Spatial analysis of sex ratio according to different religions in Jalgaon district (MS)

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Background
The numerical measurement of sex composition of a population is often expressed in terms of sex ratio. This ratio is calculated differently in different countries. In India, however, the sex ratio is calculated in terms of number of females per thousand males. In general, the sex ratio is low in Jalgaon district and great variation is observed throughout the region. Social customs, traditions, beliefs, culture etc. have great influence on sex ratio. As these factors are vary according to different religions, sex ratio in different religions also vary from each other. Generally, male dominating culture have lower sex ratio. In the study region, sex ratio of Hindu, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikh, Jain and Christian regions are calculated and discussed and compared with each other.

Keywords: Sex ratio according, social customs, traditions, beliefs, culture

1. Introduction
‘Among various elements of population composition, sex composition, age composition and economic composition hold a prime place for population geographers. The separate data for males and females are important for various types of planning and for the analysis of the demographic characteristics such as natality, mortality, migration, marital status, economic characteristics, etc. The balance between two sexes affects the social and economic complementary roles in the economy and society, the study of sex composition assumes added significance for a population geographer.’ (Chandana, 2011) [1]

The present research paper deals with the identification and distribution of categories of sex ratio according to different religions in Jalgaon district. It thoroughly discusses the distribution and comparison of sex ratio of different religions. Sex ratio differs for one community of population to other. Therefore, in the study region, to understand the variations in sex ratio in according to different community, sex ratios of population of different religions are calculated. To understand variations in the sex ratio according to population of different religions is mainly taken into consideration.

2. Objectives
The present study is undertaken by keeping the following objectives.
1. To explain the distributional pattern of sex ratio according to different religions in Jalgaon district.
2. To understand the variations in sex ratio of different religions in the study region.
3. To compare different sex ratio according to different religions in the study region.

3. Database and Methodology
The present research paper is mainly based on secondary data of obtained from the district census handbooks of Jalgaon district for the year 2011. The demographic aspects of the region are collected from the Census handbook of 2011. In order to comprehensive analysis of sex ratio of different religions are calculated by using following simple formula. It is as follows;

\[
\text{Sex ratio} = \frac{\text{Total Females}}{\text{Total Males}} \times 1000
\]

The results, thus obtained for Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikhs, Jains and Christians religions are explained thoroughly with the help of maps and charts.
3.1 The Study Region

The district under study is flanked by the Satpura ranges to the north and Ajanta hills to the south and the central part of the district is covered by well-known Tapi river basin which flows towards the west. The region experiences slightly different climate than by rest of the state of Maharashtra, since it is located away from the coast but at much lower altitude that the rest of the plateau of Maharashtra. The location away from the coast has resulted in high range of mean daily temperature which is slightly than 15 °C. Low altitude has resulted in abnormally high maximum summer temperature which is normally above 40 °C.

The district is bounded by the state of Madhya Pradesh to the north. The rivers Anner and Panjhara form a boundary in the west between the region and the Dhule district. In the east, the district under study is bordered by Buldhana district. To the south, Satmala, Ajanta and Chandor hills form a natural boundary between the study region and the districts of Nasik and Aurangabad. The Jalgaon district which is one of the 34 districts of Maharashtra lies between 20° N and 21° N latitudes and 74° 55’ E and 76° 28’ E longitudes. The total area of the district is 11765.0 sq. Km. According to 2011 Census, the total population of the region was 42,29,917. The proportion of urban population to total population in the district is 31.74 percent. This urban population resides in 01 city with Municipal Corporation, 14 Municipal towns and 05 Census towns.
4. Discussion
The sex ratio varied widely between various religious communities. Different religious groups follow varied cultural practices giving less or more importance to females. Literacy and migration among females also depend upon religious taboos to a large extent. Dowry system is practiced differently in different religions. All these factors are closely related to sex ratio. In this part of the chapter an attempt has been made to discuss sex ratio according to different religions in Jalgaon district. The tehsil-wise male and female population according to different religions was not available, therefore, decadal variation occurred in sex ratio of different religions is not found out.

The majority of people in the district follow Hindu religion. Their proportion to total population is 81.93 percent in 2011. The sex ratio of Hindu population for the district as whole is only 919 females per thousand males. Jalgaon, Chalisgaon and Jamner tehsil of the district have this sex ratio less than 910 females per thousand males. The northern part of the district comprising Chopda, Yawal and Raver tehsils, Bhusawal, Muktainagar and Bodvad in the east and Amalner and Bhadgaon tehsils in the west have recorded comparatively higher sex ratio i.e. more than 925 females per thousand males while remaining tehsils located in the southern and central parts of the district have recorded low sex ratio of less than 925 females per thousand males. (Fig. No. 1, A)

The Muslim is the second largest religion in the district which comprises 13.28 percent of the total population. The sex ratio of Muslim population is far more than that of the Hindus. It is found as 957 females per thousand males. The literacy rate is comparatively lower among the Muslims. It
is also noticeable that the females in this religion enjoy less freedom as compared with Hindus. In spite of these taboos, sex ratio is higher. It is because of other socio-cultural traditions followed by Muslims. The major cause may be no tradition of dowry system which exists among Hindus. Amalner tehsil has recorded the highest sex ratio i.e. 987 females per thousand males which is followed by Dharangaon tehsil. Raver, Muktainagar and Bodvad tehsils located in the east, as well as Jalgaon and Bhadgaon tehsils have sex ratio of Muslims between 925 and 950 females per thousand males. Except these, the remaining tehsils have reported sex ratio between 950 and 975 females per thousand males. (Fig. No. 1, B)

### Table 1: Jalgaon District: Sex Ratio of Different Religions, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Tehsils</th>
<th>Hindu</th>
<th>Muslim</th>
<th>Christian</th>
<th>Sikh</th>
<th>Buddhist</th>
<th>Jain</th>
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<td>974</td>
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<td>925</td>
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<td>951</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Raver</td>
<td>931</td>
<td>946</td>
<td>958</td>
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<td>961</td>
<td>778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>930</td>
<td>945</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>929</td>
<td>962</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>950</td>
<td>929</td>
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**Source:** [http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011census/C-01.html](http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011census/C-01.html).

The proportion of population belonging to Christian religion to total population of the district is only 0.17 percent. The sex ratio of this community is in favour of females. It is 1003 females per thousand males. It is due to socio-cultural customs and relatively free environment provided to females in this community. In Chopda, Muktainagar, Bhusawal, Jalgaon and Dharangaon tehsil, this ratio is more than 1000 while in Bhadgaon and Pachora tehsils it is between 975 and 1000 females per thousand males. This sex ratio is less than 925 females per thousand males in Amalner, Parola, Erandol, Yawal, Bodvad and Jamner tehsils. (Fig. No. 1, C)
The proportion of population following Sikh religion to total population is very less in the district i.e. only 0.07 percent. Among all the major religions in the district, the lowest sex ratio is found in population of Sikh religion. It is only 916 females per thousand males. Sikh community is mainly male dominated which has resulted in low sex ratio. In Bhadgaon tehsil, this sex ratio is as high as 1467 females per thousand males. It is followed by Erandol, Bhusawal and Amalner. This ratio is very low in Muktainagar and Parola. (Fig. No. 3, A)

According to the 2011 Census, the proportion of population of Buddhist religion to total population is 3.41 percent. The sex ratio of Buddhist population is also higher than that of the Hindus. It is 950 females per thousand males. Bhadgaon tehsil has the highest sex ratio which is followed by Yawal tehsil. The sex ratio of Buddhist population was between 950 and 975 females per thousand males in Raver, Bhusawal, Jalgaon, Dharangaon and Amalner tehsils. Chopda, Muktainagar, Bodvad, Erandol, Pachora and Chalisgaon tehsils have sex ratio between 925 and 950 females per thousand males. Parola and Jamner tehsils have low sex ratio i.e. less than 625 females per thousand males. (Fig. No. 3, B)

Though the proportion of population following Jainism is very low but their existence is noticed in socio-economic life of the study region. This community is mainly engaged in trade and commerce activities. Though this community is socio-economically developed, the sex ratio is as low as 929 females per thousand males. The highest sex ratio of Jain population is found in Dharangaon tehsil. It is followed by Muktainagar, Parola and Chalisgaon tehsils. The sex ratio is between 925 and 950 females per thousand males in Chopda, Erandol, Amalner, Jalgaon and Jamner tehsils. Yawal, Raver, Bhusawal, Bodvad, Bhadgaon and Pachora tehsils have sex ratio less than 925 females per thousand males. (Fig. No. 3, C)

**Fig 3**

**5. Conclusions**
The sex ratio of Hindu population is only 919 females per thousand males, while for Muslims, it is 957. The literacy rate is comparatively lower among the Muslims. It is also noticeable that the females in this religion enjoy less freedom as compared with Hindus. In spite of these taboos, sex ratio is higher. It is because of other socio-cultural traditions followed by Muslims. The major cause may be no tradition of dowry system which exists among Hindus. The sex ratio of Christians is in favour of females. It is due to
socio-cultural customs and relatively free environment provided to females in this community. The lowest sex ratio is found in population of Sikh religion. Sikh community is mainly male dominated which has resulted in low sex ratio. The sex ratio of Buddhist population is also higher than that of the Hindus. Though the proportion of population following Jainism is very low but their existence is noticed in socio-economic life of the study region. This community is mainly engaged in trade and commerce activities. Though this community is socio-economically developed, the sex ratio is as low as 929 females per thousand males.

5. References