

# AN ANALYSIS OF SEX-RATIO DIFFERENTIALS BY REGIONS OF MADHYA PRADESH

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## I. Introduction

VASTNESS of the State of Madhya Pradesh in India (44.4 thousand sq. kms.) is also characterised by its diversity in many aspects. Sex-ratio<sup>1</sup> is one of them. It varies from 993 to 1193 from one district to another, as per 1971 census results. The factors affecting the sex-ratio can be of two types — demographic and non-demographic. The demographic factors are (i) variations in sex-ratio at birth, (ii) sex differential in mortality, and (iii) sex selective migration. Among the non-demographic factors we include errors in the data due to more omission of one sex than the other at the time of census enumeration.

According to the popular notion the sex-ratio at birth varies widely by regions, for which regional differences in diet, climate and health conditions are held responsible.<sup>2</sup> Can these factors also affect mortality differently between males and females? If so, to what extent the general sex-ratio will vary from region to region? The ecology of sex-ratios by districts of Madhya Pradesh, based on 1961 census results indicates that (i) In South-East Madhya Pradesh the equality or excess of females is most marked, (ii) In Eastern and Central Satpuras and Baghel Khand Plateau the excess of females decreases but sex-ratio remains below State average, (iii) In Bundel Khand areas (North-Western and North-Central Madhya Pradesh) the excess of males is most marked, (iv) In Malwa Plateau the excess of males is close to State average.

Further, the report<sup>3</sup> on Provisional Population Totals for 1971

<sup>1</sup> Throughout the paper sex-ratio has been expressed as males per thousand females. However sex-ratio at birth has been expressed as males per hundred female births.

<sup>2</sup> Ramachandran, K. V., and V. A. Deshpande, "The sex-ratio at birth in India by regions, *Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly*, Vol. XLII, No. 1, 1964.

<sup>3</sup> Census of India, 1971, *Provisional Population Totals*, Paper No. 1 of 1971, Series 10 (M.P.), pp. v-vi.