

SIKKIM
DATA HIGHLIGHTS : THE SCHEDULED CASTES
CENSUS OF INDIA 2001

Total population of Sikkim in 2001 Census has been 540,851. Of these 27,165 are Scheduled Castes (SCs), which constitutes 5 per cent of the total population of the state. The state has registered 12.8 per cent decadal growth of SC population in 1991-2001. In Sikkim, four communities are notified as SCs, and all of them have been enumerated at 2001 Census.

Population: Size & Distribution

2. The Kami and Damai are the major SCs. They together have 93.5 per cent of the total SC population of the state. Majhi are small in number with only 345 population.

Statement –1 : Population of SCs, 2001 Census		
Name of the Scheduled Caste	Total population	Proportion to the total SC population
All Scheduled Castes	27,165	100
Kami (Nepali)	17,950	66.1
Damai (Nepali)	7,448	27.4
Sarki (Nepali)	923	3.4
Majhi (Nepali)	345	1.3

3. The SC population has higher concentration in East district (52.6%), followed by South (23%) and West (21.1%) districts. The North district accounts for a small percentage of SCs (3%).

4. The SC population in the state is predominantly rural; only 12.1 per cent live in urban areas. The highest 12.8 per cent urban population has been recorded among Damai, while it is the lowest among Majhi (5.2%).

Sex Ratio

5. As per 2001 Census, the sex ratio of total SC population is 967, which is well above the national average of 936. The child sex ratio (0-6 age group) of 960 for SCs in the state is also higher than the aggregated national average (938) for SCs.

6. Among Damai, sex ratio of population (987) and child sex ratio (1045) are higher than the state's average for the respective categories. Majhi has recorded low sex ratio of population (927) and a very low child sex ratio (429), which is insignificant due to their small number.

Literacy & Educational Level

7. According to 2001 Census, 63 per cent of the SCs in Sikkim are literate with male and female literacy rate of 70 and 55.7 per cent respectively. The gender gap in literacy is quite conspicuous.

8. The Damai with 67.5 per cent literacy is on top, followed by Majhi (66.9%), Kami (61.5%) and Sarki (54.3%).

Statement –2 : Percentage of Literacy among SCs			
Name of the Scheduled Caste	Percentage of Literate		
	Total	Male	Female
All Scheduled Castes	63.0	70.2	55.7
Damai (Nepali)	67.5	74.2	60.7

Kami (Nepali)	61.5	68.7	54
Majhi (Nepali)	66.9	71.5	62.3
Sarki (Nepali)	54.3	61.6	46.9

9. Of the total SC population in the age group 5-14 years, 73.2 per cent is attending educational institutions. The Damai is on top with 76.7 per cent, followed by Majhi (72%), Kami (71.8%), and Sarki (69.6%).

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

10. The percentage of workers to total population (WPR) is 43.4 per cent among SCs. Of the total workers, 78.7 per cent has been recorded as main workers and 21.3 per cent as marginal workers. The female WPR at 34 per cent is conspicuously lower than that of male (52.4%). Although overwhelming workers among males are main workers (87.4%), the percentage of female main workers at 64.8 per cent is also significant.

Statement –3 : Distribution of Total, Main & Marginal Workers among the SCs by Sex			
T/M/F	Percentage of Workers		
	Total Workers	Main Workers	Marginal Workers
Total	11,781 (43.4%)	9,271(78.7%)	2,510 (21.3%)
Male	7,244 (34.0%)	6,329 (87.4%)	915 (12.6%)
Female	4,537 (52.4%)	2,942 (64.8%)	1,595 (35.2%)

11. The Sarki is leading with WPR of 45.5 per cent, followed by Kami (44%), Damai (41.6%), and Majhi (34.5%).

Category of Workers

12. Of the total SC main workers, 40.2 per cent are cultivators. The Sarki and Kami are mostly cultivators. Of the total main workers, 55 per cent among Sarki and 43.9 per cent among Kami are cultivators. On the contrary, Majhi and Damai are mostly engaged in non-agricultural occupations.

Marital Status

13. As regards marital status, 57.5 per cent of the SC population is 'never married', 38.6 per cent 'currently married', 2.9 per cent 'widowed', and only 1 per cent 'divorced/ separated'. There is no conspicuous variation among the different individual SCs.

Statement –4 : Percentage of SC Population by Marital Status				
Name of the Scheduled Caste	Never married	Currently married	Widowed	Divorced/ Separated
All Scheduled Castes	57.5	38.6	2.9	1.0
Damai (Nepali)	56.6	39.4	3.0	1.0
Kami (Nepali)	58.0	38.2	2.9	1.0
Majhi (Nepali)	55.4	40.0	2.9	1.7
Sarki (Nepali)	59.0	38.2	2.0	0.8

14. Among SCs, 2.2 per cent females below 18 years (the minimum legal age for marriage) have been returned as ever married. The Majhi is having the highest 3.9 per cent, followed by Damai (2.3%). The ever married males below 21 years - the minimum legal age for their marriage – constitute 2.3 per cent.

15. The mean number of ever born children per ever married woman in the age group 45-49 years is 5.

Religion

16. Of the total 27,165 SC population, 26,408 are Hindus, 742 Buddhists, and only 15 Sikhs. Hindus constitute 97.2 per cent of SC population.
