

IS THE GENDER EQUALITY IS NIGHTMARE IN INDIA?

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ABSTRACT

In India, the Child Sex Ratio is defined as the number of females per thousand males in the age group 0 to 6 years in human population. Thus it is equal to 1000 multiplied by the reciprocal of the sex ratio (i.e. ratio of males to females in a population) in the same age group. The sex ratio consists of three factors namely sex ratio at birth, differential in mortality of two sexes and sex selectivity among migrants. It contrasts and plays role by two sexes in economy and society, it is revealed with manpower, ethnicity, standard of living, social systems, religion, national income, education and etc. Many socio-economic relationships are intimately related to the balance or disparity in between them. The declining Child Sex Ratio in India since 1991 as thousands of girl children are killed before or at birth. Child marriages are not only violates the human rights of the girl children but it also leads to several harmful consequences for them such as lack of opportunity to education, sexual exploitation, violence and early pregnancy. It deprives the girl children of their childhood and poses a serious health risk of them. Child marriages are quite often in India. About 16 percent of girls within the age group 15-19 years had begun childbearing. The estimated CSR by using linear and exponential curves followed downward trend. If the government of India and States followed the same trend in CSR, it may not be reach the gender equality in near the future. The Government should take the constructive initiatives for improvement of girl child births immediately. The two variables (i.e. Child sex ratio and male literacy, Child sex ratio and female literacy and Child sex ratio and total literacy) are highly negatively correlated, which means that female literacy levels, male literacy and total literacy levels are negatively influence on the improvement of Girl Childs. It may be due to educated people approach the pre testing of sex of child. The government also introduced and implemented various schemes and policies to empower the girl child. The programmes are Integrated Child Development Scheme, Udisha for training ICDS workers, Balika Samrudhi Yojana, Nutrition Progarmme for Adolescent Girls etc. implemented properly and strict vigilance needed to reach the objectives of the programmes.

INTRODUCTION:

In India, the Child Sex Ratio is defined as the number of females per thousand males in the age group 0 to 6 years in human population. Thus it is equal to 1000 multiplied by the reciprocal of the sex ratio (i.e. ratio of males to females in a population) in the same age group. The sex ratio consists of three factors namely sex ratio at birth, differential in mortality of two sexes and sex selectivity among migrants. It contrasts and plays role by two sexes in economy and society, it is revealed with manpower, ethnicity, standard of living, social systems, religion, national income, education and etc. Many socio-economic relationships are intimately related to the balance or disparity in between them. The declining Child Sex Ratio in India since 1991 as thousands of girl children are killed before or at birth.

Approximately 1, 50,000 women's and children are trafficked from South Asia every year and for most of them India acts as a country of origin and destination. In some of the cases, women and girls are trafficked to other countries via India. It is estimated that nearly Five thousand to Seven thousand Nepalese girls are trafficked into India annually for sex exploitation. National Human Rights Commission estimated that almost half of the children trafficked within India between the ages 11-14 years. Thus trafficking is a global problem which is done mainly for sexual exploitation of women and children. Of these, majority are children especially girl children. Therefore, provide a safe and secure environment to grow and prosper in life for the girl children. Serious measures have to be implemented at all level of governance.

Child marriages are not only violates the human rights of the girl children but it also leads to several harmful consequences for them such as lack of opportunity to education, sexual exploitation, violence and early pregnancy. It deprives the girl children of their childhood and poses a serious health risk of them. Child marriages are quite often in India. About 16 percent of girls within the age group 15-19 years had begun childbearing.

Eminent Economist, Amartya Sen in 1990 supposed that about 100 million girl children have been aborted before birth, killed after birth or neglected to death (Gendercide, 2010). The Census of 2011 has recorded the lowest ever sex ratio of 914 in the age group 0-6 years with 3 million missing girls.

In India the trend of parents may wish for a male child because in many cultures prelude that only a male child carries on the family name, he only saves the parents from punnama narakam (Hindu ritual), old age security, difficult to afford a dowry etc.

A. Brief Account of Indian Population:

India is the second populated country in the world and nearly a fifth of the world's population. According to United Nations in July 2016, the population stood at 1.3 billion. India is projected to be the world's most populous country by 2022, surpassing the population of China. In India, population may be more than 1.5 billion people by 2030 and it reaches to 1.7 billion by 2050. The population growth rate is 1.2 percent and ranking 94th in the world in 2013.

A significant observation of the Indian population below the age of 25 years is more than 50 percent and more than 65 percent the age of 35 years to its total population. The average age of Indian will be 29 years compared to 37 for China and 48 for Japan by 2030. The details of demographic contents of 2011 Census and Midyear projected values of India presented in the following Table 1.

Table.1 Demographic contents of India

Item	Mid Year Estimates	2011 Census
Population	1,326,801,576 (July, 2016 est)	1,210,854,977
Males	657,168,000 (2016 est.)	623,270,258
Females	611,793,000 (2016 est.)	587,584,719
0-6 Years total Population	227,411,000 (0-9 Years)	164,515,253
0-6 Years Males	120,375,000 (0-9 Years)	85,752,254
0-6 Years Females	107,035,000 (0-9 Years)	78,762,999
Growth Rate	1.19 percent (2016)	17.7 (Percentage decadal Change)
Birth Rate	19.3 births per 1,000 population (2016 est)	17.5 births per 1,000 population (2011 census)
Death rate	7.3 deaths per 1,000 population (2016 est)	7.4 deaths per 1,000 population (2011 Census)
Infant Mortality Rate	41 deaths per 1000 live births (2016 est.)	43 deaths per 1000 live births (2011)
Total Literacy Rate	NA	73%
Male Literacy Rate	NA	80.99%
Female Literacy Rate	NA	64.60%

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

B. Trends in Sex Ratio in India – An Over View:

The composition of population by gender is not uniform and shows the divergent pattern across different countries in the world. After Independence i.e. 1951 census eleven States/ Union Territories had sex ratio above 1000. This number declined to 9 in 1961, three in 1971, two in 1981 and one in 1991 census period. In 2001 Census report, the State of Kerala and Puducherry reported sex ratio is above 1000. Both these States have not only retained their status but also have considerable increase in 2011 census. The states having CSR above national average in 2001 and 2011 are Bihar, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odessa, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu along with UTs of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Pondicherry, Andaman & Nicobar. However, twelve states among these have showed declined CSR in 2011 such as, Bihar (-7), Sikkim (-6), Nagaland (-21), Manipur (-21), Tripura (-9), Meghalaya (-3), Assam (-3), West Bengal (-4), Jharkhand (-17), Odessa (-12), Chhattisgarh (-6) and Andhra Pradesh (-22) along with UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli (-22) whereas six states have improved CSR in 2011 Census such as, Arunachal Pradesh (+8), Mizoram (+6), Karnataka (+2), Goa (+4), Kerala (+4) and Tamil Nadu (+1) along with UTs of Andaman & Nicobar (+11). Of those nine states having CSR below national average in 2001 and 2011, five states have improved CSR in 2011 such as, Himachal Pradesh (+13), Punjab (+48), Haryana (+15), Delhi (+3), Gujarat (+7) along with UTs of Chandigarh (+35) whereas four states have further shown declined CSR in 2001 Census such as Uttarakhand (-18), Rajasthan (-21), Uttar Pradesh (-14) and Maharashtra (-19) along with UTs of Diu & Daman (-22).

Seven states Chatisgarh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Assam, Arunachala Pradesh, Mizoram and West Bengal with two Union Territories Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar continued to be among top ten in 2001 and 2011 where as eight states Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttarkhand, Rajastahan, Maharastra and Uttar Pradesh with one Union Territory Chandigarh also continued to be among the bottom ten states.

Table 2 represents the sex ratio and their decadal percentage changes from 1901 to 2011 census in India.

Table.2. Sex Ratio in India: 1901 to 2011

Census Year	Sex Ratio (Females per 1,000 males)	Total Population
1901	972 (-)	238,396,327 (-)
1911	964 (-0.82)	252,093,390 (5.75)
1921	955 (-0.93)	251,321,213 (-0.31)
1931	950 (-0.52)	278,977,238 (11.00)
1941	945 (-0.53)	318,660,580 (14.22)
1951	946 (0.11)	358,142,161 (12.39)
1961	941 (-0.53)	439,234,771 (22.64)
1971	930 (-1.17)	548,159,652 (24.80)
1981	934 (0.43)	683,329,097 (24.66)
1991	927 (-0.75)	846,421,039 (23.87)
2001	933 (0.65)	1,028,610,328 (21.52)
2011	943 (1.07)	1,210,854,977 (17.72)

Source: Census Repots from 1901 to 2011

Note: Figures in the parenthesis represents decadal percentage change

From the above table, the sex ratio in India has been negative and unfavorable to females. In the pre independence period, the sex ratio declined continuously up to 1951 and after rose marginally. In the post-independence period, the trend continued and the sex ratio slipped down for two consecutive decades after 1951 to reach 930 in 1971. During the 1961 to 1971 a steep fall of 11 points in the sex ratio.

RELATED REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Rajan, I. et al (2017), article “Trends in Sex Ratio at Birth in India”, analysed changes in the 0-1 year sex ratio (sex ratio at birth or SRB) and 0-6 years sex ratio in India. This analysis was based on secondary data

collected in 2001 and 2011. This analysis showed that the SRB declined over the 10 year period from 905 (female births per 1,000 male births) to 899 and that there has been no let-up in daughter deficit. A striking aspect of the analysis was that in the north-western states, which have a long history of high levels of daughter deficit, there was an increase in the SRB between 2001 and 2011 while southern and eastern states experienced declines between the two censuses. Given the continuous increase in the level of birth registration, the large number of births on which the CRS is based, and its far more regular availability, it is important to continue strengthening the CRS so that important policy-relevant information may be readily and reliably gleaned.

The paper Determinants of the sex ratio at birth: Review of recent literature. *Social biology*, published by Chahnazarian, A. (1988). This paper reviews recent literature on the determinants of the sex ratio at birth. The first part provides an overview of the major findings on the biological determinants, and their implications on the racial differentials and the wartime increases in the sex ratio at birth. The second part discusses the socio demographic factors of the sex ratio at birth (age of parents, birth order, and socioeconomic status). About thirty studies based on samples of millions of births drawn from national vital registration statistics in various countries are reviewed and compared. The results indicate that birth order and paternal age appear to be negatively correlated with the sex ratio at birth. Parents of higher socioeconomic status may be more likely to bear sons than parents of lower socioeconomic status. Some possible causal mechanisms are suggested for the effects of the socio demographic factors.

Perwez, S., Jeffery, R., & Jeffery, P. (2012), research article “Declining child sex ratio and sex-selection in India: A demographic epiphany?”. The 2011 Census results on the sex composition of the Indian population have so far being discussed within the prevailing understanding of the reasons behind a declining child sex ratio. The use of parental diagnostic techniques followed by sex-selective abortion, female child neglected and female infanticide. This article questions aspects of this explanation and argues for a multi-causal approach to analyzing the decline child sex ratio. Attention needs to shift towards those families who, under the influence of prevalent small family norm and son preference, stop producing children when one or two sons are born.

NEED FOR THE STUDY:

In our country traditionally women enjoyed a pivotal position both in the family and society. Especially during the Vedic period, women in India were entitled to a very privileged status. We have many numbers of role models of women’s who have excelled as able rulers of administrators. In modern era too we can come across several examples where empowered women have even surpassed their male counterparts in their era of

excellence. It can be rightly state that empowering the girl child leads to further empowerment of women. However, the girl child in recent times is a matter of serious concern that many states in our country are confronting today.

Despite stringent laws, preferences of male child continuous to be prevalent in many parts of the country and the right of the girl child to be born id often eliminated even by educated people due to various factors. The scarcity of females could lead to prolonged bachelorhood. The scarcity of brides may generate new waves of female migration from neighboring countries, with difference cultures and customs contributing to social tensions. In the absence of sufficient migration in view of the size of India, cases of human trafficking, kidnapping, forced marriages and other related crimes can increase.

Analysis and comparison of Census 2001 and 2011 depict a disturbing picture as far as a child sex ratio is concerned. For overcoming that problem, a number of policy initiatives by the Centre and states are in place to empower the girl child and women. The recent initiative of the Centre Beti Bachavo Beti Padhao, Kishori Shakti Yojana, Sukanya Samrudhi Yojana are some of them that can effectively further empower our girl children. Under this scenario with the following objectives the present study is undertaken.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To examine the trend of Sex Ratio and Child Sex Ratio in the Census periods.
2. To analyse the relationship between female literacy and Child Sex Ratio & male literacy and Child Sex Ratio.
3. To examine the causes which are responsible for low Child Sex Ratio.
4. To give policy suggestions for policy makers.

METHODS AND STATISTICAL TOOLS USED:

A). A Linear Regression Equation:

Regression analysis is employed to estimate the future decade Child Sex Ratio if the same trend is continued. Here the Linear and Exponential Curve is used for estimate the future decade Child Sex Ratio.

The Straight line is in the form as

$$Y = a + bX$$

The Exponential Equation is in the form as

$$Y = Ae^{bX} \quad \text{-----} \quad (i)$$

Taking log on both sides the above equation converted into linear form

$$\ln Y = \ln A + b * X \quad \text{-----} \quad (ii)$$

Where, Y – Census period Child Sex Ratio

X – Census Year

b– Regression Coefficient

B). Correlation Analysis:

Correlation analysis deals the relationship between two variables. The intensity or degree of relationship between two variables measured with correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficient denote as ‘r’. The correlation coefficient between two variables is given by

$$r = \frac{Cov(x, y)}{\sigma_x \cdot \sigma_y}$$

Where Cov (x,y)= Covariance between x and y

σ_x = Standard deviation of x

σ_y = Standard deviation of y

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS:

A. Trends of Sex Ratio and Child Sex Ratio in India:

The woman is the procreator, the mother of tomorrow and shaper of the destiny of civilization. However, often in our society the birth of girl child is an unwanted phenomenon. Despite innumerable campaigns by the Central and state governments in the country for promoting gender equality, female feticide and infanticide has continued.

Declining sex ratio measured the number females per 1000 males. In addition that declining child sex ratio measured as number of females per 1000 males in the 0 to 6 years of age. It has not been recent phenomenon as is evident from the data since 1901 census. The following table represents the sex ratio and child sex ratio of India since 1901 census.

Female foeticide is an act of destruction that causes death of a foetus. This is not a natural act but deliberate one. This is called as sex selective abortion, as the sex of an unborn baby is determined through

medical techniques and the same is aborted if the sex turns out to be a female one. Killing of a girl child after birth is called female infanticide. It is feared that close to 8 million foetuses have been killing in India since the Census in 2011. Eminent Economist, Amartya Sen in 1990 supposed that about 100 million girl children have been aborted before birth, killed after birth or neglected to death (Gendercide, 2010). The Census of 2011 has recorded the lowest ever sex ratio of 914 in the age group 0-6 years with 3 million missing girls. Sex ratio and Child sex ratios are presented in the Table.3.

Table.3. Sex Ratio and Child Sex Ratio in India

year	Sex Ratio	Child Sex Ratio
1901	972	NA
1911	964	NA
1921	955	NA
1931	950	NA
1941	945	NA
1951	946	NA
1961	941	976
1971	930	964
1981	934	962
1991	927	945
2001	933	927
2011	943	914

Source: Various Censuses reports of India.

According to Census 1901, out of all states and union territories Child Sex Ratio (CSR) is 972. It is 964 in the 1911 census period. It is further reduced to 955 female births out of 1000 male births in 1921 census period. In percentage change in child sex ratio from 1911 to 1921 is -0.934. In the 2001 census period, the child sex ratio is 927 and it is 919 in the 2011 census. The percentage change the child sex ratio from 2001 census to 2011 census is -0.863.

The decline in the juvenile sex ratio up to 1981 could be attributed to female infanticide and higher mortality rate among girl child due to neglect and discrimination. But the sharp decline in the juvenile sex ratio in 1991, 2001 and 2011 census is definitely the outcome of the practice of female foeticide as prenatal diagnostic techniques became popular in India during 80s and continuing still now with advancement in the technology. The practice of female foeticide and infanticide spans centuries in the rural India. However the practices over the decades have spread to the educated urban India as well. Despite rising income, education and standard of living

preference for male child exists. Sex determination techniques made it possible for families to fulfil their deep rooted traditional desire for a male child.

Figure: 1. Graphical Representation of Child Sex Ratio and Child Sex Ratio During 1901 to 2011. (Line Diagram)

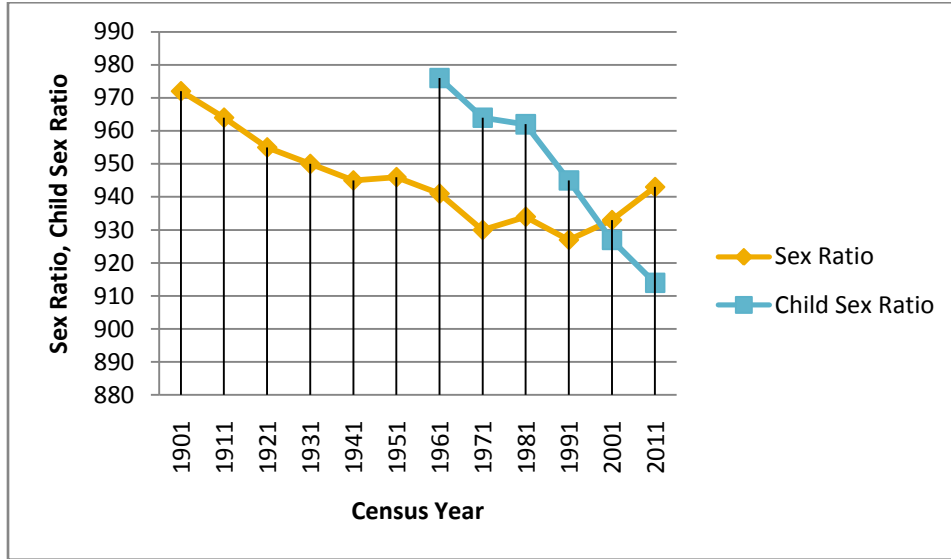
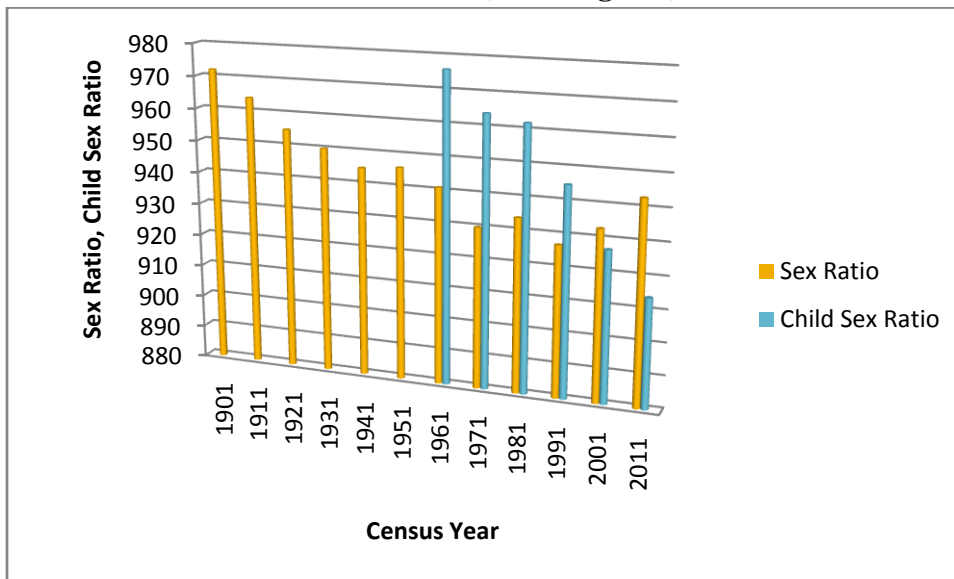


Figure: 2. Graphical Representation of Child Sex Ratio and Child Sex Ratio During 1901 to 2011. (Bar Diagram)



B. Predicted the Future Child Sex Ratio Through Regression Analysis:

Regression analysis is employed to estimate the future decade Child Sex Ratio if the same trend continued. Exponential Curve is used for estimate the future decade Child Sex Ratio.

The Linear Equation is in the form as:

$$Y = a + b x$$

The resulted linear equation is

$$Y = 991.8 - 12.514 X$$

$$R^2 \text{ Value} = 0.964$$

Significant Value of b = 0.000

By using the above linear line, the line is best fit and the coefficient is highly significant.

The Exponential Equation is in the form as:

$$Y = Ae^{bX} \text{ ----- (i)}$$

Taking log on both sides the above equation converted into linear form

$$\ln Y = \ln A + b * X \text{ ----- (ii)}$$

Where, Y – Census period Child Sex Ratio

X – Census Year

B – Regression Coefficient

The obtained exponential curve is

$$Y = 992.701 * e^{-0.013X} \text{ ----- (iii)}$$

$$R^2 \text{ Value} = 0.962$$

Significant Value of b = 0.001

By using the above exponential curve, the curve is best fit and the coefficient is highly significant. Here predicted the future census period Child Sex Ratio in India through Linear and exponential curves. The estimated or predicted CSR values are presented in the following table in the last column.

Table.4. The Estimated Child Sex Ratio in India

Year	Child Sex Ratio	$Y = 992.701 * e^{-0.013X}$	$Y = 991.8 - 12.514X$
1961	941	-	-
1971	930	-	-
1981	934	-	-
1991	927	-	-
2001	927	-	-
2011	919	-	-
2021	-	949	949
2031	-	937	936
2041	-	925	924
2051	-	913	911
2061	-	901	899
2071	-	889	886
2081	-	878	874
2091	-	867	861
2101	-	855	849

Source: Compiled by Author.

From the table 2.it is revealed that the estimated CSR followed downward trend. If the government of India and States followed the same trend in CSR, it may not be reach the gender equality in near the future. The Government should take the constructive initiatives for improvement of girl child births immediately.

C. Literacy Rates in India:

All over the world education is one of the most significant means for empowering any individual or community in general, and women and girls in particular. Level of education attainment and rate of literacy are indicators of general development of any society. Gender inequality and empowerment of women are indispensable goals for sustainable development and prosperity. After independence, India adopted different paths and strategies for national, social, economic and political development. The overall situation and status of women has improved to some extent and their lives have changed. However, this change cannot be called extraordinary. Education is the key variable the influences a number of social and economic factors that determine the growth, rate of fertility, growth of population, rate of migration, income generation capability of population etc. The following table indicates the educational status of women in India.

Table.5. Literacy Rates in India During 1901 to 2011

Year	Total population(Percent)	Males (Percent)	Females (Percent)
1901	5.35	9.83	0.6
1911	5.92	10.56	1.05
1921	7.16	12.21	1.81
1931	9.5	15.59	2.93
1941	16.1	24.9	7.3
1951	16.67	24.95	9.45
1961	24.02	34.44	12.95
1971	29.45	39.45	18.69
1981	36.23	46.89	24.82
1991	42.84	52.74	32.17
2001	64.83	75.26	53.67
2011	74.04	82.14	65.46

Source: <http://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload-files/mhrd/files/statistics/EAG2014.pdf>

At the all India level it can be seen that the total population literacy rate is 5.35 percent, whereas the female literacy is only 0.6 percent which is almost negligible. After independence of India the total population literacy rate is 16.61 percent in 1951, when the female literacy rate is 9.45 percent. The percentage growth in female literacy rate from 1901 to 1951 is 14.75. In 2011 Census, the total population literacy is 74.04 percent among the total population female literacy noted that 65.46 percent. The percentage growth in female literacy from 1951 to 2011 is 592.69.

The overall observation of the all India level literacy indicates that the gender gap in literacy has been reducing and rate of female literacy has been increasing in every decade but the gap between the genders exists. A lot of factors are responsible for poor to low rate of literacy among women. One of the foremost factors is the persistence of gender based inequality. In patriarchal setup, gender inequality and asymmetry of power relationships leads to discrimination against females in all the spheres of activities. The process of socialization plays a significant role in perpetuating gender division of labour in family, role expectations from each gender, the feminine and masculine traits. Children as young as 6-7 years old are socialized into understanding the gender nature of the society. Such practices also get reflected in the trends and pattern regarding the education of females and males and boys and girls in the society.

The data indicates that women have been lagging from the beginning in terms of rate of literacy and educational achievements. The state wise literacy statistics in India can be presented in the table. 4.7. The data

regarding the general rate of literacy in all states in India along with breakup of rate of literacy among males and females.

Karl Pearson’s Correlation Coefficient and its Significance:

Karl Pearson’s Correlation Coefficient indicates that the degree of relationship between the female literacy rate and child sex ratio & male literacy and child sex ratio. The significance of correlation coefficient tells us the strong relationship between the two variables.

Table. 4.6. Karl Pearson’s Correlation Coefficient

	Female literacy and Child Sex Ratio	Male literacy and Child Sex Ratio	Total Population Literacy and Child Sex Ratio
Correlation Coefficient	-0.869*	-0.848*	-0.860*
p- value (two tailed)	0.025	0.033	0.028

* indicates the 5 percent level of significance.

From the table 4.6. the two variables are highly negatively correlated, which means that female literacy levels, male literacy and total literacy levels are negatively influence on the improvement of Girl Childs. It may be due to educated people approach the pre testing of sex of child.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

In our country traditionally women enjoyed and a pivotal position both in family and society. Especially in the Vedic period women’s in India were entitled to a very privileged status. We have many numbers of role models of women who have excelled as able rulers and administrators. In modern era too we can come across several examples where empowered women have even surpassed their male counterparts in their area of excellence. It can be aptly stated that empowering the girl child leads to further empowerment of women. However, escalating the violence and crimes against women and girl child in recent times is a matter of serious concern that many states are confronting today.

The decline in the juvenile sex ratio up to 1981 could be attributed to female infanticide and higher mortality rate among girl child due to neglect and discrimination. But the sharp decline in the juvenile sex ratio in 1991, 2001 and 2011 census is definitely the outcome of the practice of female foeticide as prenatal diagnostic techniques became popular in India during 80s and continuing still now with advancement in the technology. The practice of female foeticide and infanticide spans centuries in the rural India. However the practices over the

decades have spread to the educated urban India as well. Despite rising income, education and standard of living preference for male child exists. Sex determination techniques made it possible for families to fulfill their deep rooted traditional desire for a male child.

The estimated CSR followed downward trend. If the government of India and States followed the same trend in CSR, it may not be reach the gender equality in near the future. The Government should take the constructive initiatives for improvement of girl child births immediately.

Seven states Chatisgarh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Assam, Arunachala Pradesh, Mizoram and West Bengal with two Union Territories Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar continued to be among top ten in 2001 and 2011 where as eight states Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttarkhand, Rajastahan, Maharastra and Uttar Pradesh with one Union Territory Chandigarh also continued to be among the bottom ten states.

The overall observation of the all India level literacy indicates that the gender gap in literacy has been reducing and rate of female literacy has been increasing in every decade but the gap between the genders exists. A lot of factors are responsible for poor to low rate of literacy among women. One of the foremost factors is the persistence of gender based inequality. In patriarchal setup, gender inequality and asymmetry of power relationships leads to discrimination against females in all the spheres of activities. The process of socialization plays a significant role in perpetuating gender division of labour in family, role expectations from each gender, the feminine and masculine traits. Children as young as 6-7 years old are socialized into understanding the gender nature of the society. Such practices also get reflected in the trends and pattern regarding the education of females and males and boys and girls in the society.

It is noticed that a positive change in the enrolment girls for education at the primary level to the secondary school level, however, social discrimination and economic exploitation continues to be one of the hurdles in education of girl child, because of the engagement of girls in the domestic responsibilities. Sometimes educating girls is not a priority and they themselves neglect their studies due to other responsibilities.

The two variables (i.e. Child sex ratio and male literacy, Child sex ratio and female literacy and Child sex ratio and total literacy) are highly negatively correlated, which means that female literacy levels, male literacy and total literacy levels are negatively influence on the improvement of Girl Childs. It may be due to educated people approach the pre testing of sex of child.

It is noticed that the number of girls enrolled per hundred boys has never gone above 100 mark. The statistics in a way reveal that skewed sex ratio and performance for male child by families in India that has also led to evils like female feticide. The discrimination, which in many cases starts even before a girl child is born, continues all long her life. Spending on her education is considered to be a waste of resources or money. If resources are limited then it is usually invested for educating the boys in the family who are perceived as support in the old age.

SUGGESTIONS FOR POLICY MAKERS:

The pride and dignity of any country lies in its future torch bearers, particularly in empowering today's children. In a country like in India children in general girl children in particular occupies a place of primacy. Therefore, empowering girl child is not just empowering one family but the whole nation. Many initiatives have been taken by governments, non-governmental organizations to ensure free and safe living of girl child in India. But still some of the above said problems exist in some places of India affecting the whole concept of girl child empowerment. For that no single organization can be pointed out as the reason instead it should be team effort to see our girl child live safe and securely in mother India.

India has enacted a serious of legislations such as the mentioned below but implementation is lagging. Hence the governments are strictly implementing these acts through creates awareness among the people.

- Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929
- Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956
- The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986
- Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992
- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000
- PC & PNDT Act, 2003
- The Prohibition of Child Marriages Act, 2006
- The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2010 etc.

The government also introduced and implemented various schemes and policies to empower the girl child. The programmes are Integrated Child Development Scheme, Udisha for training ICDS workers, Balika

Samrudhi Yojana, Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls etc. implemented properly and strict vigilance needed to reach the objectives of the programmes.

By increasing the status in the family and protect the future of girl child and improve the quality of her life, more importantly educating and spreading awareness to change beliefs and attitudes is vital.

Girl child education is a field that finds top priority in the Government's agenda. To encourage girl child education, it is suggested that there should be a high school within every 5 kilometers. To need to create proper learning environment is emphasized.

Awareness create among the parents about the value of education./ Stressing on the importance of higher education. For improvement of higher education, the government has proposed to start a college in every mandal or taluka.

The need to allow girls to dream of becoming doctor or engineer is important and so is the availability and access to institutions of higher education. To create the awareness among the girl child parents, about the schemes and programmes are available for girl child which are provided by Central and State governments.

The key factor is employment opportunities. In India, only about 30 percent of women are in India are in workforce. In contrast, in Nepal nearly 80 percent of women are in workforce followed by China 71 percent, Bhutan with 67 percent and Russia with 57 percent. The government and non-government organization has provided equal employment opportunities to girl child and male. It reduces the financial insecurity.

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