



## Scheme to Increase Sex Ratio in Haryana

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**ABSTRACT:** In Haryana, there are many evidences that point out female birth is as burden on family. In Haryana result shows rapidly lowest child sex ratio report by the 2001&2011 census. Haryana is amongst the most affected state regarding declining and imbalance of child sex ratio. Therefore, this state is the main focus area of this study. Though there are the many reasons behind decline in the child sex ratio, but the most significant is the son preferences in Haryana. This study has given some suggestions for the upgrading of the socio-cultural and socio-economic fundamental and increase the value of daughters to their parents in this modern era. Using data from the Census of India and the National Family Health Survey, this paper shows challenges, causes, trends and declining in child sex ratios in Haryana. Latest census data (2011) shows that the child sex ratios have decreased compared to data from the last years. Increasing son preference and ignore of daughters in many district in Haryana. The main objective of this research is to evaluate imbalance in child sex ratio challenges and emerging issues in Haryana. This study provides result that people of Haryana always preferred birth of son as compared to the daughter. This paper also shows that the South Indian states have higher child sex ratio as compared to Haryana.

**Keywords:** Child Sex Ratio, Census of India, National Family Health Survey, Son Preference,

**Introduction:** Sex ratio intimates the balance between males and females in the total population. Sex ratio is expressed in terms of a ratio between the numerical strength of males and females in the total population, sex ratio of population controls the various demographic features in a community. 'As the two sexes play partly contrasting and partly complementary roles in economy and society, the study of sex composition assumes added significance for a population geographers'. Changes in Child Sex Ratio index reflect underlying socio-economic and cultural patterns of the society, especially its attitude towards the girl child. In many states of India there is no social respect for its girl children. In Haryana, there are various social, economic, demographic indicators provide evidences of gender biasness (declining child sex ratio) and inequity against girls children. Many studies in Haryana point out that female ratio in total population had always remained unfavorable. The 2001& 2011 census of India shows imbalance in child sex ratio (CSR). Survival of girl child in many districts of Haryana is a critical issue. In mostly states of India the trends of son preferences is increasing day by day. Couples who has only girl child not get social respect in the society. Although according to census of India 2011 a little bit improvement shown in Haryana child sex ratio over the last census 2001 but more strong efforts are necessary for the uplifting of the girls ratio in Haryana. Haryana state is one of the prosperous states of India. It lies between to 27°12' north to and 30°30' northern latitude and 74°28' east to 77°36' eastern longitude. It occupies a geographical area of about 44,212 sq.km. Haryana is a land locked state located in the northern part of India. The state shares its boundary with Uttar Pradesh in the East, Punjab in the West, Himachal Pradesh in the North and Rajasthan in the South. According to 2011 census, its population is 2.53 crore out of which 13494734 males and 11856728 females. The density is 573 persons per square kilometer. The sex ratio recorded 877 females per thousand males while child sex ratio recorded 830, which is lowest in national average sex ratio.

**Temporal trend of Child Sex Ratio in Haryana:** Although Sex ratio of India has shown a continues decline from 964 in 1971 to 914 in 2011. But in Haryana, there is a fluctuation in sex ratio. In Haryana,





child sex ratio has decreased from 910 in 1961 to 898 in 1971 whereas it rose to 902 in 1981 and again decreased to 879 in 1991 and 819 in 2001 but by 2011, it again increased to 830.

**The Deficit of Girls:** The natural or normal sex ratios at birth are found to lie between 943 and 971 females per 1000 males. On this basis, the average figure worked out to 953 females per 1000 male children (Retherford and Roy, 2003; United Nations, 1998; Arnold, et al., 2002). The shortfall of girls in respect of boys is calculated as per the sex ratio at birth. For the country as a whole, this figure worked out to 953 girls per 1000 boys, anything below this figure would give the actual deficit. To see the regional variations in girls deficit in Haryana aggregate figures are given for all districts. Mostly districts in the Haryana region are affecting in deficit of girls. Haryana has a total population of 25353081, with males 1,35,05,130 and 1,18,47,951 females with sex ratio of 877.

**INITIATIVES BY THE GOVERNMENT TO REMOVE THE DISPARITIES IN STATUS AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN:** This, however, is not to say that the Government of the State is making no efforts to improve the situation of female. The numbers of innovative schemes have been launched by the Government of Haryana for improving the status of women in the State as well as generally for improving the socio economic conditions. There is great need to stop the declining sex ratio, increase the literacy rate and improve the work participation conditions of women in Haryana. The government has taken several initiatives to remove the problem. The schemes promote the need for gender equality and bring out how neglect of girls and discrimination throughout her life cycle leads to an equal status in the society. It also aims to break myths about role of men and women, so that negative attitudes and behaviors of society could be changed through enhanced female literacy and empowerment. The government has taken several steps to improve the sex ratio, female literacy rate, female work participation and for empowerment of women. The State has been implementing various schemes for the socio-economic advancement and development of women in the State to eliminate all types of discrimination against women and the girl child and ensure empowerment and gender justice for them. The State's first priorities are to arrest the declining sex ratio and to address the problem of female feticide, reduce malnutrition among children and enhance socioeconomic status of women.

**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao:** The year 2015 could not have begun on a better note that expressed concern for the girl child. The concern arises from the unabated decline in the child sex ratio. The Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, has launched the national initiative of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' programme from Panipat in Haryana. The essence of the initiative is embedded in the message: 'Let her live, let her grow'. The prime objective of the programme is to bring about a change in people's mindset towards the girl child on or after her birth. "Preventing determination of sex, female foeticide, ensuring safety of girls, their best possible care and providing quality education constitute integral part of this programme. Dwelling on the scheme, Mr. Manohar Lal CM of Haryana said that national level media and multi-sectoral campaigns would be carried out in the districts which have adverse child sex ratio and awareness tours would also be conducted. The 12 districts of Haryana where BBBP would be implemented are: Mohindergarh, Jhajjar, Sonapat, Rewari, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Rohtak, Karnal, Yamunanagar, Kaithal, Bhiwani and Panipat which have lowest sex ratio in Haryana. The issue of declining child sex ratio is a major indicator of women disempowerment. It begins before birth, manifests in gender biased sex selection, elimination and continues in various forms of discrimination towards girl child. There are wide variations seen in sex ratios across different regions of the country. The welfare measures give the direction for protecting the lives of down trodden daughters of country.



**Sukanya Samridhi Yojana:** The Central government launched the ‘Sukanya Samridhi Yojana’ (girl child prosperity scheme). Sukanya Samridhi Yojana is a small deposit scheme for girl child launched as part of ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ campaign. An account can be opened at any time from the birth of a girl till she attains the age of 10 years, with a minimum deposit of Rs.1000 in any post office or authorized branches of commercial banks. The subsequent deposit should be in multiples of Rs.100. Documents relating to child’s age proof and address proof of parents or guardians should be submitted while opening account. Interest rate will be 9.1 per cent for financial year 2014-15 and it will be calculated on a yearly basis and credited into account i.e. compounded every year up to completion of 14 years from date of opening the account. The account would remain active for 21 years from the date of opening of the account or marriage of the girl. Partial withdrawal of 50 per cent of the balance would be allowed after the girl has attended 18 years to meet the requirement of higher education or marriage expenses. The scheme is open for girl child below 10 years , the Government has given a relaxation of one year for those opening accounts till December one this year which means those born on or after December 2, 2003 and those born on or after December 1, 2004 are eligible to join this scheme in this year.

**Aapki Beti Humari Beti:** Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched “Aapki Beti Humari Beti” Scheme on the eve of International Women’s Day i.e. 8 March at Panchkula district, Haryana. The scheme would be implemented in rural areas as well as urban areas of the State Haryana. It will include the families having first girl child born on or after January 22, 2015 under Scheduled Caste (SC) and Below Poverty Line (BPL). They would be eligible to receive 21,000 rupees. Likewise, all the second girl child of all families who are born on or after January 22, 2015 will get 21,000 rupees. Families with twin girls or multiple girls will get 21,000 rupees per girl child. Haryana CM launched the scheme by giving away a cheque of 21,000 rupees each to the mothers of six girl children born on or after January 22, 2015. A special budget provision would be made for this scheme in order to generate an environment which provides equal opportunities to the girls. To combat the problem of decline child sex ratio in the State CM Manohar Lal Khattar also launched 'Haryana Kanya Kosh' for the welfare and development of girl child and women in the State. ‘Haryana Kanya Kosh ’is established to provide financial assistance on the birth of first girl child. The girl child belonging to the families of poor and scheduled castes will be provided financial assistance from this fund. Haryana CM said that earlier, financial assistance was provided on the birth of second daughter under Ladli scheme. Now, the scope of this scheme has been widened and the first daughter would also be covered under it. He said that this financial assistance would be given on the birth of daughters to all the families belonging to poor and scheduled castes. To promote girls' education, scholarship on meritorious basis would be given. He said that by 2016, all schools would be equipped with desks and chairs to ensure that no child has to sit on floor to get education.

**The Ladli Scheme:** This scheme was launched in 2008. The Scheme aims at curbing female feticide and improving the social State of the girl child by supporting education and protecting them from discrimination. The scheme was sponsored by State bank of India, in this scheme the account in the name of a girl child will be opened with a deposit of 10000 and subsequently Rs 5000 will be deposited with the girl’s Admission to classes. This money is given to her name and it can be utilized for the marriage of the girl which is considered by some parents as burden in the society.

**Dhanalakshmi Scheme:** This scheme was launched in 2008. It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for child with insurance cover. It is aimed at providing cash transfer to the family of the girl child on fulfilling certain specific conditions such as birth and registration, immunization etc.



**Apni Beti Apna Dhan:** This scheme was launched in 1997. Apni Beti Apna Dhan scheme was another unique scheme initiated by the Haryana Government with a view to stem the declining sex ratio. Under this scheme, a girl child born to parents living below the poverty line is provided a Gift Certificate upon her birth which can be cashed upon her attaining the age of 18 years, provided she remains unmarried. As the scheme is yet young and the beneficiaries are to attain the age of 18 years, it is too early to assess its impact.

**Conclusion:** The child sex ratio in Haryana is 830 female children per 1000 male children, that is the lowest amongst all states of India, despite the fact that the state has experienced an increase of 11 points as against 819 in 2001. At district level, out of 21 districts of Haryana five districts in which child sex ratio has decreased from 2001 to 2011. Maximum decrease has been observed in Mahendragarh (40 points), followed by Jhajjar (27 points). Although 16 districts have recorded an increase in the child sex ratio during the last decade. Maximum increase has been witnessed in Kurukshetra district (46 points), followed by Sirsa (35 points). Although in agricultural laborers child sex ratio is better than others due to requirement of more and more children for labor. There are many cause of low child sex ratio in state as, low rural literacy rate, strong wills to has a son, social insecurity for women, women are dependent on their husband in family decision making with regard to number and sex of new-born baby, Illegal use of sex-selective technology. Most of the families, even if they are educated, but prefer to have a son as their first child.

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