

Demographic Aspect of Variations of Female Characteristics in Usilampatty Taluk, Madurai District: A Geographical Perspective

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Abstract

Examining the demographic aspects, including growth, distribution, sex ratio, literacy, and occupational structure of the female population in Usilampatti Taluk, Madurai district sounds like a comprehensive study. Using secondary sources such as the Census of India and district census handbooks is a common and reliable approach for demographic investigations. The period selected for the present study is four decade from 1981 to 2011 and has been taken as village wise. The data analyzed will simple techniques like percentage share and average are used bring out intra-spatial patterns used to draw the map and a diagram to the data is analyzed. All the information's are mapped with suitable cartographic tools by using Arc GIS 10.2.2 software.

Key Words: *Female Characteristics, Distribution, Sex Ratio, Literacy and Occupational Structure.*

Introduction

The study of female population characteristics is crucial for understanding societal dynamics. Empowering women, especially in traditional societies, is indeed a complex and gradual process. The status of women is not uniformly raised as there are so many obstacles related to geographical, economic, social and political constructions. Still more than 90 percent of women in India do not enjoy freedom from the clutches of hardship imposed by the society.

Analyzing female population characteristics in terms of decision-making participation and access to opportunities in education, health, labor force, and income provides valuable insights into societal dynamics.

At present women activity contributing various economic, social and other developmental activities. But the sphere of women’s role in the process of development has varied from society to society, depending upon difference in tradition, culture, education status and response to technological development.

Study area

Madurai district is an integral part of Tamilnadu, comprising one of the 32 districts in the state. Usilampatti Taluk is situated in the Madurai district within one of the administrative structures of Tamil Nadu. The geographical details of Usilampatti Taluk in Madurai district, extends between 9°51’5” and 10°4’28” North latitudes and between 77°40’7” and 77°58’59” East longitudes (Fig.No.1).

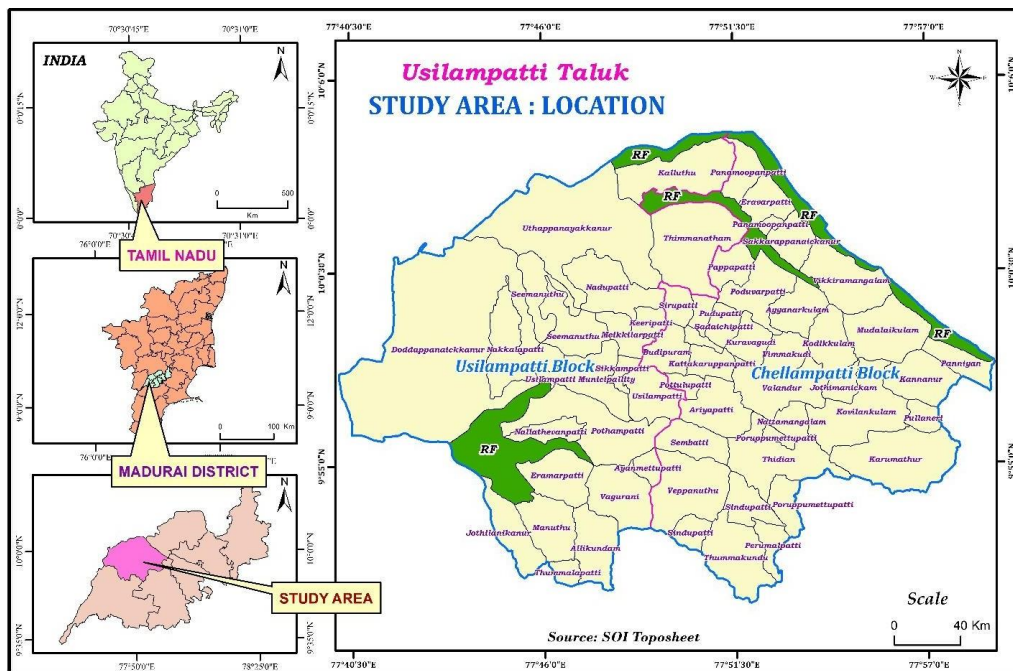


Fig No: 1

The average elevation of 201 meters and a total geographical area of 501.368 sq. km provide valuable insights into the topographical features of Usilampatti taluk in the Madurai

district. It seems like Usilampatti Taluk is divided into 2 blocks like Usilampatti and Chellampatti, 5 firkas namely Usilampatti, Uthappanaikanur, Valandur, Karumathur and Sindhupatti, and 54 revenue villages which includes 357 hamlets, 47 revenue panchayats and one town panchayat namely Usilampatti under its administrative capacity. Usilampatti taluk is bordered by Dindigul district to the north, Vadipatti taluk to the northeast, Thirumangalam taluk to the Southeast, Sedapatti taluk to the south and Theni district to the west. Usilampatti taluk is located around 40 kilometers away from Madurai city, and it primarily consists of rural areas.

Aim and Objectives

Analyzing variations in female characteristics based on demographic factors like sex ratio and female literacy rate, along with exploring female work participation rates across primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors, provides a comprehensive perspective.

The specific objectives have been framed for the present study as follows:-

- ❖ To analyze the sex ratio and changes in the Usilampatti taluk during the decade 1981 to 2011.
- ❖ To study the literacy rate and changes during the decade 1981 to 2011 in the study area.
- ❖ To study the occupational structure, particularly in terms of primary, secondary, and tertiary activities of the economy for the female population in Usilampatti taluk between 1981 and 2011.

Methodology and Techniques

The present study utilizes simple statistical methods and a cartographic technique for data analysis is straightforward and effective. It allows for a clear assessment of During the years 1991 and 2001 the Usilampatti taluk has low sex ratio. There is a lot of variation in the pattern among the villages. This may be due to female infanticide was more in that area. Due to the motivation and awareness created by the NGOs and Government programmes, the sex ratio in the year 2011 has increased in Usilampatti taluk. This is the main reason for the increase in the sex ratio.

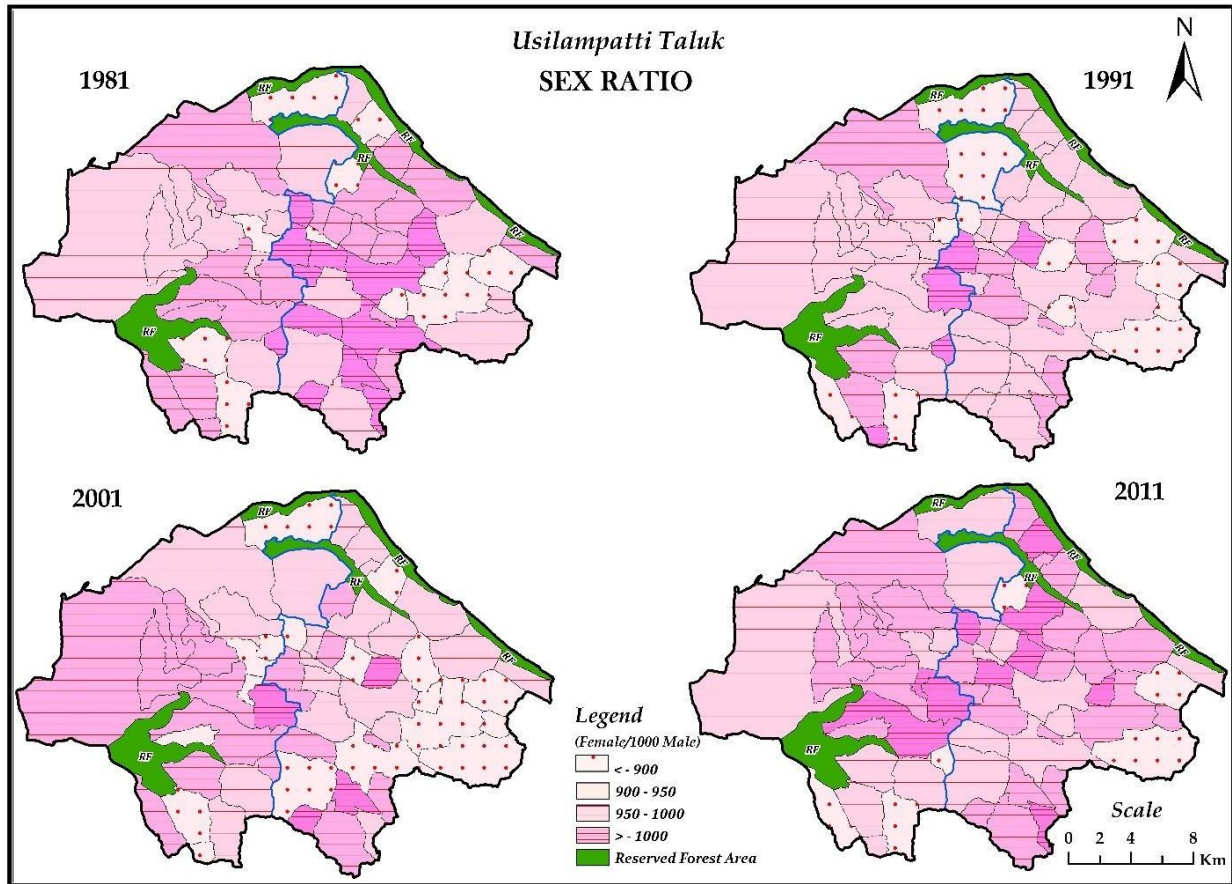


Fig No: 2

Table. No. 2
Usilampatti Taluk
Spatial Pattern of Sex ratio

S. No	Village Name	Sexratio (Female/1000 Male)				S. No	Village Name	Sexratio (Female/1000 Male)			
		1981	1991	2001	2011			1981	1991	2001	2011
1	Uthappanaickanur	969	957	912	953	29	Usilampatti	998	1080	1022	1014
2	Kalluthu	862	776	829	906	30	Sikkampatti	909	935	819	1055
3	Panamoopanpatti	906	902	943	982	31	Meikkilarpatti	887	944	882	930
4	Eravarpatti	892	928	927	1002	32	Keeripatti	916	805	886	940
5	Sakkarappanaickanur	975	923	896	969	33	Nadupatti	935	934	933	985
6	Vikkiramangalam	966	937	915	938	34	Seemanuthu	903	938	953	970
7	Mudalaikulam	926	890	907	957	35	Nakkalapatti	938	948	968	969
8	Panniyan	969	920	929	905	36	Doddappanaickanur	948	929	978	946
9	Kannanur	888	847	875	861	37	Nallathevanpatti	973	928	851	970
10	Pullaneri	937	900	942	972	38	Pothampatti	956	926	986	1003
11	Karumathur	913	872	876	893	39	Sembatti	1075	944	951	925
12	Kovilankulam	877	904	807	986	40	Ariyapatti	944	953	914	988
13	Jothimanickam	840	853	798	1013	41	Nattamangalam	773	777	908	945
14	Valandur	1003	941	915	943	42	Thidian	1030	930	887	930
15	Kodikulam	1018	984	849	978	43	Poruppumettupatti	953	965	956	982
16	Ayyanarkulam	954	934	920	963	44	Sindupatti	1059	927	953	1015
17	Vinnakudi	972	896	1040	1000	45	Perumalpatti	1003	965	906	1072
18	Kuravakudi	989	1031	854	1003	46	Thummakundu	939	914	978	964
19	Sadaichipatti	951	901	970	940	47	Veppanuthu	904	907	876	910
20	Poduvarpatti	961	906	930	1023	48	Ayanmettupatti	1054	1078	952	865
21	Pappapatti	868	917	956	817	49	Vagurani	935	924	904	932
22	Thimmanatham	917	897	933	914	50	Eramarpatti	885	951	985	945
23	Pudupatti(Anaiyur)	1000	938	911	978	51	Allikundam	878	851	901	874
24	Sirupatti	1026	846	761	1065	52	Manuthu	970	953	888	904
25	Krishnapuram	893	922	902	912	53	Jothinaickanur	975	997	992	896
26	Kattakaruppanpatti	1011	960	914	1040	54	Thummalapatti	993	1041	873	911
27	Budipuram	1075	1026	964	961	55	Usilampatti Town	998	936	988	998
28	Pottulupatti	1031	939	971	1000	Usilampatti Taluk Total		945	923	929	959

Source: Census of India, Tamil Nadu Series 1981 to 2011

the study area has slowly increased the female literacy rate from 1981 to 2011.

Table. No. 3
Usilampatti Taluk
Spatial Pattern of Female Literacy

S. No	Village Name	Sexratio (Female/1000 Male)				S. No	Village Name	Sexratio (Female/1000 Male)			
		1981	1991	2001	2011			1981	1991	2001	2011
1	Uthappanaickanur	7.58	12.5	20.06	25.38	29	Usilampatti	12.77	11.83	18.93	29.33
2	Kalluthu	9.79	17.28	22.98	28.03	30	Sikkampatti	11.67	19.33	30.82	36.19
3	Panamoopanpatti	6.97	9.34	19.16	23.28	31	Meikkilarpatti	7.43	10.71	21.65	25.22
4	Eravarpatti	3.13	5.14	12.4	21.39	32	Keeripatti	5.97	4.57	19.92	27.74
5	Sakkarappanaickanur	9.84	11.76	22.88	25.29	33	Nadupatti	6.66	11.09	20.03	25.5
6	Vikkiramangalam	12.96	13.84	22.38	27.66	34	Seemanuthu	9.69	19.86	23.66	27.4
7	Mudalaikulam	4.19	10.1	18.54	24	35	Nakkalapatti	15.24	18.79	25.45	26.22
8	Panniyan	6.93	8.22	23.52	25.66	36	Doddappanaickanur	8.88	13.03	22.79	25.03
9	Kannanur	6.04	12.36	24.94	24.82	37	Nallathevanpatti	15.46	11.27	18.12	27.72
10	Pullaneri	10.62	13.35	23.46	24.04	38	Pothampatti	10.39	21.48	24.27	28.03
11	Karumathur	7.96	13	22.6	26.08	39	Sembatti	10.62	10.32	17.84	23.28
12	Kovilankulam	11.39	16.87	24.43	29.55	40	Ariyapatti	8.50	12.06	21.03	26.71
13	Jothimanickam	18.90	29.55	27.95	26.5	41	Nattamangalam	7.24	13.06	18.17	26.75
14	Valandur	11.98	18.14	22.59	26.33	42	Thidian	16.32	18.47	21.13	26.84
15	Kodikulam	7.22	14.58	15.21	27.56	43	Poruppumettupatti	12.15	14.26	26.78	27.96
16	Ayyanarkulam	9.24	15.52	23.93	23.61	44	Sindupatti	11.67	13.01	25.48	26.48
17	Vinnakudi	5.76	15.12	18	22.26	45	Perumalpatti	10.34	13.43	18.91	25.05
18	Kuravakudi	15.02	19.59	26.17	30.4	46	Thummakundu	17.20	16.62	26.51	27.28
19	Sadaichipatti	7.47	16	21.35	25.31	47	Veppanuthu	7.66	7.57	18.97	25.18
20	Poduvarpatti	6.25	12.64	15.06	23.55	48	Ayanmattupatti	12.94	15.36	17.24	20.39
21	Pappapatti	11.87	14.98	19.16	25.46	49	Vagurani	7.74	12.25	19.63	27.18
22	Thimmanatham	9.75	14.7	19.08	24.81	50	Eramarpatti	16.65	14.98	25.79	27.18
23	Pudupatti(Anaiyur)	9.48	11.06	19.5	23.42	51	Allikundam	4.32	8.33	14.73	25.92
24	Sirupatti	24.13	9.17	11.76	24.59	52	Manuthu	9.03	11.82	17.24	23.91
25	Krishnapuram	13.31	2.24	32.47	24.43	53	Jothinaickanur	8.41	15.62	22.19	27.75
26	Kattakaruppanpatti	10.65	12.92	20.98	26.6	54	Thummalapatti	27.06	19.28	16.23	30.47
27	Budipuram	9.48	16.24	23.75	26	55	Usilampatti Town	25.08	28.1	34.62	37.13
28	Pottulupatti	13.84	23.11	23.61	28.9	Usilampatti Taluk Total		31.9	35.7	39.8	42.7

Source: Census of India, Tamil Nadu Series 1981 to 2011

Occupational Structure

Occupational structure is a significant aspect of demographic characteristics, reflecting the sustaining capability of various economic statuses within a population. The distribution of occupations provides insights into the economic activities and livelihoods of the community. The study of occupational structure provides background knowledge for formulating future development plans and an important component of human resource assessment.

The social and economic development of a region is intricately linked to the number of economically active individuals, the quality of their work, and the regularity of their employment. The productive and stable engagement of the workforce is a key driver for sustainable development and prosperity. The women's participation in economic activities is not only essential for their personal advancement but also plays a crucial role in enhancing their status within society. Economic empowerment often leads to broader societal benefits and contributes to overall development. Occupational structure generally includes primary, secondary and tertiary workers.

Spatial Pattern of Female Primary Workers

The occupational structure indicates that high proportion in primary occupation, due to agricultural economy of the villages. The observation that female workers are more oriented towards the primary sector than male workers, attributed to societal factors and the low status granted to women, underscores the influence of social dynamics on occupational structure. The people engaged in agriculture, livestock forest, fishing and mining are commonly categorized as primary workers. The study area is rural in nature. Hence the majority of the female population is engaged in primary activities. From table no. 1 it could be observed that 32.7% during 1981 and with 38.0% in 1991 it was increasing but female primary workers decreasing with 31.3% in 2001.

In 2011 it was recorded 33.7%. There are after 1991 female primary workers recorded with decreasing trend because this time period female infanticide started in the study area. It

Table No. 4
Usilampatti Taluk
Spatial Pattern of Female Primary Workers

S. No	Village Name	Sexratio (Female/1000 Male)				S. No	Village Name	Sexratio (Female/1000 Male)			
		1981	1991	2001	2011			1981	1991	2001	2011
1	Uthappanaickanur	37.2	45.7	34.1	35.9	29	Usilampatti	14.7	48.3	27.4	32.8
2	Kalluthu	30.7	41.7	39.9	37.3	30	Sikkampatti	4.65	26.7	43.1	18.7
3	Panamoopanpatti	28.4	38.3	42.2	41.6	31	Meikkilarpatti	6.47	39.9	21.6	33.3
4	Eravarpatti	46	30.3	48.2	40.7	32	Keeripatti	24.2	46	45.2	40
5	Sakkarappanaickanur	47.3	42.8	46.3	41.6	33	Nadupatti	19	48	25.8	38.2
6	Vikkiramangalam	31.2	37	33.4	36.2	34	Seemanuthu	24	36.5	23.9	28.8
7	Mudalaikulam	41.1	39.6	42.1	43.5	35	Nakkalapatti	33.8	45	26.8	35.4
8	Panniyan	41.5	28.2	37.8	39.1	36	Doddappanaickanur	37.1	38.8	20.7	40.1
9	Kannanur	44.3	41.6	19.7	30.9	37	Nallathevanpatti	41.5	35.4	4	44.1
10	Pullaneri	34.2	39.6	40.5	37.2	38	Pothampatti	36.6	42.4	37.1	33.3
11	Karumathur	47.5	43.6	40.7	34	39	Sembatti	19.5	47.2	11.1	36.3
12	Kovilankulam	28.3	40.8	34	37	40	Ariyapatti	39.1	47.1	44	43.2
13	Jothimanickam	45.4	44.5	33.5	32.8	41	Nattamangalam	36	38.8	34.6	33.6
14	Valandur	41	43.6	37	35.9	42	Thidian	38.4	40.6	32.8	32.2
15	Kodikulam	45.4	39.5	43.3	43.7	43	Poruppumettupatti	48.2	46.2	47.1	35
16	Ayyanarkulam	23.6	46.6	43.6	44.2	44	Sindupatti	37.2	9.2	33	33
17	Vinnakudi	39.6	33.4	44.1	47.9	45	Perumalpatti	3.3	48.5	6.9	33.5
18	Kuravakudi	43.1	37.4	40.1	19.4	46	Thummakundu	14	38	34.7	34.1
19	Sadaichipatti	41.7	47.9	28.8	37.2	47	Veppanuthu	30.8	40.6	33.1	43.1
20	Poduvarpatti	23.7	49.2	40.9	50.2	48	Ayanmettupatti	51.2	42.5	25.6	47.7
21	Pappapatti	36.1	35.8	3.3	38.4	49	Vagurani	38.8	41	13.5	36.1
22	Thimmanatham	32.3	31.2	44.8	45.7	50	Eramarpatti	22	29.4	15.3	25
23	Pudupatti(Anaiyur)	42.2	46.4	36.6	45.7	51	Allikundam	38.9	42.7	38.4	46.1
24	Sirupatti	27.8	16.5	41.1	42.6	52	Manuthu	16.5	22.6	40.6	37.3
25	Krishnapuram	44	1.8	41.7	40.8	53	Jothinaickanur	23.3	17.4	42.2	43.2
26	Kattakaruppanpatti	49	49.6	39.3	48.1	54	Thummalapatti	37.1	48.5	35.1	36.9
27	Budipuram	44.4	44.7	26.8	46.8	55	Usilampatti Town	12.2	4.6	4.2	5.2
28	Pottulupatti	47.2	43.7	24.2	40.3	Usilampatti Taluk Total		32.7	38.0	31.3	33.7

Source: Census of India, Tamil Nadu Series 1981 to 2011

Spatial Pattern of Female Secondary Workers

The people engaged in house hold industry and other than house hold industry like manufacturing, industry, processing, servicing and repairs in household industry, construction works are typically categorized as secondary workers. Out of the total main workers, only the female secondary workers 0.39% in 1981, 0.23% in 1991 and 1.18%, 1.04 in 2001 and 2011 respectively are engaged in secondary workers. The pattern of female secondary workers in Usilampatti taluk is represented in the FigNo. 5. However some villages have a higher concentration of this category. The female secondary workers have slightly increasing during the study period.

This study area have agricultural economy, due to the majority of the females are usually engaged in agricultural labours in the study area. This may be one of the reasons for the lower shares of female secondary workers in the study area.

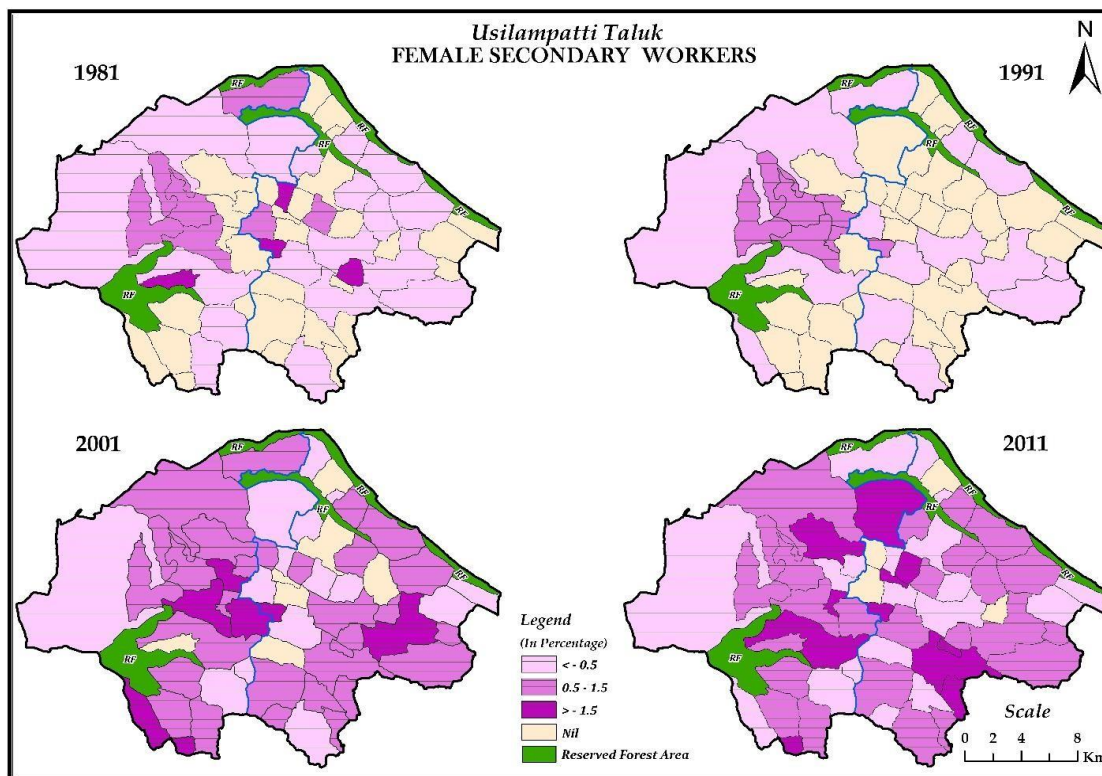


Fig No: 5

Table. No. 5

**Usilampatti Taluk
Spatial Pattern of Female Secondary Workers**

S. No	Village Name	Sexratio (Female/1000 Male)				S. No	Village Name	Sexratio (Female/1000 Male)			
		1981	1991	2001	2011			1981	1991	2001	2011
1	Uthappanaickanur	0.32	0.32	0.92	1.08	29	Usilampatti	-	-	5.01	0.75
2	Kalluthu	0.7	0.04	1.39	0.49	30	Sikkampatti	-	0.53	1.42	2.27
3	Panamoopanpatti	-	-	0.39	0.31	31	Meikkilarpatti	-	1.04	8.46	0.44
4	Eravarpatti	-	-	-	-	32	Keeripatti	-	-	0.86	0.11
5	Sakkarappanaickanur	0.15	0.15	1.43	0.63	33	Nadupatti	-	-	1.26	2.37
6	Vikkiramangalam	0.03	0.4	1.09	0.58	34	Seemanuthu	0.86	1.05	0.9	0.65
7	Mudalaikulam	0.18	-	0.67	1.02	35	Nakkalapatti	0.92	0.55	1.26	0.89
8	Panniyan	-	-	0.46	0.06	36	Doddappanaickanur	0.44	0.05	0.35	0.47
9	Kannanur	-	-	0.12	0.1	37	Nallathevanpatti	4.95	-	-	1
10	Pullaneri	-	0.13	1.28	1.21	38	Pothampatti	0.39	0.12	0.65	3.51
11	Karumathur	0.45	0.03	0.89	0.69	39	Sembatti	-	-	-	0.35
12	Kovilankulam	0.15	0.03	1.63	1.32	40	Ariyapatti	0.12	0.04	0.33	0.96
13	Jothimanickam	-	-	0.52	-	41	Nattamangalam	4.28	-	0.55	0.98
14	Valandur	0.15	0.27	0.67	0.18	42	Thidian	0.06	-	0.52	3.02
15	Kodikulam	0.07	-	-	0.96	43	Poruppumettupatti	-	-	1.45	2
16	Ayyanarkulam	0.07	-	0.9	0.66	44	Sindupatti	-	-	1.35	0.19
17	Vinnakudi	0	-	0.44	0.21	45	Perumalpatti	-	-	1.16	1
18	Kuravakudi	0.71	-	0.46	1.3	46	Thummakundu	0.1	0.13	0.49	0.59
19	Sadaichipatti	0	-	0.79	2.54	47	Veppanuthu	-	0.09	1.48	0.67
20	Poduvarpatti	0	-	-	0.38	48	Ayanmettupatti	-	-	0.4	0.48
21	Pappapatti	0.23	-	0.41	1.41	49	Vagurani	0.3	-	0.17	0.36
22	Thimmanatham	0.26	-	0.21	1.68	50	Eramarpatti	0	-	1.31	0.99
23	Pudupatti(Anaiyur)	1.63	-	0.2	0.4	51	Allikundam	0.23	-	0.97	0.78
24	Sirupatti	-	-	1.45	-	52	Manuthu	-	-	0.52	0.9
25	Krishnapuram	-	-	-	3.2	53	Jothinaickanur	-	0.2	1.87	0.33
26	Kattakaruppanpatti	-	-	-	0.16	54	Thummalapatti	-	-	2.87	9.48
27	Budipuram	0.79	0.33	0.28	-	55	Usilampatti Town	0.52	0.31	1.92	1.43
28	Pottulupatti	2.72	1.49	3.11	1.77	Usilampatti Taluk Total		0.39	0.23	1.18	1.04

Source: Census of India, Tamil Nadu Series 1981 to 2011

Table No. 6
Usilampatti Taluk
Spatial Pattern of Female Tertiary Workers

S. No	Village Name	Sexratio (Female/1000 Male)				S. No	Village Name	Sexratio (Female/1000 Male)			
		1981	1991	2001	2011			1981	1991	2001	2011
		1	Uthappanaickanur	1.84	0.92			3.23	3.45	29	Usilampatti
2	Kalluthu	-	1.7	3.12	2.31	30	Sikkampatti	-	3.74	6.16	9.06
3	Panamoopanpatti	1.72	1.28	3.55	2.46	31	Meikkilarpatti	0.37	2.16	7.04	7.06
4	Eravarpatti	1.14	0.66	0.66	2.45	32	Keeripatti	0.17	-	2.16	11.2
5	Sakkarappanaickanur	2.37	0.62	0.82	4.69	33	Nadupatti	1.72	0.93	11.64	3.97
6	Vikkiramangalam	1.18	1.21	5.47	5.93	34	Seemanuthu	0.43	2.16	7.67	13.1
7	Mudalaikulam	0.59	0.88	4.59	3.03	35	Nakkalapatti	1.82	1.77	11.31	6.47
8	Panniyan	0.44	0.72	4.18	6	36	Doddappanaickanur	1.24	0.99	6.7	3.17
9	Kannanur	0.85	0.54	2.96	1.18	37	Nallathevanpatti	0.12	0.58	6.05	1.7
10	Pullaneri	0.93	2.29	5	7.58	38	Pothampatti	1.66	1.55	4.95	8.75
11	Karumathur	0.29	1.23	4.08	8.66	39	Sembatti	1.28	1.3	7.24	5.04
12	Kovilankulam	1.44	1.95	3.7	7.37	40	Ariyapatti	2.17	2.52	4.83	4.55
13	Jothimanickam	-	1.4	3.66	3.42	41	Nattamangalam	3.4	1.16	6.46	5.09
14	Valandur	1.1	1.8	6.06	4.31	42	Thidian	0.8	0.93	2.79	7
15	Kodikulam	0.74	0.91	1.39	2.17	43	Poruppumettupatti	1.2	2.56	2.69	7.33
16	Ayyanarkulam	0.34	0.48	2.53	2.93	44	Sindupatti	2.42	0.33	6.51	6.65
17	Vinnakudi	0.44	3.31	0	1.68	45	Perumalpatti	2.51	3.78	12.79	5
18	Kuravakudi	0.71	1.93	2.63	9.35	46	Thummakundu	3.12	2.46	8.66	6.57
19	Sadaichipatti	3.6	1.77	4.97	4.6	47	Veppanuthu	1.29	0.85	3.53	4.07
20	Poduvarpatti	1.03	1.23	3.75	3.01	48	Ayanmettupatti	0.72	3.87	2.77	0.48
21	Pappapatti	2.27	2.24	10.3	9.72	49	Vagurani	2.19	1.03	2.96	7.9
22	Thimmanatham	-	1.22	2.97	1.5	50	Eramarpatti	2.3	1.74	26.94	5.17
23	Pudupatti(Anaiyur)	5.16	0.83	3.74	2.96	51	Allikundam	1.21	0.39	4.65	2.26
24	Sirupatti	1.58	0.98	-	1.47	52	Manuthu	1.68	1.27	3	2.14
25	Krishnapuram	-	1.89	4.55	2.4	53	Jothinaickanur	1.17	1.64	5.96	1.47
26	Kattakaruppanpatti	0.38	0.25	1.21	0.98	54	Thummalapatti	0.63	0.75	3.09	0.71
27	Budipuram	3.37	1.56	13.7	2.03	55	Usilampatti Town	6.55	2.87	15.68	18.6
28	Pottulupatti	0.16	1.77	12.4	7.32	Usilampatti Taluk Total		1.7	2.0	6.6	6.9

Source: Census of India, Tamil Nadu Series 1981 to 2011

Conclusion

The conclusion drawn from the overall discussion indicates that in the study area from 1991 to 2001, there was a decreasing trend in women's development. Additionally, the observation suggests that female infanticide was common during this period. This underscores important challenges and issues faced by women in the study area during that timeframe. During the year 1991 to 2001, the sex ratio, primary and secondary female workers were decreasing trend in the study area. This may be due to the increasing female infanticide and a lack of awareness among the female population. The field investigation reveals that NGOs played a crucial role in the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), motivating women to join these groups, and creating awareness about education, thereby contributing to the prevention of female infanticide. This active involvement of NGOs is identified as the main reason for the observed increase in high sex ratio, literacy rates, primary workers, and tertiary workers in the year 2011. It underscores the positive impact of community initiatives in fostering socio-economic development.

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