

Himachal Pradesh

DATA HIGHLIGHTS: THE SCHEDULED CASTES Census of India 2001

The word 'Himachal' literally means 'the land of the snow', situated in the lap of the Himalayas. The State is bounded in the north by Jammu and Kashmir, in the south - east by Uttar Pradesh, Haryana in the south and Punjab in the west.

2.The State holds 2nd rank among all States and UTs in terms of proportion of SC population to total population. The Scheduled Caste (SC) population of Himachal Pradesh is 1,502,170 as per 2001 census, constituting 24.7 per cent of the total population (6,077,900) of the State. The State has a total of fifty six (56) Scheduled Castes and all of them have been enumerated at the census 2001. The decennial growth of the SC population has been 14.6 per cent which is 2.9 per cent lower than the growth of total population (17.5 per cent) in 1991-2001.

3.The Scheduled Castes are predominantly rural as 93.4 per cent of them reside in villages. Among all the districts, Sirmaur district has returned the highest proportion (29.6 per cent) of the SC population to total population followed by Mandi (29.0 per cent) and Kullu (28.3 per cent) districts. Lahul & Spiti district has registered the lowest proportion of the SC population (7.8 per cent) preceded by Kinnaur (9.7 per cent).

Population - Size & Distribution

4.Out of fifty six Scheduled Castes, Kori is the most populous community with a population of 442,784 forming 29.5 per cent of the total SC population of the State. Chamar is the second largest SC, having a population of 414,669 which accounts for 27.6 per cent of the SC population. Lohar and Julaha with a population of 153,519 and 139,286 respectively along with Kori and Chamar constitute 76.6 per cent of the total SC population. Three other SCs, Balmiki, Hali and Doom having population in the range of 29,141 to 75,678. Together they form 9.3 per cent of the SC population; seven castes, namely Sarde, Batwal, Chhimbe up to Sipi with population ranging from 13,742 to 23,266 constitute another 8.4 per cent and the remaining forty two (42) SCs in addition to generic castes constitute the balance 5.8 per cent of total SC population of the State. Seventeen SCs have below 500 populations. Of them, eight castes are very small, each having less than 100 in number.

5.District - wise distribution of the individual SC shows that Kori have the highest concentration in Shimla district, followed by Mandi, Sirmaur, Kullu districts. Chamar have their major concentration in Kangra, Mandi and Una districts. Lohar are primarily concentrated in Mandi district, Julaha and Doom have their maximum concentration in Kangra district.

Sex Ratio

6.The overall sex ratio of the SC population in Himachal Pradesh is 968 females per 1000 males which is higher than the national average of 936 recorded for all SCs.

7. All the numerically larger groups have recorded overall sex ratio higher than the national average with Julaha having a preponderance of females.

Statement - 1 : Sex Ratio

Age group	All SCs (India)	All SCs (State)	Julaha	Lohar	Kori	Chamar	Doom
All ages	936	968	1008	971	967	964	955
0 - 6yrs.	938	936	896	926	969	917	940

8. The sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years (936) is marginally lower than that of the SCs at the national level (938). Among the larger groups, Kori have the highest (969) and Julaha have the lowest (896) child sex ratio. The other three castes have shown the child sex ratio lower than the national average.

Literacy & Educational Level

9. The overall literacy rate among the SCs of Himachal Pradesh has increased from 53.2 per cent at 1991 census to 70.3 per cent at 2001 census. This is 15.6 points higher than the national average (54.7 per cent) for all SCs. While male literacy has increased from 65 per cent to 80 per cent, female literacy has increased from 41 per cent to 60.4 per cent during 1991-2001.

Statement - 2 : Literacy Rate

Literacy rate	All SCs	Julaha	Lohar	Chamar	Doom	Kori
Persons	70.3	76.1	74.9	71.7	70.0	67.3
Females	60.4	67.5	65.6	62.5	61.1	56.1

10. Among the major SCs, except Kori, other four castes namely Doom, Chamar, Lohar and Julaha have the literacy rate in the range of 70 -76 per cent. All the numerically larger castes have shown the similar trend in respect of female literacy also.

11. Among the total SC literates, 28.2 per cent are either without any educational level or have attained below primary level of education. The primary level literates constitute 32.4 per cent. Literates up to middle school level have a share of 16.6 per cent only which is nearly half of the primary level literates whereas 20.1 per cent of literates have attained education up to secondary/higher secondary levels. This implies that every 5th SC literate is a matriculate. Graduates & above are 2.1 per cent, non-technical & technical diploma holders constitute a negligible share 0.6 per cent only.

12. Individually, Julaha and Lohar have every 4th literate a matriculate closely followed by Chamar who have every 5th literate a matriculate.

13. It may be discerned from the data on educational levels attained, the drop-out rate increases sharply from the higher secondary/Intermediate level onwards. Similar trend has been shown by the major SCs in attaining levels of education.

Statement – 3: Educational levels among the major Scheduled Castes

Names of SCs	Literate without educational level	Below primary	Educational levels attained				
			Primary	Middle	Matric/Secondary Higher Secondary/ Intermediate etc.	Technical & Non-technical diploma	Graduate and above
All SCs	1.8	26.4	32.4	16.6	20.1	0.6	2.1
Kori	2.4	31.3	31.6	15.0	17.5	0.5	1.8
Chamar	1.4	23.6	33.5	17.6	21.2	0.7	2.0
Lohar	1.5	23.8	30.6	17.1	23.2	1.0	2.8
Julaha	1.1	19.9	32.9	18.6	24.3	0.6	2.5
Doom	1.5	27.2	34.7	17.0	17.7	0.5	1.4

14. Out of the total 3.5 lakh SC children in the age group 5 -14 years, 2.9 lakh have been attending school, constituting 82.6 per cent. It indicates that 61,023 children in the same age group have not been going school. The Statement - 4 shows that all the major SCs have 82-87 per cent school going children.

Statement - 4 : Percentage of school going children in the age group 5-14 yrs.

Age group	All SCs	Kori	Chamar	Lohar	Julaha	Doom
5-14 yrs.	82.6	81.6	84.4	83.1	87.2	82.0

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

15. The work participation rate (WPR) of the SC population of the State is 48.9 per cent which is higher than that of the total SCs at the national level (40.4 per cent). While male WPR has increased by 3.2 per cent from 51 per cent up to 54.2 per cent, the female WPR has registered an increase by 7.9 per cent from 35.6 per cent to 43.5 per cent during the decade 1991-2001. Among the total workers, 63.8 per cent workers are main workers, which is lower than that recorded for all SCs at national level (73 per cent).

16. At the individual level, all the major castes have recorded the higher overall WPR than the national average for all SCs, with Kori having the highest WPR. Similar trend has been shown by these castes in respect of male as well as female WPR also.

Category of workers

17. Majority of the SCs workers are engaged in cultivation. As many as 66.6 per cent workers are 'Cultivators' which is more than thrice that of the national average (20 per cent) for all SCs. 'Other Workers' constitute 26.3 per cent as against the national average of 30.5 per cent. Persons working as 'Agricultural Labourers' account for a meagre 4.3 per cent only and this figure is significantly lower than the national average of 45.6 per cent. Workers engaged in 'Household Industry' (HHI) form 2.8 per cent, which is comparable with the national average (3.9 per cent).

Statement- 5 : Percentage Distribution of Workers in four Economic Categories

Economic category	All SCs	Kori	Chamar	Lohar	Julaha	Doom
Cultivators	66.6	80.3	61.8	61.9	64.9	53.1
Agricultural Labourers	4.3	2.3	6.2	3.6	4.4	5.7
HHI Workers	2.8	1.3	1.9	5.5	1.8	13.9
Other Workers	26.3	16.0	30.1	29.0	28.9	27.3

18. Among the major SCs, Kori holds the top position in category of 'Cultivators' (80.3 per cent) followed by Julaha, Lohar, and Chamar. Among Doom and Lohar, HHI workers constitute 13.9 per cent and 5.5 per cent respectively in their total working population. These proportions are significantly higher than those recorded at the national level for all SCs.

Marital Status

19. The data on marital status show that 49.6 per cent persons of the SC population are 'never married'. The 'married' persons constitute 45.5 per cent while 4.6 per cent persons are 'widowed' and a negligible 0.3 per cent persons are 'divorced & separated'.

20. The marriages of girls and boys below the stipulated age for each are rarely practised in Himachal Pradesh. The proportions of married girls below 18 yrs. and married boys below 21 yrs are 0.9 per cent and 1.3 per cent respectively and these figures are appreciably lower than those recorded at national level (2.8 per cent & 3.1 per cent).

21. The mean number of children ever born per ever married SC woman (age-group 45-49 yrs.) is 4 which is same as recorded by all SCs at the national level.

Religion

22. Hinduism is the predominant religion of the State (95.4 per cent). As many as 98.9 per cent SCs are Hindus. The remaining SCs follow Sikhism (0.9 per cent) and Buddhism (0.3 per cent).
