

Punjab: A Brief Profile

- Situated in the North West of India
- Area 50362 Sq. Kilometers.-1.57% of country's area
- Population as per 2001 census 24.3 million-2.37% of India's population- bigger than at least 150 countries of the world
- One of the most prosperous states of India-only 12% of population below poverty line as against 36% for India. Has a very high per Capita Income
- The State played a major and critical role in the success of Green Revolution – still contributes 64.1% of wheat and 42% of rice to the central pool.

Reasons for Son Preference and Daughter Neglect

- Economic utility of Sons
- Sons are more likely than daughters to provide family labor on the farm or in the family business,, earn wages, and support the parents during old age
- Upon marriage, a son brings a daughter-in-law into his family, and she provides additional help around the house as well as economic reward in the form of dowry payments
- Although a daughter provides help in household work before marriage, she is considered to be an economic liability by her parents because of the dowry payments demanded by the grooms family, as well as the high cost of wedding which is generally the responsibility of the bride's family to bear
- Sons play an important role in local power struggles
- Socio-Cultural Utility of Sons
- For Continuation of the family line
- To kindle the funeral pyre of their deceased parents and to help in the salvation of their souls
- Historical Reasons

Any Reason for Daughter Preference?

- According to Hindu tradition parents can earn religious merit by selflessly giving away their daughter in marriage- According to scriptures, "Kanya Dan" or the gift of a virgin in marriage, is one route to salvation
- Provide more emotional satisfaction to parents than sons
- Daughters needed to cry at the death of their parents?

Areas of Female Discrimination

- Nutrition and Food
- Medical and Health Care
- Educational Opportunities
- Feeding practices
- Household Chores
- Distribution of family resources
- Outright Neglect of Girls
- Female Infanticide
- Sex selective abortions

CHILD SEX RATIO IN PUNJAB AND ITS DISTRICTS 1991-2001

State	Years		Absolute change
	1991	2001	
India	945	927	-18
Punjab	875	798	-77
Fatehgarh Sahib	874	766	-108
Kapurthala	879	785	-94
Patiala	871	777	-94
Nawanshahar	900	808	-92
Mansa	873	782	-91
Rupnagar	884	794	-90
Gurdaspur	878	789	-89
Sangrur	873	786	-87
Jalandhar	886	806	-80
Bathinda	860	785	-75
Hoshiarpur	884	812	-72
Amritsar	861	790	-71
Ferozepur	887	822	-65
Ludhiana	877	817	-60
Faridkot	865	812	-53
Moga	867	818	-49
Muktsar	858	811	-47

IMPLICATION OF LOW AND FALLING SEX RATIO IN PUNJAB

- Have the living conditions of the females in general and young girls in particular deteriorated overtime?
- Has there been a greater undercount of females or an over count of males in the census?
- Has the decline in death rate continued to be favorable to males?
- Has the SRB become more favorable to males in recent rears?
- Is the practice of female infanticide and foeticide in Punjab substantially Responsible for the shortage of girls?

LEVEL AND TRENDS IN SEX RATIO IN PUNJAB

- Punjab's SR of 876 one of lowest in country
- Its CSR of 798 is perhaps lowest in the whole world
- SRB in Punjab, which as per various studies/ surveys is above 120, is very high by international standards.
- In 2001, out of 10 bottom districts in the country distinction of being the bottom most districts in the country having lowest CSR, 7 are in Punjab.
- Fatehgarh Sahib district earned the dubious distinction of being bottom most districts in the country with CSR of 766 (a decline of 108 points per 1000 during 1991-2001).

SEX RATIO, INDIA AND PUNJAB :- 1901-2001

Census year	Population (in millions)		Sex Ratio (females per 1000 males)		Child Sex Ratio(girls in the age group 06 per 1000 boys)	
	India	Punjab	India	Punjab	India	Punjab
1901	238.40	7.54	972	832		
1911	252.09	6.73	964	780		
1921	251.32	7.15	955	799		
1931	278.98	8.01	950	815		
1941	318.66	9.60	945	836		
1951	361.09	9.16	946	844		
1961	439.23	11.14	941	854	976	894
1971	548.16	13.55	930	865	964	899
1981	683.33	16.79	934	879	961	908
1991	846.30	20.18	927	882	945	875
2002	1027.02	24.29	933	876	927	798

Figures at a Glance about Punjab

POPULATION

Persons	24,289,296
Males	12,963,362
Females	11,325,934
Decadal Growth Rate 1991-2001 (percent)	19.76
Sex ratio (number of females per 1000 males)	874
Density	482
Area (Sq. Km.)	50,362
Divisions	4
Districts	17
Tehsils	72
Towns	157
Villages	12,729

Literacy rate in percent are following:-

Persons	69.95
Males	75.63
Females	63.55

Literacy rates by sex for State and Districts

Sr. No.	State/Districts	Persons		Literacy rate			
				Males		Females	
		1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	PUNJAB	58.51	74.19	65.66	75.63	50.41	63.55
1	Gurdaspur	61.83	74.19	69.55	80.44	53.33	67.31
2	Amritsar	58.08	67.85	65.07	73.58	50.10	61.41
3	Kapurthala	63.31	73.56	70.03	78.66	55.83	67.90
4	Jalandhar	68.91	77.91	75.10	82.37	62.04	72.93
5	Hoshiarpur	72.08	81.40	80.22	86.97	63.34	75.56
6	Nawashahar	64.42	76.86	73.30	83.67	54.56	69.52
7	Rupnagar	68.15	78.49	76.50	84.43	58.53	71.74
8	Fatehgarh Sahib	63.34	74.10	69.52	78.85	56.24	68.60
9	Ludhiana	67.34	76.54	72.45	80.19	61.24	72.11
10	Moga	49.79	63.94	55.41	68.40	43.45	58.96
11	Firozpur	48.99	61.42	58.26	69.55	38.66	52.33
12	Mukatsar	46.28	58.67	54.46	65.94	37.07	50.59
13	Faridkot	49.88	63.34	57.05	68.92	41.78	57.09
14	Bathinda	46.41	61.51	53.92	68.31	37.96	53.96
15	Mansa	37.23	52.50	44.81	59.12	28.54	45.07
16	Sangrur	45.99	60.04	53.22	65.97	37.67	53.29
17	Patiala	57.51	69.96	65.10	76.13	48.94	62.94

Note: literacy rate is the percentage of literates of population aged 7 years and above

AN OVERVIEW OF VOLUNTARY HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF PUNJAB

Voluntary Health Association of Punjab, Chandigarh, is a federation of NGOs working in the State of Punjab. Voluntary Health Association of Punjab is a state chapter of Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi. VHAP through its various member Organisation works in different area focusing on gender Justice with a view to changing the development perspectives of the State from needs to rights.

Voluntary Health Organisation of Punjab (VHAP) has covered a decade of activities in the States of Punjab, Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Since its inception in 1993, in the year VHAP was established, it has steered through a panoramic range of social and human endeavors that have encompassed a wide variety of human emotions, suffering and gratification. These efforts have fructified in the VHAP becoming a major presence on the socio-cultural and human dynamism scenario of this happening part of the world. This region has been characterized by the often held view that there is a dearth of NGO activity pertaining especially to the issues of health, socio-economic reform and more significantly the arena of women's emancipation and empowerment. VHAP through its loose network of NGOs is trying to fill this void.

With gradual and steady overtures, the organisation has made a niche for itself in the field of innovative enterprise pertaining to Education, Health issues and specifically women related matters. From foeticide to AIDS, from immoral trafficking and flesh trade to Sexual harassment at work place, the VHAP has run the gamut of interventions, phased communication and implementation strategy as well as developed a work culture that has been admired and cherished in the highest echelons of academic & administrative circle. The organisation has evolved a communicational network among the grassroots realities that afflict the common man. The pressures because of and in conflict with the checks and measures that society exercises of members of a community as well as the conquests of unlikely adversaries have all contributed in making the organisation a well rounded, popular and rurally much liked body symbolised by the many faces of its workers and volunteers as well as staff.

Dealing with the toughest situations, grappling with the most searing problems likely to afflict the human psyche seems to have become a habit with the organisation, which is at the forefront of all activities.

Along with the grassroots level work that it carries out in different states of the northeast region, VHAP is also part of regional, national and international networks and strives towards ensuring the rights of women