



Male - Female Ratio Imbalance in India with Special Reference to Religion

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Male and Female are the only two natural components of human race. Both are complementary to each other. The nature has made some basic physical distinctions, for the sake of procreation, in male and female, which differentiate the place of both these factors in society. Male and Female are the vital parts of all civilizations and hence they are the creators of the society.

India is the second most populous country in the world after China and soon to become the largest populous country by 2040 (a survey by UN, 2006). India, however, provides space for 17.1% population of the world and occupies only 2.3% land for the cause.¹ The Indian population has increased in a huge number in the last few decades especially after Independence. This has created a number of problems not only about employment but also about other demographic aspects like mortality, birth rate and sex composition. The rate of male female ratio is the major concern for the nation.

Table : Sex Composition of selected countries of the world

S.No	Country	Sex ratio (females per 1,000 males)
	World	986
1	China	944
2	India	933
3	U.S.A	1029
4	Indonesia	1004
5	Brazil	1025
6	Pakistan	938
7	Russian Federal	1140
8	Bangladesh	953
9	Japan	1041
10	Nigeria	1016

Source : World population Prospects (mid year estimates) 1998, Revision, Volume 2, Sex and Age, United Nations.

On the global perspective, the female ratio is greater than male in countries like America (1029:1000), Indonesia (1004:1000), Brazil (1025:1000) Federal Russia (1140:1000), Bangladesh (1041:1000) and Nigeria (1016:1000). At the same time India records (933:1000) a lower male- female ratio with the second highest population in the world.

The percentage is similar in Muslims which are second largest religious group in the country with 48.7 per cent women and 51.2 per cent men of the population of 17,22,45,156. Buddhists, which have a population of 84,42,972, have 50.8 per cent males and 49.11 per cent females. While Jains have a population of 44,51,753 with 51.1 per cent males and 48.8 per cent females. Jains have become the most literate community followed by Christians and Buddhists as per the 2011 census.

As per 2001 census, the child sex ratio among Hindu was 925 girls, against 1,000 boys, Muslims 950 girls, Christians 964 girls, Sikhs 786 girls, Buddhists 942 girls and Jains 870 girls against 1,000 boys. Sex Ratio for total population in 2011 census stands at 943 females against 1,000 males. Among the Hindus, 939 females against 1,00 males, Muslims 951 females, Christians 965 females and Jains 954 females against 1,000 males.

In absolute terms, according to 2011 census, Sikh community has a population of 2,08,33,116, of which 47.4 per cent are females while 52.55 per cent are males as compared to Christians where women constitute 49.4 per cent per cent and males are 50.5 per cent of the total 2,78,19,588 persons belonging to the