

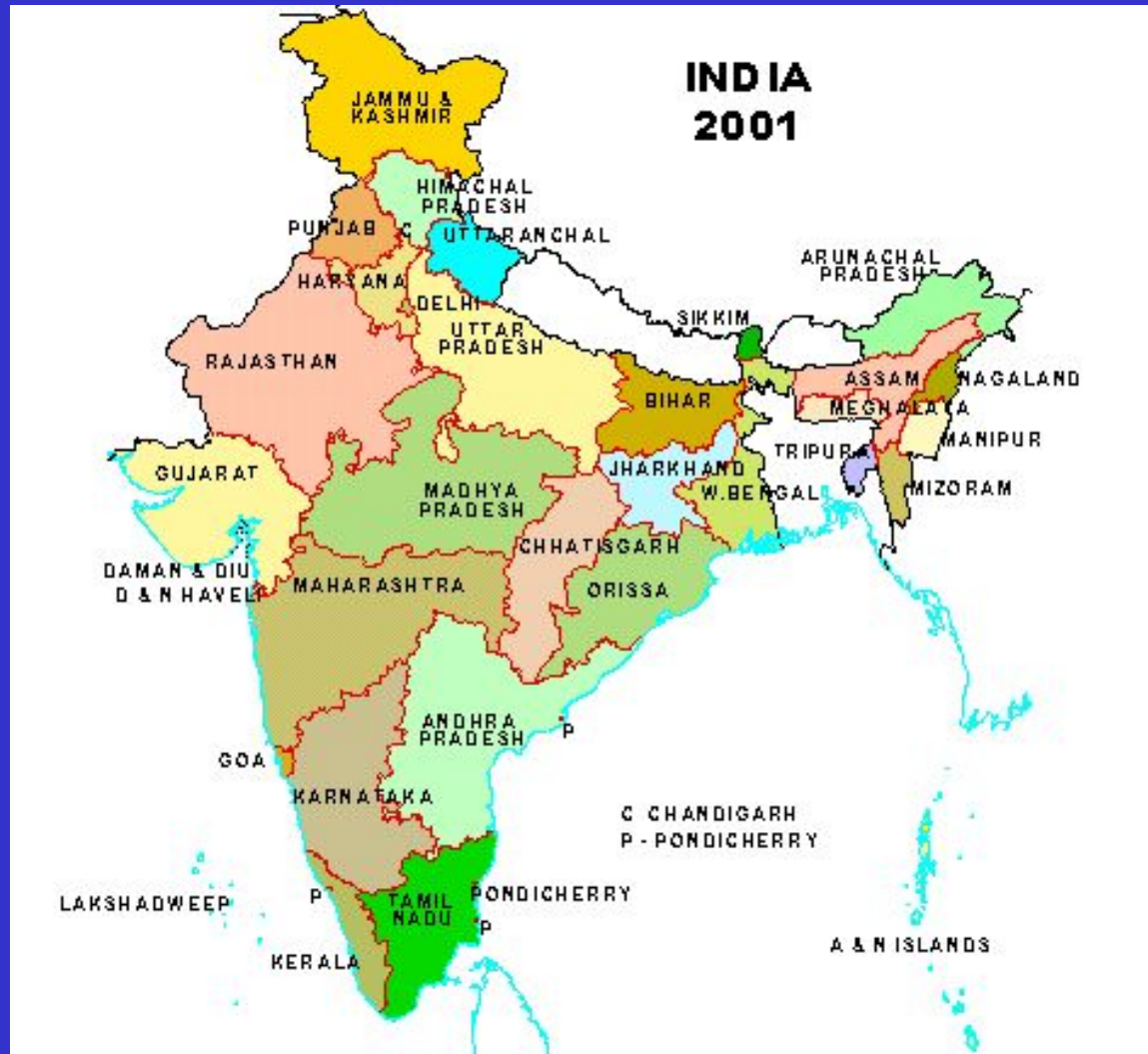


Gender Perspective in Census of India 2001

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Registrar General & Census Commissioner,
India

- India has a history of continuous Census taking since 1872. The first synchronous census was conducted in 1881. Since then it conducted every ten years without break
- Census of India, 2001 is fourteenth Census in the continuous series and sixth since India got independence in 1947
- Census in India is conducted under provisions of Census Act, 1948

Map of India



- India consist of 35 states and union territories consisting 593 districts above 5564 Taluks (sub districts) and 5161 towns and over half a million villages (640000)
- As per provisional results of 2001 Census Indian population stands at 1027,015,247
- 531 million males and 496 million females
- The magnitude and sheer size of the population and its growing divergence has made Indian Census one of the most challenging and single largest administrative exercise in the world.
- It involved participation of two million enumerators and supervisors counting billion plus people in two hundred and twenty million households

- **The Indian Census has been traditionally presenting data separately by sex on various socio-cultural, economic and demographic aspects**
- **Census is the only source that provides the basic counts of males and females right up to the village level for the rural areas and ward level for the urban areas -lowest administrative unit**
- **Presents invaluable and interesting insights into the existing imbalance in the society between men and women and between different groups so vital for policy and planning.**

Different faces of women ..



Different faces of women ..



Different faces of women ..



Gender Issues-The Problem and its Magnitude

- In the earlier censuses the fact that the women are missed at the time of counting had been recognized
- It is also argued that women's economic pursuits are not recorded/reported adequately in some part of the country resulting in low FWPR, for instance in 1991 Census Punjab reported inordinately low 4.4% FWPR
- It is also argued the Enumerator does not probe the respondents (mainly men folk) to find women's contribution in economic activities specially unpaid
- Declining sex ratio and low Female Work Participation Rate in some parts of the country are perhaps due to general apathy- social and cultural insensitivity on gender issues

Gender Approach in Census

- Census has always given emphasis on individuality and questionnaire and instructions for collection of information have never been masked by the male bias
- Against the normal social practices instructions clearly spell out that each question has to be individually asked; women can also be head of the household, speak different mother tongue, and profess different religion.

Efforts made in 1991 Census

Main emphasis was on capturing information about the unpaid work done by women

- **Definition of Worker amplified to include unpaid work on family farm or family enterprise**
- **Publicity campaign undertaken to sensitize the above through Video Spots on television and Posters, pamphlets etc.**
- **Regional disparities in the gender statistics were seen in case of FWPR and sex ratio.**

Efforts continued

- Decided to pay adequate attention towards gender sensitization in the right earnest
- Possible reasons for gender bias in different parts of the country and in methodology and instructions explored and evaluated including field surveys
- Interaction with other agencies, NGOs working in the field to seriously consider the issue for effective implementation and treatment
- Special Cell opened in ORGI to coordinate the efforts

Efforts continued

- Census has been constantly working on devising strategies for better capture of data particularly relating to women
- The sensitization of Directors and other senior functionaries involved in the census taking was the first step in this direction. This involved in depth discussion on the specific gender related issues pertinent to their states
- Imparted thorough and focused training to all census functionaries right up to enumerator with the help of special modules

- **Modifying the Household Schedule**
- Switched over from Individual Slips used in 1991 Census to Household Schedule in 2001 Census for collecting individual level information
- This shift is expected to be a positive step towards ensuring complete coverage of the household including infants, children and the aged – males and females
- The format of the HH Schedule has been made more gender sensitive
- For instance questions on fertility related aspects specifically seek information by sex (daughters and sons) than using such generic term as children to ensure that information on female children are not left out even inadvertently.

- ❖ **Instruction manual included special chapter on women's work besides specific emphasis on their basic count and other details**
- ❖ **Improvements in Instructions Manual to constantly guard against gender bias**
- ❖ **Preparing audio/video & multimedia training modules in regional languages for effective communication**
- ❖ **States were encouraged to engage more women enumerators for better response**

- ❖ Identified districts which have shown inordinate low sex ratio, FWPR and female literacy across the country for vigorous campaign and special attention
- ❖ Special training modules and focused publicity was launched to address the issue with sole objective of sensitizing enumerator as well as respondents

Fresh efforts continued

- **Trained Enumerators about the manner to ask probing questions specially relating to female work done in the informal sector/ with in the precincts of house**

They provided local examples and anecdotes to make them interesting and stimulating

- **Special emphasis has been put on various gender sensitive questions on Age, Disability, fertility and work etc to get correct information**

Work Participation

- ❖ Under reporting of female work was considered as major grey area and all efforts were made not to miss her economic activity even inadvertently
- ❖ Recognised the fact that cultural bias persists in recognizing women's contribution in economic pursuits done intermittently alongwith domestic chores and remain unreported either by respondent/ proxy respondent or by enumerator.

Work participation

- **Glimpses of unpaid work**
- **32 sketches included in the Instruction Manual showing different types of women's work not usually reported or treated work due lack of understanding**
- **Manual available with each of the field functionary for quick reference**
- **Each State was advised to include local examples of women's work with which the local Enumerators are familiar**

Unpaid Work in the Family Farms : Cultivators



Agricultural Activities - Labour



Milching, Making Cow Dung Cakes for Sale



Making Pottery & Clay Objects



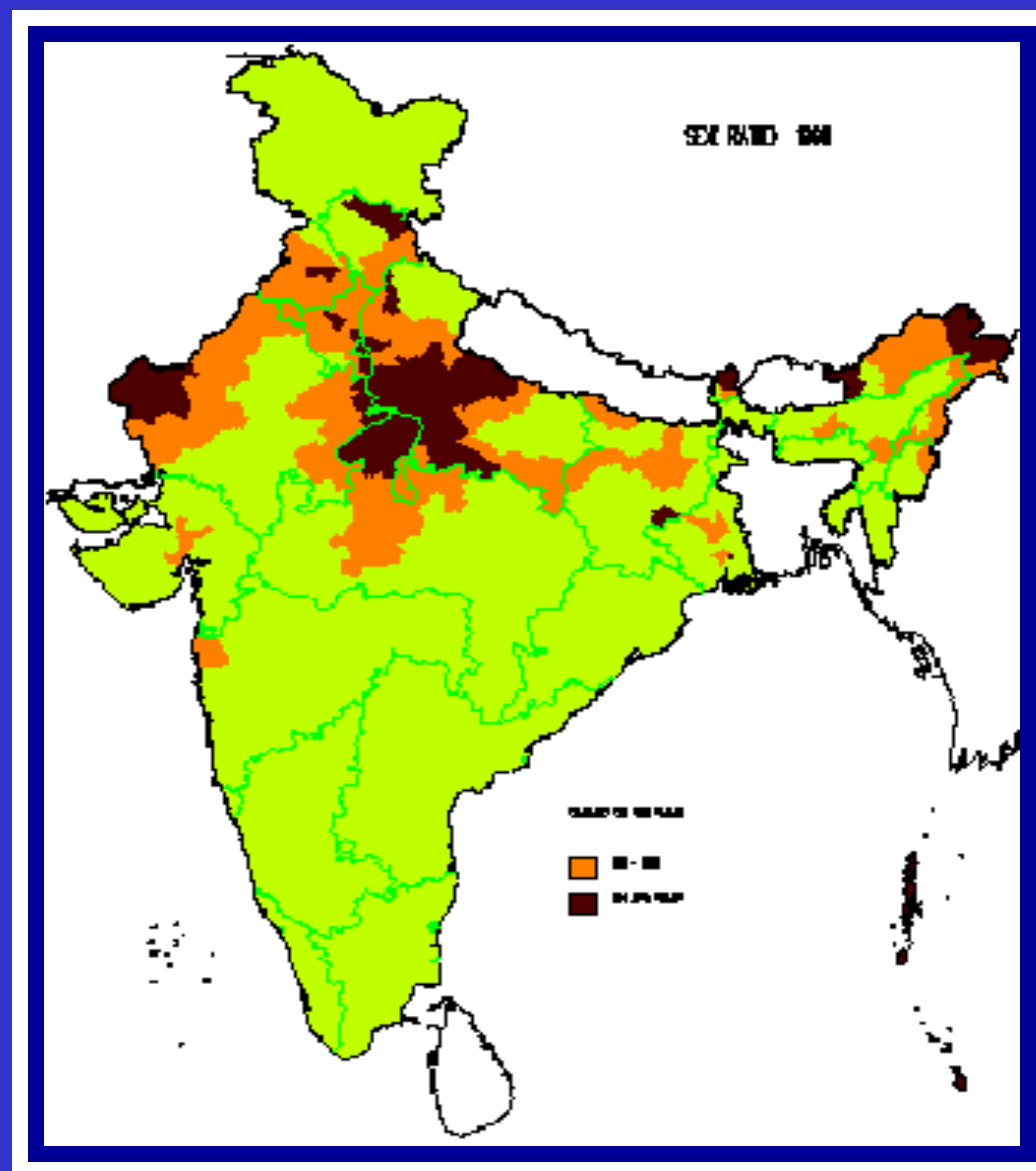
- A team of census advisors were sent to about two hundred critical districts to impart training to the field functionaries on gender related issues
- Census advisors helped *Master trainers* in gender specific questions with local example to facilitate better comprehension
- Whole hearted support of UN and other agencies was received in this endeavor

**Sex Ratio
Less than
900**

**Number of
Districts:**

143

**or 31.6%
districts**



**Total No. of
Districts
(excl J & K)
in 1991:**

452

**Female Work
Participation
Rate:**

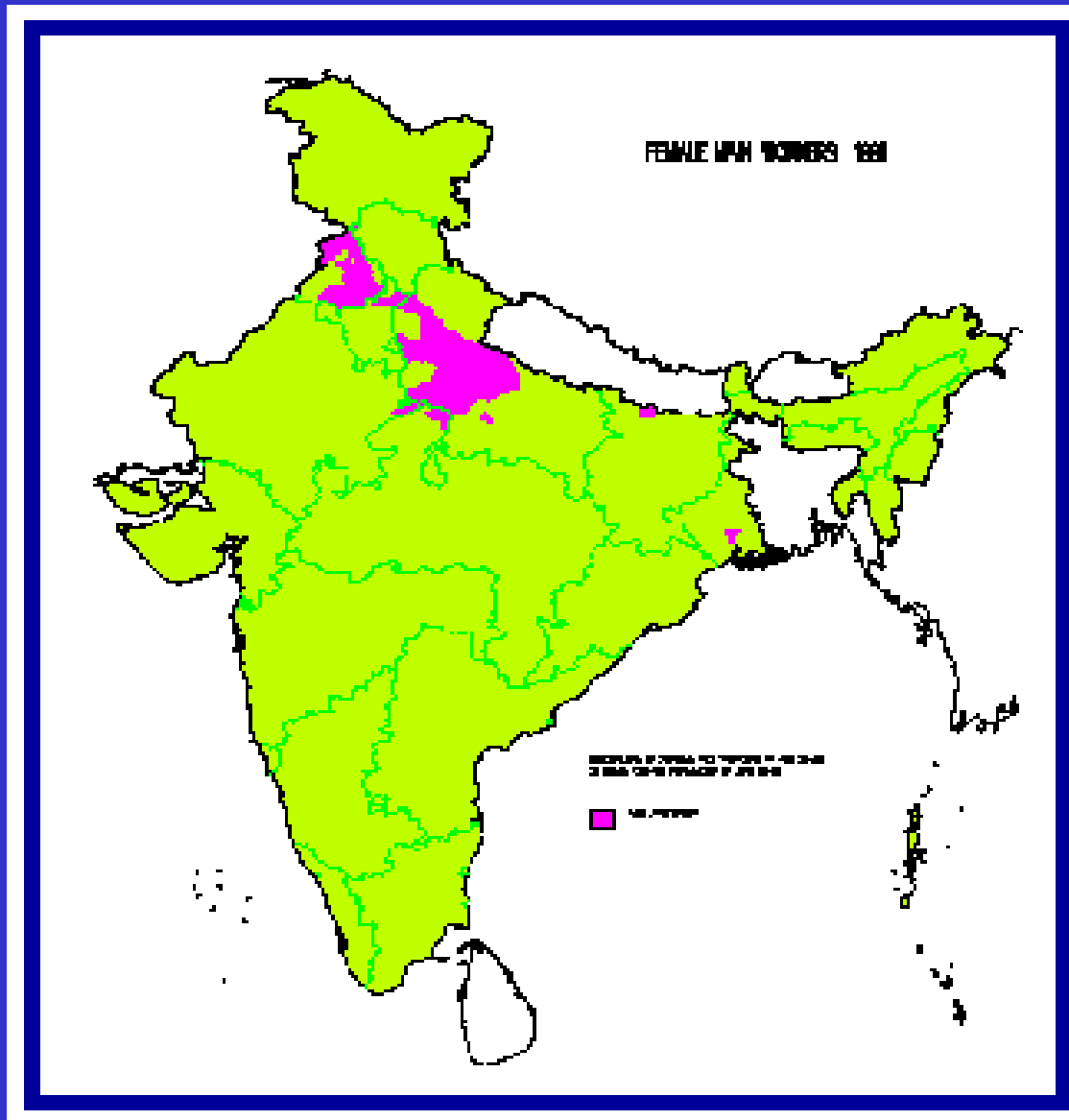
Less than 5%

**Number of
Districts:**

34

**Or 6.8%
districts**

Main Worker



**Total No.
of
Districts
(excl J&
K) in
1991:**

452

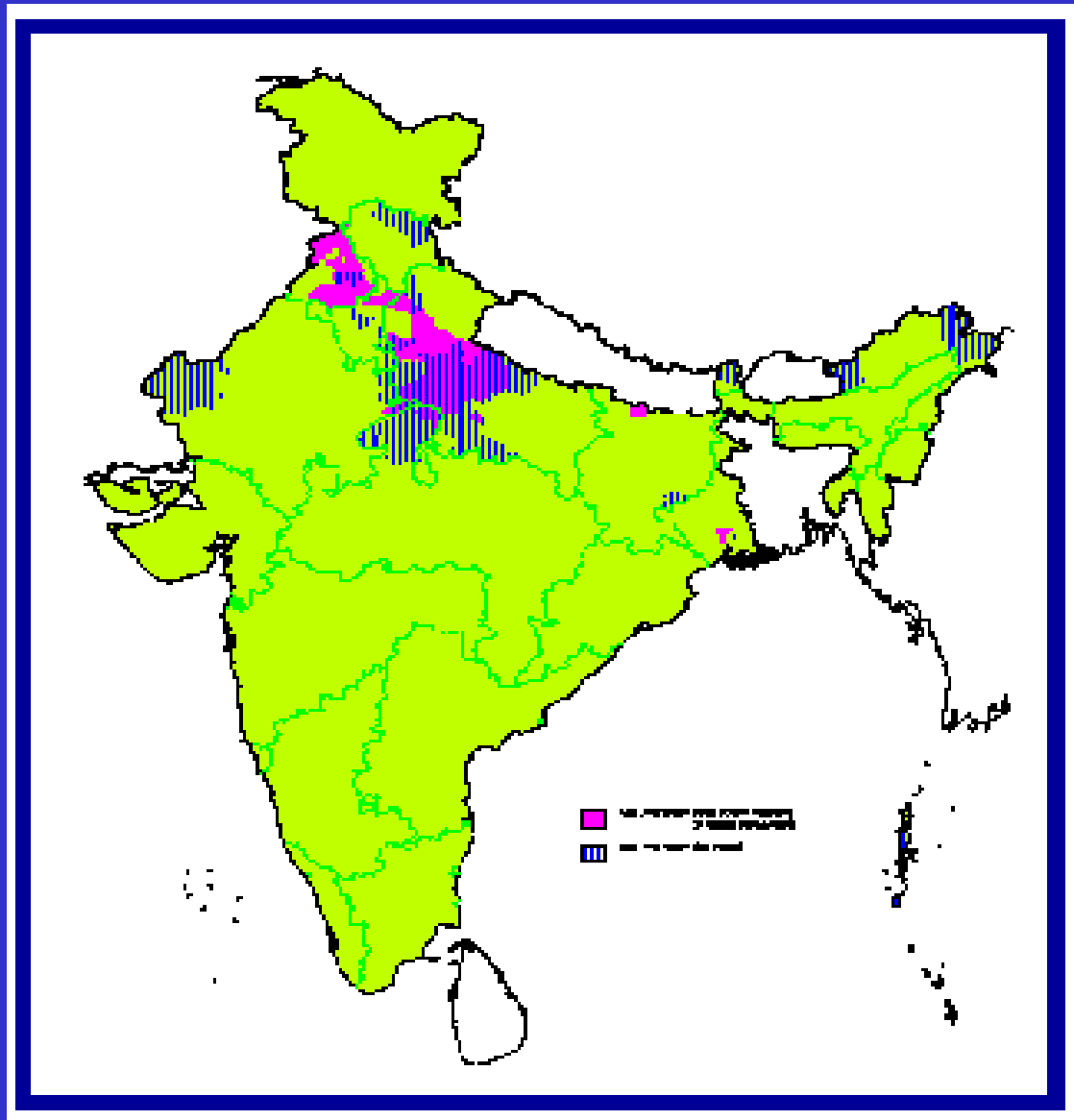
Critical Districts : 1991 Census

Sex Ratio
less than 850
&
Female Work
Participation
Rate
less than 10%

Number of
Districts:

139

Or 30.7%
districts



Total No.
of Districts
(excl J& K)
in 1991:

452

- ❖ For the success of such a huge exercise as organizing the Census of India 2001 adequate publicity was a necessary to create awareness
- ❖ The aim was to assure the respondents that the information provided by them are kept confidential by law and are not admissible in any court in India
- ❖ Important component of the publicity campaign was to sensitize the public on gender related issues, with particular reference to their enumeration and the unpaid work done by them
- ❖ Emphasis was also paid on the new question on disability introduced in 2001 Census

Modes of Publicity

- ❖ Providing information on 2001 Census through the Census of India website on the Internet
- ❖ Organising Census Quiz Contest on the Internet
- ❖ Advertisement on popular Internet sites
- ❖ Organising Cycle Rallies, Street Plays
- ❖ Other methods suitable to the concerned region, feature film highlighting gender sensitive questions in census
- ❖ Extensive display of posters and banners dedicated to unpaid work

Modes of Publicity

- ❖ **Telecasting messages on television target audience women**
- ❖ **Broadcasting messages/training on All India Radio**
- ❖ **Publishing advertisements in newspapers**
- ❖ **Dedicated articles on women issues**
- ❖ **Showing census messages through cable network**
- ❖ **Printing Census messages on Postal stationery**
- ❖ **Releasing commemorative postage stamp on Census of India 2001**
- ❖ **Displaying Posters, Pamphlets , Banners, Hoardings, Electronic Display Boards, etc.**

CRITICAL DISTRICTS

Comparison of 1991 & 2001 Census data

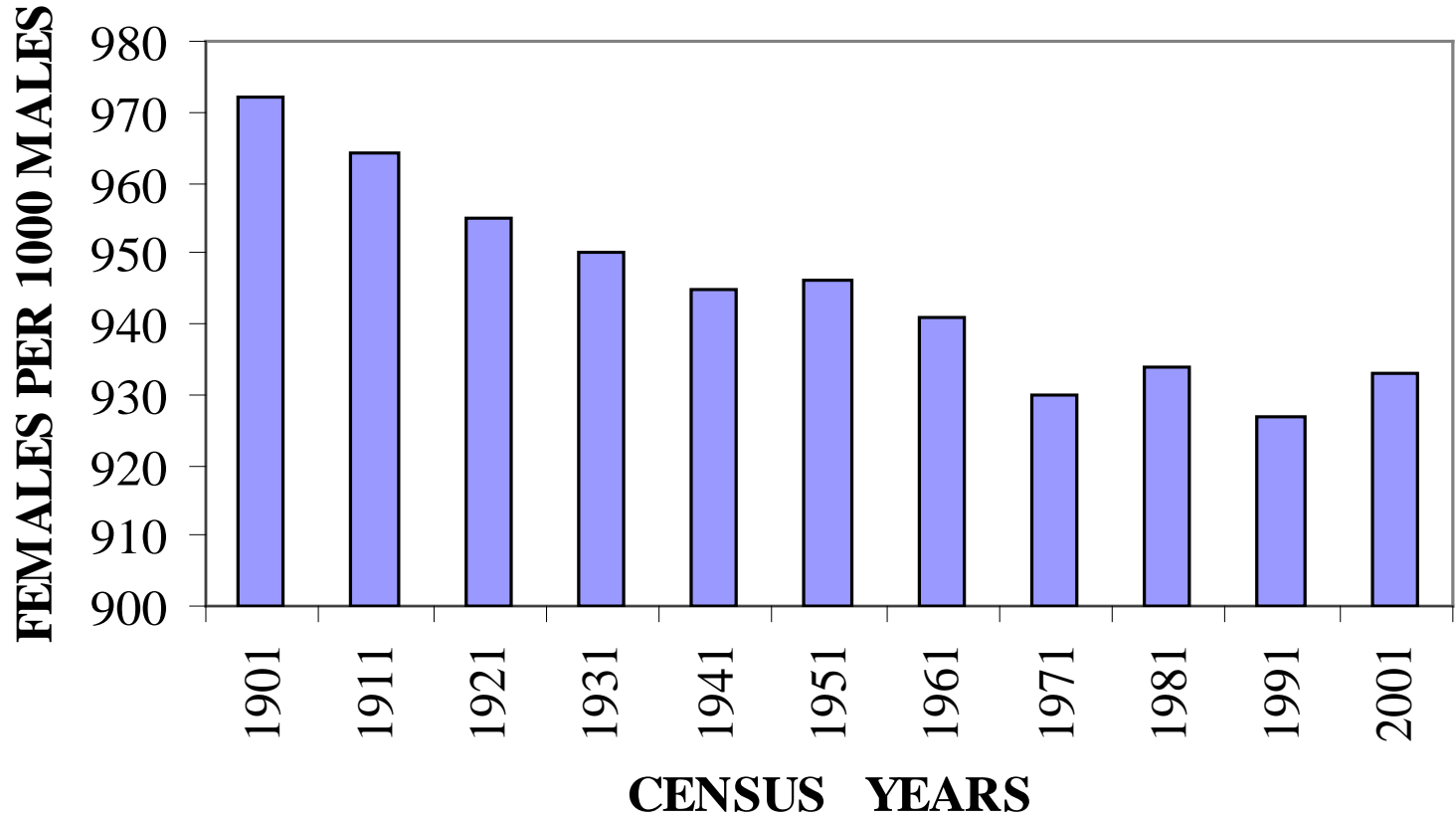
Sex ratio of population in some of the critical districts in 1991 and 2001 reveals considerable improvement

Female Work Participation Rate have shown encouraging results in some of the most critical states/districts

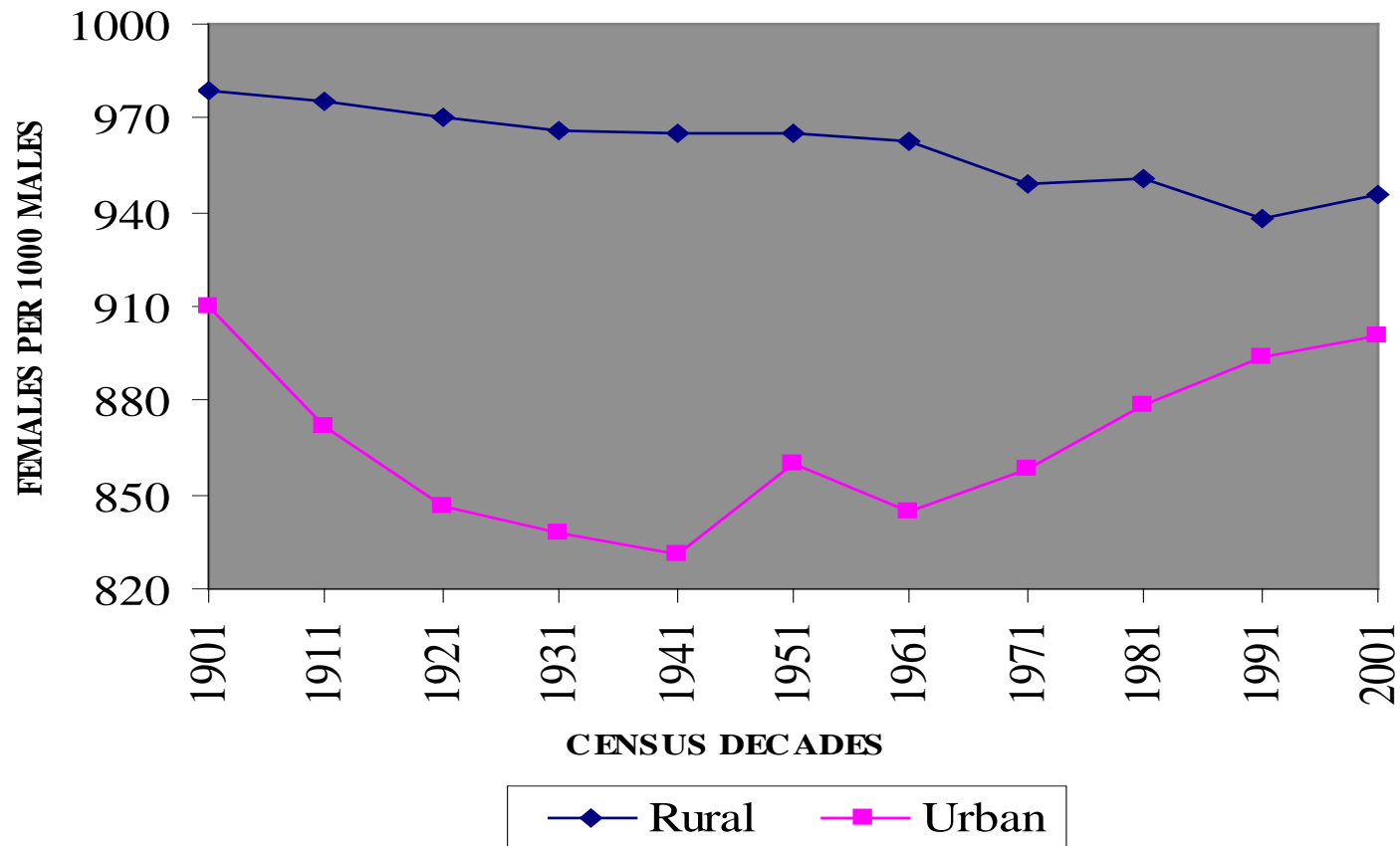
Sex Ratio of Population

- ❖ Sex ratio is defined as females per 1000 males in the population
- ❖ Sex ratio registered six point increase from 927 in 1991 to 933 in 2001
- ❖ 27 states/union territories show increase in the sex ratio as compared to 1991
- ❖ This increase is pronounced in 7+ age group suggesting better capture of women in enumeration
- ❖ This is the second time in the hundred years of the census history that the sex ratio in the rural as well as in urban areas have shown increasing trend (8 points)

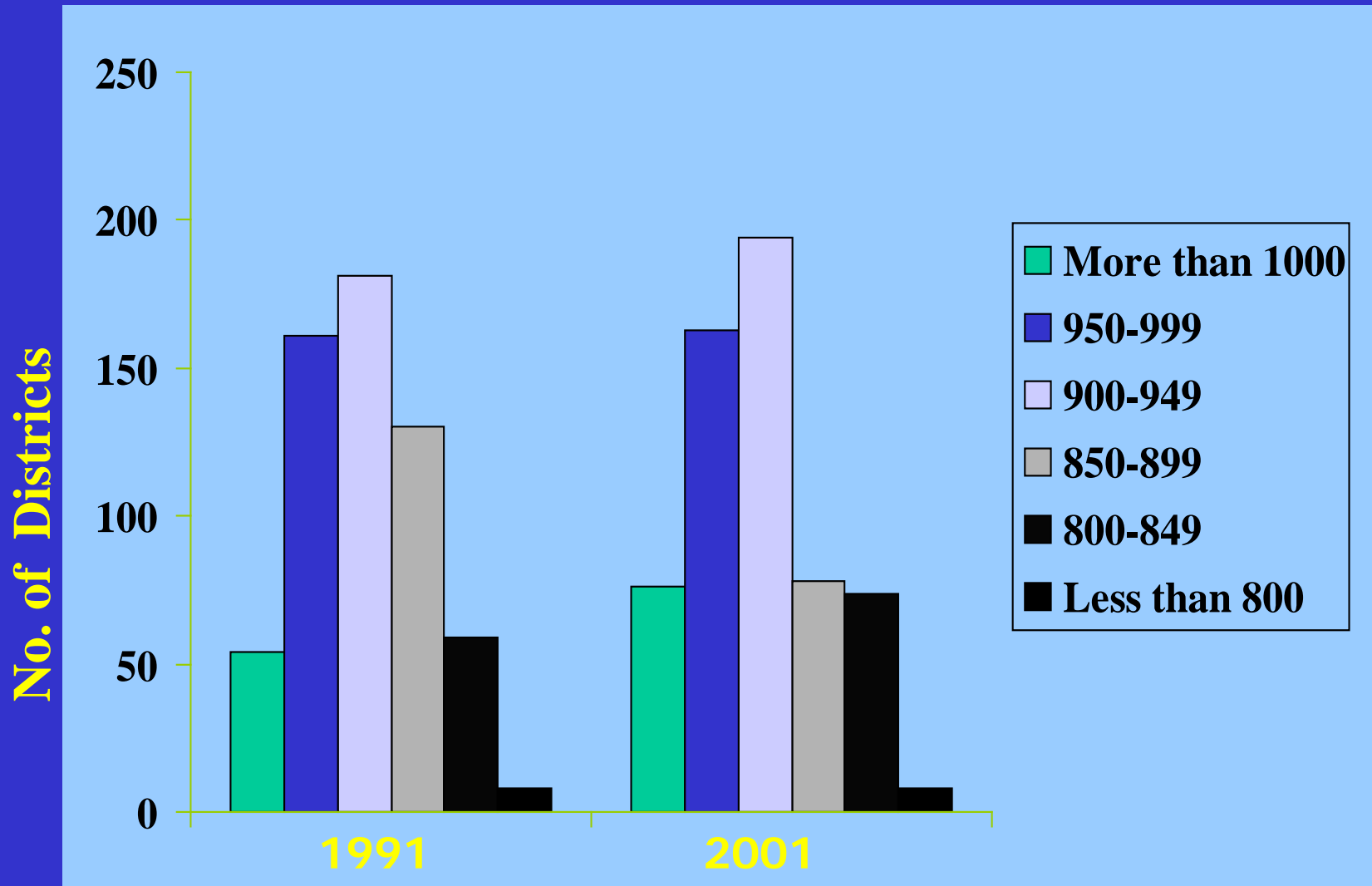
SEX RATIO - INDIA



RURAL AND URBAN SEX RATIO: INDIA



Sex Ratio in the Districts : 1991 and 2001



2001 Census Data

Census years	Persons	Males	Females
1901	238	121	117
1951	361	186	176
1961	439	226	213
1971	548	284	264
1981	683	353	330
1991	846	439	407
2001	1027	531	496

Census thus reveals that the deficit of women has risen from 3 million in 1901 to 35 million in 2001

2001 Census Data

Census is the mirror of ground dynamics of socio-economic and cultural factors operating at a given point of time and therefore it is a true reflection

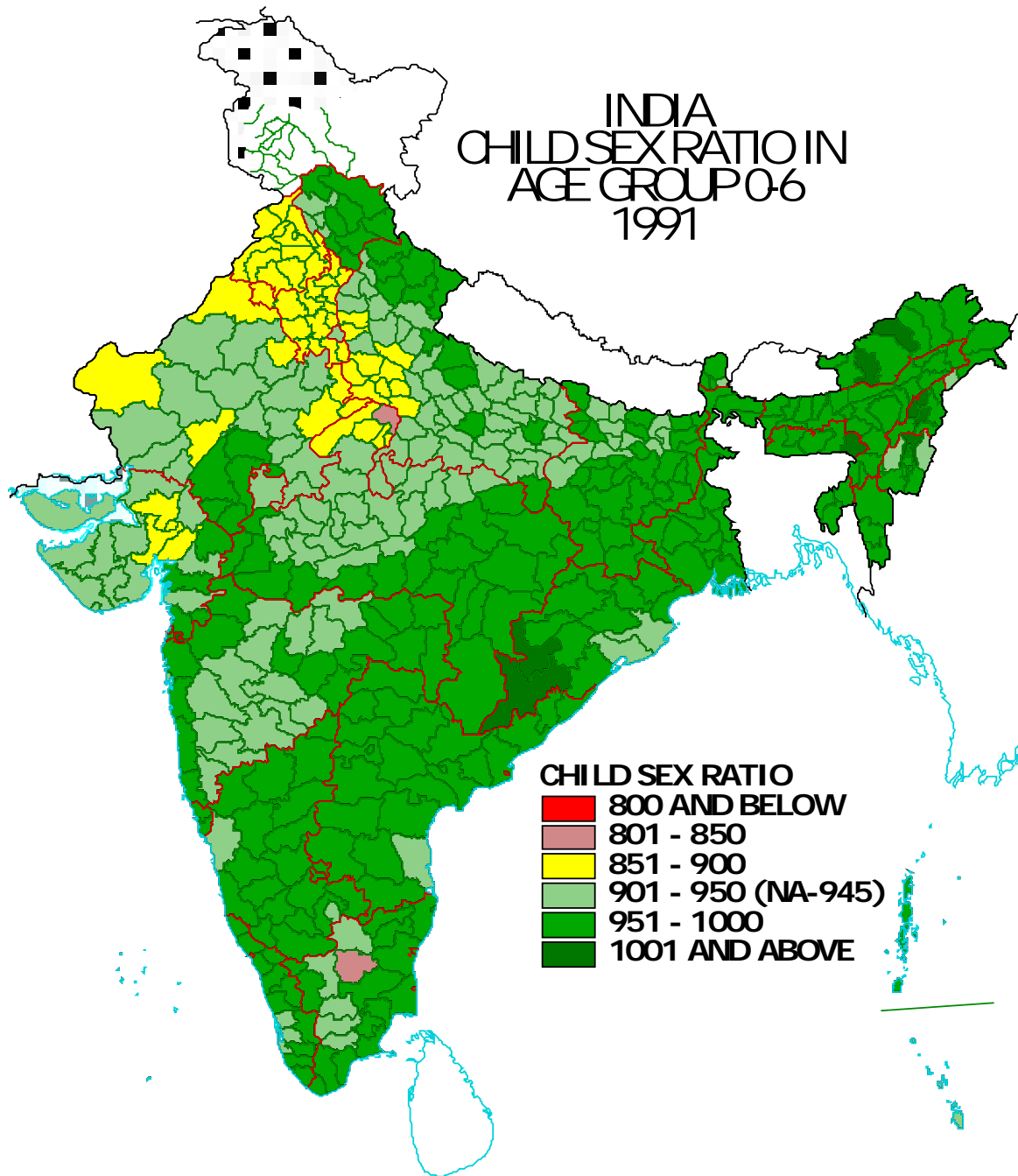
In the recent census the presentation of data on child sex ratio in the age group 0-6 has shown a grim picture of the status of girl child in some parts of the country

Child Sex Ratio in the Age Group 0 – 6 (1981 to 2001)

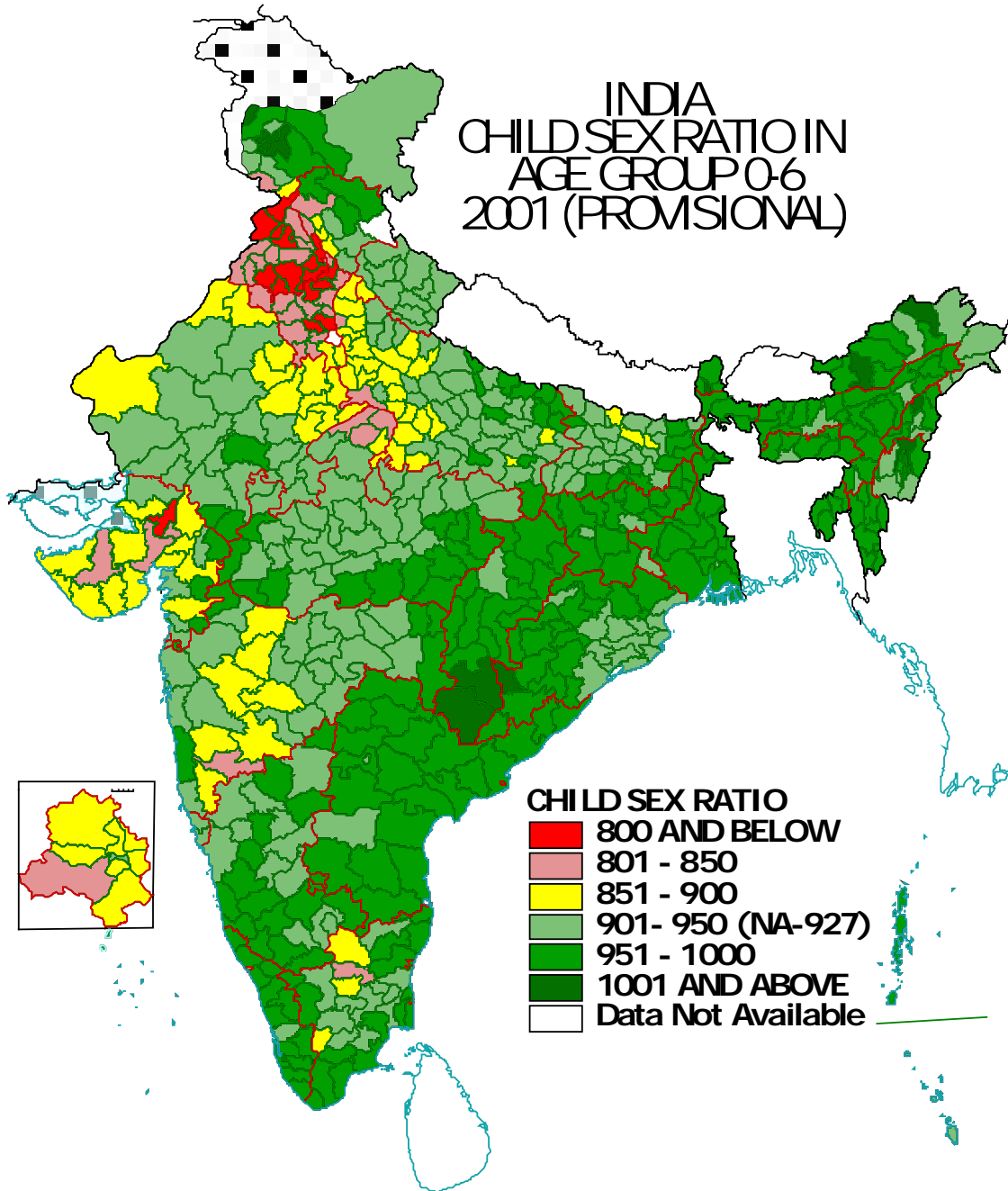
Census	Total	Rural	Urban
1981	962	963	931
1991	945	948	935
2001	927	934	903

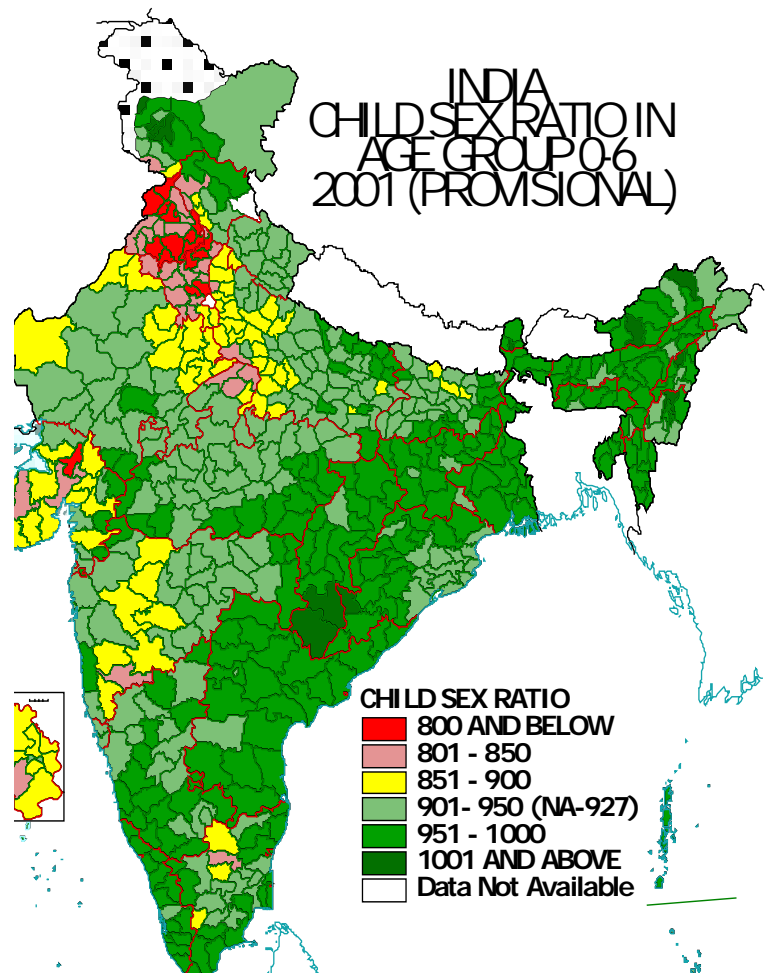
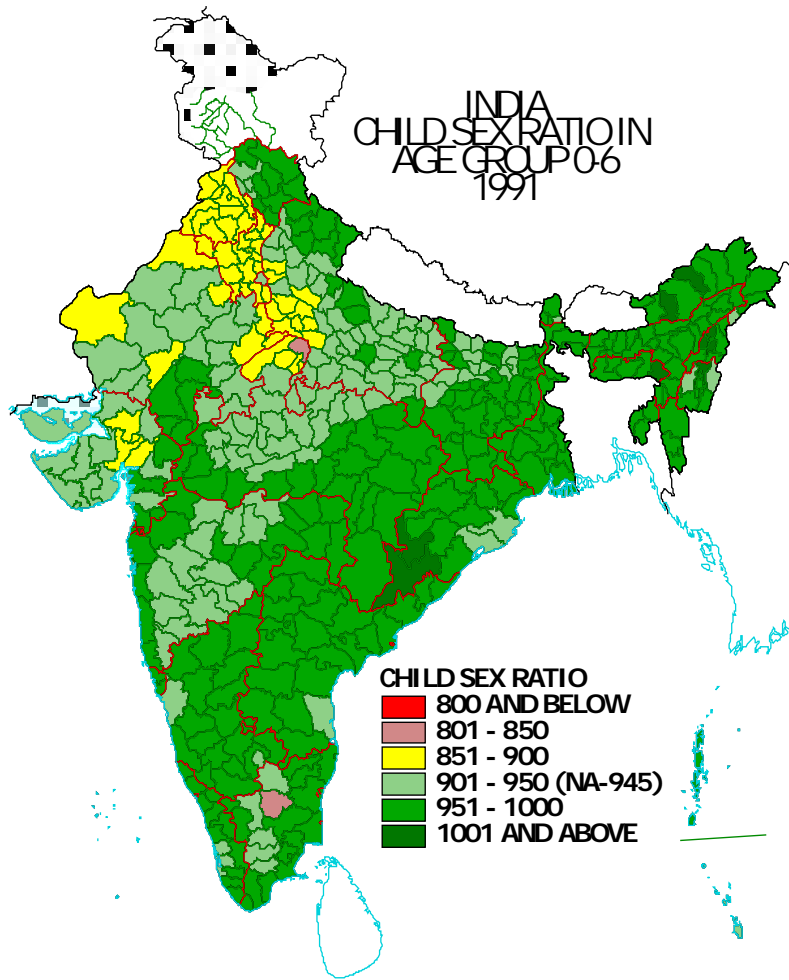
Decline in child sex ratio in age group 0-6 from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 has activated entire political, legal and administrative setup of the country.

INDIA CHILD SEX RATIO IN AGE GROUP 0-6 1991

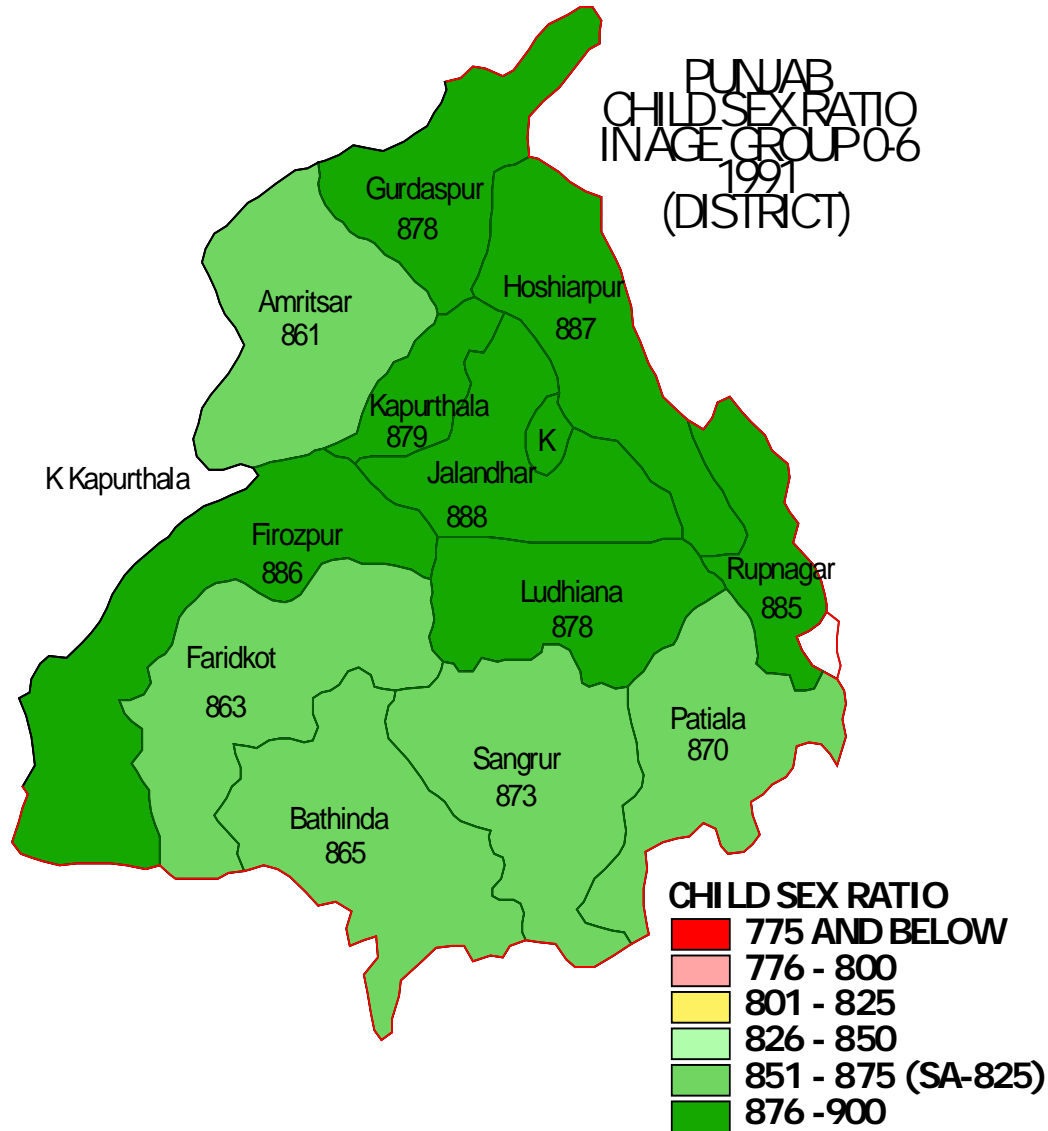


INDIA CHILD SEX RATIO IN AGE GROUP 0-6 2001 (PROMISIONAL)

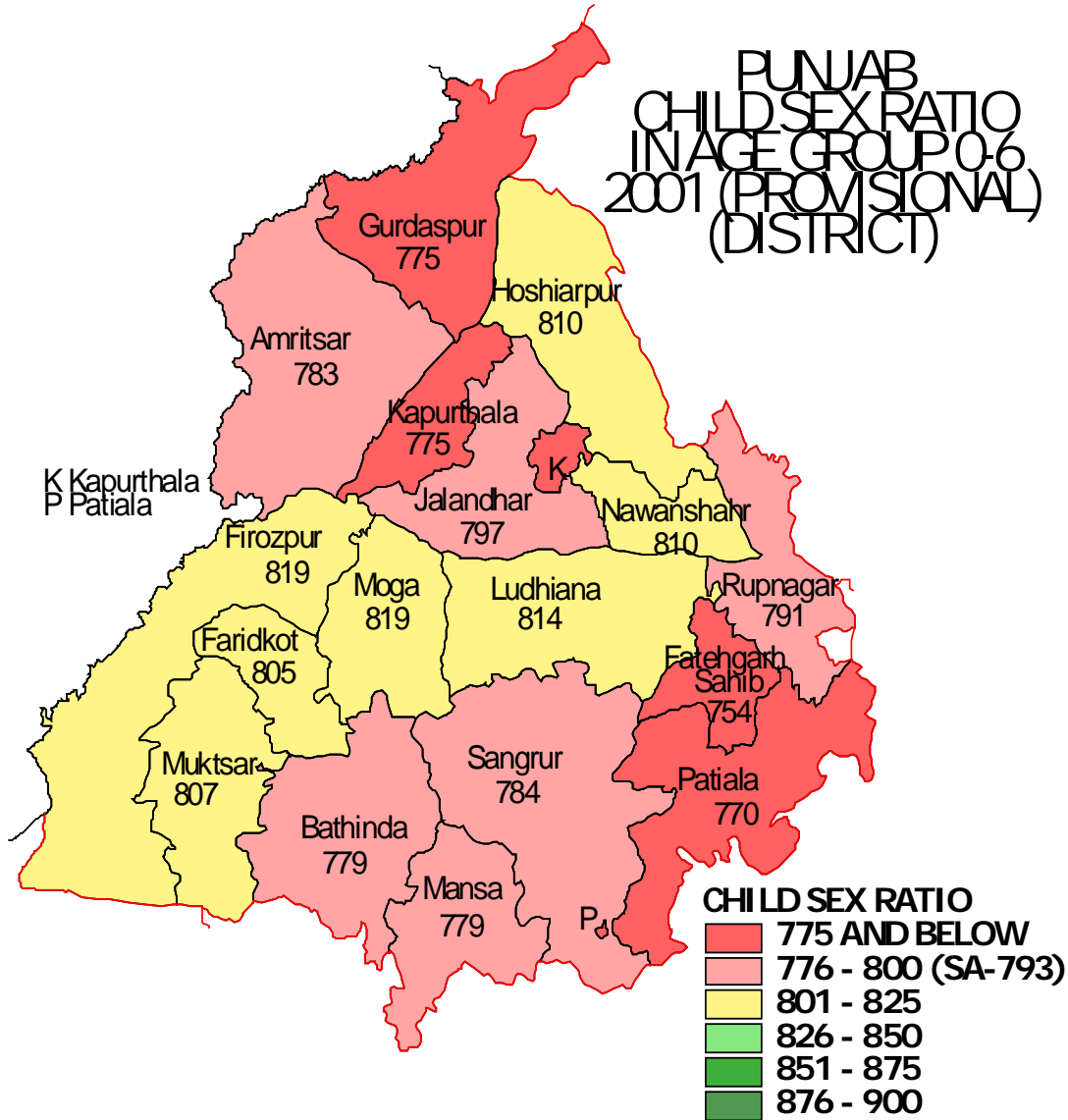


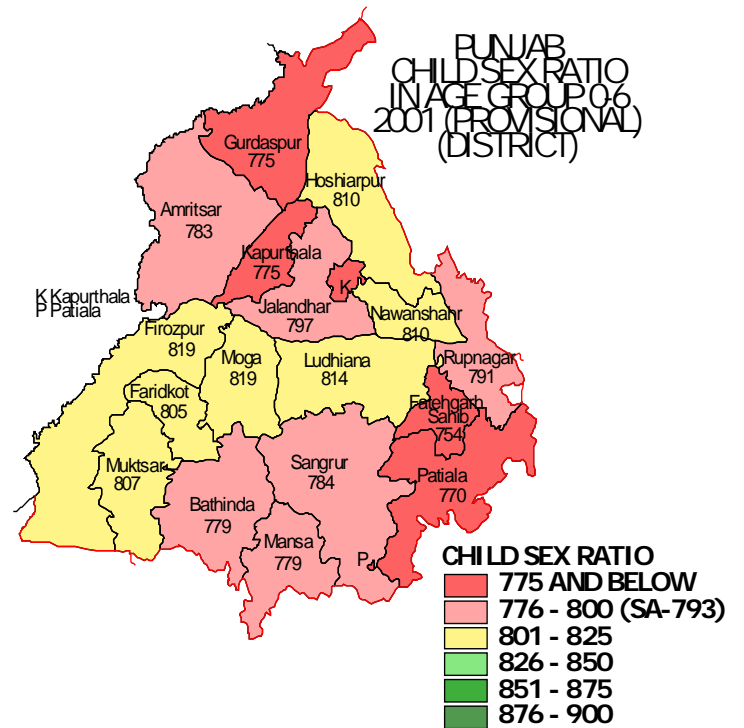
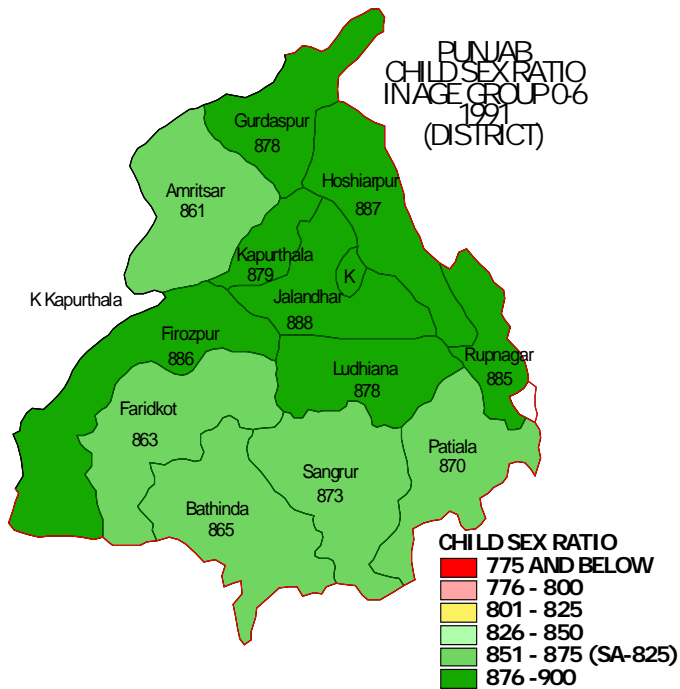


PUNJAB
CHILD SEX RATIO
IN AGE GROUP 0-6
1991
(DISTRICT)

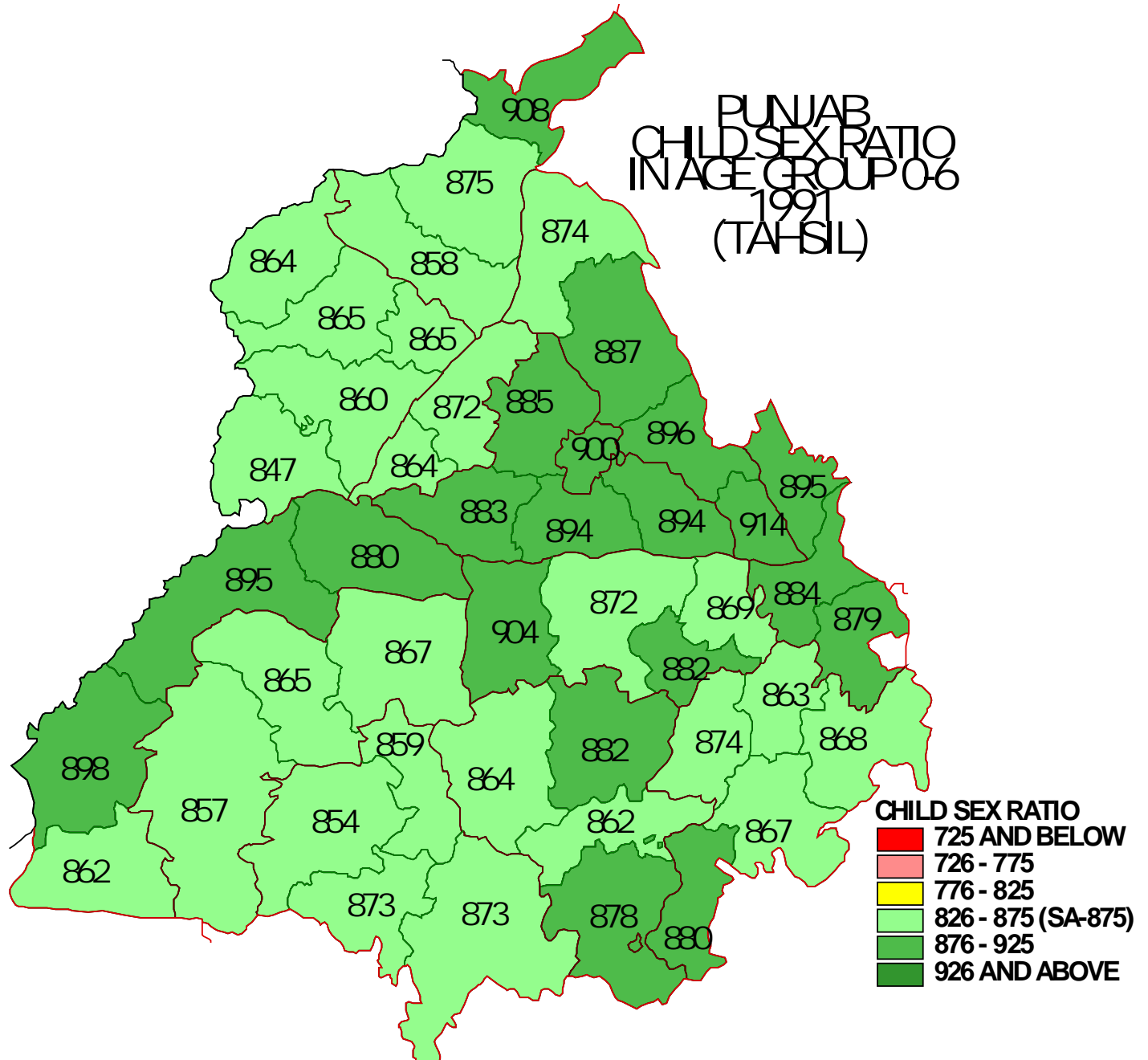


PUNJAB
CHILD SEX RATIO
IN AGE GROUP 0-6
2001 (PROVISIONAL)
(DISTRICT)

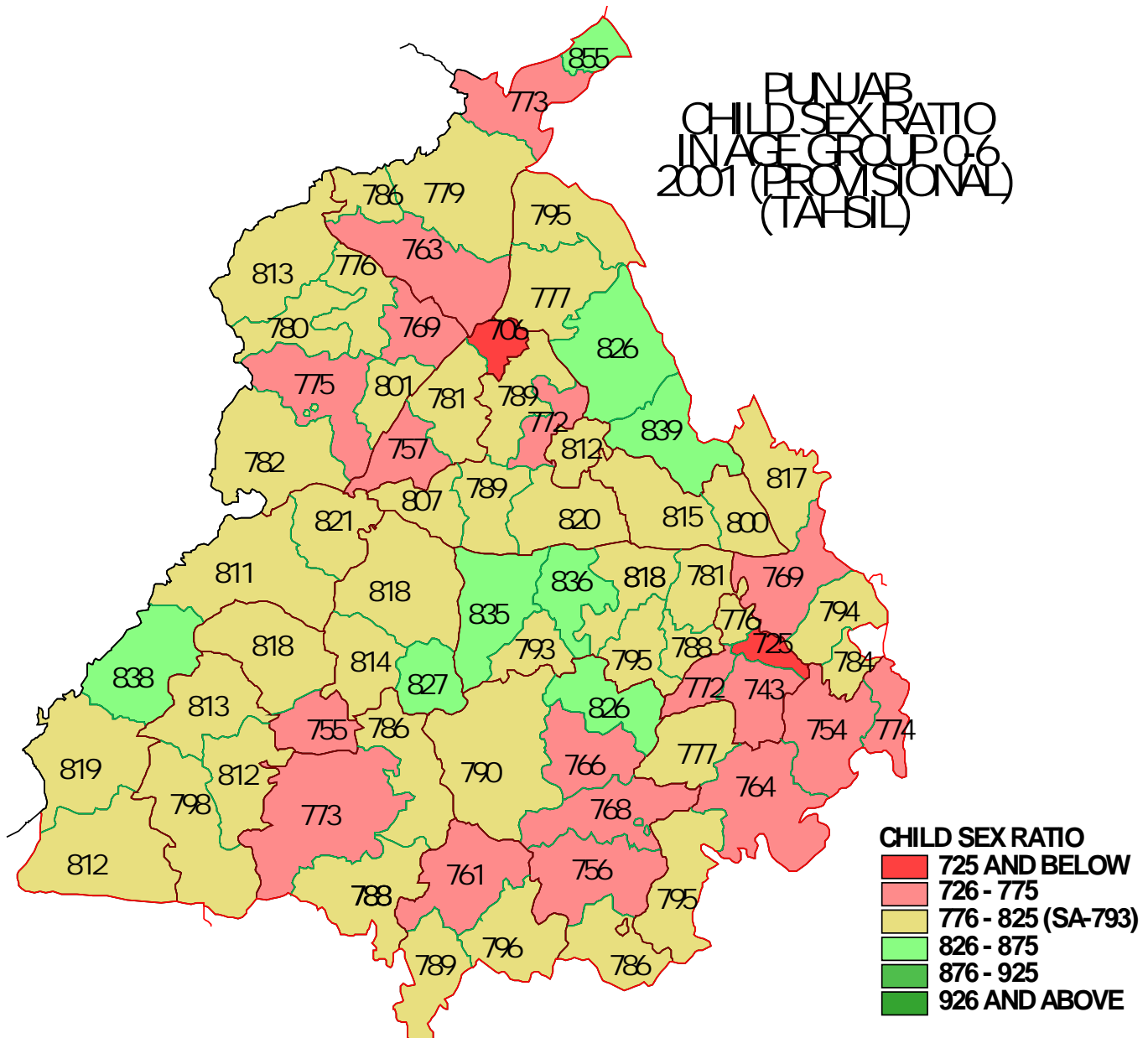


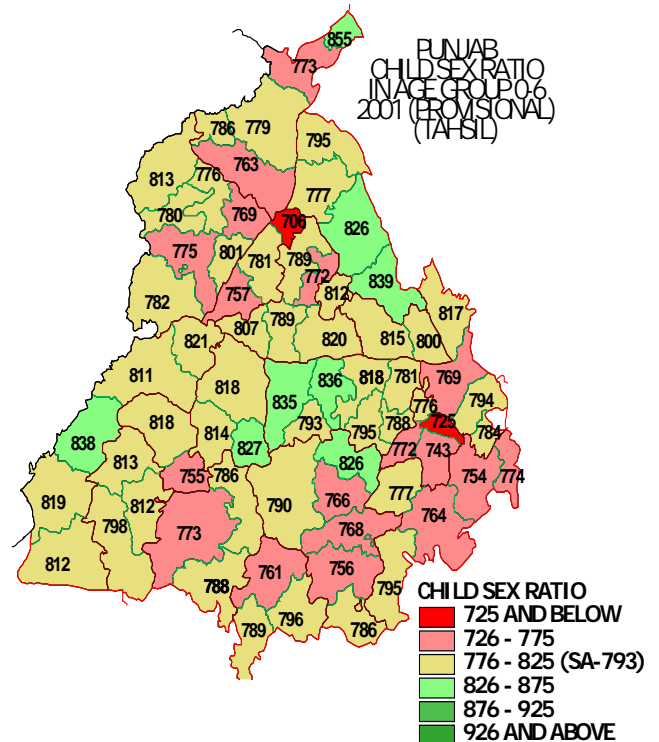
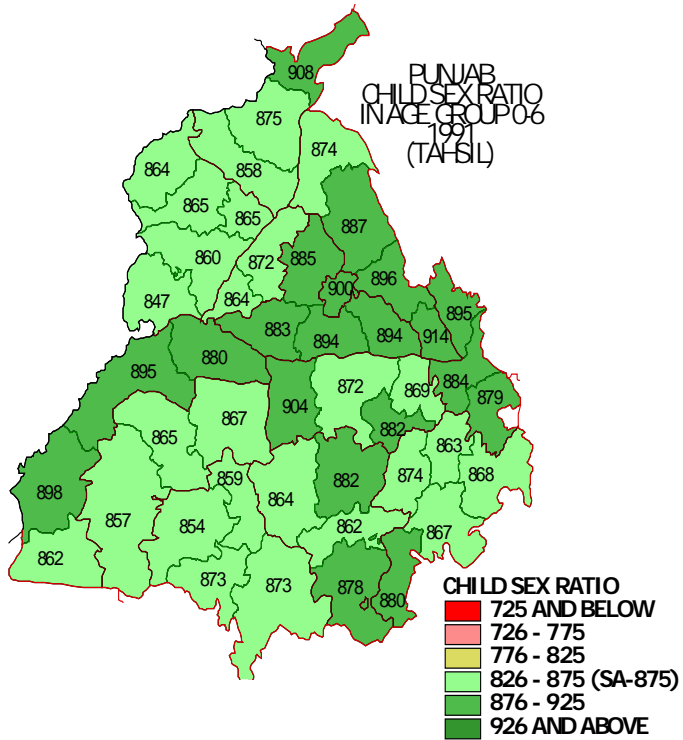


PUNJAB
CHILD SEX RATIO
IN AGE GROUP 0-6
1991
(TAHSIL)

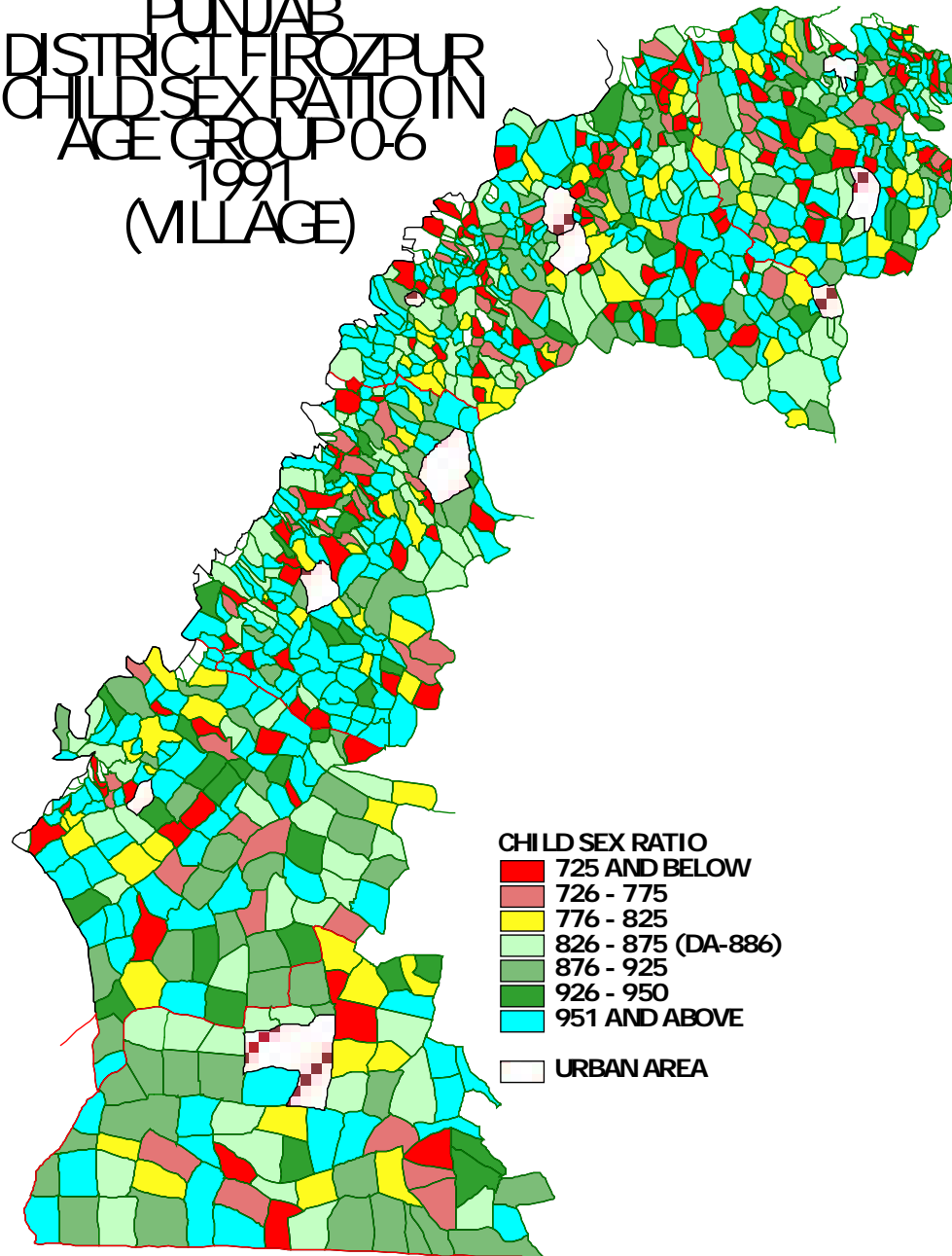


PUNJAB
CHILD SEX RATIO
IN AGE GROUP 0-6
2001 (PROVISIONAL)
(TAHSIL)

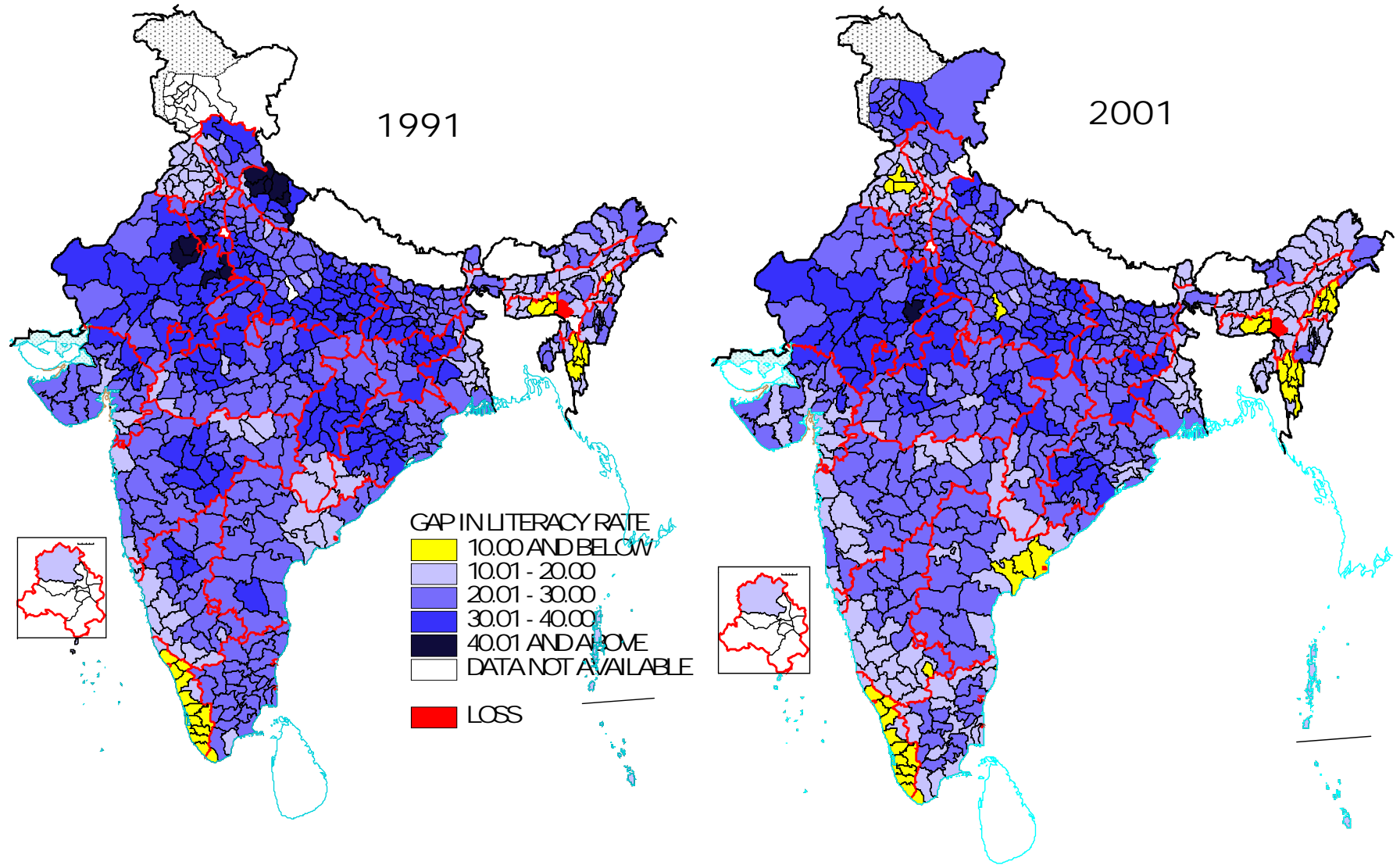




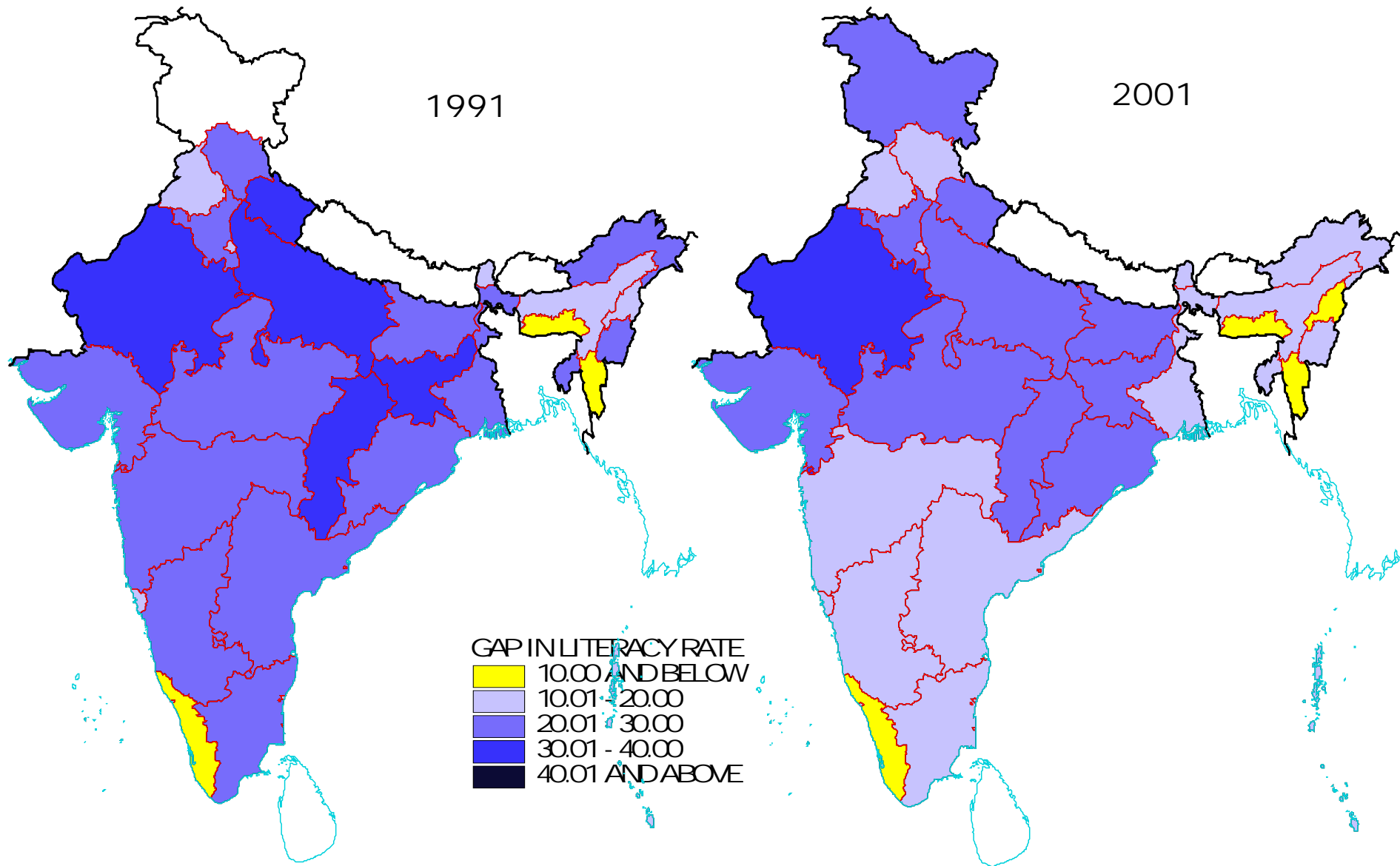
PUNJAB
DISTRICT FIROZPUR
CHILD SEX RATIO IN
AGE GROUP 0-6
1991
(MILLAGE)



INDIA MALE-FEMALE GAP IN LITERACY RATE (DISTRICT)



INDIA
MALE-FEMALE GAP IN LITERACY RATE
(STATE/UT)



2001 Census Data

It is matter of great satisfaction that due to these concerted efforts the women work participation in Punjab which was the lowest in the country (4.4 percent) in 1991 has risen to 18.7 percent as per preliminary results of the Census of India, 2001

Work Participation Rate by Sex (1981 to 2001)

	1981		1991		2001	
India	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	52.6	19.7	51.6	22.3	51.9	25.7
Rural	53.8	23.1	52.6	26.8	52.4	31.0
Urban	49.1	8.3	48.9	9.2	50.9	11.6

Among the states having large number of critical districts preliminary results have shown encouraging results in capturing female work participation

State	1991	2001 Provisional	1991 Critical Districts
Punjab	4.4	18.7	17 (All)
Haryana	10.8	27.3	19 (All)
West Bengal	11.2	18.1	9
Uttar Pradesh	12.3	16.8	43
Bihar	14.9	20.7	15

There has been significant increase in the female marginal work (those who worked for less than six months in the census reference year)

State	1991	2001 Provisional
India	6.3	11.0
Punjab	1.3	6.8
Haryana	4.7	13.9
West Bengal	3.3	9.2
Uttar Pradesh	4.9	10.2
Bihar	4.9	11.2

Special Tables on Women

In the Census 2001, apart from the traditional gender segregated data based on individuals, household tables, special tables with emphasis on women are proposed to be produced for the first time.

- ❖ Households by number of female literates among female members of the household (age 7+) (separately from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes – socially and economically backward groups)
- ❖ Households with at least one member (15 years and above) with or without educational level matriculation and above by household size
 - Number of households with at least one female matriculate and above
 - Number of households with at least one female graduate and above.

- ❖ Households by marital status of the head of the household, sex and age of the head of the household
- ❖ Households having female children in the age-group 5-14 years by number of school attending female children
- ❖ Households by size and number of female members seeking/ available for work in the household
- ❖ Households by number of female disabled.

**Some findings from
the Housing Data in
2001 Census**

Summary

Gender dimensions – How she lives ?

- ▶ 110 million households (56%) – material of floor is mud
- ▶ Out of 220 million married couples – 86 million couples (40%) do not have an independent bedroom
- ▶ Drinking water source is *AWAY* for 32 million households
- ▶ Latrine not available to 122 million households
- ▶ Bio-fuel consumed for cooking purposes by 139 million households
- ▶ Independent kitchen not available to 69 million households

When shall we move from basic housing to conventional housing for all ??

*the Indian census will
continue its efforts in
correct capture and
dissemination of
disaggregated gender
statistics*

For detail Census data and
other related information visit
us at our website at

<http://www.censusindia.net/>



Thank you ...