

Tripura

DATA HIGHLIGHTS: THE SCHEDULED CASTES Census of India 2001

The total population of Tripura in 2001 Census has been 3,199,203. Of these 555, 724 persons are Scheduled Castes (SCs) constituting 17.4 per cent of the total population of the state. The state has registered 23.19 per cent decadal growth of SC population in 1991-2001. There are thirty one (31) notified SCs, and all have been enumerated in 2001 Census.

Population: Size & Distribution

2.The Namasudra (35.7 per cent) account for more than a third of the total SC population of the state, followed by Mahisyadas (23.3 per cent), Jalia Kaibarta (16.3 per cent), Dhoba (8.2 per cent), Mali (8 per cent), Chamar (2 per cent), and Patni (1 per cent). These seven SCs together constitute 94.6 per cent of the total SC population (Statement-1). The rest of the twenty four SCs are small in number and they together account for the remaining 5.4 per cent.

Statement-1: Population and Proportion of Major SCs, 2001 Census

SL. No.	Name of the Scheduled Caste	Total population	Proportion to the total SC population
1	All Scheduled Castes	555,724	100.0%
2	Namasudra	198,423	35.7
3	Mahisyadas	129,588	23.3
4	Jalia Kaibarta	90,476	16.3
5	Dhoba	45,378	8.2
6	Mali	44,643	8.0
7	Chamar	11,275	2.0
8	Patni	5,703	1.0

3. West Tripura district houses more than half of the state total SC population (53.2 per cent), followed by South Tripura (22.9 per cent), and North Tripura (14.9 per cent). The district Dhalai covers the remaining 9 per cent SCs of the state.

4. A majority (82 per cent) of the SC population in the state is living in rural areas. Among the seven numerically larger SCs, Mahisyadas has recorded the highest percentage of rural population (85.8 per cent), followed by Dhoba (84.4 per cent), and Namasudra (83 per cent). On the other hand Chamar have higher concentration in the urban areas (53.3 per cent).

Sex Ratio

5. The sex ratio of the total SC population is 962, which is higher than the aggregated national average for SCs (936). Among the seven main SCs, sex ratio

among Patni (995), Mali (975), Namasudra (970), Dhoba (966) have been higher than the state average. On the contrary, lower sex ratio has been returned among Chamar (944), Jalia Kaibarta (956), and Mahisyadas (957).

6.The child sex ratio (0-6 age group) at 959 for SCs in the state is also higher than the aggregated national average for SCs (938). Dhoba (1007), Mali (971), and Namasudra (967) have recorded child sex ratio above the state average. On the other hand Jalia Kaibarta (935) and Mahisyadas (945) have returned lower child sex ratio.

Literacy & Educational Level

7.The literacy rate of 74.7 per cent among all SCs in the state is significantly higher than the aggregated national average for SCs (54.7 per cent). Similarly, male (81.8 per cent) and female literacy rate (67.2 per cent) are higher than the national average of 66.6 per cent and 41.9 per cent respectively for SCs. The gender gap in literacy is also comparatively low (Statement-2).

8.Among the major SCs in the state, Mahisyadas (81.7 per cent) and Dhoba (80.5 per cent) have recorded literacy rate well above the state average for SCs, followed by Patni (76.9 per cent), Mali (76.4 per cent), and Jalia Kaibarta (74.9 per cent). On the other hand the Chamar has recorded the lowest literacy rate of 63.4 per cent.

Statement-2 : Literacy Rate among Major SCs

SL. No.	Name of the Scheduled Caste	Literate Rate (7 years and above)		
		Total	Male	Female
1	All Scheduled Castes	74.7	81.8	67.2
2	Namasudra	71.3	79.1	63.3
3	Mahisyadas	81.7	87.7	75.4
4	Jalia Kaibarta	74.9	82.2	67.4
5	Dhoba	80.5	87.1	73.6
6	Mali	76.4	82.8	69.7
7	Chamar	63.4	71.9	54.4
8	Patni	76.9	84.0	69.9

9.As the above statement shows Chamar have the lowest literacy rate as well as highest gender gap of 17.5 percentage points. The gender gap in literacy, however, is the lowest among Mahisyadas.

10.Among all SCs, 75.3 per cent of the population in age group 5-14 years has been attending any educational institutions. Of the seven major SCs, Dhoba are on top having 80.2 per cent population attending educational institutions, while Chamar are at the bottom (65.1 per cent).

11. Of the total literates among SCs, 10.5 per cent are having educational level matriculation and above. Mahisyadas have recorded a high of 13.2 per cent, followed by Dhoba (11.7 per cent) and Jalia Kaibarta (11.4 per cent). The percentage of total

literate having educational level above matriculation is low among Mali (7 per cent) and Chamar (7.1 per cent).

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

12. Among all SCs, the percentage of workers to total population (WPR) is 32.5 per cent, which is lower than the aggregated national level average for SCs (40.4 per cent). Of the total workers, 81.7 per cent have been recorded as main workers and 18.3 per cent marginal workers. The female WPR at 14.4 per cent is conspicuously lower than male (50.1 per cent). The overwhelming workers among males are main workers (81.7 per cent), while the ratio of main and marginal workers among female is almost evenly balanced (Statement-3).

Total /Male /Female	Percentage of Workers		
	Total Workers	Main Workers	Marginal Workers
Total	180,870 (32.5%)	147,765 (81.7%)	33,105 (18.3%)
Male	141,741 (50.1%)	126,637 (89.3%)	15,104 (10.7%)
Female	39,129 (14.4%)	21,128 (54.0%)	18,001 (46.0%)

Category of Workers

13. An overwhelming 58.8 per cent of the total SC main workers have been reported to be engaged in other than cultivation, agricultural labour, and household industry. A fifth (20.1 per cent) of the total SC main workers have been returned as cultivators, 17.7 per cent as agricultural labourers, and merely 3.4 per cent in household industry (Statement-4).

14. The percentage of total main workers as cultivators is the lowest among Chamar (2.8 per cent). It is also low among Patni (6.9 per cent). The highest percentage of 24.7 per cent has been recorded among Mahisyadas, followed by Dhoba (20.4 per cent), Jalia Kaibarta (20.2 per cent), Namasudra (19.6 per cent), and Mali (18.5 per cent).

SL. No.	Name of the SC	Percentage to total Main Workers			
		Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers	Household Industry	Others
1	All Scheduled Castes	20.1	17.7	3.4	58.8
2	Namasudra	19.6	19.5	5.5	55.4
3	Mahisyadas	24.7	18.5	2.2	54.6
4	Jalia Kaibarta	20.2	15.3	1.5	63
5	Dhoba	20.4	18.1	1.9	59.6
6	Mali	18.5	15.5	4.7	61.3
7	Chamar	2.8	7.4	2.9	86.8
8	Patni	6.9	7.8	1.8	83.5

Marital Status

15.As regards the marital status, 51.7 per cent of the SC population is never married, 42.7 per cent currently married, 5 per cent widowed, and only 0.5 per cent divorced/ separated.

16.Among all SCs, 2.3 per cent of the total female population of less than 18 years – the legal minimum age for marriage – is ever married. The highest percentage of ever married females of this age category has been recorded among Patni (3.2 per cent), followed by Chamar (3.1 per cent).

17.The ever married males below 21 years – their minimum legal age for marriage – constitute 1.2 per cent of the population. Individual SC wise, the Patni has recorded the highest at 1.8 per cent, while it is the lowest among Mahisyadas (0.9 per cent).

Religion

18.Of the total of 555,724 Scheduled Caste population 554,578 persons are Hindus, constituting 99.8 per cent of the total SCs. Of the remaining population 1,121 persons are Buddhists and merely 25 are Sikhs.
