

# SEX RATIO: TRENDS IN RURAL-URBAN DIFFERENTIALS OF BIDAR DISTRICT, KARNATAKA STATE

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## **Abstract**

*Sex ratio is one of the important attributes of population composition. It is best indicator of status of women in society and index to study the level of development of a region. It has recorded a continuous decline in the country. Declining sex ratio has already become serious social problem and rude shock to the demographers.*

*As far as sex ratio of urban and rural population of India is concerned, it represents a contrastingly different pattern in comparison to the western countries. Even our state Karnataka is showing more rural –urban differentials in sex ratio. The study of this differential is essential for understanding the employment and consumption pattern and social needs etc. of a community. Thus, the present study makes an effort to analyse the rural-urban differential in sex ratio of Bidar district in Karnataka State over time and space. The district has very low sex-ratio of 916 in the state.*

**Key words:** Sex ratio, Rural ratio, Urban ratio, Differential.

## **Introduction**

Sex ratio is the ratio between males and females. It refers to the number of females to thousand males. The sex composition is of paramount importance in any population because of contrasting and complementary roles played by two sexes in economy and society. Sex ratio is an index of economy prevailing in an area and is useful tool for regional analysis (Franklin 1956). This ratio has performed an important role not only in demographic factors like fertility, mortality, migration etc. but also on other factors like manpower, national income, education, housing etc. Hence proper understanding of the sex composition of any population is essential.

## **Objectives of the study**

From the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, sex ratio of Bidar District is declining continuously where only three decades had shown the increased ratio. Both rural and urban areas are affected by this trend in one or the other way. Throughout the century, rural ratio is higher than urban ratio. However, both areas are suffering from disparity in the sex ratio. Thus, the main objectives of the present paper are To study the trend of rural-urban differentials in sex ratio in Bidar District from 1901 to 2011. To analyse the regional pattern of rural-urban differences in sex ratio. To analyse the regional pattern rural urban differential in child sex ratio.

## **Data base and Methodology**

Most of the data is collected from the secondary sources such as Census Books and Bidar at a glance etc. Simple methods like subtracting urban ratio in rural one are followed to study the trend of rural urban differentials. For the base map of Bidar district is taken from gazetteer of Bidar. Choropleth maps are used to analyse the spatial pattern of the rural urban differentials in the sex ratio.

## Study Area

The Bidar district was a part of the Hyderabad state before it was liberated in 1948. It was merged with Karnataka state in 1956. Since the area was economically the most backward area in the state. It was brought under a separate division called Gulbarga.

Bidar district is located in the northern tip of Karnataka state. It lies between the north latitudinal parallels of  $17^{\circ} 35'$  to  $18^{\circ} 29'$  and east longitudinal meridians of  $76^{\circ} 41'$  to  $7^{\circ} 40'$ . Bidar district has the extent of 98 km. from north to south and it is 102 km. from east to west spanning a total geographical area of 5,448 sq. km. It occupies an area of 2.85% in the total area of the state. The administrative unit includes five talukas, 30 revenue hobbies, 592 revenue villages and gram panchayats. The five talukas of the district are Aurad, Basavakalyan, Balki, Bidar and Humnabad.

The district shares 2.79% of total Karnataka state's population and is in 16<sup>th</sup> place among the districts in this respect. The total population of the district as per 2011 census is 17.03lakh of the total population 51.12% are males and 48.88% are females. 74.99% of the total population are living in rural areas, while 25.01% of total population are living in the urban areas of the district.

## Sex Ratio of Bidar: A temporal analysis 1901-2011

From the first census it is very clear that the sex ratio is adverse to women and it is common to observe lower sex ratio in rural areas. Moreover sex ratio is declining continuously with some exceptions (Table1).

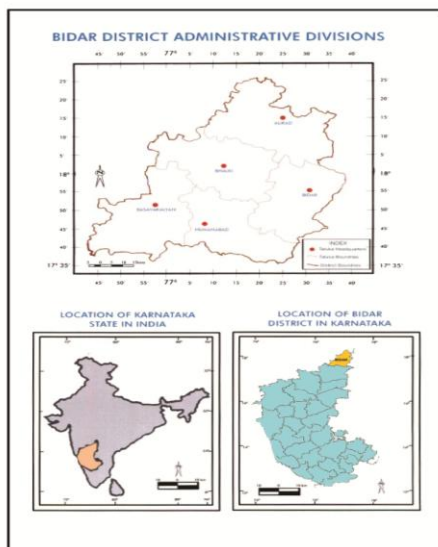


Figure 1. Location

Map

In the decade of 1901 -1911 sex ratio of the district slightly declined from 990 to 979. As famine, plague and malaria ruling the whole district might have lead to this decline, because females were more affected by these epidemics. The sex ratio declined further to 968 by 1921 due to continuous spread of epidemic diseases which was like death blow to women. Declining trend continued in next two decades also. Thus, it came to 949 by 1941. However, in the decade of 1941-51 sex ratio increased to 977. Thus, for the first time it registered the increase. Again, the sex ratio dropped for two consecutive decades after 1951. It came down to 963 in 1971. The district recovered slightly the decline by 5 points (from 963 to 968)

during 1971-1981. Life expectancy of females during this decade increased from 63 years to 67 years. Therefore, the ratio also improved with the improvement in the status of women. This trend did not continue in next decade when it again fallen to 952. However, the district has recorded again rising sex ratio in 2011 with 956. Thus, table 1 makes it clear that district has faced a consistent decline in all censuses except during the decades of 1941-51, 1971-81 and 2001-2011(Fig.2). When we examine the causes of declining sex ratio, following reasons come out preference for male child, discrimination of female sex, female infanticide and sex selectivity among migrants. Moreover the increasing trend of female fetal abortions on the basis of sex determination tests. When we compare the ratio of the district with that of our state it is generally lower in all decades except a few census. At present , sex ratio of the district is lower than the ratio of the state by 17 points.

### **Rural Urban Differentials in Sex ratio 1901-2011**

Dominance of male migrants from rural areas to urban centers is the main reason for differentials in sex ratio of Bidar district. It is common to observe prejudice against female employment and mobility. High cost of living and problem of housing in urban areas force the male migrants to leave their families in villages. Many people are not having any worry about the safety of their family as they are living in joint families in rural areas. As such sex ratio was favourable for urban areas in the district up to 1951 census which was contradictory to the state's ratio. It was from the census of 1961, rural sex ratio surpassed the urban sex ratio till the present census.

**Table 1. Decadal Sex ratio of Bidar District 1901-2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Gap</b>
1901	990	985	1029	-44
1911	979	975	1017	-34
1921	968	965	994	-27
1931	959	955	984	-22
1941	949	946	970	-20
1951	980	978	993	-19
1961	971	977	931	-46
1971	963	970	922	-48
1981	968	978	920	-58
1991	952	966	899	-67
2001	949	956	923	-33
2011	956	961	941	-20

**Source:** Census of India 1901-2011

The maximum difference of 67 point was recorded in the decade of 1981-1991 while the maximum gap of -44 points was recorded in 1901 -1911. Thus, excessive male migration is the major cause of rural urban differential in sex ratio. The rural urban gap in sex ratio has always been fluctuating in the district during 1901-2011. It has fluctuated between -44 in 1901 to -20 in 2011. The differential points out that there is very wide gap in rural urban populations. It is interesting to observe that in all decades the sex ratio differential has been favorable of rural areas. Sex ratio is declining in both rural and urban areas. However it is declining rapidly in urban centers. Although, the last decades are showing the increasing trend in ratio, child sex ratio is continuously declining.

## Spatial Pattern of Rural Urban Differences in Sex ratio

The sex ratio at birth is similar in both rural and urban areas of the district. Hence, the main reason for the differential is sex selectivity among migrants. The urban sex ratio was generally higher between 1901 to 1951 censuses. After the 1961 to 1991 rural sex ratio increased rapidly, and the last two decades it has recorded slight decrease.

Rural urban difference in sex ratio is analysed with the help of choropleth maps. Taluks of the district can be classified in to two broad categories such as areas with higher urban sex ratio than rural and areas with lower urban sex ratio than rural (Fig.3 to 8).

## Areas with Higher Urban Sex ratio than Rural 2001-2011

The Bidar District with all its taluks namely Aurad, Bhalki, Bidar, Basavakalyan and Humnabad had lower urban sex ratio than rural in 2001. District as whole has the gap of 35 points. Rural areas of the district had relatively higher sex ratio. Compared 2001 census, there is improvement in urban sex ratio in only one taluk i.e Aurad where the urban sex ratio increased by one point in present census.

Table 2. Taluk wise Rural-urban Sex ratio in Bidar district-2001& 2011

Sl. No.	Taluks	2001				2011			
		Sex ratio	Rural	Urban	Gap	Sex ratio	Rural	Urban	Gap
1	Aurad	951	952	932	-20	956	956	957	+01
2	Bhalki	947	958	880	-78	959	961	945	-16
3	Bidar	938	951	922	-29	949	959	938	-21
4	Basavakalyan	960	970	923	-47	959	967	930	-37
5	Humnabad	950	951	947	-04	962	963	954	-09
	<b>Total</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>-35</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>-20</b>

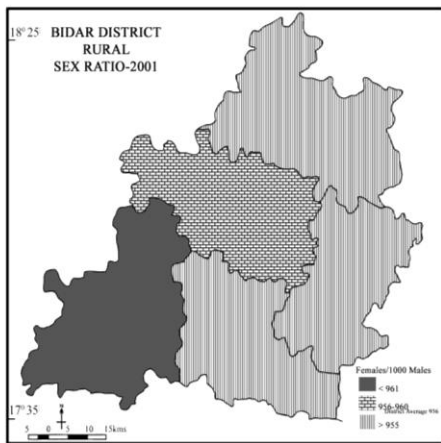
**Sources:** Census of India -2001-2011

## Areas with Lower Urban Sex ratio than Rural-2001-2011

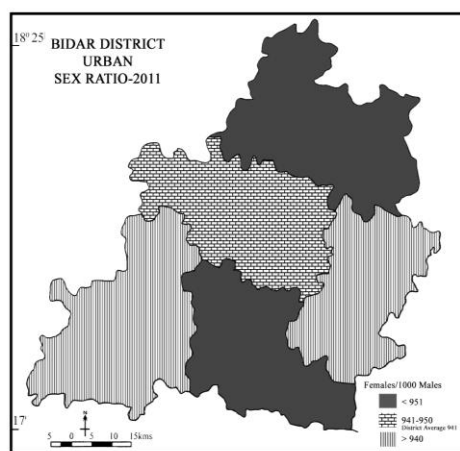
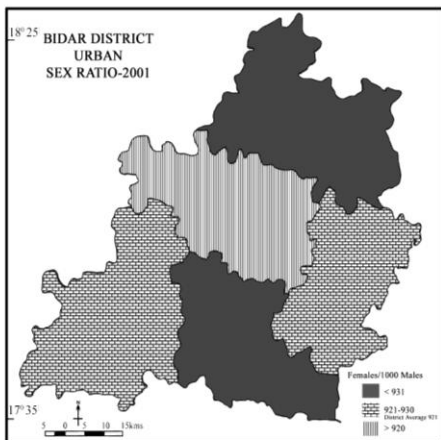
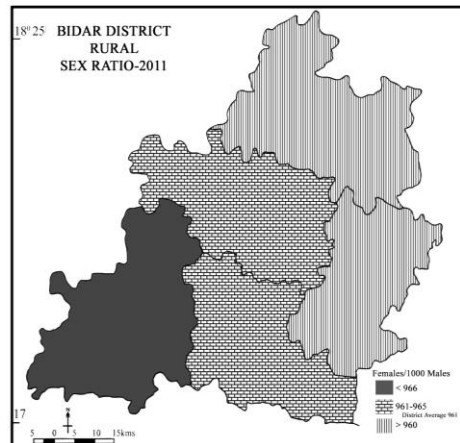
In Bidar district, all talukas have higher rural sex ratio than urban in 2001. Differences between the two ratios ranged from 78 in Bhalki Taluk to 4 in Humanabad Taluk. The main reason was migration of males to commercial cities of Gulbarga District, Maharashtra, Andrapradesh and Goa states etc. It was very common to observe that many people have migrated to Arab countries from Bidar district. But they had left their families here. The taluk of Basavakalyan(47), Bidar(29) , Aurad(20) had higher sex ratio than urban. District as a whole has the gap of 20 points(Fig.3 and 4). While large number of males migrated from the district due to frequent droughts is the main reason due to which males migrate to Goa and other nearer cities in search food and work.

In the present census, only four talukas have higher rural sex ratio than urban except Aurad taluk. Although, this has retained its position of higher rural ratio, there is considerable decline in the gap. For example, Bhalki taluk had the gap of 78 points in 2001 but now it is decreased to 16 points. While the lowest gap of one point is recorded in Aurad taluk (Fig.3 and 4).

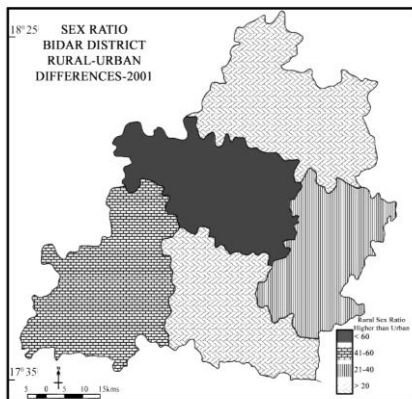
TALUKAWISE RURAL-URBAN SEX RATIO IN BIDAR DISTRICT - 2001



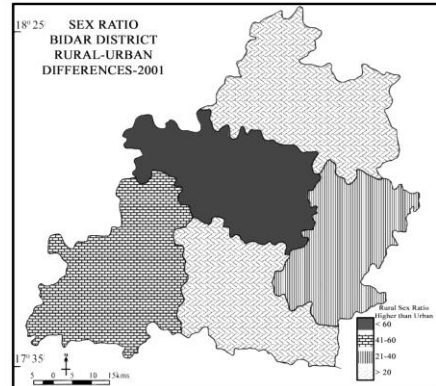
TALUKAWISE RURAL-URBAN SEX RATIO IN BIDAR DISTRICT - 2011



TALUKAWISE RURAL-URBAN SEX RATIO IN BIDAR DISTRICT - 2001



TALUKAWISE RURAL-URBAN SEX RATIO IN BIDAR DISTRICT - 2001



### Spatial Pattern of Rural Urban differences in child sex ratio

Child sex ratio of the district in both rural and urban area is lower compared to adult ratio of the district. All taluks except Bhalki are having higher urban child ratio. District as a whole also has lower urban child ratio. It is an urgent matter of concern that child sex ratio in the district is declining in the district rampantly. Aurad taluk has the highest child sex ratio of 979 which is more than the district average. While Bhalki taluk has the lowest child ratio of 934 (Table 3)

Table 3. Bidar District: Child sex ratio (0-6 Age group)-2011

Sl. No.	Taluk				Gap
		Total	Rural	Urban	
01	Aurad	979	951	-942	
02	Balki	934	927	+974	
03	Bidar	938	952	-920	
04	B.Kalyan	937	953	-879	
05	Humnabad	942	949	-923	

Source: Bidar District at a glance-2014

### Conclusion

Bidar has been characterized by relatively lower sex ratio which was lower in urban areas in the last census. But the condition is improved in the present census. On whole there has been decrease in both rural and urban sex ratios during the present century. Urban areas had recorded rapid decline in sex ratio. Sex selectivity among migrants is the main reason behind rural urban differences. It is interesting to observe that sex ratio is inversely proportional to the growth rate of urban population. However, child sex ratio of the district is continuously declining at an alarming rate. District as a whole had lower urban sex ratio than rural.

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