

The variations of sex ratio by districts in Sri Lanka

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Sex ratio is one of the most important population ratios for demographic studies and it can be used to describe the degree of balance between two elements, male and female, of the population. Sex ratio is the number of males available for 100 females and it considered as one of the key social indicators. There are three types of Sex ratios: primary, secondary and tertiary. The primary sex ratio means the ratio which is measured at the time of conception. The secondary sex ratio refers to the ratio that is measured at the time of birth. Tertiary sex ratio denotes the ratio of mature organisms. Sri Lanka is an island which is located in the Indian Ocean and it has more than 20 million population spread across 25 districts. The aim of this study was to identify the variations in sex ratios by district in Sri Lanka. The study uses Population Census data and employed chart builder tool of Arc GIS (Geographic Information System) 10.1 to see the fluctuations of the sex ratio over census years. From the first census history of Sri Lanka (1871 to 1981) it has been reported that the female proportion is less than the male proportion. In 1981 the proportion of female population was 49 per cent and this has increased to 51.6 per cent by 2012 census. The main reasons for the increase of the female population are the higher life expectancy of females. The value of sex ratio at birth in Sri Lanka was higher than hundred until the 1981 population census. However, since 2001 it shows a somewhat declining trend.

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