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# Review Of Research



## ADVERSE CHILD SEX RATIO (0-6 YEARS) IN MANDYA DISTRICT: A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS



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### ABSTRACT

**S**kewed sex composition is believed to be a reflection of gender-based unequal treatment by the families and society at large. The sex ratio of girls to boys in the age group of 0-6 years, is a telling indicator of social well-being. This paper analyses the pace, geography and causes of deteriorating child sex ratio in Mandya district. Findings reveal that though Mandya district has registered a slight improvement in overall sex ratio between 2001 and 2011, Geography of declining child sex ratio indicates that epicentres of low child sex ratio have expanded spatially. The downward trend is an indication of female foeticide and higher mortality rate among girl children. The situation is going to worsen in the future in the light of

diffusion of sex-detection technologies to the rural and urban areas.

**KEYWORDS :** Child Sex Ratio, Crime, Geography, foeticide, Infanticide.

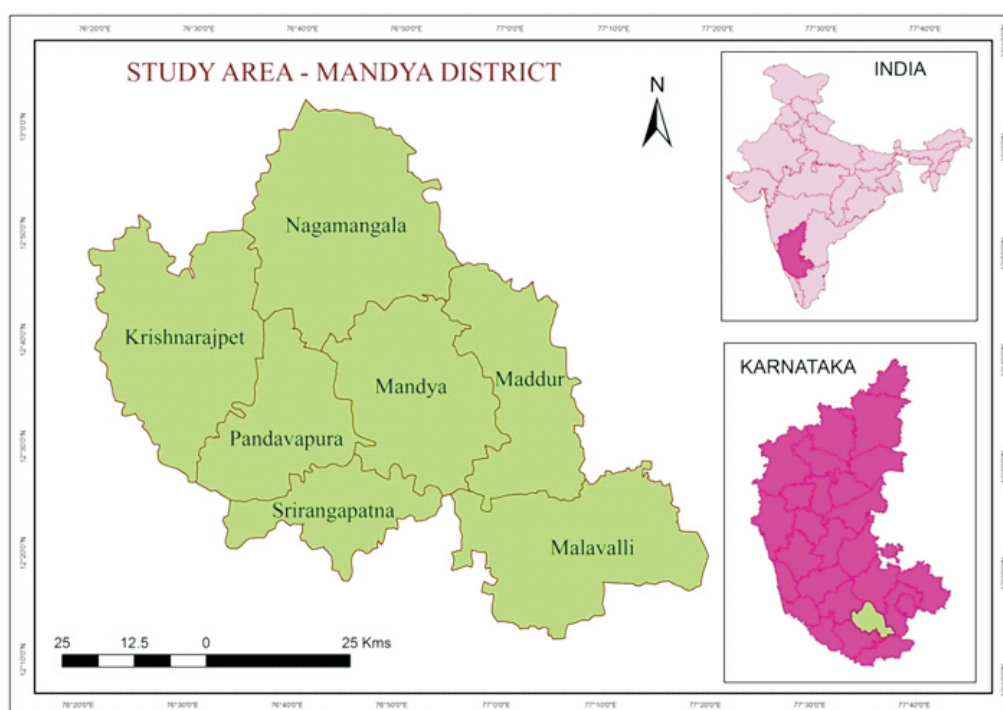
### INTRODUCTION

Sex composition is one of the basic demographic characteristics and provides meaningful insights into the social processes prevalent in any society. The sex ratio of female to male or male to female is a telling indicator of sex composition. Sex ratio clearly reflects the extent of prevailing equity between males and females in a society. The adverse consequences of declining sex ratio are felt, particularly with respect to marriage, sexual violence, trafficking and crime. In India, while the overall sex ratio as measured by the number of females per 1000 males in the population, registered a slight improvement, increasing from 933 in 2001 to 944 in 2011, sex ratio of children below the age of seven had fallen from 927 to 914 during the same time. However, mechanisms through which the son preference affects sex ratio are complex. Given the widespread diversity in the economy, social

structure, and culture, child sex ratio is bound to vary across regions.

### STUDY AREA

Mandya district lies between 76° 19' and 77° 20' East Longitude and 12° 13' and 13° 04' North Latitude. The district receives an average annual rainfall of 700 mm. The climate of the district comprises of moderate summers (Max 35°C) and moderate winters (Min 20°C). Mandya district comprises of 7 taluks. The total geographical area of the district is 4, 98,244 Ha, out of which 2,53,067 (50.79%) Ha forms the sown area. More than half of the total land area in the district is put to agricultural use. Total irrigated area is 1,16,901 Ha out of which around 88,000 (75.27%) ha is being irrigated by K.R.Sagar and around 16,000 Ha by Hemavathi reservoir. The rest of the land is irrigated by other sources like tanks, wells and bore wells. With a total population of 1805769, around 5 lakh people are employed in the Agriculture Sector. Mandya District is an agriculturally predominant district in Karnataka state. The farmers in the region adopt improved farm mechanization due to which transformation is taken place in cropping pattern, composition of crops, better grown yield level, ultimately leading to better economic conditions of the people.



### OBJECTIVES

The present study was conducted to analyze the trends and changes in rural and urban child sex ratio.

### DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

Our study is mainly based on the use of secondary data which has been collected from census of India 2011 and 2001. The adverse child sex ratio (0-6 years) of seven taluks of Mandya district has been discussed with reference to last decade (2001-2011). With the help of tables and others techniques the positive and negative change in child sex ratio have been discussed.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Child Sex Ratio in Mandya district: variations in time and space (table 1) provide census data on child sex ratio in Mandya district. Census 2001 and 2011 indicated a sex composition characterised by 'female surplus' in the district. Mandya district registered an increase in child sex ratio by 5 points, from 934 in 2001 to 939 in 2011. Hence, the latest 2011 census figure on child sex ratio raises worry and concern in the state which was once more neutral about the sex composition of children. Child sex ratio continues to be lower in urban areas as compared to rural areas. Even the pace of decline is sharper in urban population than the rural counterpart.

**Table 1 Mandya District: Trends in Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Years)**

S.N	Taluk	2001			2011		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	K.R. Pet	976	969	983	960	962	948
2	Maddur	907	901	955	923	919	948
3	Malavalli	944	939	977	928	929	923
4	Mandya	922	901	967	942	942	942
5	Nagamangala	954	955	936	945	949	912
6	Pandavapura	934	932	946	932	932	929
7	Srirangapatna	917	916	905	948	936	996
<b>Total</b>		<b>934</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>944</b>

Source: A) Census of India B) Mandya District at a Glance

The child sex ratio in Mandya district varies greatly from one taluk to another. Out of the total of 7 taluk, 4 display higher sex ratio than the district average (939 female children per 1000 male children in the age group of 0-6). Among them, K.R. Pet taluk has the highest child sex ratio (960). Apart from Srirangapatna taluk with sex ratio above 948 and Nagamangala taluk (945). The lowest child sex ratio was recorded in Maddur taluk (923).

**Table 2 Mandya District: Changes in Child Sex Ratio during 2001-2011 (0-6 Years)**

S.N	Taluk	Change during 2001-2011		
		Total	Rural	Urban
1	K.R. Pet	-16	-7	-35
2	Maddur	+16	+18	-7
3	Malavalli	-16	-10	-54
4	Mandya	+20	+41	-25
5	Nagamangala	-9	-6	-24
6	Pandavapura	-2	+0	-17
7	Srirangapatna	+31	+20	+91
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-16</b>

### VARIATION IN CHILD SEX RATIO:

There are multiple factors of the declining trend of declining child sex ratio. However, sex differential in mortality during early childhood and skewed sex ratio at birth are generally considered to be the primary contributory factors of changes in child sex ratio. The child sex ratio stands for the number of girls per thousand boys in the age group 0-6 years. If we throw glimpses on the table 2 in the

column showing variation in child sex ratio showing increase and decreasing trend in Mandya district. The figure for variation in child sex ratio is very perplexing. In this respect, out of seven taluks of Mandya district only three taluks has increased. These taluks are Srirangapatna (+31 points), Mandya (+20 point) and Maddur (+16 point) other four taluks record decreasing trend in child sex ratio, in respect of decreasing trend in child sex ratio, K.R. Pet taluk (-16) stands first followed by Malavalli taluk (-16 points), Nagamangala taluk (-9 points) and Pandavapura taluk (-2 points).

There has been a huge rural-urban difference in sex ratio at birth; figures for rural and urban sex ratio are 938 and 944 respectively during 2011. Out of seven taluks only four taluks has increased and three taluks has decreased rural child sex ratio. In urban area except srirangapatna taluk all taluks has decreased in child sex ratio. The interpretation of data clearly indicates that female foeticide has been the most important contributor to the deficit of girls.

### CONCLUSION

There are wide variations in child sex ratio figure by taluks. Among the taluks, the lowest child sex ratio has been observed in Maddur taluk over time. Maddur along with Malavalli and Pandavapura taluks continue to form the low sex ratio. It is more disheartening to observe that women's education, which has been a powerful force in reducing mortality among female children and in reducing fertility rates. Child sex ratio is lower in urban areas as sex selection is more common in cities and big towns where ultrasound and amniocentesis are available, readily accessible and open for misuse. Finally, it is needless to say that the government, the medical community and the civil society have a greater role in bringing a gender balance in population composition.

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