

BIHAR

DATA HIGHLIGHTS: THE SCHEDULED TRIBES Census of India 2001

The Scheduled Tribe (ST) population in the State of Bihar is 758,351 as per 2001 census, constituting 0.9 per cent of the total population (82,998,509) of the State. The decennial growth of ST population has been 32.4 per cent which is 3.8 per cent higher than the State's total population. The State has a total of twenty nine (29) Scheduled Tribes and all of them have been enumerated at 2001 census.

2. The Scheduled Tribes are overwhelmingly rural as 94.6 per cent of them reside in villages. District wise distribution of ST population shows that Katihar district has the highest proportion of STs (5.9 per cent) followed by Jamui (4.8 per cent), Banka (4.7 per cent) and Purnia (4.4 per cent). Sheohar district has the lowest proportion of the STs (0.01 per cent), preceded by Darbhanga and Khagaria (0.03 per cent each).

Population - Size & Distribution

3. Out of twenty nine (29) STs, Santal is the most populous tribe, having a number of 367,612, constituting 48.5 per cent of the total ST population of the State. Oraon and Kharwar are the second and third largest tribes, having a number of 120,362 and 100,735 respectively. Two other major tribes in the descending order are Gond and Munda. Along with Santal, Oraon and Kharwar, the five STs constitute 86.8 per cent of the total tribal population. Eight tribes, Bedia, Ho, Mahali,...upto Lohara having population in the range of 2,572 to 13,993 account for another 8.1 per cent and the remaining sixteen tribes, along with the generic tribes constitute the residual 5.1 per cent of the total tribal population of the State. Twelve tribes have below 1000 population. Of them, eight tribes are less than 500 in number.

4. At district level, more than three fourth tribal population of Banka, Jamui, Kishanganj, Araria and Madhepura are Santal, closely followed by Saharsa (72 per cent) and Purnia (65 per cent) districts. Though Oraon are primarily concentrated in Purnia and Katihar districts, they have their highest proportion (70 per cent) to total ST population in Supaul district. While Kharwar have their maximum concentration in Bhagalpur district, Gond in Siwan district followed by Bhojpur and Kaimur (Bhabhua) districts. Munda have their highest concentration in Katihar districts but they constitute only 4.3 per cent total tribal population of the district.

Sex Ratio

6. The over all sex ratio of the ST population in Bihar is 929 females per 1000 males which is considerably lower than the national average of 978 for the total ST population.

7. At the individual level, all the five major tribes have registered the sex ratio lower than the national average. While Santal, Oraon and Gond have sex ratio above 900, Kharwar and Munda have the sex ratio below 900 and 800 respectively.

8. The sex ratio among STs in the age group 0-6 years (975) is marginally higher than that of the STs at the national level (973). Among the major tribes, Kharwar, Oraon

and Santal have the child sex ratio higher than the national average whereas Munda and Gond have child sex ratio lower than the national average.

Statement - 1: Sex Ratio

Age groups	All STs (India)	All STs (Bihar)	Santal	Oraon	Gond	Kharwar	Munda
All ages	978	929	950	926	922	895	782
0 - 6	973	975	976	980	933	989	956

Literacy & Educational Level

9. The literacy rate among the STs has increased from 18.9 per cent registered at 1991 census to 28.2 per cent at 2001 census. Despite this increase, the literacy rate among the tribal population is lower, if compared with that of all STs at the national level (47.1 per cent). Male and female literacy rates among the tribal (39.8 per cent and 15.5 per cent) are also low in comparison to those at the national level (59.2 per cent & 34.8 per cent).

10. Among the numerically larger tribes, Gond and Kharwar have returned over all literacy rate (45.2 per cent) which is close to the national average. Oraon, Munda and Santal have the over all literacy rates almost half of the national average for all STs.

Statement - 2 : Literacy Rate

Literacy rate	All STs (state)	Gond	Kharwar	Oraon	Munda	Santal
Persons	28.2	45.2	42.7	25.1	22.4	23.3
Females	15.5	28.3	26.9	13.4	16.2	11.4

11. Among ST literates, 37 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 are 28.2 per cent & 14.4 per cent respectively. Persons educated up to matric/secondary/higher secondary constitute 16.3 per cent. This implies that every 6th tribal literate is a matriculate. Graduates and above are 3.8 per cent.

Statement - 3: Educational levels among the major Scheduled Tribes

Names of STs	Literate without educational level	Below Primary	Educational levels attained				
			Primary	Middle	Matric/ Secondary Higher Secondary/Intermediate etc.	Technical & Non-technical diploma etc.	Graduate & above
All Scheduled Tribes	5.8	31.3	28.2	14.4	16.3	0.2	3.8
Gond	4.6	29.8	26.7	16.4	17.7	0.2	4.5
Kharwar	3.6	27.7	26.9	15.3	20.9	0.6	4.9
Munda	7.5	29.0	21.6	12.7	19.2	0.4	9.5
Oraon	5.5	34.2	27.6	12.9	15.1	0.2	4.5
Santal	6.3	32.8	30.1	14.4	14.2	0.0	2.1

12. Among the numerically larger groups, Santal have the lowest proportion of matriculates preceded by Oraon and Gond whereas Kharwar have the highest proportion of matriculates followed by Munda.

13. As discerned from the data, the proportion of tribal literates declines sharply in higher level of education as the percentage of students after matriculation drops down to almost one third in higher secondary level.

14. Out of the total 2.2 lakh tribal children in the age group 5 -14 years, only 60,153 attend school, constituting 27.4 per cent. In other words, 72.6 per cent (1.6 lakh) children in the corresponding age group do not go to school. Among the major STs, Kharwar and Gond have 41 – 46 per cent school going children whereas Munda, Santal and Oraon have less than 25 per cent children attending school.

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

Age group	All STs	Santal	Oraon	Kharwar	Gond	Munda
5-14 yrs.	27.4	22.5	24	41.4	46.2	21.4

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

15. The Work Participation Rate (WPR) of the ST population is 45.2 per cent which is lower than that of all STs at the national level (49.1 per cent). There has been a slight decline in male WPR from 53.6 to 52.9 per cent whereas female WPR (36.9 per cent) has increased by 5.9 per cent during 1991-2001. Among the total workers, 68.7 per cent are main workers and this proportion is almost equal to that of all STs at the national level (68.9 per cent).

16. Among the major tribal groups, Munda have over all WPR (52.8 per cent) higher than the national average whereas Santal (48.5 per cent) and Oraon (46.9 per cent) have recorded WPR close to the national average.

Category of Workers

17. 'Agricultural Labourers' constitute the highest proportion (62.5 per cent) among the total tribal workers, which is considerably higher than that of the national average (36.9 per cent). 'Cultivators' account for 21.3 per cent, which is less than half of that recorded for all STs at the national level (44.7 per cent). 'Agricultural Labourers' and 'Cultivators' together constitute 83.8 per cent of the total workers. 'Other Workers' form 12.2 per cent which is comparable with the national average of 16.3 per cent in respect of all STs whereas workers engaged in Household Industry (HHI) constitute 4 per cent which is twice that of the national average (2.1 per cent).

18. Among the major tribes, Santal and Oraon have more than 60 per cent workers are 'Agricultural Labourers' followed by Munda, Gond and Kharwar. Kharwar and Santal have every 4th worker, a 'Cultivator' and Munda have every 3rd worker belong to the category of 'Other Workers'.

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

Economic category	All Scheduled Tribes	Santal	Oraon	Kharwar	Gond	Munda
Cultivators	21.3	25.6	13.8	27.9	17.1	7.1
Agricultural Labourers	62.5	64.1	69.1	53.3	54.4	57.1
HHI Workers	4.0	4.1	1.4	2.2	3.6	0.9
Other Workers	12.2	6.3	15.6	16.6	25.0	34.9

Marital Status

19. The data on marital status show that 'never married' persons (52.2 per cent) exceed the 'married' persons (43.6 per cent) in total ST population. 'Widowed' persons form 3.9 per cent while a negligible 0.2 percent has been in the category of 'divorced and separated'.

20. The proportion of married girls below 18 years (2.5 per cent) and married boys below 21 years (3 per cent) are slightly higher if compared with those at the national level (2.1 per cent & 2.8 per cent).

21. The mean number of children ever born per ever married ST woman (age-group 45 – 49 yrs.) is 3 which is less than that of all STs at the national level(4).

Religion

22. Hinduism is the predominant religion of the tribes of the State as 89.7 per cent STs are Hindus. The tribes professing 'Other Religions and Persuasions' account for 6.3 per cent. Christian tribes are 3.4 per cent and less than half per cent (0.4 per cent) are Muslims.

