

KARNATAKA

DATA HIGHLIGHTS: THE SCHEDULED TRIBES Census of India 2001

The total population of Karnataka, as per 2001 Census is 52,850,562. Of this, 3,463,986 are Scheduled Tribes (STs). The ST population constitutes 6.6 per cent of the state population and 4.1 per cent of the country's ST population. Forty-nine STs have been notified in Karnataka by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1976 and by the Act 39 of 1991. This is the second highest number, next to Orissa (64) if compared with the number of STs notified in any other states/UTs of the Country. Five STs namely, Kammara, Kaniyan, Kuruba, Maratha and Marati have been notified with area restriction. Kuruba and Maratha have been notified only in Kodagu district, where as Marati in Dakshina Kannada, Kaniyan in Kollegal taluk of Chamarajanagar and Kammara in Dakshina Kannada and Kollegal taluk of Chamarajanagar districts of Karnataka.

2. Of the STs, two namely, Jenu Kuruba and Koraga are among the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) of India having population of 29,828 and 16,071 respectively in 2001 Census. Jenu Kuruba are mainly distributed in Mysore, Kodagu and Bangalore districts, and Koraga in Dakshina Kannada and Dharward districts. In the present census, a low growth rate of 1.6 per cent and a negative growth rate of 1.5 per cent have been reported for the Jenu Kuruba and Koraga respectively.

3. The growth rate of ST population in the decade 1991-2001 at 80.8 per cent is considerably higher in comparison to the overall 17.5 per cent of state population. The steep growth of ST population is due to addition of Naik, Nayak, Beda, Bedar and Valmiki as sub-groups of Naikda. The sub groups have been enumerated for the first time at the 2001 Census. Naikda, the largest ST have registered a higher growth rate 113.0 per cent, compared to 8.8 per cent during the decade (1981-1991).

Population: Size and Distribution

4. Naikda alone constitute 84.3 per cent of the ST population of the state. Gond 136,700 (3.9per cent), Koli Dhor 80,627 (2.3 per cent) and Marati 63,549 (1.8per cent) are of the second, third and fourth positions.

5. The ST population of Karnataka are primarily rural (84.7per cent). Among major STs, Koli Dhor have the highest (92.2per cent) rural population, followed by Gond (91.7per cent), Marati (90.8per cent) and Naikda (85.1per cent). District-wise distribution of ST population shows that they have been returned in all 27 districts of the state. But they are mainly concentrated in the districts of Bellary, Raichur, Mysore, Chitradurga, Belgaum, Davanagere and Kolar. The seven districts account for 54 per cent of the ST population of the state. The remaining 46 per cent ST populations are distributed in 20 districts.

Sex ratio

6. The overall sex ratio of the ST population of Karnataka is 972, which is marginally higher than 965 reported for state population in 2001. The sex ratio of ST population has improved from 961 reported in 1991 Census. The statement showing comparative sex ratio at the national level and state level for ST population as a whole and the numerically largest four STs is given below:

Age Groups	All STs (India)	All STs (Karnataka)	Naikda	Gond	Koli Dhor	Marati
All Ages	978	972	973	949	944	1013
0-6	973	961	961	937	946	962

7. As shown in the statement above, the overall sex ratio as well as child sex ratio (0-6) of ST population of Karnataka is lower than the corresponding national figures for ST population. At individual tribe level, Gond and Koli Dhor have lower sex ratio in total and 0-6 age group populations, in comparison to the state ST population as well as other major STs.

Literacy and educational level

8. Literacy and level of education are two basic indicators of the level of development achieved by a group/society. The literacy results in more awareness besides contributing to the overall improvement of health, hygiene and other social conditions. According to 2001 Census, percentage of literate persons (those who can read & write with understanding), aged 7 years and above, among ST population of Karnataka, is 48.3 per cent which is lower than 66.6 per cent reported for the state population as a whole. The literacy data show that the ST population of the state has made significant improvement during the decade 1991-2001. The literacy rate, which was 36.0 per cent in 1991, has increased by 12.3 percentage points in 2001.

9. Among the major STs, Marati are reported to have the highest 73.9 per cent literacy rate, followed by Gond (51.5 per cent), Naikda (47.3 per cent) and Koli Dhor (46.5 per cent). The female literacy rate of 36.6 per cent among ST population is lower as compared to 56.9 per cent among state female population. Like literacy rate, the highest and lowest female literacy rates of 66.2 per cent and 32.2 per cent have been recorded among Marati and Koli Dhor.

Educational levels attained by major STs							
Name of ST	Literate without educational level	Below primary	Primary	Middle	Matric/Secondary /Higher Secondary Intermediate etc.	Technical & Non-technical diploma	Graduate & above
All STs	2.9	36.3	29.3	11.8	15.8	0.8	3.1
Naikda	2.9	36.8	28.9	12.0	15.6	0.8	3.0
Gond	4.5	32.6	29.2	9.8	19.2	1.0	3.6
Koil Dhor	4.0	37.2	28.8	9.2	17.0	0.7	3.0
Marati	0.7	31.4	35.9	12.0	16.7	0.4	2.9

10. Out of total literates, 39.2 per cent are literates without any educational level or have attained below Primary level. The literates, who have attained education up to Primary level and Middle level, constitute 29.3 per cent and 11.8 per cent respectively. 15.8 per cent of the literates are having educational level up to Matric/Higher Secondary etc. levels, implying that every 6th ST literate is a Matriculate. Literates with educational level of Graduation and above are 3.1 per cent. Individually, Gond (3.6 per cent) have the highest percentage of Graduation and above educational level.

11. From the above educational level table, it emerges that the drop out is prominent in Middle level.

12. Population in the age group 5-14 years are the potential students. Only 59.3 per cent of the ST population in this age group is attending various educational institutions. In this regard, Marati, the fourth largest ST, have the highest 83.6 per cent school going children.

Economic activity

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

13. The work participation rate (WPR) is the percentage of workers to the total population. The WPR of 49.4 per cent among the ST population in 2001 is higher than that of the state population (44.5 per cent). The WPR has increased from 47.8 per cent reported in 1991. The WPR at 56.8 per cent for males are higher than 41.7 per cent reported among females in 2001 Census.

14. At individual tribe level, the highest WPR of 55.1 per cent is reported for Marati, followed by Naikda (49.6 per cent), Koli Dhor (44.3 per cent) and Gond (42 per cent). The trend follows in case of WPR of female. Marati have the highest 48.4 per cent female work participation rate.

Category of Workers

15. There has been a decline in the main workers from 91.5 per cent in 1991 to 77.9 per cent in 2001 Census. This has resulted in corresponding increase in the marginal workers from 8.5 per cent in 1991 to 22.1 per cent in 2001. Out of total workers, 'agricultural labourers' constitute 43.2 per cent, which is higher by 6.3 percentage points when compared to 36.9 per cent registered at national level for ST population. 'Cultivators' account for 30.8 per cent and only 23.4 per cent has been returned as 'other workers'. Remaining 2.6 per cent have been workers in 'household industry'.

16. In the economic category, at individual tribe level, the highest percentage (50.9 per cent) of agricultural labourers is recorded for Koli Dhor. Naikda have the highest number of cultivators (33.1 per cent).

Marital status

17. Marital status is one of the important determinants of fertility and growth of a population. The 2001 Census data on marital status show that 50.5 per cent persons among the STs of Karnataka are 'never married'. The 'currently married' constitute 43.9 per cent while 5.3 per cent are 'widowed' and only 0.4 per cent is 'divorced and separated'.

18. Majority of girls and boys among STs in Karnataka are getting married after attaining the legal age of marriage. Marriages of ST girls below 18 years (2.5 per cent) are higher than that recorded among ST population at national level (2.1 per cent). But the incidence of marriage of boys below 21 years at 1.9 per cent is comparatively lower than 2.8 per cent aggregated at national level for ST population.

19. The mean number of children ever born per ever married ST women of all ages as well as 45-49 years age group are 3 and 4 respectively, which are at par with the corresponding figures of 3.2 and 4.1 for ST population at national level.

Religion

20. Hinduism is the predominant religion of ST population of the state. The 2001 Census data show that Hindus constitute 98.7 per cent, followed by Muslims 3,670 (0.1 per cent). The remaining population belongs to the category of 'other religions and persuasions' and 'religion not stated'.
