

Orissa
DATA HIGHLIGHTS : THE SCHEDULED CASTES
Census of India 2001

The Scheduled Caste (SC) population of the State of Orissa, as per 2001 census is 6,082,063. This constitute 16.5 percent of the total population of the State. The State holds 11th rank and 12th rank among all the States and UTs in terms of the SC population and the proportion of SC population to the total population of the State respectively. The decennial growth of SC population has been 18.6 per cent, which is 2.3 per cent higher than the overall growth of the total population (16.3 per cent). The State has a total of ninety-three (93) Scheduled Castes, but ninety one (91) have returned their population at 2001 census.

2. The Scheduled Castes are predominantly rural with 88.4 per cent residing in villages. Among the districts, the SCs have the highest concentration in Sonapur district with a share of 23.6 per cent to the total population, followed by Jajapur (23 per cent) and Baudh (21.9 per cent) districts. Gajapati district has the lowest proportion of the SC population (7.5 per cent).

Population - Size & Distribution

3. Out of ninety-three (93) SCs, Pan is the most populous caste having a number of 1,078,523 constituting 17.7 per cent of the total SC population. Dewar is the second largest SC having a number of 648,937. Five other SCs in the descending order are Dom, Dhoba, Ganda, Kandra and Bauri. Along with Pan and Dewar, the seven SCs constitute 72.6 per cent of the total SC population. Ghasi, Namasudra, Chamar, Gokha and Haddi have a population ranging from 105,722 to 209,701. Together, they form 13 per cent. Six SCs, namely Tiar, Patial, Tanla etc. having population ranging from 49,675 to 98,885 constitute another 6.6 per cent of the total SC population. Remaining seventy three (73) SCs along with generic castes constitute the residual 7.9 per cent of total SC population of the State. As many as thirty two (32) SCs have population below 1000. Of them, eight castes namely Pamidi, Musahar, Godagali etc. are very small having population less than 100.

4. District wise distribution of the individual SC population shows that Pan have the maximum population in Jajapur district followed by Kendujhar and Dhenkanal but they constitute the highest proportion (77.9 per cent) of the total SC population in Kandhamal district. Dewar have the highest population in Cuttack followed by Ganjam and Khorda districts. Other five major groups Dom, Dhoba, Ganda, Kandra and Bauri are primarily concentrated in Kalahandi, Ganjam, Balangir, Kendrapara and Ganjam districts respectively.

Sex Ratio

5. The over all sex ratio of the SC population in Orissa is 979 females per 1000 males which is higher than the national average of 936 for the total SC population.

6. At individual level, seven major castes have registered the over all sex ratio higher than the national average with Dom having a preponderance of females, their sex ratio being 1007 (Statement-1).

7. The sex ratio among SCs, in the age group 0-6 years (958) is higher than that of the SCs at the national level. Among the larger groups, Dom have the highest (972) and Dewar the lowest (943) child sex ratio. All of the major castes have returned child sex ratio higher than that of the national average.

Statement - 1 : Sex Ratio

Age group	All SCs (India)	All SCs (State)	Dom	Dhoba	Bauri	Ganda	Pan	Dewar	Kandra
All ages	936	979	1007	983	981	979	974	964	959
0 – 6 yrs.	938	958	972	951	945	964	965	943	952

Literacy & Educational Level

8. The overall literacy rate of the SCs is 55.5 per cent at 2001 census, showing an improvement from that (36.8 per cent) recorded at 1991 census. This figure is marginally higher than the national average of 54.7 per cent aggregated for all SCs. Male literacy has increased from 52.4 per cent to 70.5 per cent while female literacy has gone up from 20.7 per cent to 40.3 per cent during 1991-2001.

Among the numerically larger castes, Dewar and Dhoba have more than 50 per cent female literacy followed by Kandra (46.5 per cent). Dom have shown the lowest female literacy (24.9 per cent).

Statement - 2 : Literacy Rate

Literacy Rate	All SCs	Dewar	Dhoba	Kandra	Ganda	Pan	Bauri	Dom
Persons	55.5	66.3	65	61.3	55.6	55.4	50.2	39.4
Females	40.3	51.6	50.7	46.5	39.8	39.5	33.5	24.9

9. Among SC literates, 40.1 per cent are either without any educational level or have attained education below primary level. The proportion of literates who have attained education up to primary and middle levels constitute 30.1 per cent and 14.4 per cent respectively. Literates who are educated up to matric / higher secondary constitute 12.6 per cent only. This implies that every 8th SC literate is matriculate. Graduates & above are 2.3 per cent while non-technical & technical diploma holders constitute less than half per cent (0.4 per cent) only.

Statement - 3 : Levels of Education 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 etc.	Graduate and above
All SCs	2.6	37.5	30.1	14.4	12.6	0.4	2.3
Pan	2.5	40.6	29.9	14	10.9	0.3	1.8
Dewar	1.8	34.5	30.7	14.3	14.8	0.7	3.3
Dom	4.7	38.1	30.1	14.4	11.1	0.3	1.4
Dhoba	1.8	31.4	29.5	16.1	16.8	0.7	3.7
Ganda	3.3	36.6	31.2	13.7	13	0.3	1.9
Kandra	1.7	36.6	29.1	15.9	13.8	0.3	2.5
Bauri	3.2	43.3	28.6	13.4	10.1	0.2	1.3

10. Among numerically larger groups, Dhoba have the highest proportion of matriculates, followed by Dewar and Kandra etc. Bauri have the lowest proportion of matriculates.

11. The data on the education levels attained by all SCs shows that the drop-out rate is high after middle level as the percentage of middle level literate is almost half of the primary level literates and declines sharply from the higher secondary level onwards. Similar trend has been shown by the major SCs in the attainment of levels of education.

12. Out of the total 14.9 lakh SC children in the age group 5 -14 years, only 9.2 lakh children attend school, constituting 61.3 per cent. As many as 5.8 lakh children in the corresponding age group do not go to school. Among the major SCs, Dhoba have the highest proportion of school going children (70.2 per cent); this proportion is above 60 per cent among Dewar, Ganda, Kandra and Pan.

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

Age Group	All SCs	Pan	Dewar	Dom	Dhoba	Ganda	Kandra	Bauri
5-14 yrs.	61.3	60.9	69.1	54.6	70.2	68.3	64.5	53.7

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

13. The Work Participation Rate (WPR) of the SC population is 39.3 per cent which is marginally lower than that of total SCs at the national level (40.4 per cent). This figure is same as that recorded at the 1991 census. While there has been an increase in female WPR from 23.4 per cent to 26.2 per cent, male WPR (52.2 per cent) has declined by 2.5 per cent during 1991-2001. Among the total workers, 64.8 per cent are main workers which is below the national average recorded for all SCs (73 per cent).

14. At the level of the individual caste, Dom, Ganda, and Bauri have registered WPR higher than that of the state as well as national averages.

Category of Workers

15. 'Agricultural Labourers' constitute the highest proportion (45.7 per cent) among all SCs workers, which is almost equal to that of the national average (45.6 per cent). Persons working as 'Other Workers' constitute 30.2 per cent which is approximately the same if compared to the national average of 30.5 per cent. 'Cultivators' account for 18.2 per cent which is at par with the national average of 20 per cent whereas workers engaged in Household Industry (HHI) constitute 6 per cent and this figure is significantly higher than that of all SCs at the national level (3.9 per cent).

16. Among the major castes, Dhoba, Dewar, Kandra and Dom have every 5th worker, a cultivator. 'Agricultural Labourers' constitute 61 per cent of the total workers of Bauri, followed by Pan, Ganda, Kandra who have more than half of the total workers are 'Agricultural Labourers'. Dewar have the highest proportion of 'Other Workers' followed by Dhoba (39.9 per cent) and Kandra (26.4 per cent).

Statement- 5 : Percentage distribution of Workers under four Economic Categories

Economic Category	All SCs	Pan	Dewar	Dom	Dhoba	Ganda	Kandra	Bauri
Cultivators	18.2	16.8	19.7	19	22.1	16.7	19.6	11.3
Agricultural Labourers	45.7	54.3	29.2	49.1	35.3	53.2	52.6	60.7
HHI Workers	6	4.2	4	8.5	2.7	6.7	1.4	2
Other Workers	30.2	24.7	47.1	23.5	39.9	23.4	26.4	25.9

Marital Status

17. The data show that approximately half of the SC population is 'never married' (49.8 per cent) whereas 'married' persons constitute 45.1 per cent. 'Widowed' persons form 4.6 per cent while a negligible percent (0.4 per cent) are 'divorced and separated'.

18. The marriages of girls and boys below the stipulated age, for each are not practised in Orissa. Married girls below 18 years and married boys below 21 years constitute 1.5 per cent and 1.2 per cent respectively. These proportion are significantly lower than those recorded for all SCs at the national level (2.8 per cent and 3.1 per cent respectively).

19.. The mean number of children ever born per ever married SC woman (45 – 49 years) is 4 which is equal to the SCs at national level (4).

Religion

20. Hinduism is the predominant religion of the State (94.4 per cent). Nearly cent per cent (99.9 percent) Scheduled Castes are Hindus. Negligible numbers of the SCs are Sikhs (172) and Buddhists (247).
