

## Meghalaya

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS: THE SCHEDULED TRIBES Census of India 2001

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Meghalaya is predominantly a tribal state. The population of Meghalaya at 2001 Census has been 2,318,822. Of these 1,992,862 persons are Scheduled Tribes (STs), which constitute 85.9 per cent of the state's total population. The state has registered 31.3 per cent decadal growth of ST population in 1991-2001. There are total seventeen (17) notified STs in the state, and all of them have been enumerated in 2001 Census.

#### Population: Size & Distribution

2. Individual ST wise, Khasi constitute more than half of the total ST population of the state (56.4 per cent). Garo is second with 34.6 per cent. They together constitute 91 per cent of the total ST population. Synteng is listed both as a sub-tribe under Khasi and also as a separate ST. In 2001 Census, 18,342 population of Synteng has been enumerated separately, which constitute 0.9 per cent of total STs. The Hajong (1.6 per cent), Raba (1.4 per cent), and Koch (1.1 per cent) have sizable population in the state, each representing above one per cent of the state's total ST population. The rest of the STs are very small in their population size. Of these, five STs namely Man (Tai speaking), Dimasa, Chakma, Pawi, and Lakher are having population between 617 to 10 only (Statement-1).

**Statement-1: Population of Major STs, 2001 Census**

SL. No.	Name of the Scheduled Tribe	Total population	Proportion to the total ST population
1	All Scheduled Tribes	1,992,862	100 %
2	Khasi	1,123,490	56.4
3	Garo	689,639	34.6
4	Hajong	31,381	1.6
5	Raba	28,153	1.4
6	Koch	21,381	1.1
7	Synteng	18,342	0.9
8	Mikir	11,399	0.6
9	Any Kuki Tribes	10,085	0.5
10	Any Mizo (Lushai) tribes	3,526	0.2
11	Any Naga Tribes	3,138	0.2
12	Boro Kacharis	2,932	0.1
13	Hmar	1,146	0.1

3.The STs in Meghalaya are predominantly rural (84.4 per cent). Individual ST wise, Koch are overwhelmingly confined to rural areas (97.2 per cent), followed by Raba (92.6 per cent), Hajong (91.4 per cent), and Garo (88.7 per cent). On the contrary, higher urban population has been registered among Synteng (28.2 per cent) and Khasi (18.6 per cent).

4.Of the seven districts of Meghalaya, in four the ST population constitutes more than 95 per cent. East Khasi Hills has recorded the lowest at 77.5 per cent. This district, however, shares the highest 25.7 per cent of the total ST population of the state, Statement-2.

**Statement-2: District wise ST population**

SL. No	State/ District	Percentage of STs to total population of the State/ District	Percentage of STs to total State's ST population
1	<b>MEGHALAYA</b>	<b>85.9</b>	<b>100%</b>
2	West Garo Hills	76.6	19.9
3	East Garo Hills	96.5	12.1
4	South Garo Hills	95.7	4.8
5	West Khasi Hills	98.0	14.6
6	Ri Bhoi	87.0	8.4
7	East Khasi Hills	77.5	25.7
8	Jaintia Hills	96.0	14.4

### Sex Ratio

5.The matrilineal Meghalaya has recorded an even distribution of male and female population. Of the total ST population 996,567 have been returned as males and 996,295 as females. Individual ST wise, Synteng (1024) and Khasi (1017) have recorded sex ratio higher than 1000 mark. Although Garo have recorded comparatively low sex ratio (979) in the state, their sex ratio, however, is better than the aggregated national average for STs (978).

6.The child sex ratio (0-6 age group) of 974 for STs in the state is higher than the national average (973) for the corresponding population. Hajong (1003), Synteng (980), and Khasi (979) have registered child sex ratio above the state average (974). Quite contrary to the overall situation in the state, the child sex ratio is low among Raba (923).

### Literacy & Educational Level

7.The literacy rate among the STs in Meghalaya is 61.3 per cent, which is above the national average for STs (47.1 per cent). With 63.5 per cent male and 59.2 per cent female literacy rate, the ST women in the state are quite at par with their male counterparts.

8.Khasi have registered the highest 66.1 per cent literacy rate among the six major STs in the state. Literacy rate is the lowest among Koch (42.7 per cent), closely followed by Hajong (48.2 per cent). It is significant that among Khasi and Synteng, the females are better off in literacy status. On the contrary with 58.9 per cent male and 37 per cent female literacy, the Hajong women are lagging behind by as much as 22 per cent points. Significant gender gap in literacy has also been recorded among Raba, Koch, and Garo, Statement-3.

**Statement-3: Literacy Rate among Major STs**

SL. No	Name of the Scheduled Tribe	Literacy Rate (7 years and above)		
		Total	Male	Female
1	All Scheduled Tribes	61.3	63.5	59.2
2	Garo	55.2	60.7	49.6
3	Hajong	48.2	58.9	37.0
4	Khasi	66.1	65.4	66.7
5	Koch	42.7	50.9	34.4
6	Raba	52.4	62.3	42.4
7	Synteng	61.5	57.9	65.0

9.Merely 54.9 per cent of the ST population in the age group 5-14 years – the category of potential students – has been attending schools or any other educational institutions. Khasi have registered the highest 61.5 per cent, closely followed by Synteng (55.3 per cent) and Hajong (50.7 per cent). On the other hand Koch have recorded the lowest at 44.3 per cent. Less than half of the population among Garo (45 per cent) and Raba (47.8 per cent) are attending schools in this age group.

10.Of the total ST literates, 3.3 per cent are having educational level graduate and above. Synteng (4.6 per cent) and Khasi (4.4 per cent) are well ahead, among the six major STs in the state, with more than four per cent of their literate population having this educational status. Rabha, Koch, and Hajong are comparatively lagging behind with one per cent of their literates having this level of education.

### **Work Participation Rate (WPR)**

11.In 2001 Census, 42.8 per cent of the ST population has been recorded as workers, which is below the aggregated national figure for STs (49.1 per cent). Of the total workers 76.5 per cent have been recorded as main workers and 23.5 per cent as marginal workers. WPR at 38.3 per cent among female is lower than male (47.4 per cent). In Meghalaya, the ST women are rather close to their male counterparts with 83.9 per cent male and 67.2 per cent female as main workers, Statement-4.

**Statement-4: Distribution of Total, Main & Marginal Workers among STs**

T/M/F	Total Workers (Percentage to Total Population)	Main Workers (Percentage to Total Workers)	Marginal Workers (Percentage to Total Workers)
Total	853,160 (42.8%)	652,392 (76.5%)	200,768 (23.5%)
Male	472,001 (47.4%)	396,080 (83.9%)	75,921 (16.1%)
Female	381,159 (38.3%)	256,312 (67.2%)	124,847 (32.8%)

12. With regards to WPR there is not much variation among the different STs. The highest WPR of 46.5 per cent has been registered among Raba, while it is the lowest among Synteng (41.7 per cent). The Khasi and Hajong both have an identical WPR at 41.8 per cent. The gender gap in work participation is quite significant among Hajong (male 50.1 per cent, female 33.3 per cent) and Koch (male 52.5 per cent, female 37.5 per cent), while it is the lowest among Garo (male 47.7 per cent, female 40.2 per cent).

### **Category of Workers**

13. Of the total ST main workers, 56.2 per cent have been registered as cultivators and another 13.1 per cent as agricultural labourers. 28.9 per cent have been returned as 'other workers' and the remaining 1.8 per cent in the household industry category.

14. The highest 70.7 per cent cultivators have been recorded among Raba, followed by Garo (67.4 per cent), Khasi (49.5 per cent), and Koch (49.2 per cent). On the other hand the percentage of cultivators is the lowest among Hajong (35.5 per cent). A substantial number of Hajong main workers have, however, been recorded as agricultural labourers (18.8 per cent). Koch have recorded the highest 21.5 per cent agricultural labourers as main workers.

### **Marital Status**

15. As regards marital status, 61.5 per cent of the population is never married, 33.8 per cent currently married, 3.1 per cent widowed, and merely 1.6 per cent divorced /separated. It is significant to note a very high of 2.5 per cent population among Khasi and Synteng has been recorded as divorced/separated (Statement-5).

**Statement-5: Marital Status Wise Population among Major STs**

SL. No	Name of the Scheduled Tribe	Per cent to Total Population			
		Never married	Currently married	Widowed	Divorced/ Separated
1	All Scheduled Tribes	61.5	33.8	3.1	1.6
2	Garo	59.3	37.6	2.7	0.4
3	Hajong	55.4	38.3	5.9	0.4
4	Khasi	63.4	30.9	3.2	2.5
5	Koch	54.6	38.9	6.0	0.4
6	Raba	56.3	39.5	3.9	0.3
7	Synteng	63.4	31.2	2.9	2.5

16. Merely 1.5 per cent of the ST female population below 18 years – the minimum legal age for marriage – has been recorded as ever married. Of the six major STs, the Synteng has recorded the highest at 1.8 per cent, while Khasi the lowest at 1.4 per cent.

17. The ever married males below 21 years – the minimum legal age for marriage – constitute only 1.3 per cent of the total ST population of this age category. The Synteng has recorded the highest at 1.5 per cent among the six major STs, while it is the lowest (1.1 Per cent) among Hajong.

**Religion**

18. Of the total ST population majority 79.8 per cent are Christians and 5.9 per cent Hindus. A substantial number of ST population (13.2 Per cent) have been recorded under “Other religions and persuasions”. Quite a large number (6,324 persons) did not mention their faith, and they have been categorized under “Religion not stated”. Besides, 13,105 persons have been recorded as Muslims and 2,249 as Budhists constituting 0.7 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively.

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