

Orissa
DATA HIGHLIGHTS : THE SCHEDULED TRIBES
Census of India 2001

As per 2001 Census, the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population of the State of Orissa is 8,145,081. This constitutes 22.1 percent of the total population of the State and 9.7 per cent of the total tribal population of the country. The state holds 3rd and 11th rank among the States/UTs in terms of ST population and the proportion of ST population to total population of the State respectively. The decennial growth of ST population has been 15.8 per cent, which is 0.5 per cent lower than the growth of population (16.3 per cent). The State has a total of sixty two (62) Scheduled Tribes, and all have been enumerated at 2001 census.

2. The Scheduled Tribe population in the State is overwhelmingly rural, with 94.5 per cent residing in villages. District wise distribution of ST population shows that Malkangiri district has the highest proportion of STs (57.4 per cent) followed by Mayurbhanj (56.6 per cent), Rayagada (55.8 per cent) and Nabarangapur (55 per cent). Puri district has the lowest by proportion of STs (0.3 per cent).

Population : Size & Distribution

3. Out of sixty two (62) STs, Khond is the most populous tribe with a population of 1,395,643 constituting 17.1 percent of the total ST population. Gond is the second largest tribe, having a number of 782,104. having 9.6 per cent share in the total ST population. Six other tribes namely, Santal, Kolha, Munda, Saora, Shabar and Bhattada along with Khond and Gond constitute 64.2 per cent of the total ST population of the State. Bhumij, Bhuiya, Oraon, Paroja and Kisan having a population ranging from 248,144 to 321,592. Together, they form 18.1 per cent. Five STs, namely, Bhumia, Binjhal, Koya etc. having population in the range of 103,537 to 196,846 constitute 9 per cent of total ST population. Remaining forty four (44) tribes along with the generic tribes constitute the residual 8.8 per cent of total ST population of the State. Five tribes namely Chenchu, Mankidi, Desua Bhumij, Ghara, Tharua are very small groups having less than 500 population.

4. District wise distribution of the individual ST shows that Khond have the highest proportion (93.3 per cent) in Kandhamal district, followed by Nayagarh (76.9 per cent), Baudh(76.4 per cent), and Rayagada (71.1 per cent) districts. Gond have the highest concentration in Nabarangapur districts followed by Nuapada district whereas Santal and Kolha are primarily concentrated in Mayurbhanj district. Other four STs, Munda, Saora, Shabar and Bhattada are primarily concentrated in Sundargarh, Bargarh, Gajapati and Nabarangapur districts respectively.

Sex Ratio

5. The over all sex ratio of the ST population in Orissa is 1003. It shows the preponderance of females and is higher than the national average (978) for all STs.

6. At individual tribe level, except Santal, all the major tribes of the state have over all sex ratio higher than that of the national average. Females outnumber the males among Khond, Shabar, Saora and Gond tribes.

7. The sex ratio among the STs, in the age group 0-6 years (979) is slightly higher than that of all STs at the national level. Except Santal, Saora and Kolha, the five major tribes have higher child sex ratio than that of the national average.

Statement - 1 : Sex Ratio

Age group	All STs (India)	All STs (Orissa)	Khond	Shabar	Saora	Gond	Bhottada	Kolha	Munda	Santal
All ages	978	1003	1027	1008	1007	1005	993	990	982	976
0 - 6yrs.	973	979	990	982	971	980	998	973	974	955

Literacy & Educational Level

8. The overall literacy rate of the STs has increased from 22.3 per cent in 1991 to 37.4 per cent in 2001. Despite this improvement, the literacy rate among the tribals is considerably below the national average (47.1 per cent). Male literacy has increased from 34.4 per cent to 51.5 per cent while female literacy has gone up from 10.2 per cent in 1991 to 23.4 per cent during 1991-2001.

Statement - 2 : Literacy Rate

Literacy rate	All STs (state)	Gond	Saora	Santal	Munda	Shabar	Khond	Kolha	Bhottada
Persons	37.4	47.0	41.1	40.5	39.7	35.4	31.9	27.1	24.3
Females	23.4	30.8	25.7	24.7	27.6	19.9	18.0	14.3	11.1

9. Among the numerically major tribes, Gond have the highest percentage of literates (47 per cent) followed by Saora, Santal, Munda, Shabar (35.4 per cent) etc. Gond have also registered the highest female literacy. Bhottada have the lowest percentage of female literates, preceded by Kolha and Khond.

Statement-3: levels of education among the major Scheduled Tribes

Name of the STs	Literate without educational level	Below primary	Educational levels attained by major the STs				
			Primary	Middle	Matric/Secondary Higher Secondary/ Intermediate etc.	Technical & Non-technical diploma etc.	Graduate and above
All STs	4.4	40.3	28.7	13.7	11	0.4	1.5
Khond	5.8	47.7	28.2	10.4	6.9	0.2	0.8
Gond	5.4	40.4	29.4	12.8	10.3	0.4	1.3
Santal	2.6	34.6	27	17.7	14.8	0.6	2.6
Kolha	3.7	40	27.5	16	11.1	0.4	1.4
Munda	2.7	35.7	30.8	15.4	13.3	0.5	1.6
Saora	4.6	43.9	30.6	11.4	8.3	0.3	0.9
Shabar	5.1	46.2	28.6	11.2	7.8	0.3	0.8
Bhottada	9.4	47.3	27.4	9.8	5.5	0.1	0.4

10. Among tribal literates, 44.7 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 constitute 28.7 per cent and 13.7 per cent respectively. Literates, who are educated up to matric/secondary/higher secondary etc. have a share of 11 per cent only. Graduates and above are 1.5 per cent while non-technical & technical diploma holders constitute less than half per cent (0.4 per cent).

11. Among numerically larger group Santal have the highest proportion of matriculates followed by Munda and Kolha.

12. The data on the education levels attained by all STs Show that the drop-out rate is high after primary level as the percentage of middle level literates is half that of the primary level. It declines sharply from the higher secondary level onwards, as the percentage of students after matriculation drops down to nearly one third in higher secondary or Intermediate level.

13. Out of total 21.4 lakh tribal children in the age group 5 -14 years, only 9.8 lakh attend school constituting 45.8 per cent. Alarming, as many as 11.6 lakh children in the corresponding age group do not go to school. Among the major tribes, Gond and Saora have more than half of the total children in the corresponding age group attend school; this proportion is above 40 per cent among Khond, Munda, Shabar and Santal.

Statement - 4 : Percentage of school going population in the age group 5-14 yrs.

Age Group	All STs	Khond etc.	Gond etc.	Santal	Kolha	Munda etc.	Saora etc.	Shabar	Bhottada etc.
5-14 yrs.	45.8	41.7	56.1	46.5	31.6	42.2	51.8	44.8	36.8

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

14. The Work Participation Rate (WPR) of the ST population is 49 per cent, which is equal to that of all STs at the national level (49.1 per cent). There has been a slight decline of 0.4 per cent in the WPR of the tribes during 1991-2001. While there has been a decline in male WPR from 58.9 to 54.8 per cent, female WPR (43.2 per cent) has increased by 3.4 per cent during 1991-2001. Among the total workers, 57.4 per cent are main workers and this proportion is much below the national average recorded for all STs (68.9 per cent).

15. Among the major tribal groups, Khond, Gond, Shabar, Saora and Bhottada have higher WPR than that of the State as well as national average for all STs.

Category of Workers

16. 'Agricultural Labourers' constitute the highest proportion (46.9 per cent) among the total workers. This figure is higher than that of the national average of 36.9 per cent. 'Cultivators' account for 33.3 per cent which is lower than that of all STs at the national level (44.7 per cent). 'Other Workers' constitute 15 per cent. This proportion is at par with that of the national average (16.3 per cent) whereas workers engaged in 'Household Industry' (HHI) constitute 4.8 per cent, which is 2.7 per cent higher than that of all STs at the national level.

17. Among the major tribes, Bhattada, Shabar and Saora have more than half of the total workers are 'Agricultural Labourers'. Among the major groups, both Khond and Gond tribes have the highest share of 'Cultivators', whereas Munda have the highest proportion of 'Other Workers'. In the category of HHI, Santal holds the top position.

Statement- 5 : Percentage distribution of workers in four economic categories

Economic category	All STs	Khond	Gond	Santal	Kolha	Munda	Saora	Shabar	Bhattada
Cultivators	33.3	39.1	39.1	32.3	25.8	23.4	29.6	27.5	32.6
Agricultural Labourers	46.9	46.8	46.6	45.1	47.6	41.7	54.3	55.3	58.2
HHI Workers	4.8	3.6	3.3	9.3	7.9	5.3	2.8	1.4	0.7
Other Workers	15	10.5	11	13.3	18.8	29.5	13.3	15.8	8.6

Marital Status

18. The census 2001 data on marital status show that 'never married' persons with a proportion of 50.9 per cent exceeds the 'married' persons (43.2 per cent). 'Widowed' persons constitute 5.5 per cent while half per cent are 'divorced and separated'.

19. Marriages of girls and boys below the legal age of 18 years and 21 years respectively are rare among the tribes of Orissa. The proportion of married girls below 18 years(1.6 per cent) and married boys below 21 years(1.9 per cent) are below the corresponding figures recorded by all STs at the national level (2.1 per cent and 2.8 per cent respectively).

20. The mean number of children ever born per ever married ST woman (age-group 45 – 49 yrs.) is 4 which is equal to STs at national level (4).

Religion

21. Hinduism is the predominant religion of the State (94.4 per cent). As many as 88.2 per cent STs are Hindus. Christian tribal constitute 7.4 per cent. The STs professing 'Other Religions and Persuasions' account for 4.2 per cent. A negligible 0.2 per cent (13,782) of tribal are Muslims. The tribes who follow Sikhism (251), Buddhism (175) and Jainism(196) are in negligible number.