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GENDER AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION: SPATIAL PATTERNS OF SEX RATIO IN SHIRPUR TAHSIL OF DHULE DISTRICT (MAHARASHTRA)

Dr. Bhagwan N. Girase, Department of Geography, G. V. S. Arts College Bamkheda Tahsil. Shahada, Dist. Nandurbar, Maharashtra
Dr. Rupesh R. Deore, Department of Geography, N.T.V.S'S Gajmal Tulshiram Patil Arts, Commerce & Science College Nandubar, Dist. Nandurbar, Maharashtra

Abstract

Sex ratio is one of the best indicators of status of women in the society. In view of the partly contrasting and partly complementary roles of the two sexes in the economy and society, the study of their ratio to each other becomes of great interest to a demographic study. Sex ratio is an index of the socio-economic conditions prevailing in an area and is a useful tool for regional analysis. (Franklin 1956). The sex ratio is a function of three basic factors of sex ratio at birth, differential in two sexes at different stages of life and sex-selectivity among the migrants,(Clark, 1960). In its own turn, sex ratio has a profound effect on other demographic elements like growth of population, marriage rates, occupational structure, etc. (Shyrock, 1976). Thus the present paper tries to analyze the spatial variations in the pattern of sex ratio in shirpur thasil of district dhule. The prime reason behind selection of this particular thasil is that semi- tribal regions of the state are concerned shirpur is the most under developed in terms of socio-economic infrastructural development and displays wide disparity in the geographical and climatic conditions as well. Therefore keeping in view these things the main objective of this study to find out spatial patterns of sex ratio. Analysis of rural transformation requires attention to gender, as men's and women's participation in rural transformation and ability to benefit from it is shaped by their different access to and control over resources, by often inequitable access to employment opportunities, and by norms that govern their access to livelihood opportunities in their communities and beyond. According to 2011 census, the population of Shirpur tahsil was 345232 out of these 176012 were males and 169220 were females. The sex ratio works out to 961 per thousand males. In order to understand spatial variations in sex ratios in Shirpur tahsil or the period 1971-2011 it was calculated for each revenue circle.

Keywords: Gender and Rural transformation, Sex-ratio, Shirpur Tehsil,

Introduction

Sex ratio is one of the best indicators of status of women in the society. In view of the partly contrasting and partly complementary roles of the two sexes in the economy and society, the study of their ratio to each other becomes of great interest to a demographic study. Thus in order to find out effective levels of socio-economic development in the study area an attempt has been made to consider only those villages which have existed in four decades. There were 149 such villages and out of these 3 villages were uninhabited with no significant use for analysis. Thus after excluding these villages about 146 villages comprising of 18712 sq.km. of area in 2011 have been used for the analysis which comprise about 77%

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of the total study area in terms of number of villages and just 87% of the total geographical area. The rural sex ratio is tremendous importance as they reflect the general tempo of life and the nature of sex selectivity (in rural & demographic transformation). The rural India have been characterized with male selective out migration from rural areas resulting in relative high sex ratio. The sex composition of population is the most basic, since it influences the marriage and growth rate of population. Some other important population structure etc are also influenced by the ratio between the sexes.

Study Area

The Shirpurtahsil is one of the most important tahsils of Dhule district, Maharashtra, both in terms of agricultural and economic development. It lies entirely in the Tapi basin, covers some north-west part of Maharashtra. The total geographical area of tahsil is 2364.53 Sq. km. distributed in 146 villages. It is located between 21011' N to 21038' N latitudes and 740 41' E to 750 11' E longitudes. According to 2011 census, the population of Shirpur tahsil was 422137. The Shirpur tahsil constitutes 20.91% area and 16.8% population of the Dhule district. The East-West length of the tahsil is about 70 kilometers and North-South width is 65 kilometers.

Objectives

1. To assess the geographical landscape in order to make a clear overall picture of the study region.
2. To evaluate the spatial pattern of Village wise and circle wise Sex Ratio determine the transformation in this study region.
3. To measure the level of Gender transformation and Sex Ratio.

1.1. Circlewise Sex Ratio

a) Circlewise Sex Ratio in 1971

Table No. 1.1
Shirpur Tahsil: Sex Ratio in 1971

Sr. No.	Revenue Circle	Population in 1971			Sex Ratio
		Male	Female	Total	
1	Boradi	12411	11501	23912	927
2	Sangavi	12636	11997	24633	949
3	Arthe	14026	13539	27565	965
4	Shirpur	7587	7178	14765	946
5	Thalner	9392	9081	18473	967
6	Holnanthe	11537	11140	22677	966
ShirpurTahsil		67589	64436	132025	953

Source: Computed by the Researcher

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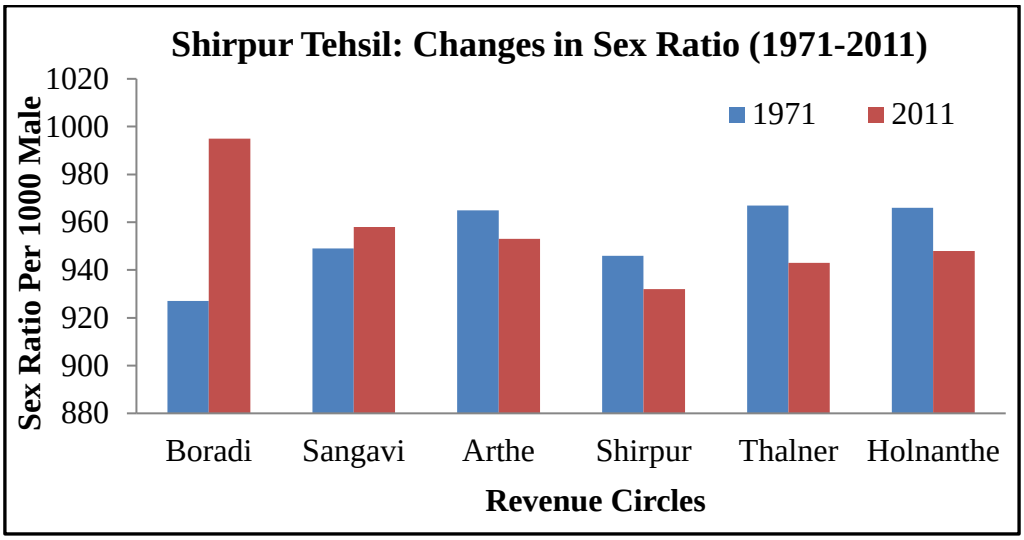

Fig. 1.1

Table 1.1. reveals, the spatial variation in sex ratio at circle level in 1971. The overall sex ratio of the Shirpur tahsil was 953 females behind 1000 males in 1971. There were three circle which had noted low sex ratio than average sex ratio of Shirpur tahsil. These circles are Boradi,Shirpur and Sangavi. They reported 927, 946, 949 females per 1000 males respectively in 1971. It is because of low rate literacy, economical backwardness and out migrants of male population from surrounding villages to Shirpur town for employment. While rest other have recorded higher sex ratio than the tahsil as whole. It was highest in Thalner circle by 967 females per 1000 males while the lowest in Boradi circle with 927 females per 1000 males in 1971. The areal differentiation in sex ratio reflect the variations in social attitudes of the people. The sex ratio is comparativelyhigh among advanced societal groups where the level of status of women is high.

b) Circlewise Sex Ratio in 2011

Table 1.2 reveals circlewise sex ratio of Shirpurtalsil in 2011. In 2011, oveall sex ratio increased as compared to 1971.

Table No. 1.2
Shirpur Tahsil: Sex Ratio in 2011

Sr. No.	Revenue Circle	Population in 2011			Sex Ratio
		Male	Female	Total	
1	Boradi	45242	45007	90246	995
2	Sangavi	46443	44511	90954	958
3	Arthe	26389	25148	51537	953
4	Shirpur	17295	16116	33411	932
5	Thalner	16968	15995	32963	943
6	Holnanthe	23678	22443	46121	948

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Shirpur Tahsil	176015	169220	345232	961

Source: District Census Handbook of Dhule, 2011

On the contrary, the rural sex ratio ofShirpur tahsil is 961 in 2011, which is relatively higher than the 1971. In the Boradi circle sex ratio is the highest with 995 females per 1000 males in 2011, while it is found the lowest in Shirpur circle by 932 females per 1000 males. Except Boradi circle, all circles have recorded lower sex ratio than average sex ratio of Shirpur tahsil.

In short, it may be concluded that there has been widevariation in sex ratiosat circle level.The high sex ratiowas recorded in northern part of the tahsil. The medical facility increased and low infant death in even tribal region responsible for growing sex ratio in Boradi and Sangavi circle in 2011 as compared to 1971.Secondly, the high percentage of literate people gives equal attention towards both male and female child responsible for sex ratio in developed circles like Shirpur, Hol, Thalner, Arthe in last decade.

c) Changes in Circlewise Sex Ratio

Sex ratio is demographic attribute hence it is also change according to time with changing population size and characteristics. In last forty years, sex ratio of Shirpur tahsil has been increased. Sex ratio of Shirpur tahsil was 953 females per 1000 males in 1971 that has been increased up to 961 females per 1000 males in 2011.

Table No. 1.3

Shirpur Tahsil: Changes in Circlewise Sex Ratio (1971-2011)

Sr. No.	Revenue Circle	Sex Ratio		Changesin Sex Ratio
		1971	2011	
1	Boradi	927	995	68
2	Sangavi	949	958	9
3	Arthe	965	953	-12
4	Shirpur	946	932	-14
5	Thalner	967	943	-24
6	Holnanthe	966	948	-18
Shirpur Tahsil		953	961	8

Source: District Census Handbook of Dhule, 1971 and 2011

Table 1.3 reveals that economically backward circle such as Boradi and Sangavi have recorded the highest change of sex ratio in last four decades. The positive changes in sex ratiohas been noted in Boradi andSangavi circles by 68 and 9 villages respectively. On the other hand, negative changes of sex ratio recorded in Arthe, Shirpur, Thalner and Holnanthe circles.

2.1 Villagewise Sex Ratio

a) Villagewise Sex Ratio in 1971

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Table 2.1exhibits village level sex ratio of Shirpur tahsil in 1971. On village level sex ratio also varies because of different demographic characteristics and socio-economic condition prevailed in rural areas.

Table No. 2.1
Shirpur Tahsil: Villagewise Sex Ratio in 1971

Sr. No.	Revenue Circle	Number of Villages and Sex Ratio			
		< 900	900-1000	1000-1100	>1100
1	Boradi	11	12	4	3
2	Sangavi	14	9	4	2
3	Arthe	2	15	6	0
4	Shirpur	6	7	6	0
5	Thalner	4	6	6	1
6	Holnanthe	1	12	5	1
ShirpurTahsil		38	61	28	7

Source: Computed by the Researcher

1. Villages having Very Low Sex Ratio (< 900)

Table 2.1 exposes that less than 900 females per 1000 males recorded in 38 villages of Shirpur tahsil in 1971. These villages are Malkatar, Gurhadpani, Mohide, Zende-Anjan etc. Among them the greatest number of villages from Sangavi and Boradi circles by 14 and 11 villages respectively because of low literacy rate and high infant mortality rate in this hilly and tribal areas.

2. Villages having Moderate Sex Ratio (900-1000)

Sex ratio varies from 900 to 1000 recorded in 61 villages. These villages are Gadhaddeo, Vakwad, Kodid, Borpani, ManjiriBardi, Budki, Boradi, Dondwade, Hated,New Boradi, etc..

3. Villages having High Sex Ratio (1000-1100)

High sex ratio is observed in 28 villages of Shirpur tahsil in 1971. These villages are Fattepur, Wasardi, Nandarde, Chandsase, Ambe, KhamkhedePr., Ambe, Rohini, Sule, Abhanpur, Javkhede, Varul, VikharanKh., KhankhedaPr., Thalner etc. These all villages have high sex ratio because of emigrants of male population towards town for employment. Most of villages among them lie at foothills of Satpuda ranges. They are not carried out any gender detection and hence they have reported high sex ratio naturally.

4. Villages having Very High Sex Ratio (Above 1100)

More than 1100 sex ratio recorded in 7 villages of Shirpur tahsil. These villages are Kakadamal, Durbadya, Umarde, Samaryapada, VadleKh., Godi and Pimpale Villages. These

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all villages are hilly and tribal. The tribal people are not adopted any family planning measures.

a) Villagewise Sex Ratio in 2011

Table 2.2 shows village level sex ratio of Shirpur tahsil in 2011. As compared to 1971, the sex ratio substantially increased in 2011, especially in tribal circles namely Boradi and Sangavi.

Table No. 2.2
Shirpur Tahsil: Villagewise Sex Ratio in 2011

Sr. No.	Revenue Circle	Number of Villages and Sex Ratio			
		< 900	900-1000	1000-1100	> 1100
1	Boradi	1	14	16	2
2	Sangavi	1	25	9	3
3	Arthe	3	17	3	0
4	Shirpur	3	13	0	0
5	Thalner	4	12	2	0
6	Holnanthe	2	14	2	0
Shirpur Tahsil		14	95	32	5

Source: Compiled by the Researcher

Table 2.2 shows the distribution and proportion of villages of different sex ratio in 2011. Sex ratio is divided into four groups and it is also showinghow many villages are included in each group according to the circle wise distribution.

1. Villages having Very Low Sex Ratio (<900)

Sex ratio less than 900 per 1000 males recorded in 14 villages of Shirpur tahsil in 2011. These villages are Wasardi, Dahivad, Anturli, Tekwade, Chandpuri, Mandal, AjandeKh., Balbade, Babhulde, Ahilyapur, Tande, Asali, Hisale, Saver villages. Among these, the most of villages lie in urban fringe and most of immigrant male population are inhabited in these areas because of low rent of houses.

2. Villages having Moderate Sex Ratio (900-1000)

Sex ratio ranges between 900 to 1000 per 1000 male population recorded in 95 villages. These villages are Gadhaddeo, Gurhadpani, Durbadya, Semalya, Kodid, Borpani, Wakapada, Sajagarpada, Boradi, Chandsurya, Wadi Bk., Balkuwe, Kuwe, Waghadi, Budkivihir, Panakhed, Palasner, Hedrya, Joyade, Sangavi, Samaryapada, Nimzari, Varzadi, Hingoli, Hadakhed, Khambale, Devsingpada, Ambe, VadleKh., Higaon, Khamkhede Pr., Ambe, Hivarkheda, Bhoiti, Rohini, Lakadya hanuman, Fattepur, Lauki, Natwade, Karvand,

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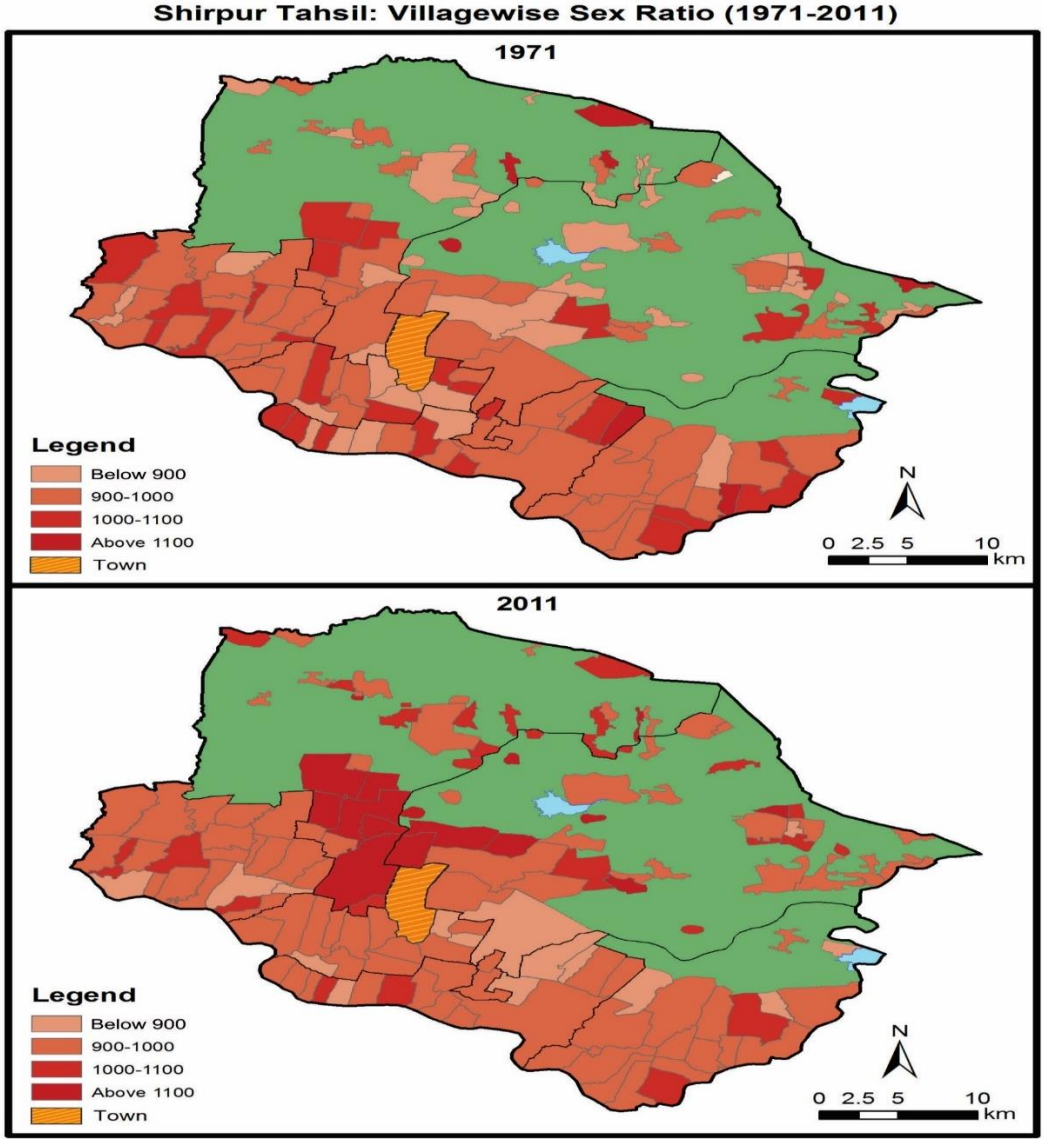

Fig. No. 3.12

1. Villages having High Sex Ratio (1000-1100)

In Shirpur tahsil high sex ratio observed in 32 villages. These villages are Malkatar, Kakadamal, Vakwad, Zende-Anjan, Umarde, Chakadu, Fattepur, Budki, Chondi, Kharikhan, Tembhe, New Boradi, Nandarde, Chandsase, Wadi Kh., Subhash Nagar, Dondwade, Hated, Khairkhuti, Anjanpada, Jamnyapada, Bhilardevpada, Dhavalivihir, Sule, Kalapani, Manmane, Varul, Bharvad, KhardeKh., Kurkhali, Tardi, Dhodisgaon villages. All these villages have high sex ratio because of high birth rate due to its tribal nature.

2. Villages having Very High Sex Ratio (> 1100)

In Shirpur tahsil, only 4 villages having more than 1100 sex ratio in 2011. These villages area Mohide, ManjiriBardi, Waghbarda and Chilare.All these villages have very

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high sex ratio because lack of awareness of family planning, illiteracy and out migration of male population for employment towards urban area in the last few decades.

a) Changes Village wise Sex Ratio

Table 2.3 shows the changes in sex ratio of the Shirpur tahsil. From the table, it clears that the substantial growth has been taken place in sex ratio in the last forty years.

Table No. 2.3

Shirpur Tahsil: Changes in Villagewise Sex Ratio (1971-2011)

Sr. No.	Categories of Sex Ratio	Number of Villages		Changes in Sex Ratio	
		1971	2011	Absolute	in %
1	<900	38	14	-24	-63.16
2	900-1000	61	95	34	55.74
3	1000-1100	28	32	4	14.29
4	> 1100	7	5	-2	-28.57

Source: Compiled by Researcher

In last forty years negative changes in number of villages recorded in two categories of sex ratio i.e. sex ratio less than 900 and above 1100 per 1000 males. In 1971, there were 38 villages have recorded less than 900 sex ratios, but number villages have been decreased up to 14 villages in 2011. It means in last four decades 24 villages decreased in this category of sex ratio. Number of villages having sex ratio more than 1100 female per 1000 male population had recorded in 7 villages in 1971, but these number of villages have been decreased up to 5 villages in 2011. It means negative change in number of villages having more than 1100 sex ratio was noted in 2 villages.

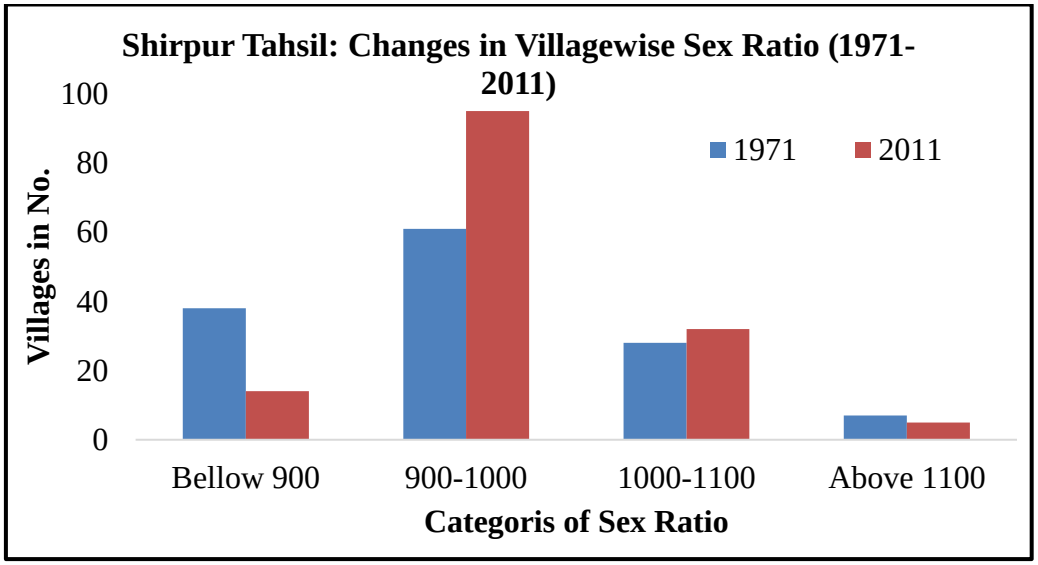

Fig. 3.13

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The moderateand highsex ratio have been improved in 2011. In 1971, sex ratio varies from 900 to 1000 observed in 61 villages, but these have been increased up to 95 villages in 2011. It means number of villages having sex ratio 900 to 1000 has been increased by 34 villages in last four decades. Number of villages having high sex (1000 to 1100) ratio have been increased by 4 villages. High sex ratio was recorded in 28 villages in 1971, these number of villages have been increased up to 32 villages in 2011. This is good sign for the socio-economic development in the study region.

Conclusion

In last four decades (1971-2011), the number of villages and rural population growth rate have been changed. Villages having below 15 percent population growth rate were 26 in 1971 but number of this category has been increased up to 52 in 2011. It means number of villages having below 15 percent population growth rate has been increased by 100 percent during 1971 to 2011. This is a good sign for socio-economic transformation in the study region. Number of villages having moderately high population growth rate have been increased by 14 villages (82.35 percent) in last four decades. On the other hand, the number villages having 15 to 30 and above 45 percent population growth rate has been decreased by 4 villages and 24 villages respectively. Overall, the rural population growth rate was declined in last four decades of the study region which reflects the improvement in socio-economic conditions of rural people.

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