

KERALA

DATA HIGHLIGHTS : THE SCHEDULED TRIBES Census of India 2001

The Scheduled Tribe (ST) population of Kerala State is 364,189 as per 2001 census constituting only 1.14 percent of the total population of the State. The decadal growth of ST population has been 13.5 per cent which is 4.1 per cent higher than the growth of the total population in 1991-2001. The State has a total of thirty five (35) Scheduled Tribes and all have been enumerated at 2001 census.

2. The Scheduled Tribes are overwhelmingly rural as 96.1 per cent of them reside in villages. District wise distribution of ST population shows that Wayanad district has the highest proportion of STs (17.4 per cent) followed by Idduki (14 per cent). Alappuzha district has the lowest proportion of STs (0.1 per cent) preceded by Thrissur, Kollam and Kozhikode (0.2 per cent each).

Population - Size & Distribution

3. Out of thirty five (35) Scheduled Tribes notified for the state, Paniyan is the most populous tribe with a population of 81,940 forming 22.5 percent of the total tribal population of the State. Kurichchan is the second largest tribe having a number of 32,746 constituting 9 per cent of the total ST population. Six other STs, namely, Muthuvan, Kanikaran, Irular, Kurumans, Marati and Malai Arayan having a population ranging from 21,000 to 32,000 along with Paniyan and Kurichchan constitute 73.6 per cent of the total tribal population. Seven tribes, namely, Malayan, Malai Vedan, Mannan etc. having 5,000 -16,000 population account for another 20 per cent and the remaining 20 tribes along with the generic tribes constitute the residual 6.4 per cent of the State's tribal population. Tribes having below 500 population are eleven in number. Out of them, Kota, Kammara, Kochu Velan and Konda Kapus are the smallest groups each having less than 50 population.

4. At the district level, Paniyan have the highest percentage in the total ST population in Malappuram (56.3 per cent) and Kannur (54.9 per cent) districts whereas Kurichchan have their highest proportion in Kannur (40.2%). Among the other larger tribes, Kanikaran are primarily concentrated in Thiruvananthapuram (90.3 per cent) and Malai Arayan in Kottayam (61.9 per cent) districts.

Sex Ratio

5. The over all sex ratio of the total ST population at 1021 shows preponderance of females and is significantly higher than that of the national average (978) for the total ST population as per the census 2001.

6. At the individual level, all the major tribes of the state have sex ratio higher than the national average except Muthuvan. Among Kanikaran, Paniyan, Malai Arayan and Marati, females outnumber the males in their total population.

7. The sex ratio among the tribal children in the age group 0-6 years (974) is approximately same as that of all STs at the national level. Marati tribe have registered the highest child sex ratio of 1054 followed by Kanikaran (980). The other major tribes have the child sex ratio below the national average (Statement- 1).

Statement-1 : Sex Ratio

Age group	All STs (India)	All STs (Kerala)	Kanikaran	Paniyan	Malai Arayan	Marati	Kurumans	Irular	Kurichchan	Muthuvan
All ages	978	1021	1099	1048	1031	1008	995	994	988	976
0 - 6	973	974	980	971	953	1054	948	960	956	943

Literacy & Educational Level

8. The over all literacy rate of the Scheduled Tribes has increased from 57.2 per cent recorded at 1991 census to 64.4 per cent at 2001 census. It is higher than the national average of 47 per cent in respect of the total STs. Male literacy has increased from 63.4 per cent to 70.8 per cent while female literacy has gone up from 51 per cent to 58.1 per cent during 1991-2001, thereby showing significant improvement.

9. Among the numerically larger tribes, Malai Arayan have the the highest percentage of literates (94.5 per cent) followed by Kanikaran, Kurichchan, Kurumans, Marati (71.4 per cent) etc.. Marati, Kurumans, Kurichchan, Kanikaran and Malai Arayan, have shown higher female literacy ranging from 60 - 93 per cent whereas Muthuvan, Paniyan and Irular have shown lower female literacy in the range of 31 - 43 per cent.

Statement- 2 : Educational Level 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 and above
All Scheduled Tribes	2.8	30.7	29.3	22.9	12.4	0.8	1.2
Paniyan	4	50.5	33	10	2.3	0.1	0.1
Kurichchan	2.5	23.8	34.5	28.6	9.9	0.4	0.4
Malai Arayan	1	17.9	22.5	27.9	24.4	2.1	4.1
Marati	1.4	23.1	29.6	24.2	19.2	0.6	1.8
Kurumans	2.1	23.2	25.3	30.3	17	1	1
Irular	5.8	33.2	31.8	17.7	10.7	0.5	0.3
Kanikaran	0.9	16.9	25.3	38.5	16.3	1.2	1
Muthuvan	5.9	47.5	27.9	12.7	5.6	0.3	0.1

10. So far as the levels of education are concerned, as many as 33.5 per cent of tribal 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 and middle levels are 29.3 per cent & 22.9 per cent respectively. Persons educated up to matric / secondary / higher secondary etc. have a share of only 12.4 percent in total literate population. Graduates and above are 1.2 per cent while non-technical & technical diploma holders constitute a meager 0.8 percent only.

11. Paniyan have eighty percent literates educated upto primary level whereas Kurichchan, the second largest tribe have sixty per cent primary level literates and 9.9 per cent secondary level literates. Among the larger tribes, Malai Arayan have the highest proportion of matriculates (24.4 per cent).

12. The data show that the proportion of literates after middle school drops down to nearly half in the secondary level and declines sharply thereafter.

Statement - 3 : Population & Percentage of School going Children of 5 - 14 yrs.

All STs	Paniyan	Kurichchan	Malai Arayan	Marati	Kurumans	Irular	Kanikaran	Muthuvan
75.2	63.0	87.9	90.1	85.2	86.2	69.8	84.3	61.1

13. The data show that three fourth (75.2 per cent) of the tribal children in the age group of 5 -14 years go to school. Among the major tribes, Kanikaran, Marati, Kurumans, Kurichchan and Malai Arayan have 80 - 90 per cent children attending school whereas Paniyan, Muthuvan and Irular have 60 - 70 per cent school going children.

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

14. The Work Participation Rate (WPR) of the ST population is 46.3 per cent which is lower than that of all STs at the national level (49.1 per cent). There is a slight accretion of 0.3 per cent to the WPR registered in 1991 census. The work participation rate of male (57.5 per cent) is higher than their female counterparts (35.4 per cent). There has been an increase in male WPR from 55.1 to 57.5 per cent whereas female WPR has decreased by 1.5 percentage points during 1991-2001. Among the total workers, 65.1 per cent are main workers and this proportion is lower than that of all STs at national level (68.9 per cent).

15. Among the major tribal groups, Irular, Muthuvan, Paniyan, Marati, have higher WPR than the state average. Similar trend has been noticed among these tribes in respect of female WPR also.

Category of Workers

16. The highest proportion of the tribal workers in the state are 'Agricultural Labourers' (47.1 per cent) as against the national average of 36.4 per cent. 'Other workers' form 38.6 per cent and this proportion is also significantly higher than that recorded by the total STs at the national level (16.3 per cent). Persons working as 'Agricultural Labourers' and 'Other Workers' together form 85.7 per cent of the total

working population. 'Cultivators' constitute 11.2 percent which is considerably lower than the national average of 44.7 per cent. Workers in Household Industry (HHI) constitute 3.1 per cent which is comparable with that of all STs at the national level (2.1 per cent).

17. Among the major tribes, Paniyan have one third of the total workers, engaged as 'Agricultural Labourers' followed by Irular, Kurumans, etc. while Marati have 70 percent workers belong to 'Other Workers' category followed by Malai Arayan, Kanikaran etc.

Statement- 4 : Percentage distribution of Workers in four Economic Categories

Economic Category	All Scheduled Tribes	Paniyan	Kurichchan	Malai Arayan	Marati	Kurumans	Irular	Kanikaran	Muthuvan
Cultivators	11.2	1.2	22.1	27.5	3.1	13.2	12.9	11.4	28.2
Agricultural Labourers	47.1	69.1	43.5	12.7	8.1	43.9	59.4	40.8	39.5
HHI Workers	3.1	0.4	0.5	1.5	18.6	0.7	1.5	2.3	6.4
Other Workers	38.6	29.3	33.9	58.2	70.2	42.2	26.2	45.5	25.9

Marital Status

18. The census 2001 data on marital status show that 'never married' persons with a proportion of 47.2 per cent exceeds the 'married' persons (46.1 per cent) in total ST population. 'Widowed' persons form 5.4 per cent while only one per cent are 'divorced and separated'.

19. Marriage of girls and boys below the legal age of 18 years and 21 years respectively is not common among the tribal of Kerala. The data show that both the married girls below 18 years as well as married boys below 21 years each constitute 1.4 per cent only. These proportion are significantly lower than those at national level (2.1 per cent & 2.8 per cent respectively).

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

Religion

21. The Scheduled Tribes professing Hinduism account for 93.7 per cent. Christian tribal are 5.8 per cent while less than half per cent of tribal follow Islam and 'Religion not stated'.