

Spatio-temporal dynamics of sex composition in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract

Among various elements of population composition, sex composition holds an important place for demographers. The sex composition, in numerical sense, is expressed in terms of sex ratio which is the ratio between males and females in a population. For the analysis of various demographic characteristics and for the planning purpose it is pertinent to collect data for males and females separately. In the discipline of population geography the study of both sexes separately assumes more importance due to their various complimentary and contrasting roles in the socio-economic development of a particular region. This paper attempts to discuss the spatial variation in sex composition in Azamgarh at sub-district (tehsil) level and temporal variation in the district for the period of 1901-2011.

Keywords: sex-ratio, population composition, population dynamics, demography

Introduction

Sex ratio is calculated differently in different countries of the world. In Russia it is expressed in terms of percentage of male and female population. In U.S.A. sex ratio is expressed in terms of number of males per hundred females. In New Zealand it is expressed in terms of number of females per hundred males. In India sex ratio is defined as number of females per thousand males. The district of Azamgarh holds second position after Jaunpur district in terms of sex ratio in the state.

Objectives

1. To analyse the spatial variation in sex composition in Azamgarh at sub-district level.
2. To analyse the temporal variation in the district for the period of 1901-2011.

Research Methodology

The study is primarily based on secondary data sets generated through various internet sources like official websites of Census of India and Azamgarh district. District census handbook of Azamgarh district is the primary source of data regarding sex-ratio in spatial as well as temporal scale. First of all data regarding sex ratio has been collected and tabulated in spatial scale tehsil wise and in temporal scale it is categorised census year wise. For the tables graph has also been prepared so that it may be visually self-explanatory.

Study Area

The district Azamgarh is situated in the eastern part of the state. It comes under the Azamgarh Division lying south of Ghagra river between the parallels of 25°17' and 26°17' north latitude and 82°04' and 83°52' east longitude. Azamgarh shares its border on the east by Mau district, on the south by the district Ghazipur and Jaunpur, on the south-west by Jaunpur

district, on the west by Sultanpur district and on the north-east and north by the districts of Ambedkar nagar and Gorakhpur respectively.

Administratively Azamgarh is divided into 07 tahsils and 22 development blocks. The total area is of the district is 4054.00 sq.km. As per census 2011 total population of the district is 46,13,913 persons out of which 42,20,512 persons live in rural area and only 3,93,401 persons live in urban area. Azamgarh district has 1019 females per thousand males which is higher than the state average 912 females per thousand males.

Spatial Variation in Sex Ratio & Child Sex Ratio

Migrations are sex-selective. In the past, men migrated more freely than women, but the increasing speed and efficiency of transportation has greatly facilitated female migration in advanced countries but the situation in developing countries like India has not changed much due to some socio-cultural implications. From the table 1 and fig. 1 it can be clearly seen that sex ratio in all the tehsils of the district except Azamgarh tehsil are in favour of the females i.e. females outnumber males. It is because migration among male population is more prevalent compared to female population of the district. This sex selective phenomena of migration has positive impact over the area experiencing out-migration but in the area of in-migration it has negative influence. The main reason of out-migration of dominantly male population is employment that is why Azamgarh tehsil having more opportunities for the population being employed as it is district headquarter also, has lowest sex ration in the district.

Migration is also age-selective. Migration is more prevalent among adult population compared to population of dependent age group as the dominant cause for the migration is employment. Due to this age selective migration child sex ratio in all the seven tehsils of Azamgarh district is lower than the sex ratio (Table 1 & Fig. 1).

Table 1: Spatial Variation in Sex Ratio & Child Sex Ratio

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

Source: Census of India, 2011.

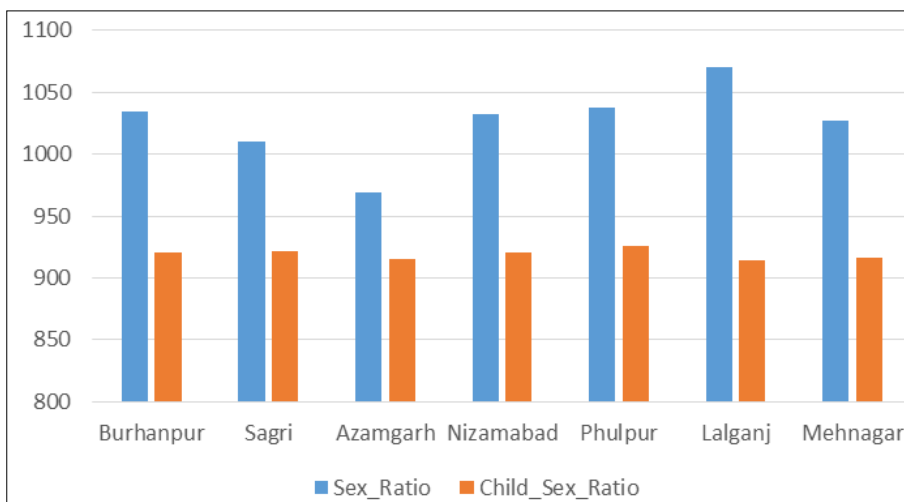


Fig 1: Sex Ratio & Child Sex Ratio

Spatial Variation in Rural & Urban Sex Ratio

As it has already been discussed that employment being the dominant cause of migration, sex ratio is favourable in the rural areas compared to the urban areas. Urban areas of the district has more employment opportunities than rural areas. That is why male population of the rural areas has migrated in search of employment to the other urban areas consequently lowering the sex ration in urban areas. Rural sex ratio and urban sex ratio both are highest in the Lalganj tehsil with 1072 and 998 females per thousand males respectively (Table 2 & Fig. 2).

Table 2: Spatial Variation in Rural & Urban Sex Ratio

Tehsil	Rural Sex Ratio	Urban Sex Ratio
Burhanpur	1036	953
Sagri	1012	976
Azamgarh	981	937
Nizamabad	1037	947
Phulpur	1040	946
Lalganj	1072	998
Mehnagar	1031	933

Source: Census of India, 2011.

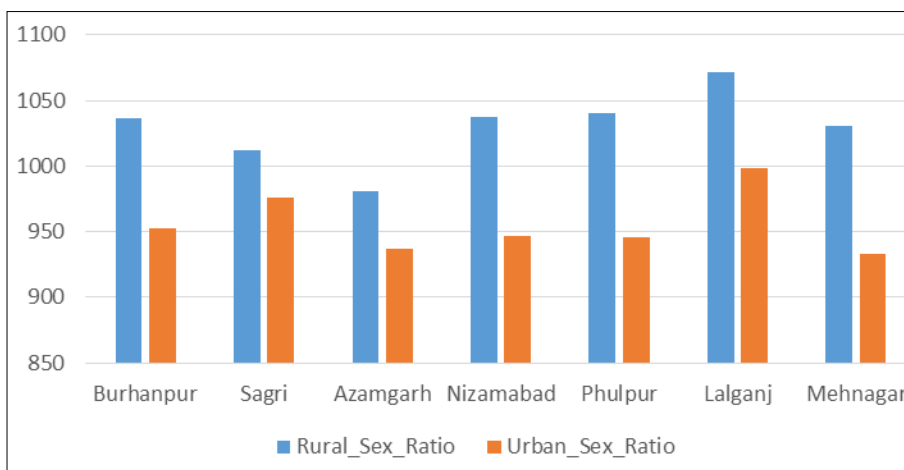


Fig 2: Rural & Urban Sex Ratio

Temporal Dynamics of Sex Ratio

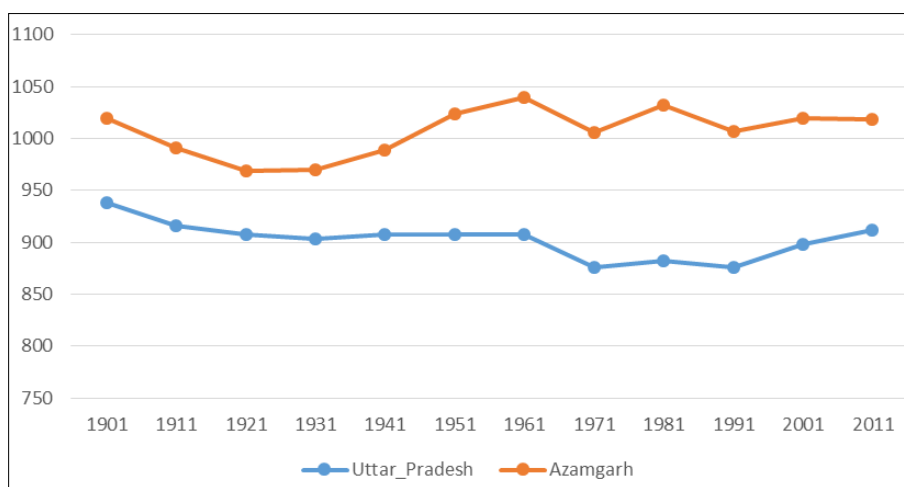
Since 1901 census till the census of 2011 Azamgarh district

has outperformed the state of Uttar Pradesh in terms of sex ratio. Sex ratio in the Azamgarh district is favourable for females in every census after independence however it is fluctuating. Lowest sex ratio (969 females per thousand males) in the district is recorded in the year 1921 and highest sex ratio (1040 females per thousand males) was in the census year of 1961. While in the state lowest sex ratio (876 females per thousand males) in the district is recorded in the year 1971 and 1991 and highest sex ratio (938 females per thousand males) was in the census year of 1901.

Table 3: Temporal Dynamics of Sex Ratio

Census Year	Uttar Pradesh	Azamgarh
1901	938	1020
1911	916	991
1921	908	969
1931	903	970
1941	907	989
1951	908	1024
1961	907	1040
1971	876	1006
1981	882	1032
1991	876	1007
2001	898	1020
2011	912	1019

Source: Census of India, 2011.

**Fig 3:** Temporal Dynamics of Sex Ratio

Conclusion

After analysing the spatial and temporal data of sex ratio in Azamgarh district it can be concluded that the favourable sex ratio in the district is in the rural areas and among adult male population. Out-migration in search of employment opportunities is the dominant cause of favourable sex ratio in the rural areas and adult male population. However, the trend of sex ratio in the district is a sign of socio-economic development but it should not be misinterpreted as it is representing the poor economic condition of the area as adult male has no option but to migrate to other regions for their survival.

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