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A Study on Sex Composition of Tribal Population in Nashik District, Maharashtra

Dr. N. R. Kapadnis[1] & R. S. Pawar[2]

[1]Agasti Arts, Commerce and Dadasaheb Rupwate Science College, Akole, Ahmednagar, Maharastra, India.
[2]Research Student, Agasti Arts, Commerce and Dadasaheb Rupwate Science College, Akole, Ahmednagar, Maharastra, India.

Abstract

The age and the sex structure of the population are the most important demographic characteristics that are captured by a census of a population. Age and sex are two attributes that largely influence an individual's role in society. An attempt will be made in this paper to examine the various aspects of age and sex composition of the tribal population of Nashik District using data collected from the censuses. Sex and age are the basic characteristics or the biological attributes, of any demographic group and affect not only its demographic but also its social, economic and political structure, for they influence birth and death rate, internal and international migration, marital status composition, manpower, the gross national product, planning regarding educational and medical services and housing etc. This point may be further established with illustrations. From the sex-age distribution of any population, estimates of school-age population may be made and on that basis, one may arrive at an estimate of the number of educational institutions, teachers, playgrounds, text-books, etc., which will be needed. Similarly, estimates of the number of voters, entrants in the labour force, etc., may also be made. Even in the field of social welfare, the planning of social services for instance, for mothers and children, for the aged, etc. has to be based on the sex-age distribution of the population. This type of data is also required before any promotional campaigns can be carried out in certain parts of the country, with a view to determining the needs of consumers in quantitative terms.

Introduction

Population data are invariably classified by sex and age and then made available to data users. All data on fertility, mortality, migration, marital status, and economic characteristics are first presented separately for males and females and are cross-classified according to age. Sex and age are also very important because they are the "visible, indisputable and convenient indicators of social status." Each individual is ascribed a certain status in society on the basis of sex and age. Similarly, his/her expected role in the family and society is associated with sex and age. These are culturally determined and vary from one culture to another. Even within the same culture, they may undergo changes over a period of time. It is well-known, for instance, that in the traditional Hindu family, status is accorded on the basis of sex and age; men are more important than women and older persons are more important than younger persons.

Today, however, the situation has changed considerably and many women take to gainful employment though men have not taken to housekeeping. This has happened in the large cities of developing countries as well. Sex is an easily identifiable characteristic and its dichotomous nature presents few problems for classification. The data on sex are also easily obtained. For the study of the sex-structure of any population, the following two measures are generally adopted: (1) the percentage of males in the population or masculinity proportion, and (2) the sex ratio. Of these two measures, the latter is more frequently used in the study of population. The sex ratio of a population may either be expressed as the number of males per 100 females or as the number of females per 100 males. The present discussion on sex-structure will be based on the former definition of sex ratio, for this is the one that is followed the world over, though the Indian census has preferred to follow the latter definition. When the sex ratio is defined as the number of males per 100 females, the sex ratio above 100 indicates a high sex ratio, while that below 100 is considered to be a low sex ratio.

Materials and Methods

The present study is primarily based on both secondary and primary data. The secondary data have been obtained from Statistical Handbooks, District Census Handbook, Socioeconomic Abstract of Nashik District, Tribal Development Department Nashik, Tribal Research and Training Institute, Pune and Census of India from 1991 to 2011.

Correspondence
R.S.Pawar
E-mail: rajendra_pawar2007@yahoo.co.in

Tribal Sex Composition

The population exhibits certain inhabitant characteristics in term of sex composition. The change in sex composition largely reflects the underlying socio-economic conditions and cultural patterns of the society. The ratio between male and female is called sex ratio. In India, sex ratio is defined as the number of females per 1000 males' population and it is useful indicator to measure the gender equity in region at a given point of time. The primary sex ratio is the ratio at the time of conception, secondary sex ratio is the ratio at time of birth and tertiary is the ratio of mature organisms. The changes in gender composition largely depend on social, economic conditions and cultural pattern of the society. Moreover, sex ratio measures the prevailing equality between males and females and has on outcome of interplay of sex differentials in mortality, sex selective migration, sex ratio at time of birth, sex differential in population enumeration (Census of India, 2001). The sex ratio influences the economic conditions, migration, occupation structure, marriage status, fertility, mortality and growth of rate population.

Table 1
Tribal Population Sex Ratio (1991 to 2011)

Sr. No.	Tahsil	Sex Ratio			Volume of Change
		1991	**2001**	**2011**	**1991-2011**
1	Nashik	914	932	933	19
2	Peint	993	998	990	-3
3	Dindori	978	971	973	-5
4	Surgana	993	995	1004	12
5	Kalwan	994	1000	989	-5
6	Baglan	946	969	968	22
7	Malegaon	944	970	957	14
8	Chandvad	977	983	973	-4
9	Nandgaon	930	950	958	27
10	Yevla	923	981	994	70
11	Niphad	968	976	974	5
12	Sinnar	947	976	951	3
13	Igatpuri	978	978	979	1
14	Trimbakeshwar	N.A.	990	991	N.A.
15	Deola	N.A.	960	963	N.A.
	District Total	**966**	**976**	**974**	**8**

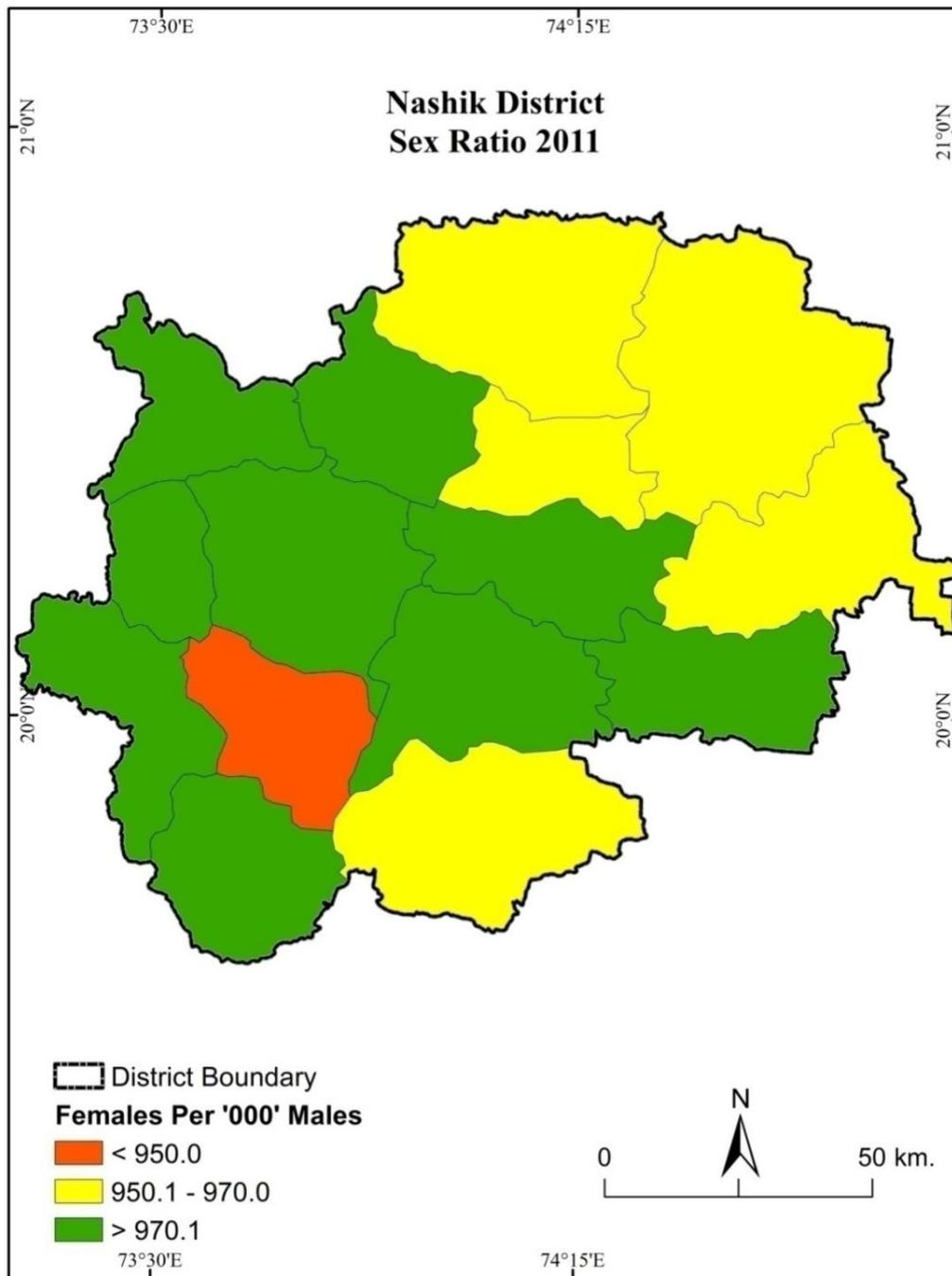**Source:** District Census Handbook of Nashik District for 1991, 2001 and 2011.
Note: N.A. = Data not available, Computed by Researcher.

Result

In nutshell, sex ratio in 1981 represents no gender discrimination, no son preference and ignorance of sonography. In 2001, tribal sex ratio was 976 in study region. The lowest sex ratio was found in Nashik tahsil (932) due to urbanization, industrialization and male in-migration in Nashik City for jobs, education and other services. The highest tribal sex ratio was observed in Kalvan (1000) followed by Peint (998), Surgana (995), Trimbakeshwar (990), Chandvad (983), Yevla (981), Igatpuri (978). Niphad (976) and Sinner (976) tahsils. The sex ratio between 950 to 975 was found in Malegaon (970), Baglan (969), Devala (960) and Nandgaon (950). High tribal sex ratio in west part and moderate sex ratio in central and east parts in study region. Tribal sex ratio in 1981 was 979 and it was 976 in 2001.

In 2011, tribal sex ratio was 974 in study region. The lowest sex ratio was found in Nashik tahsil (933) due to urbanization, industrialization and male in-migration in Nashik City for jobs, education and other services. The highest tribal sex ratio was observed in Surgana (1004) followed by Yevla (994), Trimbakeshwar (991), Peint (990), Kalvan (989) and Igatpuri (979). The sex ratio between 950 to 975 was found in Niphad (974), Dindori (973), Chandvad (973), Baglan (968), Deola (963), Nandgaon (958), Malegaon (957) and Sinnar (951). High tribal sex ratio in west part and moderate sex ratio in central and east parts in study region. Tribal sex ratio in 2001 was 976 and it was 974 in 2011.

Figure I
Tribal Sex Ratio in Nashik District-2011

Age-Sex Composition

      The socio-economic conditions and way of living within community affects considerably by relative numbers of population in each age. The age structure of population is classified by sex in the form of age-sex pyramid. The base of pyramid presents the low age i.e. zero.

Table 2

Age-Sex Structure of Tribal Population in Nashik District-2011

Age Groups	Total					
	Persons	Percent	Males	Percent	Females	Percent
0-4	180118	11.51	92320	51.26	87798	48.74
'5-9	187447	11.98	95795	51.11	91652	48.89
'10-14	191150	12.22	99051	51.82	92099	48.18
15-19	158103	10.11	82793	52.37	75310	47.63
20-24	151514	9.69	75119	49.58	76395	50.42
25-29	131495	8.41	67179	51.09	64316	48.91
30-34	110253	7.05	56171	50.95	54082	49.05
35-39	95974	6.13	48735	50.78	47239	49.22
40-44	79319	5.07	39716	50.07	39603	49.93
45-49	67845	4.34	33994	50.11	33851	49.89
50-54	56025	3.58	28249	50.42	27776	49.58
55-59	43717	2.79	21369	48.88	22348	51.12
60-64	40718	2.60	19011	46.69	21707	53.31
65-69	32377	2.07	14937	46.13	17440	53.87
70-74	19615	1.25	9249	47.15	10366	52.85
75-79	7995	0.51	3688	46.13	4307	53.87
80+	7120	0.46	3227	45.32	3893	54.68
Age not stated	3584	0.23	1944	54.24	1640	45.76
All ages	**1564369**	**100.00**	**792547**	**50.66**	**771822**	**49.34**

Source: District Census Handbook of Nashik District-2011.
Note: Computed by Researcher.

Discussion

The top of pyramid indicates the maximum age above 80 years. The pyramid becomes conic when it moves upward indicting region is in developing stage (Jhingan and others, 2006). The developing countries are passing through this second stage. Population is increasing rapidly and the expectancy of life and dependent ratio has found increasing. The population age can be categorized in three broad age groups, namely, young (0-14), adult (15-59) and old (60 and above). The social and economic condition reflects in these three age groups (Clarke, 1972).

Conclusion

Tribal sex ratio in study region for 1991 and 2011. According 1991 Census, total tribal population sex ratio in study region was 966 females. Kalvan tahsil accounts 994 females and has ranked first in study region. The sex ratio of more than 975 females has observed in all tahsils except Nashik, Baglan, Malegaon, Nandgaon, Yevla, Niphad and Sinner tahsils in study region. The sex ratio between 950 to 975 was found in Igatpuri tahsil. Nashik

tahsil exhibits lowest sex ratio (914) in study region. High sex ratio in west, north, east and central parts and moderate sex ratio in south part in study region. This has attributed to tribal out-migration for seeking jobs and imparting education.

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