



Rural-Urban differential in the size of household in India

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Abstract

This paper utilizes district level data on rural size of household and urban size of household in India. There are two main objectives of this present paper to study the size of rural household, size of urban household and different between them. This work is based on secondary data and collected from census of India 2011. There were two variables i.e. rural household size and urban household size has been taken into consideration for the study. The data is computed and calculated differential between rural size of household and urban size of household. As per census 2011, India has 4.94 person per household and 4.66 person per household per.

Keywords: urban, rural, size of household, differential

Introduction

Studies on household size contribute a significant area of research in countries experiencing declining population growth which influence through significant changes in living arrangements. Sociologists and demographers are not contributed to this area of research in countries of high fertility level. This perhaps explains lack of research in this area of household size in India. Available research in India reveals little or negligible studies have done in this area. Aiyappan (1972)^[1] assessed the census data on households to explain changes in family size from 1871 to 1961 in Kerala, especially conclusions on the basis of data contained in the 1891 Census report. Studies of developing countries have emphasis on several socio cultural and socioeconomic aspects associated with fertility and household size: modernization (Levy, 1985); contraceptive use and family planning programs for households (Koenig *et al.*, 1987); and cultural attitudes and values for old-age security value of children (Rani, 1986) or the view of children as risk insurance (Robinson, 1986). Researchers have analyzed the extent of fertility and household size depends on individual's family backgrounds, social, psychological characteristics and economic status. Blake (1986) assessed an inverse relationship between social class and household size. More education, late marriage, longer gap between marriage and the birth of the first child and employment condition were found associated with smaller families (Wagner *et al.*, 1985).

Based on Census of India information, this study explains the trend and spatial pattern in the changes of household size in India using district level data of 2011. Changes in household size are clearly influence on the changes in living space as well as in household composition. Problem acquires nuances of meanings in a country like India where indications shows tendency to move into a low fertility regime in the years to come. However, average demographic statistics generally Provide substantial changes in the size and number of households. Most indicators of demographic, socio-economic

changes, household changes are neither uniform in their social and spatial content. It may be worthwhile to examine district level variation in this feature of change that is unfolding in India in recent years.

Objective

The present study is aimed to fill an important gap by examining regional variation in size of household at a disaggregated level at the urban, rural by social groups. Intends to address the following objectives as the main objectives are:

1. To examine the size of household in urban and rural area in India.

Database and Methodology

The present work is based on secondary sources of data. All secondary data are collected from census of India, 2011. The data like district wise sized of household and other variable such as landholding size, % cent of female in work, level of educational attainment have been taken for the study. The correlation calculated among % of female participation, size of landholding, per cent of never married person and others by using spearman's Rank co-relation method. Such formula has been used:

To achieve the desired results, the index of the average size of household is calculated by i.e.

Index of mean size of household =

$$\frac{\text{Total number of Population}}{\text{Number of Household}}$$

GIS arc is also used as a tool to draw the maps of the variation in size of household in India.

The average size Total, Rural and Urban of Household in India

According to the census 2011, the average household size in

India represents 4.85 persons per household. The rural size of household is about 4.94 persons per household and 4.66 persons per household in urban areas. A comparison of average household in 2011 census with previous decades reveals that the average size of household is gradually increasing over time and start to decrease after 1991. From independence the household size was increase gradually from 4.88 persons per household in 1951 to 5.57 in 1991. It was stard decreasing from 1991 to 2011 i.e. 4.85 persons in 2011 census (Table 1, Figure 1). The maximum increase was witnessed for the period of 1951 to 1971. The resent decades shows some indication of stability.

Table 1: Persons per Household in India since 1951-2011.

| Census Year | Rural | Urban | Total |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1951 | 4.91 | 4.71 | 4.88 |
| 1961 | 5.19 | 5.07 | 5.16 |
| 1971 | 5.52 | 5.23 | 5.46 |
| 1981 | 5.59 | 5.45 | 5.55 |
| 1991 | 5.63 | 5.38 | 5.57 |
| 2001 | 5.4 | 5.1 | 5.3 |
| 2011 | 4.95 | 4.66 | 4.85 |

Source: Census of India

Seen as a rural urban breakup, the average size of household is continuously increasing since 1951. The maximum increase in rural areas could be witnessed during 1951 to 1991, when the average size of household registered an increase of 4.91 to 5.63 persons per household. This was the similar the increase in the total size of household in the same period. The trend was negative from the census year 1991 to 2011, where it was decrease from 5.63 to 4.95 persons per household.

On the other hand the increase of urban household size was witnessed during 1951 to 1981 i.e. 4.71 to 5.45 persons per household. It was negatively grown from the 1981 to 2011, where it was registered 5.38 to 4.66 persons per household.

The Rural -Urban differences in Size of Households

The salient revelation of Indian census data was not much to distinguish between the average sizes of household i.e. 4.95 in rural and 4.66 in urban areas. The overall picture shows that average size of household revealing the sign of stability around 4.85 persons per household in 2011. It has been observed that in the past decades the joint family in the urban

areas was almost as high as in the rural areas. The observations was supported by several sample studies which revealed that small, joint family was most typical form of family life amongst the middle and upper middle urban classes in India (Ross, 1973).

The rural urban differential has not been consistent, but it varying from decade to decade (Table 1). The increased deferential is because of the size of household in rural constantly increase than the size of urban household. The growth rates of household size in rural areas were positive from 1951 to1991 i.e. 0.28 to 0.04 respectively. On the other hand negative trend of growth registered since 1991- 2011, i.e. 0.23 to 0.45. The urban counterpart also shows an unstable increase and decrease during this tenure. The overall difference in rural urban household size revealed that increase and decrease of household difference rely on the trend of household in rural and urban household growth.

Table 2: Trend of rural-urban differences in size of household

| Decades | Rural | Urban | Difference |
|---------|-------|-------|------------|
| 1951-61 | +0.28 | +0.36 | -0.08 |
| 1961-71 | +0.33 | +0.16 | +0.17 |
| 1971-81 | +0.07 | +0.22 | -0.15 |
| 1981-91 | +0.04 | -0.07 | +0.11 |
| 1991-01 | -0.23 | -0.28 | -0.05 |
| 2001-11 | -0.45 | -0.54 | -0.09 |

Source: author's calculation from census data

Spatial Pattern of Rural -Urban Differentials in the Size of Household

In India, the average household size of urban area has been 4.85 and rural area has been 4.94 in 2011. The maximum size of households in urban areas is in Uttar Pradesh (6) while minimum is observed in Tamil Nadu (3). In rural areas the maximum average size of households is in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh i.e. 5.73 and minimum average size of households is in Goa (3.36) followed by Tamil Nadu (3.88). Among Union Territories, the maximum average size of urban households is in Lakshadweep (5.21) and minimum is in Andaman and Nicobar (4.05) and Chandigarh (4.06). Similarly, in rural household size is maximum in Lakshadweep (5.67) and minimum is in Daman, Diu, Dadra, and Nagar Haveli (4). The average of total size of household has minimum in Tamil Nadu (3.89) and maximum is in Uttar Pradesh (6).

Table 3: Rural-Urban differentials in the size of household

| State/Union Territories | Average Size of Household In 2011 | | | Rural Urban Differentials 2011 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Total areas | Rural areas | Urban areas | |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 5.92 | 5.86 | 6.06 | -0.2 |
| Punjab | 5.03 | 5.16 | 4.82 | +0.34 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 4.62 | 4.70 | 4.03 | +0.67 |
| Uttarakhand | 4.90 | 4.94 | 4.82 | +0.12 |
| Haryana | 5.23 | 5.42 | 4.87 | +0.55 |
| Rajasthan | 5.40 | 5.42 | 5.30 | +0.12 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 6.00 | 6.04 | 5.73 | +0.31 |
| Bihar | 5.50 | 5.47 | 5.73 | -0.26 |
| Sikkim | 4.73 | 4.89 | 4.30 | +0.59 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 5.11 | 5.33 | 4.51 | +0.82 |
| Nagaland | 5.10 | 5.07 | 4.82 | +0.25 |
| Manipur | 5.03 | 5.13 | 4.84 | +0.29 |
| Mizoram | 4.92 | 5.00 | 4.88 | +0.12 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|------|------|------|-------|
| Tripura | 4.34 | 4.51 | 5.41 | -0.9 |
| Meghalaya | 5.41 | 5.50 | 5.07 | +0.43 |
| Assam | 4.87 | 4.94 | 4.46 | +0.48 |
| West Bengal | 4.48 | 4.50 | 4.43 | +0.07 |
| Jharkhand | 5.27 | 5.30 | 5.30 | 0.0 |
| Orissa | 4.35 | 4.32 | 4.50 | -0.18 |
| Chhattisgarh | 4.52 | 4.50 | 4.62 | -0.12 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 4.81 | 4.74 | 5.00 | -0.26 |
| Maharashtra | 4.60 | 4.65 | 4.53 | +0.11 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 4.02 | 3.95 | 4.15 | -0.19 |
| Karnataka | 4.57 | 4.71 | 4.37 | +0.34 |
| Goa | 4.24 | 3.36 | 4.20 | -0.84 |
| Kerala | 4.25 | 4.21 | 4.30 | -0.09 |
| Tamil Nadu | 3.89 | 3.90 | 3.88 | +0.02 |
| Gujarat | 4.93 | 5.12 | 4.70 | +0.42 |
| Delhi- NCT | 4.88 | 5.27 | 4.88 | +0.39 |
| Union territories | | | | |
| Chandigarh | 4.36 | 4.06 | 4.38 | -0.32 |
| Dam & Diu | 4.00 | 4.74 | 4.00 | +0.74 |
| Dad.&NagarHaveli | 4.50 | 5.07 | 4.00 | +1.07 |
| Lakshadweep | 5.57 | 5.21 | 5.67 | -0.46 |
| Pondicherry | 4.12 | 4.15 | 4.11 | +0.04 |
| Andaman&Nicobar | 4.02 | 4.05 | 3.98 | +0.07 |
| India | 4.85 | 4.94 | 4.66 | +0.28 |

Source: Author's calculation from census data.

There has been a significant change in average size of households in rural and urban areas of Indian states. States like Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, Tripura, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Kerala has witnessed increase in size of households in urban areas in 2011 while some states like Tripura, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh observed increase in household size rural areas (See table 3). Significant increase in household size in rural areas can be observed in 2011 census data. The reason can be attributed to lack of education and family planning while there has been decrease in urban household size. The reason can be attributed to increase in access of quality education, aspire for better quality of life, inflation and family planning. The increase in 2011 was observed in states like Manipur (+0.29) and Tamil Nadu (+0.02). Among Union territories, the increase in urban households size can be observed in Chandigarh (-0.32) and Lakshadweep (-0.46) in 2011. Over all there is increase in rural household size in 2011.

From the Fig: 1.1, it can be observed that the rural household size is high in plain areas excluding Jammu and Kashmir. The plain areas are devoted to agriculture sector. The requirement of labor can be attributed as a reason for high family size in rural areas in Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal and Orissa. The urban household size is high in parts of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal and Orissa. These areas accounts for high population density. Fig: 1.1 shows the total household size of Indian districts and it can be observed that the northern India has bigger household size than southern India. Some of the states lacking behind in development constitutes the northern India while the development and advancement in technology in southern India has been the major reason in stark difference in household size. Thus, it can be stated that the development plays a crucial role in population check.

Conclusion

The study revealed that the rural household would be distinctly larger than the urban. The urban household in India is only marginally smaller than the rural suggesting the virtual continuation of the traditional family pattern in urban India. In the urban as well as rural the joint family is very common shows a slight difference in the size of household.

Analyzing the difference of rural urban size of household as an index related to the stages of modernization in traditional society. A marginal difference in size of the household was found in more than 4 out of every 5th districts.

Spatial distribution of rural urban household size has difference maximum in rural areas than urban areas. In the north and north western India the high difference is encountered due to joint family system in rural areas. Urban household are exceptionally small in the Hilly states of India, like Himachal Pradesh, North Eastern states of India.

The migration in most of the states from rural to urban areas in case of districts where industries are situated, one state to another where agriculture is mostly developed. In this areas are filled with migration of labor which reduces the household size.

Among several parts of the India the Punjab-Haryana Plain, North western and Northern Plain, and Hill Districts of Jammu & Kashmir shows maximum difference in rural urban households. Western Maharashtra, Karnataka Plateau, West Bengal, Orissa and North Eastern Hilly district having a marginal difference in rural urban household size. In these areas the level of development is low and most of the areas having traditional growth of urbanization.

More than 2/5th of district recorded the size of urban household is bigger than the rural. Mostly these districts are concentrated in the southern part of India where local marriage within one's own tribe or group as required by custom or law witnessed for large size of urban household. On

the other hand the rural out migration in North India, mostly Bihar and Uttar Pradesh noted for high rate of urban household.

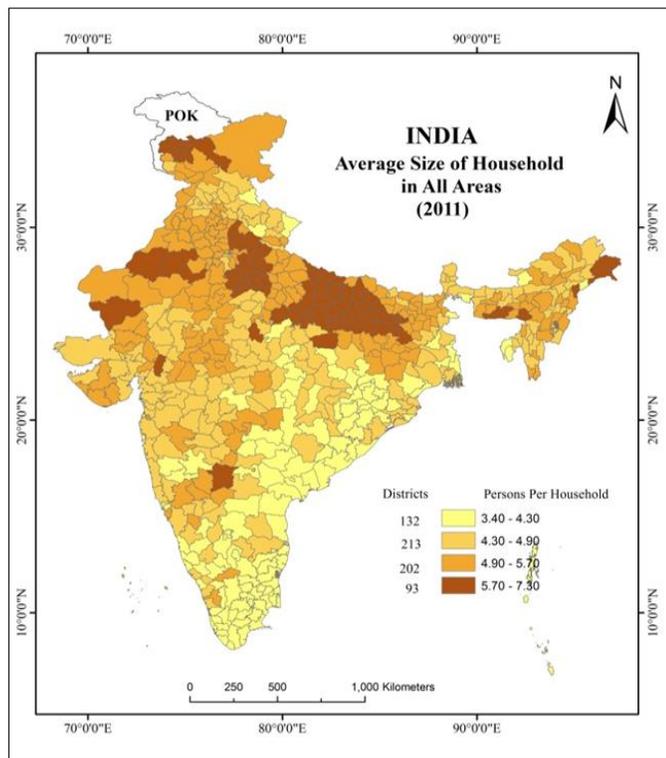


Fig 1

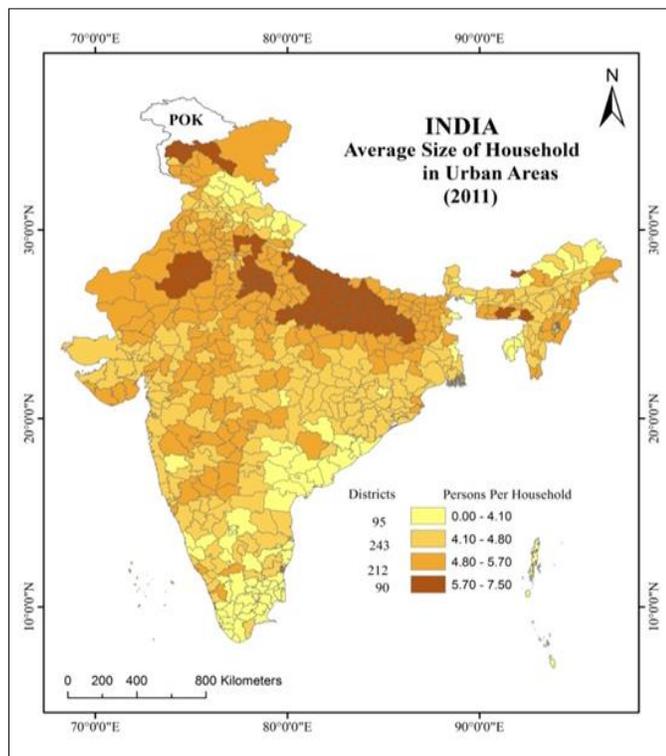


Fig 2

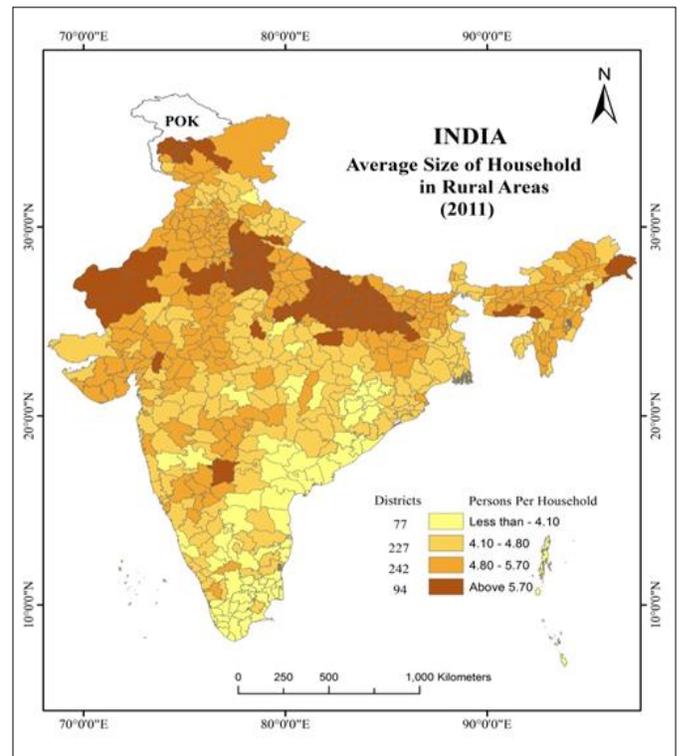


Fig 3

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