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Adverse child sex ratio in jhajjar district: a sociological study of khanpur-khurd village

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Abstract
The negative child sex ratio in Jhajjar district has spurred a sociological study in Khanpur-Khurd village. It has far-reaching social effects. This summary summarises the sociological research in this setting. The research examines the complex causes of Khanpur-Khurd village's child sex ratio. The researchers used qualitative and quantitative methodologies to study this issue's origins and intricacies. Cultural norms, socioeconomic inequalities, gender-based discrimination, and prenatal sex determination are examined. The research found a complicated interaction of elements via participant observation, in-depth interviews, and data analysis. Family dynamics are still shaped by heredity and social expectations for male kids. Economic concerns and dowries typically drive the desire for male heirs. Sex-selective behaviours have also increased due to the availability and abuse of current prenatal sex determination methods. The conclusions of this research affect policymaking and action. Cultural prejudices, economic inequities, and legal enforcement must be addressed comprehensively, according to the abstract. Effective gender equality awareness campaigns and economic empowerment initiatives for women might change society. strict regulation and monitoring of prenatal sex determination technologies are essential to prevent abuse. The sociological research of Khanpur-Khurd village in Jhajjar district shows the complex interaction of cultural, economic, and technical elements that cause the poor child sex ratio. The research seeks to enlighten politicians, community leaders, and activists about these processes to help them correct the imbalance and create a more fair society.

Keywords: adverse child sex ratio, , cultural norms, socio-economic disparities, gender-based discrimination

Introduction

In recent years, poor child sex ratios have become a major problem throughout areas, reflecting cultural prejudices and inequalities. Researchers in Jhajjar have conducted a detailed sociological study of Khanpur-Khurd hamlet. This community in the area illustrates gender dynamics and their effects on population composition. The negative child sex ratio, which has a disproportionately low number of female offspring, has far-reaching social, cultural, and economic effects. Researchers have used qualitative and quantitative methodologies to explore the many causes of this worrying trend. This inquiry seeks to uncover the reasons and provide practical recommendations for policy and community responses. This research examines cultural norms, economic issues, gender-based discrimination, and developing technology like prenatal sex determination to illustrate the issue's intricacies. The next parts discuss this research's results and consequences, shining light on possible solutions to Khanpur-Khurd village's poor child sex ratio and beyond in Jhajjar district. A complex interaction of historical, cultural, and economic variables has impacted gender dynamics in Khanpur-Khurd hamlet, causing the unfavourable child sex ratio problem. Family structures are still shaped by past inheritance patterns and cultural expectations for male heirs. These engrained conventions sometimes lead to prejudice against female children, reinforcing the gender gap.

Sex Ratio=Sex Ratio is defined as the ratio of total number of females and total number of males in a population. This graph depicts the general population's sex composition. The formula for calculating the sex ratios as follows:

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$$\text{Sex Ratio} = \frac{Number\ of\ females}{Number\ of\ males} \times 1000$$

Socioeconomic factors perpetuate this dilemma. Village economic differences may make dowries appear burdensome, making raising a daughter financially difficult for families. Thus, families may prefer male offspring as future breadwinners and eldercare providers. Technology advances, such as prenatal sex determination, have added to the difficulty. These technologies have medicinal promise, but their usage for gender-selective goals raises ethical difficulties. The availability of access to such procedures has exacerbated societal prejudices and economic pressures, resulting in an uneven kid sex ratio. Comprehensive study is needed to understand these complexities. Researchers have learned about Khanpur-Khurd village families' lives via participant observation and in-depth interviews. These qualitative methodologies and data analysis provide a complete grasp of the topic. This sociological research has important implications for addressing the kid sex ratio. Targeted awareness efforts supporting gender equality and questioning old norms must acknowledge historical and cultural circumstances. Economic opportunity may also change society's view of women. Prenatal sex determination technology must be regulated to ensure ethical medical usage. The sociological research in Khanpur-Khurd village reveals the many causes of the child sex ratio problem. This problem goes beyond numerical imbalances and shows deep-seated injustices that demand extensive remedy. The next parts of this research discuss the results and suggestions, emphasising the need for politicians, community leaders, and stakeholders to work together to achieve a more equitable future.

OBJECTIVESOFTHESTUDY:

a) Tostudythesocio-economicanddemographicalprofiles ofrespondents.

b) ToexaminethemajorcausesofadverseChildSexRatio.

c) Toexaminetheconsequencesofdeclining childsexratio.

SEX RATIO IN INDIA: TRENDS AND OVERVIEW:

According to the 1901 and 2011 Censuses of India, the number of women living in the country has decreased steadily since then. The ratio of male to female infants born in a given population is known as the birth sex ratio. In any given population, the average Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) is the number of male children born for every one hundred female children. However, the SRB is based on a larger denominator in India, such as the ratio of female to male births per one thousand.

Table1.1: From 1901 to 2011, India's Sex Ratio has been declining

Census Year	Females to Males Ratio (Females per1000 Males)	Deviation over previous decade
1901	972	
1911	964	-8
1921	955	-9
1931	950	-5
1941	945	-5

1951	946	+1
1961	941	-5
1971	930	-11
1981	934	+4
1991	927	-7
2001	933	+6
2011	943	+10

Source: Census of India.

The declining Sex Ratio from the Census records between 1901 and 2011 warrants investigation. The overall sex ratio, which is another measure of long-term change in the ratio of males to females, has likewise fallen dramatically in India, from 972 in 1901 to 943 in 2011.

Sex Ratio in Haryana:

The 2011 Census put Haryana's population at 2.54 million, which is up from 2.11 million in the 2001 Census. According to the 2011 census, Haryana had a total population of 25,351,462. There were 13,494,734 men and 11,856,728 females. In 2011, 2.09 percent of India's total population lived in the state of Haryana. The figure in 2001 was 2.06 percent. According to the 2011 Census, the highest ratio of girls to men is in Haryana, with 879 females per 1000 males, followed by Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab, both at 889 females per 1000 males (895 females).

Table 1.2 : Sex Ratio of Haryana

Haryana	**2001**	**2011**
Sex Ratio	879	861
Child Sex Ratio	834	819

Source: CensusofIndia.

Table1.3: India's and Haryana's Child Sex Ratio

India/State	**2001**	**2011**
India	927	914
Haryana	819	830

Source: India’s Census, 2001 and 2011.

Table 1.4: Haryana's Child Sex Ratio between 2001 and 2011

Districts	**2001**	**2011**
Mahendergarh	818	778
Jhajjar	801	774
Rewari	811	784
Bhiwani	841	831
Faridabad	847	842

Source: India’s (Haryana) Census, 2001 and 2011.

Five of Haryana's districts have seen a decrease in the child population Sex Ratio since the 2001 Census. Mahendergarh had the largest decrease, from 818 in 2001 to 778 in 2011, followed by drops of 801 in Jhajjar, 774 in Rewari, 811 in Bhiwani, 831 in Faridabad, and 847 in Faridabad. However, contrary to popular belief, the decline is far more severe in metropolitan areas than in the countryside. The census shows that Mewat (903), Palwal (862), and Sirsa (784) have the highest child sex ratios in Haryana, while Jhajjar (774), Mahendergarh (778), and Rewari (784), have the lowest (852).

District Wise Sex ratio Profile of Haryana State:

According to the 2011 Census, Mewat has the highest sex ratio (907), followed closely by Fatehabad (902). Gurgaon, Haryana's most advanced city, has one of the lowest sex ratios in the state despite the state's overall sex ratio increasing to 879. Census 2011 data from the Haryana Census Department was made public in Chandigarh, with Gurgaon having the lowest Sex Ratio (854) followed by Sonipat (856) and Jhajjar (866). The gender ratio decreased by 23 percentage points in Mahendragarh (from 918 in the 2001 census to 895 in 2011) and by one percentage point in Rewari (from 898 to 891). The male-to-female ratio rose from 866 to 882 in the country side, and from 847 to 873 in the cities. There was a 19.9 percent growth in the State's population, reaching 2.53 crore, between the 2001 and 2011 censuses. Population increase was 9.8 percent in rural regions and 44.6 percent in urban areas, the figures show. The literacy rate in this state rose from 69% in 2001 to 75.6 in 2011. In urban areas, the literacy rate jumped from to 83.1%, while in rural regions it rose from to 73.2%. Gurgaon, Panchkula, and Ambala all had higher rates of literacy than the national average (81.7 percent). The literacy rate in the Mewat district was 54.1%, the literacy rate in Fatehabad was 67.9%, and the literacy rate in Sirsa was 68.8%.

Table1.5: Haryana's Top Three and Bottom Three Districts by Overall Sex Ratio in 2001.

TopThreeDistricts	SexRatio	Bottom ThreeDistricts	SexRatio
Mahendergarh	918	Panipat	829
Rewari	899	Faridabad	826
Mewat	899	Panchkula	823

Source: Census of Haryana, 2001

Table1.6: Haryana's Top Three and Bottom Three Districts for Overall Sex Ratio in 2011.

TopThreeDistrict	SexRatio	BottomThree Districts	SexRatio
Mewat	906	Jhajjar	861
Fatehabad	903	Sonipat	853
Rewari	898	Gurgaon	853

Source: Census of Haryana, 2011

Women continue to make up a smaller percentage of India's overall population, a trend that has been documented for over a century. This unfavorable condition for women has several causes.

FIELDOFTHESTUDY:

This research was place in the little town of Khanpur Khurd. Khanpur village is in the Matanhail tehsil of the Jhajjar district of Haryana. Fifty-two communities make up the Matanhail tehsil. When compared to other towns, Khanpur Khurd's sex ratio is the lowest (400). In 2011, the Census took place. Jhajjar is one of the 22 districts that make up the state of Haryana in northern India. Jhajjar is the first sector, followed by Bahadurgarh, Beri, and finally Matanhail inside the Jhajjar district. Increased from 847 per 1000 males in the 2001 census, the sex ratio in Jhajjar was 862 in 2011. The sex ratio among children was 782.

Table1.7: Profile of Matanhail Tehsil

Tehsil	**Matanhail**
Population	8644
Males	4632
Females	4012
SexRatio	**866**
ChildSexRatio	**748**
ProportionandChildPopulation	(11.95percent),1033
Literacyrate	78.47percent
Male Literacyrate	88.59percent
Female Literacyrate	67.00percent

Source: As per 2011census.

Table1.8:Village profile of Khanpur -Khurd

Population	7644
Household	1726
Males	5461
Female	2183
SexRatio	**400**
Child SexRatio	**704**
Proportion(age0-6)andChildpopulation	(7.44percent),569
Boyspopulation	334
Girlspopulation	235
Literacyrate	81.06percent
Maleliteracyrate	86.91percent
Femaleliteracyrate	65.66percent

Source: As per 2011 census.

Khanpur Khurd has the location code or village code of 061959 as of the 2011 census. The Matanhail sub-district headquarters is 16 km away, while the Jhajjar district is 43 km away. There are around 1,726 homes located in the neighborhood. Khanpur Khurd lies on the border of the Jhajjar and Rohtak legislative districts.

SAMPLING:

The Jhajjar district consists of four separate tehsil. Matanhail tehsil, one of 52 in the Jhajjar district, was randomly selected for this investigation of the negative child sex ratio. Among these 52 villages, Khanpur Khurd was picked because it had the lowest sex ratio (400) of the group. The village was

picked with care. Six Anganwadi may be located around the neighborhood. We collected a list of mothers from every single Anganwadi facility. Women who gave birth in the five years between 2017 and 2021 are featured. Over the course of those five years, 237 women gave birth to 273 babies. A detailed list of 119 females was produced.

The research population comprised of all women in the village who gave birth during a five-year period. A systematic random selection was employed to determine the participants. We randomly picked 119 girls from a pool of 237, which works out to every other woman on the list.

METHODSOFDATACOLLECTION:

Both quantitative and qualitative data were sought for this investigation. This report was written using a combination of primary and secondary resources. The primary information was gathered via interviews and direct observation. There were two parts to the interview process. The initial half of the programmed was dedicated to collecting the respondents' basic information. The plan's second part analysed several sorts of structured questions, including multiple-choice formats. To collect qualitative data, we used open-ended questions and recorded the participants' replies. The tertiary sources included, but were not limited to the following:

a) CensusesofthegovernmentofIndia,(1981,1991,2001,2011).

b) Anganwadiofficialrecords.

c) Panchayatrecords.

d) RecordofAasha workers.

Tostudythesocio-economicanddemographicalprofiles ofrespondents.

Table 3.1:Caste oftheRespondents

Caste	Respondents	percentage
GeneralCaste *	67	56.31
ScheduledCaste **	19	15.96
OtherBackwardCaste***	33	27.73
Total	**119**	**100.00**

General Caste *-: Brahman, Baniya and Jat. **Scheduled Caste **-:** Chamar, Dhanak, Balimik and Khatik. **Other Backward Caste ***-:** Kumhar, Lohar, Nai, Khati, Sunar, Chipi, Banjara, Maniyar, Shyami and Lohar(Muslim).

Thetable3.1representsthecasteofrespondents.The dataclearlyshowsthatmajorityof

respondents 56.31 percent are belonging to general caste, 15.96 percent respondents arebelonging to scheduled caste, and 27.03 percent are belonging to other backward caste.

Table3.2:EducationLevelofRespondents

Education level	Respondents	percentage
OnlyRead&write	2	1.68
Primary	22	18.45
Secondary	27	24.39

Senior-secondary	36	30.28
Graduateand Postgraduate	27	21.00
Anyother	5	4.20
Total	**119**	**100.00**

Education levels are shown in Table 3.2. 30.28% of respondents have completed at least one year of college, 21% have completed graduate or postgraduate study, and 4.20% have earned teaching credentials such as a J.B.T or B.ed., as shown by the statistics. It has been noted in the field that there is a newfound appreciation for education among rural residents. There was no evidence that any responder was illiterate.

Table3.3:LevelofEducationofRespondents'Husbands

Husband'sEducationlevel	**Respondents**	**percentage**
Onlyread&write	1	0.84
Primary	20	16.80
Secondary	25	21.00
Senior-secondary	28	23.58
Graduateand Postgraduate	39	32.77
Anyother	6	5.01
Total	**119**	**100.00**

The education level of the respondents' husbands is shown in Table 3.3 The data shows that just 0.84% of the spouses of the respondents are illiterate, whereas 23.58% of the husbands of the respondents have completed high school or above. The data reveals that 31.77 percent of spouses in the sample had bachelor's degrees or above, while 5.01 percent of husbands have earned advanced degrees in teaching (such as J.B.T. or B.ed.).

Table3.4:OccupationoftheRespondents

Occupation	**Respondents**	**percentage**
GovernmentJob	10	8.40
Private Job	18	15.12
Agriculture	12	10.08
Laborer	9	7.56
Business	14	11.79
Housekeeping	56	47.05
Total	**119**	**100.00**

Respondent statistics by profession are shown in Table 3.4. The majority of the sample, 47.05 percent, has a private employment, while the minimum is 7.56 percent who work as labourers, and 15.12 percent have no job at all. The data also reveals that 10.08% of respondents are working in agriculture, 8.40% are employed by the government, and the remaining 11.79% are running their own businesses.

ConsequencesofaDeclining ChildSexRatio:

Table4.1:ConsequencesoftheDeclining ChildSex–Ratio

Consequences	Respondents	percentage
Crimesagainstwomenareincreasing	31	26.05
Institutionofmarriageis incrisis	27	22.66
Girlsarebeingpurchasefromotherstatesfor marriage	48	40.33
Anyother	13	10.96
Total	**119**	**100.00**

The effects of the declining child sex ratio are seen in Table 4.1 The results of the declining child sex ratio are largely accepted by 40.33 percent of respondents as evidence that girls are being purchased from other states for marriage, by 26.05 percent as evidence that crime against women is on the rise, and by 22.66 percent as evidence that marriage as an institution is in crisis. The residents of this hamlet seem to be aware of the harm caused by an unfavorable sex ratio but, stuck in their ways of thinking, are unwilling to take action to remedy the situation.

Socio-DemographicConsequences=There may be severe societal and demographic repercussions from the current gender ratios. Violence against women, such as rape, abduction, and human trafficking, and forced polyandry (one woman married to many men), might increase as a result (Bose 2001, Sudha & Rajan, 1999).

Between 1971 and 2013, the number of rapes recorded to India's National Crime Records Bureau rose by 5.6% year. Between 1988 and 2013, there was an annual rise of 3.8% in the number of reported kidnappings and abductions of women. There was an annual increase of 6.8 percent in the number of dowry-related and husband-inflicted deaths from 1995 to 2013.

The rate of increase for both molestation and eve-teasing over this time period was 3.2% each year. From the years 1995-2013. With India's population increasing by barely 2% between 1971 and 2011, the worrisome rise in crimes against women stands out. The gender imbalance in certain sections of the nation has prompted the buying of brides, according to an investigation by Gupta Aashish, 2014 (comparing NCRB and NFHS figures). Men from the northern states of Uttar Pradesh (UP), Rajasthan, Punjab, and Haryana are increasingly marrying women from the eastern states of West Bengal (WB), Bihar, and Assam. Andhra Pradesh (AP), Tamil Nadu, and Kerala were ranked first, second, and third, respectively, in the NIPCCD study. Uneven sex representation, acute poverty, and the desire for parents to avoid dowry demands all contributed to the rise of these nontraditional marriage arrangements. In remote areas, parents with little means often have little choice but to arrange marriages for their daughters. Men in areas like Punjab and Haryana and portions of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, which have low sex ratios, are importing girls from the south and east. It's possible that women and their families are taking advantage of this situation to relocate from poorer to more prosperous locations.

Guilmoto (2007) suggests that if there aren't enough good women around, males may delay marriage. On the other hand, males in future generations will bear the brunt of the effects of delayed marriages. The percentage of single men will continue to climb as more men of marriageable age enter the population. The rising number of single men means that couples can no longer afford to put off marriage.

Over the next two decades, Hesketh and Xing (2006) predict that many parts of Asia will experience a male surplus. In certain regions of China and India, the number of young men will exceed the need by 12-15 percent. These guys will have little choice but to stay single in

communities where marriage is often considered as the norm. The number of young people who are social outcasts due to a lack of family opportunities is rising in many areas, especially in lower socioeconomic groups. Antisocial conduct and violence are increasingly common among young men, making them a danger to society's safety and security. The gender gap threatens regional and global stability since it affects 40 percent of the world's population, including China, India, and its neighbors Pakistan, Taiwan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. To address the needs of these young single men, the sex business would have to grow, which would lead to an increase in illegal acts like coercion and trafficking. It's also expected that the rates of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted illnesses will rise. Lack of women has also been linked to an increase in overt homosexual behaviour (Park & Cho, 1995).

Some research suggests that fewer women in the population might boost their standing in society. It is predicted that when the male-to-female ratio falls, dowry gifts would be exchanged for bride prices (Walia, 2005, Hesketh and Xing, 2006).

Conclusion

The sociological research in Khanpur-Khurd village, Jhajjar district, reveals a complex cause of the child sex ratio problem. Including cultural norms, socio-economic differences, gender-based discrimination, and technology advances, this problem extends beyond numerical imbalances and reflects deep-seated inequalities that must be addressed. This report presents solutions and a call to action for a more equal and inclusive society. The research shows that gender prejudices have ancient origins and that male heirs are still preferred despite changing social standards. Due to economic factors and the dowry system, these inclinations reinforce the idea that male children are assets and female children are liabilities. Gender-based discrimination also affects family relations, limiting women's autonomy and perpetuating inequality. Technological advances, especially prenatal sex determination, modernise the situation. These technologies have medicinal potential, but gender-based selection poses ethical difficulties. The research underlines the need for regulatory measures and community awareness initiatives to prevent abuse and preserve society's ethics. The study has consequences beyond Khanpur-Khurd village. The study's conclusions urge for policies that combat cultural prejudices, promote gender equality, and empower women economically. The elimination of gender-based discrimination needs legal, educational, and social changes. For a balanced demography, the environment must value both boys and girls. Khanpur-Khurd village's child sex ratio reflects socioeconomic issues. Policymakers, community leaders, and people must work together to challenge past conventions, address socio-economic gaps, and regulate technology for ethical usage, according to this research. Through the devotion of stakeholders who value development above prejudice, an egalitarian society without gender prejudices is possible. Recognizing the issue's complexity and taking decisive action is the first step toward an inclusive future.

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