

PUNJAB

DATA HIGHLIGHTS : THE SCHEDULED CASTES

There are thirty-seven Scheduled Castes notified in the State of Punjab. All of them were enumerated at census 2001. The Scheduled Caste (SC) population of Punjab is 70,28,723, which constitutes 28.9 per cent of the total population of the State. The State has the highest proportion of SC population among all the States and Union Territories. In absolute numbers, Punjab holds 10th rank and accounts for 4.2 per cent of the total SC population of the country. The growth rate of the SC population during the decade of 1991-2001 at 22.4 per cent is higher by 2.3 per cent if compared to the overall growth rate of the total population.

2. The Scheduled Castes in the State are predominantly rural, as 75.7 per cent of them live in villages. District-wise distribution of the SC population shows that they are mainly concentrated in the districts of Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Sangrur, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur and Patiala. These districts account for 62.5 per cent of the total SC population. The newly formed districts of Muktsar, Moga, Nawanshahr and Mansa have 14.6 per cent of the SCs, while the remaining districts account for the residual 22.9 per cent of the SC population of the State.

Population : Size & Distribution

3. Out of thirty-seven Scheduled Castes, Mazhabi, Chamar, Ad Dharmi, Balmiki and Bazigar together constitute 86.8 per cent of the total SC population. Mazhabi is numerically the largest SC, having a population of 2,220,945, constituting 31.6 per cent of the total SC population, followed by Chamar (26.2 per cent), Ad Dharmi (14.9 per cent), Balmiki (11.2 per cent) and Bazigar (3.0 per cent). Remaining thirty two (32) SCs along with the generic castes constitute the residual 13.2 per cent of the total SC population. While seven SCs, namely Sapela, Dhogri, Bhanjra ...down to Nut have below 5,000 population, Darain, Sanhal, Sanhaidown to Pherera, the eight castes are very small having a number less than 1,000.

Sex Ratio

4. The over all Sex Ratio of the SC population in Punjab is 892 females per 1000 males which is lower than the national average of 936 recorded for the total SC

population. The statement showing comparative sex ratio at the national and state level both for the SC population as a whole and the numerically largest four Scheduled castes is given below :

Statement-1 : Sex Ratio

Age group	All SCs (India)	All SCs (State)	Ad Dharmi	Balmiki	Mazhabi	Chamar
All ages	936	892	913	908	885	875
0-6 yrs.	938	861	844	868	874	837

5. The child sex ratio among the SCs in Punjab at 861 is considerably lower if compared to the corresponding figures at the national level.

6. At the individual caste level, Ad Dharmi and Balmiki have the overall sex ratio above 900, which is higher than the State average. But Mazhabi and Chamar have registered the overall sex ratio lower than the State average. The scenario is, however not encouraging for the girl child. Ad Dharmi and Chamar have both recorded child sex ratio (0-6) lower than the State average.

Literacy & Educational Level

7. Literacy and level of education are two basic indicators of the level of development achieved by a group/society, as literacy leads to more awareness besides contributing to the overall improvement of health, hygiene and other social conditions.

8. The literacy data shows that the SCs of Punjab have made significant headway during the decade 1991–2001. The overall literacy rate, which was 41.1 per cent at 1991 census has gone up by 15 per cent to 56.2 per cent at 2001 census. The male literacy has gone up from 49.8 per cent in 1991 to 63.4 per cent in the same period. Compared to that, female literacy rate has increased from 31.0 per cent at the 1991 census to 48.3 per cent. This has put the female literacy rate above the national average of 41.9 per cent. However, the male literacy rate is lower by nearly three per cent vis-à-vis the national average of 66.6 per cent.

9. Ad Dharmis have the highest literacy rate 76.4 per cent and occupy the top position among the SCs, followed by Chamar (63.7 per cent) and Balmiki (56.1 per cent). Mazhabi

who are numerically the largest community have the lowest literacy rate at 42.3 per cent. The trend is same for the female literacy also.

Statement - 2: Educational levels among the Scheduled Castes

Names of SCs	Literate without education level	Below primary	Educational levels attained				
			Primary	Middle	Matric/Secondary Higher Secondary/ Indermediate etc.	Non-technical & Technical diploma etc.	Graduate and above
All SCs	2.4	26.5	31.6	16.8	20.3	0.5	2.0
Ad Dharmi	1.2	19.8	30.7	18.7	25.8	0.7	3.0
Balmiki.	2.6	28.3	33.5	17.2	16.8	0.2	1.3
Chamar	1.8	23.5	30.7	17.5	23.1	0.8	2.6
Mazhabi	3.8	34.2	32.5	14.0	14.5	0.3	0.7

10. As many as 28.9 per cent of the SC literates are either without any educational level or have attained education below primary level. The proportion of literates who have attained education up to primary level is 31.6 per cent, whereas 16.8 per cent SC literates have attained education up to middle level. The proportion of literates up to matric/secondary/higher secondary level constitutes 20.3 per cent, implying that every 5th SC literate is a matriculate. The percentage of the SC literates in the higher levels of education is small; only 2.0 per cent SC literates are graduates. It is interesting to note that while Mazhabi has the highest percentage of literates at lower levels of education (primary and below), Adi Dharmi, Chamar and Balmiki have higher percentage of literates in the upper levels of education including graduation and above.

11. The drop-out rate is high after primary level as the percentage of matriculates is half of the primary level literates. There is sharper decline in the percentage of students at the higher levels of education.

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

12. The work participation rate of the SC population in Punjab is 37 per cent which is lower than 40.4 per cent, aggregated at the national level for all SCs. The work participation rate at 51.3 per cent for males is higher than their female counterparts (20.9 per cent) at 2001. Significantly, while male WPR has registered a slight decline, the female WPR has increased four times during 1991-2001. Among all workers, 79.5 per cent are main workers and this proportion is higher than that recorded for all SCs at the national level (73 per cent).

13. At the individual caste level, there are no significant variations in the WPR except in case of Mazhabi who have returned higher work participation rates for male as well as female.

Category of workers

14. 'Other Workers' constitute 54.4 per cent of the total SC workers which is significantly higher if compared to the national average of 30.5 per cent in respect of all SCs in this category. 'Agricultural Labourers' account for 38.4 per cent workers and only 3.9 per cent have returned as 'Cultivators'. Remaining 3.4 per cent persons have been engaged in 'Household Industry'.

15. At the individual caste level, 55.2 per cent Mazhabi have returned as 'Agricultural Labourers' followed by 'Other Workers' (39 per cent). In contrast, 68.7 per cent Ad Dharmi have returned in the category of 'Other Workers', followed by 'Agricultural Labourers' (22.8 per cent). Chamar and Balmiki have shown similar occupational trend as that of Ad Dharmi.

Marital Status

16. Marital status is one of the important determinants of fertility and growth of a population. The analysis of data on marital status brings out the differentials in the fertility pattern prevalent amongst the various castes/tribes/communities at a given point of time. The census 2001 data on marital status show that 52.7 per cent persons among all SCs of Punjab are 'Never Married'. The 'Married' persons constitute 43.7 per cent, while 3.4 per cent persons are 'Widowed' and less than half per cent (0.2 per cent) are 'Divorced and Separated'.

17. As shown from the data, majority of girls and boys among the SCs in Punjab are getting married after attaining the legal age of marriage. The proportion of married girls below 18 years (1.6 per cent) are almost half of that recorded at the national level (2.8 per cent) and proportion of married boys below 21 years at 2.3 per cent, is also lower than that of the national average (3.1 per cent).

18. The mean number of children ever born per ever married SC woman (45-49 years) is 4, which is same as that of all SCs at the national level.

Religion

19. Sikhism is the predominant religion of the State. The SCs professing Sikhism account for 59.9 per cent, followed by Hinduism (39.6 per cent). Remaining 0.5 per cent SCs are followers of Buddhism. At the individual level, as many as 98.5 per cent of Mazhabi are Sikhs.
