

## FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR INFLUENCING THE ADVERSE CHILD SEX RATIO: A STUDY ON BIRBHUM DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL

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### Abstract

Indian are witnessing a changing pattern of child sex ratio which is a serious problem with severe socio economic, demographic, and cultural consequences. In the last decade, the drastic decline in child sex ratio found to be an important issue which make a grave concern in rural Indian context especially some of the rural districts of West Bengal including Birbhum. The researcher tried to examine the ground realities and demographic scenario of Birbhum district where gender inequality is a serious problem in fabric of the society. This paper has mainly dealt with subject related to character of child sex ratio whether it is deteriorated or improved, considering various socio-economic factors which are regarded as important determinants of different gender preferences in the Birbhum district of West Bengal. In spite of higher mortality predominance for male child, the female child was having a decrease ratio during (0-6) years. That is why the study has revealed special attention on age of the respondents of schedule caste, schedule tribe, Muslim and other communities specifying age at marriage, numbers of children, structure of houses, income, education, job pattern, women's status for studying the nature of child sex ratio. It was observed that skewed in girl child population leads to serious demographic imbalance and adverse social consequences. Accordingly, the researchers have taken an effort to examine the child sex ratio, its actual causes and significance in society with the help of worthy methodology and correct field data.

**Keywords:** child sex ratio, socio economic, gender preferences, mortality rate, demographic imbalance, skewed ratio.

### Introduction

Demography is the methodical research of population. Demography study trends and activities related to population including changes in population size, pattern of birth, death, migration and structure and composition of the population. Sex compositions of human population is a demography characteristic which influence the social economy and structure relationship among the human beings within the community. There are different types of demography including formal demography which is to a largely numerical field and social demography which demographic studies are based on process counting or enumeration such as census or survey which involved systematic collection of data on the people residing within a specified

territory.

Child Sex composition is one of the important demographic parameters which determines the balance between females and males child. In India, sex ratio is expressed as the number of females per 1000 of male. Similarly, child sex ratio is defined in the same manner as the number of females per thousand of male age group (0-6) years. Sex ratio is internationally defined as the number of males per 100 females. There are so many factors a responsible for biased sex ratio specially in favour of males than females child. In fact, sex ratio at birth reduces as the age increase, since adult make a higher death rate of male as compared to female and they are more exposed to threats as compared to female. Hence, sex ratio in entire population is needed ideally balanced sex ratio.

"Gender equality is more than a goal in itself, it is a precondition for meeting the challenges of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance" -- Kofi Annan (a noble peace prize winner.)

### Demographic profile of children in India West Bengal and Birbhum district.

Annually a survey report, 26 million of children are born in India. There is a decline of 5.05 million in the population of children (0-6) years during decade 2001 to 2011. The decline in male children is 2.06 million and female children is 2.99 million. Child sex ratio changes because of introduced modern technology as the reason female foeticide. Apart from urban area the sex determination facilities even access to rural area and the easy availability of modern technology causes changes of rural child sex ratio.

Table No -1: Decadal variation of child sex ratio.

Child Sex Ratio	2001	2011	Change
India	<b>927</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>-9</b>
West Bengal	<b>960</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>-4</b>
Birbhum	<b>964</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>-5</b>

The sex composition by age group especially (0-6) years is vital for studying the demographic trends of child population in India. It has declined from 927 in 2001 to 918 in 2011 census. The decreasing child sex ratio will have a cascading effect on population over a period of time leading to diminishing sex ratio in India. The decline in child sex ratio was even sharper and the gap of child sex ratio between two census is negative (-9). The state of West Bengal has recorded child sex ratio always upward trend in compared to National level. West Bengal has registered child sex ratio 960 in 2001, a downward trend to 956 in 2011 census. The gap in child sex ratio from 2001 to 2011 census revealed a negative (-4). The declining trend continued even in Birbhum district, where child sex ratio dropped from 964 in 2001 to 959 in 2011 between two census is negative (-5). The district of Birbhum has always played a significant role in socio economic and political scenario in the state of West Bengal.

### Focus of the study

Accordingly, the researchers have derived an attempt to examine the trend of declining child sex ratio and its particular reasons and consequences with the guidance of suitable objectives in the selected villages under Mayureshwar-II Block and Nalhati-II Block in Birbhum district. The present study concentrates on child sex ration in age groups (0-6) years as because it is most useful tools to realize the real pictures of gender discrimination an affected by other.

### **Objectives of the study**

The following objectives have been formulated for the present study which include

- (1) To study the socio-economic condition of households and the changing pattern of child sex ratio in the study area.
- (2) To study the attitudes of household members regarding sex preferences.
- (3) To understand the sex ratio specific differences in the childcare practices.
- (4) To assess the awareness level of household members regarding discriminations between girls and boys and its impact on the society.

### **Literature review**

Review of current investigations in the area of research enable the researcher to accustom with trends of present research practices. UNICEF (1998), Girls in India are discriminated against in other ways as well, fewer months of breast feeding, less nurturing and play less medical treatment if they fall ill less special food, less prenatal attention. As a result, girls are more susceptible than boys to disease and infections, leading to for health and shorter infections lifespan. It is this life- long discrimination in nurturing and care that is the real killer of girls less visible and less dramatic, but as unequivocally lethal as female foeticide and infanticide. Tinnari, (2002) mentioned in the study that son preference is considered to be the strongest among the middle-income group. The main reasons for son preference were due to perpetuates the family name and inherit property which are providers in old age and to perform the last rites. Yadav and Badri (1997), the region for wanting a son is to attain moksha the last rights and to continue the family lineage. Miller (1997) in her study, "The endangered sex", emphasized the social- cultural discrimination against female children as the main reason for female motility. Miller called this as "extended infanticide" where life sustaining inputs like food, nutrition, healthcare were denied to a girl child. There is a great deal of evidence of girls being given less food and health care than boys. Girls are breastfed for shorter periods; they are taken to fewer medical consultations, and often very late, or not at all, to hospitals. Reasons for son preference were that they perpetuate the family name and inherit property, they are providers in old age and to perform the last rites (MOHFW and TINNARI). The reason for wanting a son is to attain moksha (Prasad, 2001 and Nayar, 1995) power, prestige to perform the last rites and to continue the family lineage (Yadav and Badri, 1997). Rapid spread of female foeticide as well as amniocentesis for sex determination are playing vital role in female foetus induced abortions son which is called high-tech sexism by Amrita Sen. The female foeticide was cited as the main reason for the decline in sex ratio. The other reasons included are neglect of the girl child resulting in higher female mortality, maternal death, dowry death, female infanticide, and male migration (Ghosh, Goyal and Balda in 2005)

Srivastava, Dasgupta and Rai (2005) in a study conducted on 200 married men and women to view their attitude towards the girl child and the declining sex ratio in Bhopal found that the reasons for not preferring girls over boys include that since bringing up girls is a costly affair and a wasted investment as they have to be given married in their appropriate age, arrange for dowry is difficult affair. there is also a fear of providing safety inside home for girls including subject to chances of harassment at home as well as in workplace.

It could be assuredly reviewed that the investigations have analysis various dimension of declining child sex ratio and its root causes and effect in existing social situation.

### **Methodology**

Research in common parlance refers to a search for knowledge. It can be defining research as a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic. In fact,

research is an art of scientific investigation. The researcher has also enlisted the significance of processing and analysis of data in the scientific study and the highlight the process of processing and analysis of data which have been used in research work. A systematic interview has been conducted by the researcher for collection of primary data. The device has designed considering the objective of the study. It has been settled based on experimental study and field test that have been undertaken before beginning of the data collection from the selected respondents. The interview schedule has been contained of close-ended questions which has been separated into five major parts such as, socio economic status consciousness on sex decision viewpoint towards children. reason for sex preferences and treating practices of the children. A two - points and three-points, rating scale have only been used to measure the opinion on their child sex ratio. After the data collection, data has been classified, tabulated and interpreted in terms of simple percentage calculation to know more about the results of the study. Only 200 respondents in two blocks namely Mayureshwar Block and Nalhati Block have been covered in the present study. Hence, calculation may not be generalized to other areas which are scope and limitation of the study.

#### Area of study

Having highest level of improvement in respect to child sex ratio is internationally found in Mayureshwar block-II from 2001 in 928 to 2011 in 963 and have a highest positive change in child sex ratio which is 35 in number – a increase with respect to 1000 males. The fact is that significant and drastically decline an imbalance child sex ratio in Nalhati as reported by census from 2001 in 996 to 20 11 in 954. The trend of son preference in Nalhati-II block are found to be negative in child sex ratio (-42).

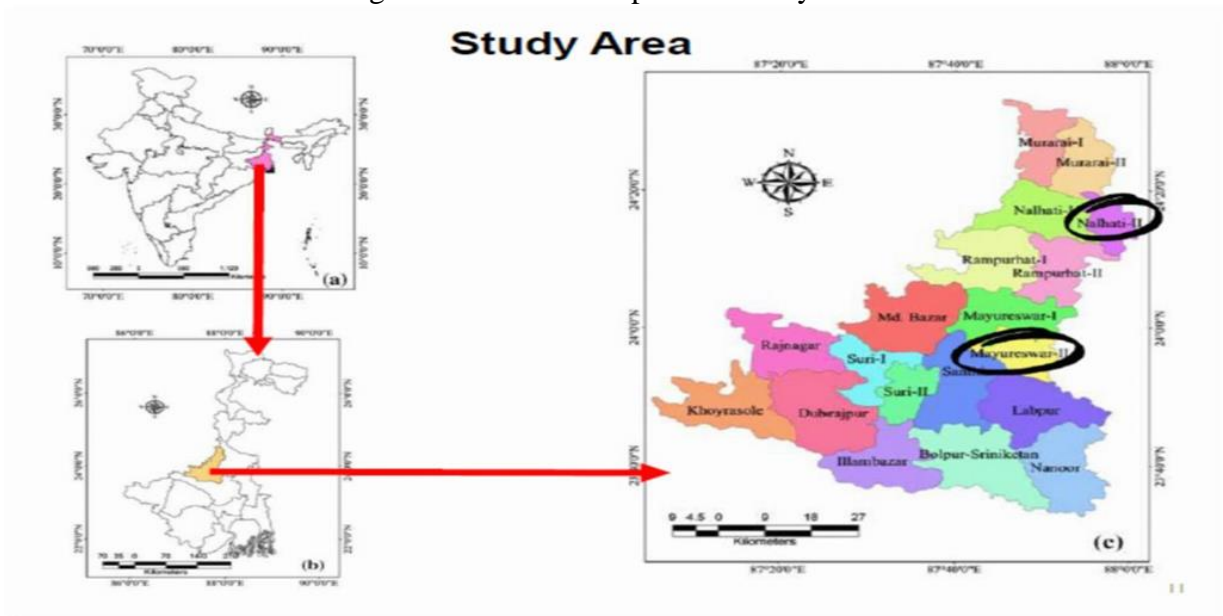
#### Sampling methods

In this study, the researcher has been selected as a study area of four villages and having more than 200 households in order to collect primary data from selected villages come under Mayureshwar-II Block and Nalhati-II Block. The researcher has made a systematic study and collecting data in same manner from the households of the villages and blocks are as follows:

Table No -2: Selected blocks and villages for the study.

Block	Village Name
Mayureshwar-II	Bhudharpur
	Madhaipur
	Mahesha
	Belera
Nalhati-II	Kumarsanda
	Baneswar
	Atkulia
	Salisanda

Figure 1: Location map of the study area



- **Source of data and tools of data collection**

Source of data and tools of data collection are three types-primary, secondary and tertiary data which are collected by researcher by field visit or sources data collection (primary data). Documentary source of data collection are those collected by the researcher from documentary sources (secondary) and a territory source use and help of internet.

- **Interview schedule of household members-**

Interview is close contact and interaction including dialogue between two or more persons of the household members and provides an opportunity to collect the facts about the problem of the study. There are so many technique to collect the primary data in social research interview and structure schedule are considered as the common tools.

- **Interview schedule for key personnel-**

Interview with key personnel is used to collect addition information from household members. It is recommended to focus the questions on key personnel of the concern for the child sex ratio, socio-economic program to keep the interview as short as possible.

- **Census data-**

Census is survey conducted on the full set of observation objects belonging to a given population or groups at a point in time collected data through administrative records. Census data is decadal documentary source of data and analysis of data in social research interview for studying in child sex ratio and its consequences.

### Findings Objective 1

To the study area, socio economic condition and status of household in the specific villages have changed pattern of child sex ratio significantly. On the other hand, raise quality of life is a personalized concept where the individual in the society is considered to be developed by developing the Socio-economic condition in the study area. The problem of low literacy rate is realised by disparity across different castes I also. In addition, there is a long gender gap in study area and analysing the reason of poverty and downward socio economic is the factor

that playing significant role in degrading status of girls in the blocks of the Birbhum district.

Table No – 3: Caste wise distribution of studied household

Block	SC	ST	Muslim	Others	Total
Mayureshwar-II	27 (46.5%)	09 (62.9%)	41 (50.6%)	23 (47.9%)	100 (50%)
Nalhati-II	31 (53.5%)	04 (30.8%)	40 (49.4%)	25 (52.1%)	100 (50%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>13</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>81</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>48</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>200</b> <b>(100%)</b>

Source: data compiled from collected primary data

In the study the researcher has studied 200 household in two blocks namely Mayureshwar –II Block and Nalhati-II Block as caste wise population represent in the society. The data regarding profile respondents background and behavioural practices regarding gender discrimination and impact of the social work intervention on behaviour of respondents has been collected by researcher himself through field visit termed as field source of data collection. According to collect the information 50.6% and 49.4%, belong to Muslim community schedule caste respondents, (46.5) and (53.5) followed by schedule tribe (69.2%) and (30.8%) other respondents, (47.9%) and (52.1%) of selected Blocks Mayureshwar-II and Nalhati-II in 200 households.

Table No – 4: Block wise distribution of household size

Category	Mayureshwar-II	Nalhati-II	Total
3 to 5	82 (82.0%)	94 (94.0%)	176 (88.0%)
6 to 8	16 (16.0%)	06 (06.0%)	22 (11.0%)
9 to 12	01 (01.0%)	00 (00.0%)	01 (0.5%)
Above 12	01 (01.0%)	00 (00.0%)	01 (0.5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 (100%)</b>	<b>100 (100%)</b>	<b>200 (100%)</b>

Source: data compiled from collected primary data

The survey has been conducted in two specified two blocks (3 to 5) members in Nalhati-II is found 94% and followed by 82% in Mayureshwar-II. Family structure can be concluded that majority of respondents are nuclear and broken nuclear increased relatively.

Table no -4. Family annual income in sample household's caste wise.

Income refers to consumption given by an entity within a specified time frame which generally expressed in monetary terms includes the inequality in income among the households of different castes. It shows the financial status of a particular family of caste which reflects the living condition and behaviour of the respondents.

Table No – 5: Family annual income in sample household’s caste wise in Mayureshwar-II

Category	SC	ST	Muslim	Others	Mayureshwar-II Total
30001 - 60000	10 (37.0%)	08 (88.9%)	02 (04.9%)	16 (69.6%)	36 (36.0%)
60001 - 90000	10 (37.0%)	01 (11.0%)	03 (07.3%)	07 (30.4%)	21 (21.0%)
Above 9000	07 (25.9%)	00 (00.0%)	36 (87.8%)	00 (00.0%)	<b>43 (43.0%)</b>
Total	27 (100.0%)	04 (100.0%)	41 (100.0%)	23 (100.0%)	100 (100.0%)

Source: data compiled from collected data

Table No – 6. Family annual income in sample household’s caste wise in Nalhathi-II

Category	SC	ST	Muslim	Others	Nalhathi-II Total
30001 - 60000	13 (41.8%)	03 (75.0%)	00 (00.0%)	14 (56.0%)	30 (30.0%)
60001 - 90000	14 (52.2%)	01 (25.0%)	17 (42.5%)	09 (36.0%)	<b>41 (41.0%)</b>
Above 9000	04 (12.9%)	00 (00.0%)	23 (57.5%)	02 (8.0%)	29 (29.0%)
Total	31 (100.0%)	04 (100.0%)	40 (100.0%)	25 (100.0%)	100 (100.0%)

Source: data compiled from collected data

According to the collected information of annual income of the respondents belongs to Muslim with 87.8% is found highest income in category (90000 and above) and followed by schedule caste with 25.9% in Mayureshwar block-II

The majority of the respondent (90000 and above) belong to Muslim castes have earned highest annual income with 57.5% followed by schedule caste with 12.9% in Nalhathi -II Block.

The sex ratio figure of primary, secondary and tertiary data have collected in the study area. The sex figure and primary data are collected by the researcher himself by the field visit (primary data), documental source of data (secondary data), and a tertiary source with the help of internet.

Table No – 7: Female male ratio of studied villages.

Block	Village Name	Sex Ratio	
		Census Data	Primary Data

		2001	2011	Change in Sex Ratio	2019-20 Sample Household
Mayureshwar-II	Bhudharpur	921	902	-19	1107
	Madhaipur	906	917	+11	1196
	Mahesha	942	899	-43	1034
	Belera	976	962	-14	1143
Nalhati-II	Kumarsanda	872	943	+71	865
	Baneswar	943	977	+34	941
	Atkulia	983	954	-29	1122
	Salisanda	980	968	-12	1102

Source: data compiled from collected data

In Mayureshwar block-II, according to the 2011 census which actually declined sex ratio over the figure of previous census except one village named Madhapur has slightly improved by 11 points. It has been collected data through field visit by the researcher himself and found a huge increased of sex ratio in four villages with shed new light on the dynamic trends.

In Nalhati ||Block showed a significant improved in overall sex ratio during 2001 to 2011 in two villages Kumarsanda and Baneshwar (increase of 71 and 34 points). According collecting information (2020 to 2021) from the respondents is showing a decline trend in two villages of Nalhati || block, which is matter of concern.

Table No – 8: Child sex ratio of studied villages.

Block	VillageName	Child Sex Ratio			
		Census Data			Primary Data
		2001	2011	Change In Sex Ratio	2019-20 Sample Household
Mayureshwar-II	Bhudharpur	835	1149	+314	1333
	Madhaipur	747	1071	+324	1545
	Mahesha	980	543	-437	875
	Belera	1057	764	-293	1286
Nalhati-II	Kumarsanda	859	1100	+241	1133
	Baneswar	880	1057	+177	1400



	Atkulia	1025	817	-208	1167
	Salisanda	1190	825	-365	1000

Source: data compiled from collected data

It was clear analysis of the above table huge. During 2001 to 2011 census child sex ratio has been registered among four villages in Mayureshwar-II block and showing an improvement Trend in two villages increase of 324 and 314 points, and rest of 2 villages which are having significant decline in 437 and 293 points.

From the investigation the table revealed that increase of child sex ratio in three village of Mayureshwar-II Block respondents were of the view that social status of family is prominent reason behind the improved of higher child sex ratio and one village named Mahesha has a dramatic declined by 875 out of 1000 that according to researcher analysis female child deficit which occurred as female child disrespect in society.

In the same way studied villages of Nalhati-II Block has documented documentaries source from 2001 to 2011 census, one village named Baneshwar shows increase of child sex ratio by 177 points. while other two villages named Atkula and Salisanda , a decadal decline of (-208) points and (-365) points was regarded as very substantial decreased and a matter of serious concern for declining child sex ratio.

In the above table shows the responses regarding the knowledge of the respondent about any policy which encourage the birth of girl child resulted a dramatically improvement in three villages, i.e., Baneshwar shows a number of 1400 of females to that of 1000 male child. Atkulia shows 1167 of female towards 1000 of male child and Salisanda stands 1000 as balanced child sex ratio. The villages of Baneshwar, Atkulia and Salisanda are showing considerable signs of improvement.

Educational Status of Mother	Mayureshwar-II	Nalhati-II	Total
Primary	03 (03.2%)	00 (00.0%)	03 (01.5%)
Upper Primary	16 (16.8%)	24 (24.0%)	40 (20.5%)
<b>Secondary</b>	<b>51 (53.7%)</b>	<b>45 (45.0%)</b>	<b>96 (49.2%)</b>
Higher Secondary	21 (22.1%)	31 (31.0%)	52 (26.7%)
Graduation and above	04 (04.2%)	00 (00.0%)	04 (02.1%)

Total	95 (100.0%)	100 (100.0%)	195 (100.0%)
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Table No – 9: Literacy status of mothers in sample households

Source: Data compiled from primary data

Based on the field survey that table 6 indicate that literacy is fundamental human right and to improve the status of women and also play a significant role in determining the living condition, attitude, behaviour, the value of the individual. Mother education creates a better awareness and knowledge among the individual about various segment, personal, social, cultural and economic shows in table. Majority of the respondents are literature 95% in Mayureshwar-II Block and 100% literate in Nalhati-II Block. Educational status of mother 53.7% passed secondary school has shown in Mayureshwar-II Block and 45% mother passed

Literacy Status of Mother	Mayureshwar-II	Nalhati-II	Total
Illiterate	05 (05.0%)	00 (00.0%)	<b>05 (05.0%)</b>
Literate	95 (95.0%)	100 (100.0%)	<b>195 (97.5%)</b>
Total	100 (100.0%)	100 (100.0%)	<b>200 (100.0%)</b>

in Nalhati-II Block.

Objective 2

Table No – 10: Decision making regarding childbirth caste wise

Category	Mayureshwar-II					Nalhati-II					
	Wife	Husband	Both	Family Member	Mayureshwar- II Total	Wife	Husband	Both	Family Member	Nalhati-II Total	Total
SC	02 (07.4 %)	01 (03.7 %)	15 (55.6 %)	09 (33.3 %)	27 (100.0 %)	00 (00.0 %)	01 (03.2 %)	23 (74.2 %)	07 (22.6 %)	31 (100.0 %)	58 (100.0 %)
ST	00 (00.0 %)	01 (11.1 %)	07 (77.8 %)	01 (11.1 %)	09 (100.0 %)	00 (00.0 %)	00 (00.0 %)	03 (75.0 %)	01 (25.0 %)	04 (100.0 %)	13 (100.0 %)
MUSLIM	06 (14.6 %)	00 (00.0 %)	27 (65.9 %)	08 (19.5 %)	41 (100.0 %)	00 (00.0 %)	02 (05.0 %)	32 (80.0 %)	06 (15.0 %)	40 (100.0 %)	81 (100.0 %)
OTHERS	00 (00.0 %)	06 (26.1 %)	13 (56.5 %)	04 (17.4 %)	23 (100.0 %)	00 (00.0 %)	00 (00.0 %)	20 (80.0 %)	05 (20.0 %)	25 (100.0 %)	(100.0 %)
TOTAL	08 (08.0 %)	08 (08.0 %)	62 (62.2 %)	22 (22.0 %)	100 (100.0 %)	00 (00.0 %)	03 (03.0 %)	78 (78.0 %)	19 (19.0 %)	100 (100.0 %)	200 (100.0 %)

Source: data compiled from collected primary source

Based on field, survey that table 7 indicate that decision making regarding childbirth plays a significant role in determining child birth caste wise awareness and knowledge about child birth depend on social cultural and economic issue. Child birth decision of respondents i.e., 55.6% are scheduled caste, 77.8% respondents of scheduled tribe, 65.9% of Muslim caste respondents (both – wife and husband) and 56.5% of others community have made decision for child birth in Mayureshwar-II Block.

The statement was very relevant as respondents are helpless and kind hearted. A mother cannot discriminant their child on the basis of their sex and every child is equal in the eyes of mother. In the study of Nalhati-II block, childbirth decision of respondents i.e., 74.2% of caste respondents (both wife and husband) schedule caste, 75% of respondents schedule tribe. 80% of respondents Muslim and 80% respondents of others community.

Table No – 11: Caste and community wise opinion regarding number of children Mayureshwar-II Block

Caste and community wise opinion regarding number of children Mayureshwar-II Block					
Category	SC	ST	MUSLIM	OTHERS	TOTAL
One Boy	01 (03.7%)	00 (00.0%)	09 (22.0%)	00 (00.0%)	10 (10.0%)
One Girl	01 (03.2%)	01 (11.1%)	00 (00.0%)	00 (00.0%)	02 (02.0%)
Two Girl	01 (03.7%)	01 (11.1%)	00 (00.0%)	03 (13.0%)	05 (05.0%)
One Boy and One Girl	16 (59.3%)	05 (55.6%)	24 (58.5%)	15 (65.2%)	60 (60.0%)
One child with no preferences	06 (22.2%)	00 (00.0%)	07 (17.1%)	05 (21.7%)	18 (18.0%)
Two child no preferences	02 (07.4%)	02 (22.2%)	01 (02.4%)	00 (00.0%)	05 (05.0%)
Grand Total	27 (100.0%)	09 (100.0%)	41 (100.0%)	23 (100.0%)	100 (100%)

Source: data compiled from collected primary data

Based on the field, table - 8 inferred that response given by Mayureshwar-II Block respondents have aware promptly quite obvious that caste and community wise opinion want to have number of children. Majority response have enough knowledge as reported caste wise discrimination that they do not bother want to have one boy and girl that is 59.3% respondents of schedule caste, 55.6% of scheduled tribe, 58.5 of Muslim caste and 65.2% of other community. The respondents of Muslim community opinion of 22% have a son only as their male child they will feel relaxed and socially secured to some extent.

Table No – 12: Cast and community wise opinion regarding number of children in Nalhati-II Block.

Caste and community wise opinion regarding number of children Nalhati-II Block					
Category	SC	ST	MUSLIM	OTHERS	TOTAL
One Girl	01 (03.2%)	00 (00.0%)	00 (00.0%)	01 (04.0%)	02 (02.0%)
One Boy and One Girl	25 (80.6%)	04 (100.0%)	36 (90.0%)	20 (80.0%)	85 (85.0%)
One child with no preferences	03 (09.7%)	00 (00.0%)	04 (10.0%)	01 (04.0%)	08 (08.0%)

Two child no preferences	02 (06.5%)	00 (00.0%)	00 (00.0%)	03 (12.0%)	05 (05.0%)
Grand Total	31 (100.0%)	04 (100.0%)	40 (100.0%)	25 (100.0%)	100 (100.0%)

Source: data compiled from collected primary data

From the survey data, table – 9 revealed that the knowledge was clear from the analysis of above table that majority of the respondent of Nalhati-II Block opinion as caste wise that is 80.6% of scheduled caste, 100% of schedule tribe. 90% of Muslims and 20% of others community want to have one boy and one girl because it will minimise the pressure to them mostly upper caste recorded lowest child sex ration as many factors are responsible.

Table 9 Reasons for son preference among different caste and community. The respondents regarding the above-mentioned question shows the level of desperateness of respondents to have male child. The above table shows the number of efforts of the respondents to have male child. Majority of respondents that is 24% of schedule caste, 66.7% of scheduled tribe, 0% of Muslim and 57.9% of others community express their reasons behind the carryforward lineage. The respondents of Muslim, girls will try happiness of others i.e., 33.3%. The minority of respondents express their desire that son will look after them during old age that is 28% of schedule caste and 33.3% of Muslim community.

Table No – 13: Reasons for daughter preference among different caste and community.

Reason of Daughter Preferences	SC	ST	Others	Muslim	Total
Can help in household work	00 (00.0%)	00 (00.0%)	00 (00.0%)	02 (11.1%)	02 (05.9%)
Mother want to groom her daughter like her self	02 (33.3%)	00 (00.0%)	03 (50.0%)	03 (16.7%)	08 (23.5%)
No of daughter in whole family	01 (16.7%)	00 (00.0%)	01 (16.7%)	05 (27.8%)	07 (20.6%)
Daughter obey parents	00 (00.0%)	04 (100.0%)	01 (16.7%)	00 (00.0%)	05 (14.7%)
Daughter care more to parents	03 (50.0%)	00 (00.0%)	01 (16.7%)	08 (44.4%)	12 (35.3%)
Total	06 (100.0%)	04 (100.0%)	06 (100.0%)	18 (100.0%)	34 (100.0%)

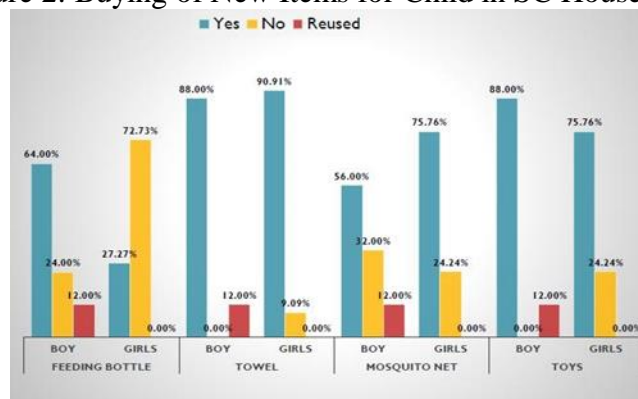
Source: data compiled from collected primary data

The responses regarding the person to be caused for daughter preference shows the above table. Minority of respondents i.e., 33.3% of schedule caste. 50% of others community and 16.7% of Muslim caste express their views as the girl can help in household work as survey reflects the couple’s decision. The schedule caste respondents of 50% 16.7% of others and 44.4% of Muslim community responded that daughter is more likely to remain closed parentsthan son.

**Objective 3.**

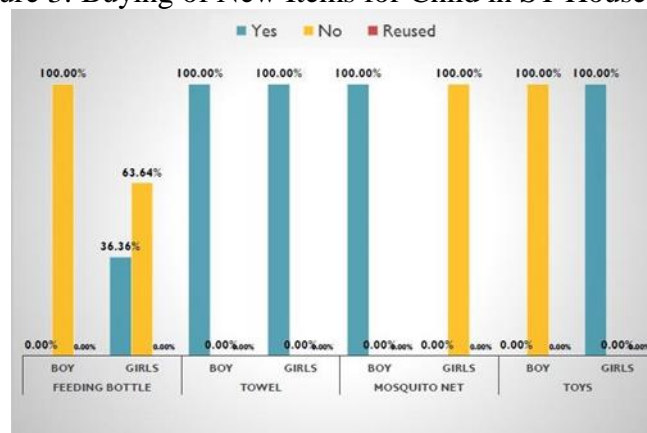
To understand the sex specific differences in the child care practices. The data collected from the study define very clearly about the trend of the child caring facilities of the study area. Parental caring was observed from the study shows some differences in buying new items between boys and girls.

Figure 2: Buying of New Items for Child in SC Households



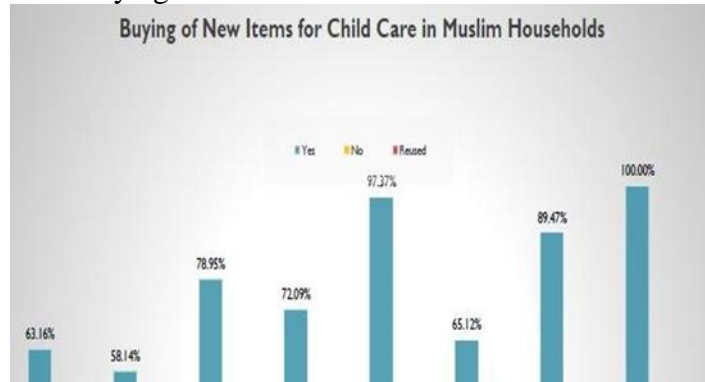
On the basis of study, the above table exposed that majority of respondents of schedule caste reported that a significant difference between boys and girls of buying feeding bottle for their child care. The above table deals with impact of intervention regarding the view of the respondents that buying of new feeding bottles for child care i.e., 64%(boys) and 24% (girls). An overwhelming maturity of the respondents are buying new towel i.e.88% (boys) and 90.91% (girls), and in buying in new mosquito net i.e. 56% (boys) and 75.76%(girls) and buying new toys i.e. 88%(boys) and 75.76% (girls) are used for child care.

Figure 3: Buying of New Items for Child in ST Households



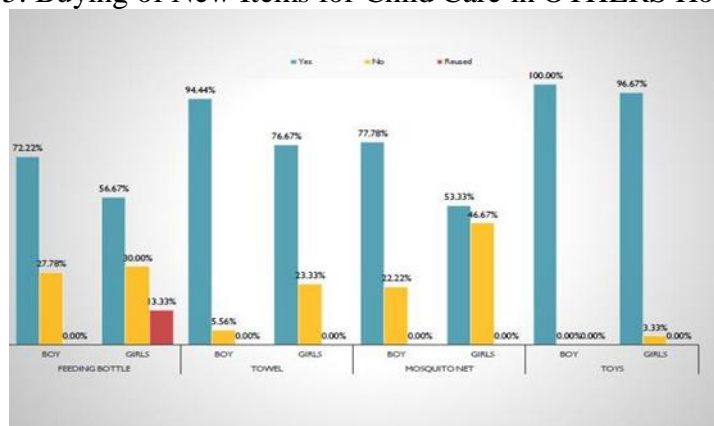
From the investigation the above table revealed that majority scheduled tribe respondents are buying new feeding bottle for their child care i.e., 36.35 % (girls) and a significant change as not buying for boys. On the contrary, buying for new towels 100% (boys) and 100 % ( girls) is found a balanced decision and in respect to buy new mosquito net i.e., 100% (boys) and no answered for girls child, a huge bias focus by the respondents. It may be noted that another outstanding changed in respect to buy toys i.e., 100% (girls) and respondents have not shown a respectful manner to boys.

Figure 4: Buying of New Items for Child in Muslim Households



It was observed from survey report that above table, there was significant association between boys and girls of Muslim community. Respondents reported in buying of new feeding bottles for their child care i.e., 63.16% (boys) and 58.14% (girls), buying new towel 78.95% (boys) and 72.09% (girls), majority respondents of Muslim community in respect to buy mosquito net shows a little bit bias attitude i.e., 97.37% (boys) and 65.12% (girls). On the contrary, it was also observed that no significant bias specially girls in buying new toys i.e., 89.47% (boys) and 100% (girls). Some facts related to child sex ratio are the main cause of decline the sex ratio due to biased attitude towards female child.

Figure 5: Buying of New Items for Child Care in OTHERS Households



On the basis of field survey, table details that others community respondents wish to buy new feeding bottle i.e., 63.16% (boys) and 58.14% (girls) further study noted that respondents wish to provide new towels for child care i.e., 78.95% (boys) and 72.09% (girls). Respondents have given more importance in buying new mosquito net i.e., 77.78% (boys) and 53.33% (girls). The majority respondents have provided more importance in buying toys i.e. 100% (boys) and 96.67% (girls).

Objective 4



Table No – 14: Caste and community number of households having knowledge regarding declining child sex ratio

Category	Mayureshwar-II					Nalhati-II					GRAND TOTAL
	SC	ST	MUSLIM	OTHERS	Mayureshw ar-II Total	SC	ST	MUSLIM	OTHERS	Mayureshw ar-II Total	
YES	09 (33.3%)	04 (44.4%)	15 (55.6%)	09 (33.3%)	27 (100.0%)	01 (03.2%)	23 (74.2%)	07 (22.6%)	31 (100.0%)	58 (100.0%)	58 (100.0%)
NO	18 (66.7%)	05 (55.6%)	07 (77.8%)	01 (11.1%)	09 (100.0%)	00 (00.0%)	03 (75.0%)	01 (25.0%)	04 (100.0%)	13 (100.0%)	13 (100.0%)
GRAND TOTAL	27 (100.0%)	09 (100.0%)	41 (100.0%)	23 (100.0%)	100 (100.0%)	31 (100.0%)	04 (100.0%)	40 (100.0%)	25 (100.0%)	100 (100.0%)	200 (100.0%)

Source: data compiled from collected primary data

This is a most significant issue of the research as it shows the level of respondent’s caste and community wise household having knowledge regarding decline child sex ratio. In Mayureshwar II Block, majority of the respondents of schedule caste i.e., 33.3% reported that they know about the declining child sex ratio and 55.7% of the respondent did not know what the declining child sex ratio is. Scheduled tribe respondents that are 44.4% having knowledge and 55.6% respondent that they have no knowledge about it. The majority respondents of Muslim community i.e., 48.8% reported that they have sufficient knowledge and 51.2% respondents that they know nothing. Respondents of other community i.e., 21.71 respondents that they have awareness about decline child sex ratio and 78.3% know nothing. Similarly. in Nalhati II Block. the response given by the respondent of schedule caste made it white obvious that very few people have knowledge about decline child sex ratio i.e. 29% and 71% respondents have no conscious. In scheduled tribe community respondents 50% awareness and 50% have no awareness. Muslim community, majority respondents 47.5% that they have knowledge and 52.5% have no knowledge. It can be concluded that majority of the respondents of others community that is 32% admit that they have knowledge of decline child sex ratio and 62% respondent that they have no idea.

**Reasons on declining child sex ratio.**

Table shows the reasons of declining child sex ratio as discriminations of girl child in Mayureshwar-II Block. It is clear from the above table discrimination of child sex ratio that

48.1% respondents of schedule caste agreed with the fact that selective abortion is responsible for decreased sex ratio whereas respondents i.e., 51.9% desire of male child. The respondents of schedule tribe i.e., 44.4% responded about the sex selective abortion of which respondents 55.6% who opined for desiring male child. It may be concluded that majority of the respondents of Muslim community i.e., 43.9% were the view that sex selective abortion is the prominent reason behind the decline child sex ratio, whereas 56.1% responded opined that desire of male child. 47.8% respondents of others community give the reason for sex selective abortion followed by 52.2% respondents who find that social factor that desire of male child. This indicates a strong son preference and the use of sex selective technology among the respondents.

### Conclusion

The researchers in the current study has tried to find out the elements which impacts on declining child sex ratio in selected districts. The rational conclusion determined from the study observed the remarkable strength of the people consider that female as weaker sex and large number of them do not have proper knowledge on child sex ratio. Responses of the household members clearly bring out discrimination between girl and boy child. Skewed gender ratio in favour of male child is an indicator to the society in the study area. A section of society has an awareness about discrimination and another section is suffering with discrimination behaviour with women right from childhood, even when they are in the womb in the form of female foeticide. When they grow up there is discrimination in providing female child proper medical facilities that result more mortality in female as compared to male (0 to 6) years of age. The problem is more severe in the society where per capita income is high; male child is preferable to female child because of their financial social and cultural advantage. Though government has taken many steps to make the people aware about the evil and many programs have been started as a part of campaign against female foeticide and infanticide to improve the gender ratio in the country. But all the government effort could not bring much change to get better result. The present paper gives fine dimensional approach to fight against the distorted gender ratio. The entire stakeholder should identify the role and should join hands to win the battle against the gender discrimination and determinations.

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