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# APPLICATIONS OF STATISTICS TO ANALYSE DECREASING SEX RATIO

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# Introduction

India has an alarming gender imbalance and population experts have revealed that female foeticide is being practiced. The deficit of females was found in prosperous urban and prospering rural areas applying that this phenomenon is being practiced by educated and prosperous families. (5) Maharashtra is one of the most progressive states in the country in health, literacy, urbanization and socio-economic indicators but there also the declining trend of Child sex ratio can be seen.

The census data indicates that sex ratio in Maharashtra has declined from 934 in 1991 to 924 females in 2001. In urban and rural area of the district the females are 893 and 945 per thousand males respectively.

## Objectives:

The study is designed with the following objectives

- To study the pattern of sex ratio in Nasik District
- To Compare the sex ratio between rural and urban areas of the district
- To analyse the proportion of sex wise births conducted by CS in private and public health facilities in the
  district.

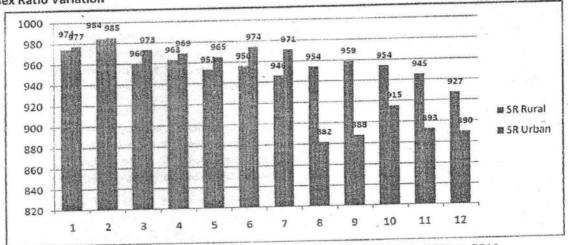
## Methodology

The study aims to draw a comparison between the sex ratio in urban and rural areas of the district and further correlate it with the occurrence of CS in public and private health facilities. Thus this is a cross-sectional study. The sources of secondary data constitute the census data used primarily for outlining the trend of sex ratio variation in the Nasik district and state of Maharashtra as a whole. To compare the pregnancy outcomes in terms of mode of delivery and sex of the child data from public health facilities and private institution was collected. These institutions were chosen based on simple random sampling. Three private institutions from urban area and five private institutions from rural area were selected. One public institution from rural and urban area respectively was chosen. The data for births from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2009 was collected from these institutions and analysed.

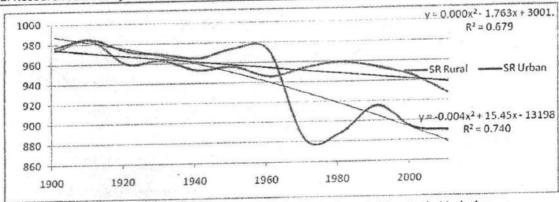
# **Results and Discussion**

The sex ratio of the Nashik District over a period of time 1901 to 2011 is shown graphically. (4)

#### **Decadal Sex Ratio Variation**



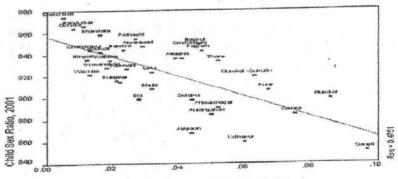
Graph1: Rural & urban sex ratio at birth in Nashik District from 1901 to 2011



Graph no. 2: Line diagram showing Nonlinear Decadal Sex Ratio Variation

The graph 2 shows a line diagram based on the data from graph no1. The red line shows the trend for sex ratio in urban area while the blue line shows the trend for sex ratio in rural area. It can be seen that there appears a sharp drop in the sex ratio after year 1961 in the urban graph. This signifies the advent of factors responsible for sex selection practices. Urbanisation, liberalisation and technology development have thus contributed to the declining sex ratio in the study area. The percolation and information of sex selection techniques has reached the rural areas as well, which is evident from the declining graph in rural areas. There appears a drop post year 1991 in the rural sex ratio of the district.

Because of emerging concept of family planning & introduction of technological developments, the graph shows sudden declined sex ratio in urban areas.



No. of Sonography Centres per 1000 Population

The report reveals that 78% of sonography clinics are registered in the 'rich' western Maharashtra districts of Mumbai, Pune, Nashik, Sangli and Kolhapur -- the very regions that witnessed a decline in female sex ratio.

Prenatal sex determination may change the dynamics of sex ratio<sup>(1)</sup>. Present article is an attempt to review the main dimensions of the recent sex-ratio degradation in one of the leading city in Maharashtra. This study analyses the declining sex ratio from its origin, its mechanisms and social characteristics, its implications in the long run. Analysis also points to the positive linkage between abnormal sex ratio and better socio-economic status. Child Sex ratio is not lowest in poor tribal districts or other backward areas, but in prosperous Western Maharashtra and other economically empowered districts<sup>(2)</sup> It is essential to raise awareness and seek attitudinal and behaviour changes to tackle the problem

The proportion of male births and female births in these institutions were found out and juxtaposed with the proportion of LSCS births in these institutions. Based on the observations from the data, a chi-square test was applied to test the independence of mode of delivery and sex of new born baby. Table no 2 Shows the positive association between the mode of delivery and the type of institution as well as sex of new born baby.

The test shows that the association between male births by LSCS at private institutions is significant in both rural and urban areas. This indicates that there is a possibility of the patients as well as the service providers having knowledge of the sex of the baby before birth. This leads to treating the pregnancy with a male child as highly precious and hence

opting for a LSCS. This also is concurrent with the observation that the indication for LSCS is not clearly mentioned in the records of these institutions.

|          |        |      |        | Chi Square value | Chi(0.05,1) = 3.841 |
|----------|--------|------|--------|------------------|---------------------|
| RURAL    | 1000   | Male | Female | 0.192            | Not Significant     |
| PUBLIC - | Normal | 550  | 442    |                  |                     |
|          | LSCS   | 134  | 101    |                  |                     |
| RURAL    |        | Male | Female | 7.4457**         | Significant         |
| PRIVATE  | Normal | 39   | 30     |                  |                     |
| 844      | LSCS   | 24   | 14     |                  |                     |
| URBAN    |        | Male | Female | 0.018            | Not Significant     |
| PUBLIC   | Normal | 104  | 83     |                  |                     |
|          | LSCS   | 63   | 51     |                  |                     |
| URBAN    |        | Male | Female | 7.87 **          | Significant         |
| PRIVATE  | Normal | 350  | 293    |                  |                     |
|          | LSCS   | 210  | 119    |                  |                     |

TABLE No. 2- Gender wise Classification of Mode of delivery in Urban & Rural Setup.

#### TABLE No-3

| YEAR | MALE  | FEMALE | TOTAL | SEX RATIO |
|------|-------|--------|-------|-----------|
| 2011 | 16132 | 13275  | 29407 | 822.8986  |
| 2012 | 15165 | 13370  | 28532 | 881.6353  |
| 2013 | 12699 | 11637  | 24336 | 916.3714  |

The table no-3 shows that the recent trend shows marginal improvement in the sex ratio. This occurrence is concurrent with the implementation of strict PNDT laws. Maharashtra has achieved nationwide acclaim in the implementation of strict PNDT laws and hence the results point towards marginal betterment of the sex ratio. However the picture is far from ideal. In the case of LSCS also we can predict rational use of this technique with stringent regulatory mechanisms which are missing extensively in this arena currently.

#### Conclusion:

The study brings to the fore the current situation of Nasik district with respect to the steadily growing probable declining of sex ratio. The trend for declining sex ratio is coincident with the advent of newer technologies in prenatal diagnostic techniques. This is more evident in urban parts of the district where access to newer technologies is easier & available in large number. The occurrence of LSCS is not only higher in private facilities but also the outcomes of these LSCS deliveries are significantly associated with male children. This point outs the possibility of prior knowledge regarding the sex of foetus & hence treating it as a precious pregnancy in case of male foetus. This indicates the widespread prenatal sex determination as well as misuse of LSCS technique leading to environmental imbalance & increased medicalisation of society.

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