

Paper: 603

Unit 1: North East India

AGE-SEX COMPOSITION

Sex ratio is expressed as the number of female population per 1000 male population of a group of people or those of a region or a country. It is important demographic index, for it reflects the socio-economic stability and welfare or otherwise of a population. Most desirable sex ratio is of course, 1000 females per 1000 males.

According to census 2011, in north east India, average sex ratio is 959. State wise sex ratio is higher Manipur (987), followed by Meghalaya (986), Mizoram (975), Tripura (961), Assam (954), Nagaland (931) and Arunachal Pradesh (920). The sex-ratio has been found to be lower than the national norm (940) in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. It shows that each of these states has a large number of male population from outside who temporarily stay in the states engaged in various civil, military and other services. Such single male outsiders generally live in the towns. This is clear from the fact that urban sex ratio in Arunachal is only (889) and in Nagaland it is (905), Manipur (1038) has a comparatively high urban sex ratio followed by Mizoram (1000), because a large number of Manipuri women, who are generally literate, live in towns engaging themselves in some economic and educational pursuits.

In 2011, north east India child sex ratio belonging to 0-6 year's age group is 955 as against 914 for the country as a whole. This is because while infant mortality has decreased in the region, birth rate has not equally declined in comparison to other parts of the country. State wise child sex ratio in the age group 0-6 is highest in Mizoram (971) followed by Meghalaya (970), Arunachal Pradesh (960), Assam (957), Tripura (953), Nagaland (944) and Manipur (934).

Again, sex ratio of population aged 7 and above is highest in Manipur (995) followed by Meghalaya (989), Mizoram (976), Tripura (962), Assam (953) whereas it is lower than the national norms (944) in Nagaland (929) and Arunachal Pradesh (913).