

Union territory of Puducherry has the distinction of equitable distribution of population among males and females. In 1911 the Sex Ratio of the UT was 1058. Subsequently there is a stiff drop in Sex Ratio from 1058 in 1911 to 979 in 1991. The figure for 2001 Census (1001) showed an improvement compared to 1991 (979). In 2011 Census the females have out numbered males and the UT ranks second in Sex Ratio among States and Union Territories having a Sex Ratio of 1038 as compared to 940 in All India.



Over the last decade viz 2001-2011 the female population growth rate was $3.01 \%$ as compared $2.54 \%$ growth rate of male population which is a reversal of the trend of more growth in the male population (2.84) than the growth of female population (2.78) during 1971-81. The difference in the growth rate of the female population to male population has increased from 1991-01 (2.61 to 4.71) to 2001-11.



Even though the overall sex ratio is 1038, the sex ratio of the 0-6 age group has declined from 967 to 965 in 2011. One reason for the adverse juvenile female sex ratio may be due to increasing reluctance to have female children. Social neglect of women and girls may also be one of the contributing factors. This may also be due to sex differentials in mortality. This necessitates a study of the factors influencing the Sex Ratio to remove the prejudice against girls in the Union Territory. On the other hand, the sex ratio in the age group of above 7 years has increased from 1006 in 2001 to 1047 in 2011. This rising Sex Ratio in the age group of above 7 years may be due to sex differentials in mortality and due to increase in life expectancy of the females. An analysis of the Infant Mortality Rate under SRS reveals that female mortality rate is higher than in 2006 (Male: 20 Female: 36), 2007(Male: 15 Females 35) and 2008(Male: 22 Female: 27) respectively. This has its reflections in overall sex ratio during the period 2001 to 2011. However, the female infant mortality rate has reduced to 20 in 2009.


