

Different Dimensions of Sex Ratio in Azamgarh District

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ABSTRACT

The composition of population, or the population structure, refers to those aspects of population which can be measured. These are also termed as the quantitative aspects of population. In the composition of population only those aspects are included for which data are usually obtained from census: age, sex, marital status, the size and composition of families and households, economic activities, nationality, language and religion. Geographers are interested in population structure as it varies territorially between countries, regions, urban and rural areas, communities and ethnic groups. Among various aspects of population structure, sex ratio holds an important place for geographers. Due to their various complimentary and contrasting roles in society it is necessary to collect data for both sexes separately. In the present paper different dimensions of sex ratio has been discussed and analysed with special reference to Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh at Tehsil level and block level.

INTRODUCTION

Sex ratio is the ratio between males and females in a population. However, sex ratio is defined differently in different parts of the world; Census of India defines it as the number of females per thousand males. Generally, sex ratio in a population depends on three factors: the sex ratio at birth, differential mortality rates between the sexes at different ages, and losses and gains through migration. It is a feature of most mammals, including human beings, that male births exceed female births. Nearly all developed countries have higher male mortality than female mortality, and the disparity in the deaths of the two sexes is much greater than in the births. At birth, males are therefore destined to a shorter life-span than are females. On the other hand, in several countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America high maternal mortality and sometimes the neglect of females raises young adult female mortality above that for males and partly accounts for the overall excess of males. Migrations are sex-selective. In the past, men migrated more freely than women, but the increasing speed and efficiency of transportation have greatly facilitated female migration in advanced countries.

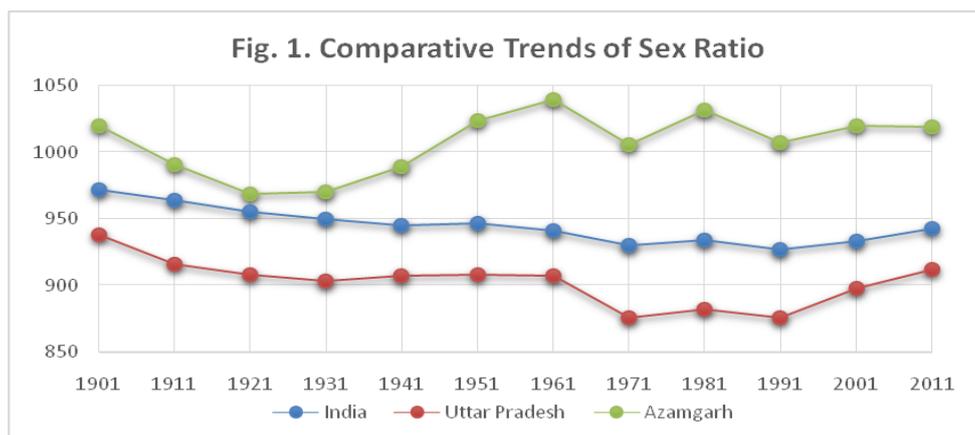
COMPARATIVE TRENDS OF SEX RATIO

Azamgarh district ranks 2nd in terms of sex ratio (1019) which is higher than the state average 912 females per thousand males and the national average 943 females per thousand males. Since 1901 sex ratio in Azamgarh has always been higher than national and state average. Sex ratio in the district has always been in favour of females except in four census years of 1911, 1921, 1931 and 1941.

Table 1. Sex Ratio in India, Uttar Pradesh and Azamgarh

Census Year	India	Uttar Pradesh	Azamgarh
1901	972	938	1020
1911	964	916	991
1921	955	908	969
1931	950	903	970
1941	945	907	989
1951	946	908	1024
1961	941	907	1040
1971	930	876	1006
1981	934	882	1032
1991	926	876	1007
2001	933	898	1020
2011	943	912	1019

Source: Official Website of Census of India.



Source: Official Website of Census of India.

SEX RATIO AND CHILD SEX RATIO: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The comparative table of sex ratio and child sex ratio clearly shows that except in Azamgarh tehsil all other tehsils of the district have sex ratio in favour of female. However child sex ratio in the district is lower than sex ratio in all tehsils. The main reason behind this trend is migration that is more

prevalent among males and it is rare among dependent age group of population. Azamgarh tehsil shows lower sex ratio due to the effect of male in-migrants from other tehsils because it being district headquarter attracts male population from other tehsils for better employment opportunities. This shows the age-selective and sex-selective trends of migration.

Table 2. Comparison between Sex Ratio and Child Sex Ratio

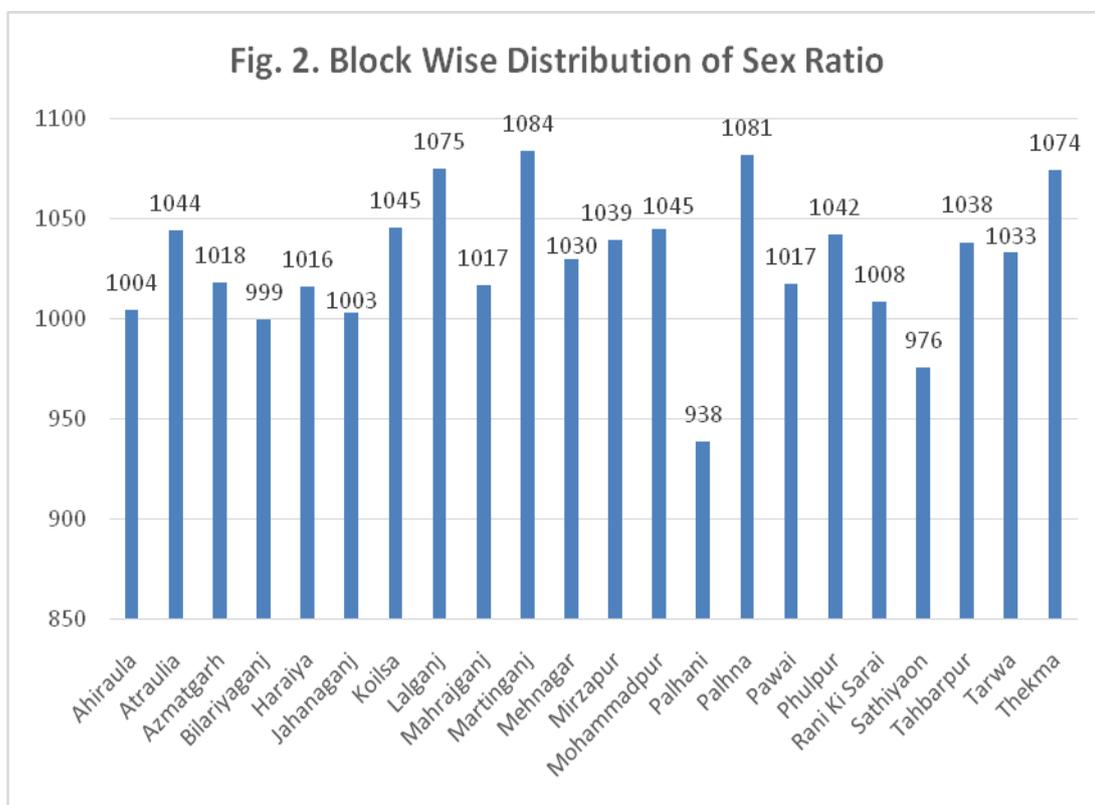
Tehsil	Sex Ratio	Child Sex Ratio
Azamgarh	969	915
Burhanpur	1034	920
Lalganj	1070	914
Mehrnagar	1027	916
Nizamabad	1032	920
Phulpur	1038	926
Sagri	1010	922

Source: Census of India, 2011.

BLOCK WISE DISTRIBUTION OF SEX RATIO

Azamgarh district comprises 22 development blocks distributed among 7 tehsils. Out of 22 blocks only 3 blocks show sex ratio in favour of males. Out of 3 blocks 2 blocks are

part of Azamgarh tehsil which is also district headquarter. Martinganj block of Phulpur tehsil has highest sex ratio while Palhani block of Azamgarh tehsil has lowest sex ratio in the district.

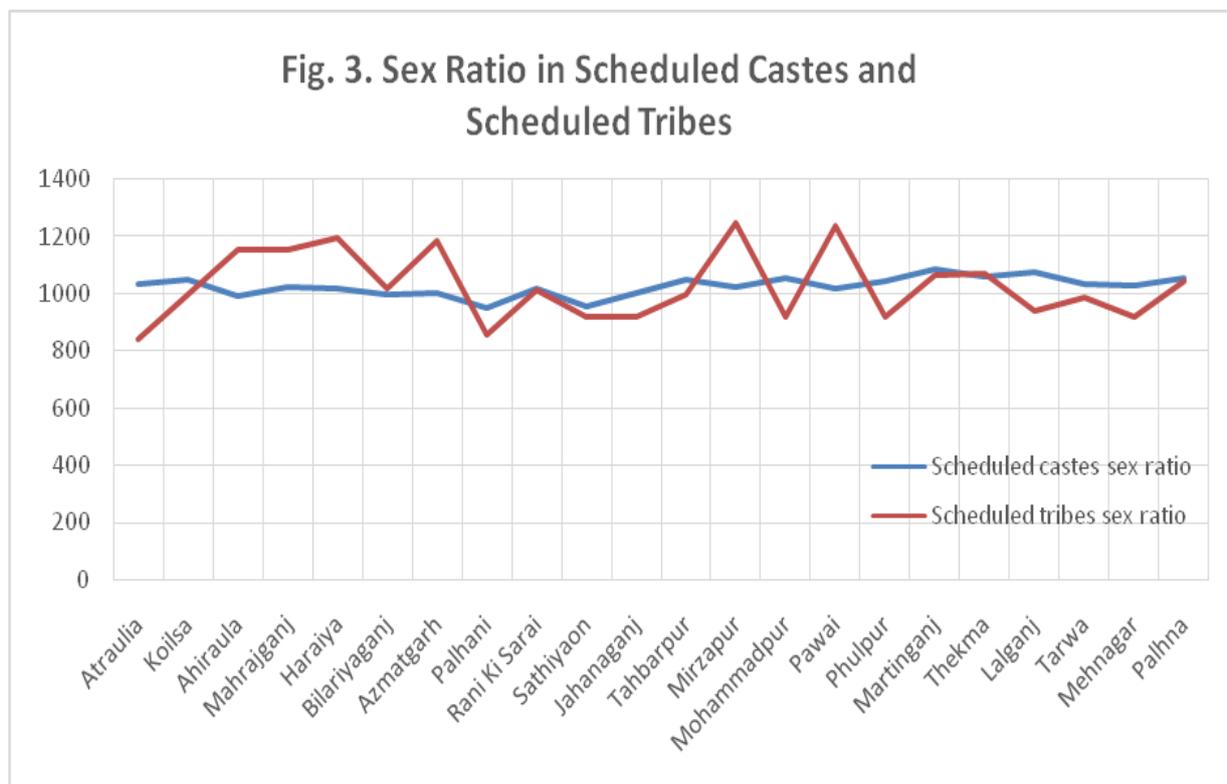


Source: Census of India, 2011.

SEX RATIO IN SC AND ST POPULATION

In Azamgarh district SC and ST population constitutes 26.62% and 0.2 % respectively. Highest proportion of SC population is in Thekma block having 40.35 % of total population. Among SC population sex ratio is highest in Martinganj block (1087 females per thousand males) while lowest in Palhani block (950 females per thousand males). On the other hand among ST population sex ratio is highest in

Mirzapur block (1250 females per thousand males) while lowest in Atraulia block (840 females per thousand males). Out of 22 blocks only 4 blocks have females lower than males among SC population. Among ST population 9 blocks have lower female population than male population. Conclusively we can say that SC populations have better sex ratio compared to ST population.

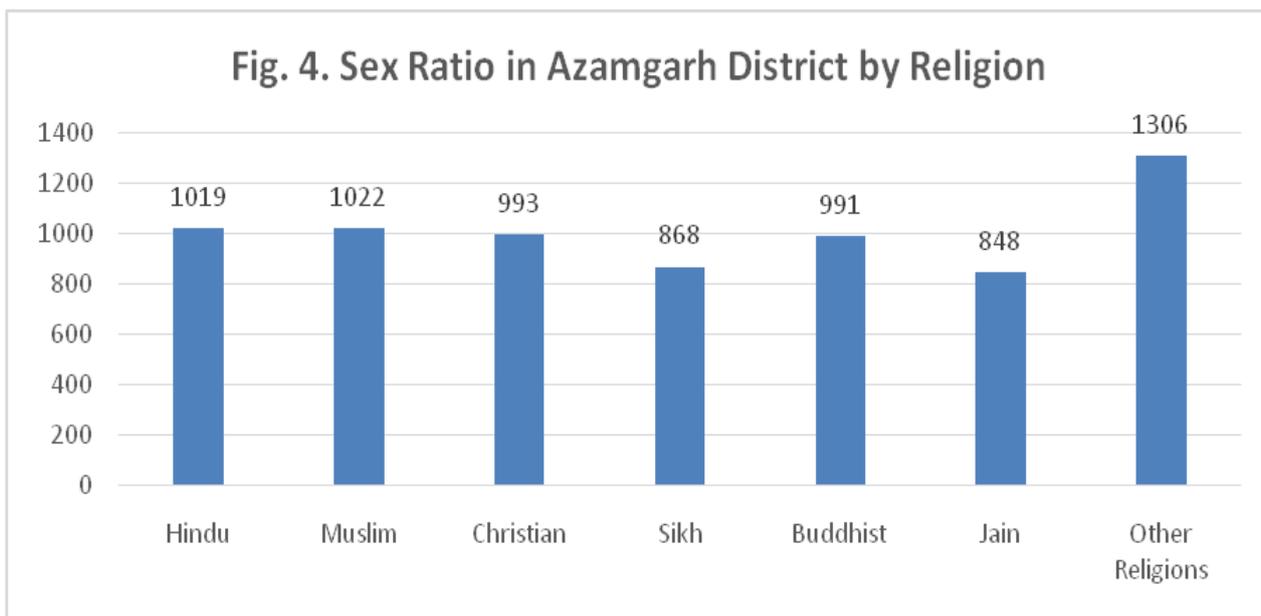


Source: Census of India, 2011.

SEX RATIO BY RELIGION

Major religions in Azamgarh district are Hindu and Muslim. They constitute more than 99% population of the

district. Among major religions Hindu and Muslim population have sex ratios in favour of females. Muslims have highest sex ratio in the district while Jains have the lowest sex ratio.

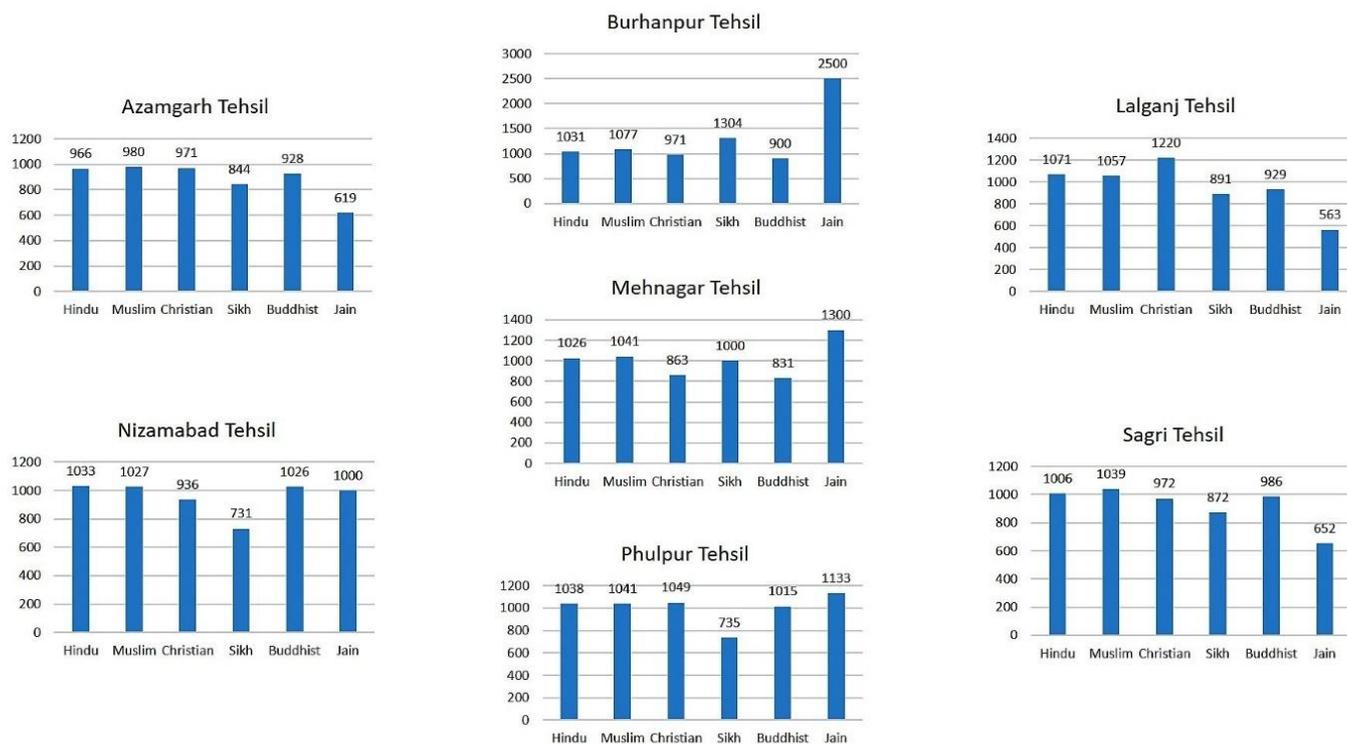


Source: Census of India, 2011.

If we consider tehsilwise sex ratio by religion highest sex ratio among all religions and all the tehsils, Jains have highest ratio in Burhanpur tehsil having 2500 females per thousand females. Jains also have the lowest sex ratio in Lalganj tehsil having only 563 females per thousand males. Hindus have highest ratio in Lalganj tehsil (1071) while lowest in Azamgarh tehsil (966), Muslims have highest sex ratio in Burhanpur tehsil

(1077) and lowest in Azamgarh tehsil (980). Highest sex ratio among Christians is in Lalganj tehsil (1220) while lowest is in Mehnagar tehsil (863). Among Buddhists Nizamabad has highest sex ratio with 1026 females per thousand males while Mehnagar has lowest sex ratio with 863 females per thousand males.

Figure 5. Sex Ratio by Religion in Tehsils of Azamgarh District



Source: Census of India, 2011.

CONCLUSION

Balanced sex ratio is desirable but it is hardly found anywhere in the world and Azamgarh district is no exception in this case. There are variations in sex ratio not only at spatial and temporal scales but also along different socio-cultural variables such as caste and religion. This variation prevails not only because of socio-economic factors but naturally males

usually outnumber females during birth. However this variation in sex ratio at birth is further balanced by higher mortality rate among males. In this way we human beings are responsible for this imbalance in the proportion of male and female population by our socio-cultural beliefs and economic activities.

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