (976 in 1951, 941 in 2001 and 947 in 2011) have the highest sex ratio, followed by Bundelkhand Region (927 in 1951, 864 in 2001 and 877 in 2011), Central Region (870 in 1951, 880 in 2001and 888 in 2011) and Western Region (859 in 1951, 861 in 2001 and 876 in 2011).

Hence, As far as Sex Ratio is concerned, it is clearly evident from this study that Eastern Region is significantly better than Bundelkhand Region, Central Region and Western Region of Uttar Pradesh. Besides, Western Region is placed rear as compared to other regions in Uttar Pradesh.

It can be indicated that as far as sex-ratio is concerned the four regions of Uttar Pradesh have following order-

Eastern Uttar Pradesh > Bundelkhand Region > Central Region > and Western Region

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