

CHAPTER - 3

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF SCHEDULED CASTE DALITS IN INDIA

Scheduled Castes are notified in 31 States/UTs of India and there are altogether 1,241 individual ethnic groups, etc. notified as Scheduled Castes in different States/UTs. There has been some changes in the List of SCs/STs in States/ UTs during the last decade. As per the 2011 Census of India, there are around 201.4 million SCs comprising of 103.5 males and 97.9 females. The proportion of SCs in relation to the total population is 16.6%, of which 18.5% and 12.6% belong to rural and urban categories respectively. The state-wise & UT distribution of SCs in the country as per the 2011 Census is as follows:

- a. **20.1% and above** - Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, U.P., West Bengal
- b. **15.1 – 20.0%** - Rajasthan, M.P., Bihar, Uttarakhand, Tripura, Odisha, Andra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Chandigarh
- c. **10.1-15.0%** - Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand
- d. **5.1-10.0%** - Gujarat, Kerala, J&K, Assam

- e. **5% and below** - Meghalaya, Sikkim, Mizoram, Manipur,
Goa, Daman & Diu,

As regards the share of SCs in relation to other the country as a whole, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar have the highest share of SC population in India as per the 2011 Census.

The distribution of SCs across the states are as follows:

a.	Uttar Pradesh	- 20.5%
b.	West Bengal	- 10.7%
c.	Bihar	- 8.2%
d.	Tamil Nadu	- 7.2%
e.	Andhra Pradesh	- 6.9%
f.	Maharashtra	- 6.6%
g.	Rajasthan	- 6.1%
h.	Madhya Pradesh	- 5.6%
i.	Karnataka	- 5.2%
j.	Punjab	- 4.4%
k.	Odisha	- 3.6%
l.	Rest of the other states	- 15.0%

As regards the proportion of SCs in various states / Union Territories by rank are provided below. Punjab (31.9%) has the highest proportion of SCs in the country followed by Himachal Pradesh (25.2) and West Bengal (23.5%). As regards the bottom five the North-Eastern states – Mizoram and Meghalaya – have the lowest proportion of SC population.

Top 5 States/UTs	
Punjab	31.90%
Himachal Pradesh	25.20%
West Bengal	23.50%
Uttar Pradesh	20.70%
Haryana	20.20%

Bottom 5 States/UTs	
Mizoram	0.10%
Meghalaya	0.60%
Goa	1.70%
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.80%
Daman & Diu	2.50%

Demographic Profile of Scheduled Castes in Rajasthan

1. Rajasthan, the largest State in terms of area, has the Scheduled Caste (SC) population of 9,694,462 as per 2001 census constituting 17.2 per cent of the total population (56,507,188) of the State. The state holds 7th rank in SC population and 10th rank in terms of proportion of SC population to total population among all States and UTs. Fifty nine (59) castes have been scheduled in respect of Rajasthan. All of them have

been enumerated during the Census 2001. The SC population has registered a growth rate of 27.4 per cent during 1991-2001, which is lower by one per cent than the growth of the total population.

2. Scheduled Castes are predominantly rural as 79.8 per cent of them live in the villages.
3. District wise distribution of SC population shows that they have the highest concentration in Ganganagar with a share of 33.7 per cent to the total population, followed by 26.1 per cent and 23.2 per cent in Hanumangarh and Karauli districts respectively. Both Dungarpur and Banswara districts (4 per cent each) have the lowest share of SC population to total population of districts preceded by Udaipur (6 per cent).

Population: Size & Distribution

4. At the level of the individual caste, Chamar is the largest group with a population of 2,465,563 forming 25.4 per cent, followed by Megh with a population of 2,060,454 accounting for 21 per cent of the total SC population. Bairwa, Thori, Balai have population of 931,030, 650,373 and 643,189 respectively. These five (5) major castes combine to form 69.6 per cent of the total SC population. Koli, Bhangi, Khatik, Baori, Dhobi, Mazhabi, Sargara and Dholi with more than one lakh population, have together a share of 20.1 per cent of the total SC population. Fourteen (14) SCs namely, Dhanak, Kalbalia, Gavarua,

Sansi, BawariaRawal have 7.5 per cent of the SC population of the state. Remaining thirty two (32) SCs along with generic castes constitute the residual 2.8 per cent of the total SC population.

5. Chamar constitute highest proportion (76.7 per cent) of the total SC population in Bharatpur district, followed by Dhaulpur (68.2 per cent), Jhunjhunun (59.7 per cent) etc. The other larger SCs, Megh, Bairwa, Thori, Balai have registered maximum proportion in the districts of Jaisalmer (83.7 per cent), Dausa(56.6 per cent), Ganganagar(41.5 per cent) and Sikar(61 per cent) respectively.

Sex Ratio

6. The overall sex ratio of the Scheduled Caste population in Rajasthan is 913 females per 1000 males which is lower than the national average of 936 in respect of all SC population.
7. Among the numerically larger groups, Baori, Khatik and Bhangi have shown sex ratio higher than the national average whereas five castes namely Balai, Thori, Bairwa, Megh, Koli have sex ratio above 900 but lower than that of all SCs at the national level. Chamar, the most populous caste, have shown the lowest sex ratio in total population.

Statement-1 : Sex Ratio

Age group	All SCs (India)	All SCs (state)	Baori	Khatik	Bhangi	Balai	Thori	Bairwa	Megh	Koli	Chamar
All ages	936	913	944	938	937	927	917	909	908	902	895
0-6 yrs	938	919	932	885	946	908	924	928	924	926	902

8. The sex ratio among the SC children in the age group 0-6 yrs. is 919 which is lower than that of national level (939). Among the larger group, Bhangi have the highest (946) and Khatik have the lowest (885) child sex ratio. Except Bhangi, the other seven SCs have the sex ratio above 900 but below the national average.

Literacy & Educational Level

9. The Scheduled Castes of the state have a literacy rate of 52.2 per cent which is slightly lower than the national average (54.7 per cent) in respect of all SCs. There has been a significant improvement in the rate of literacy during the decade 1991-2001. The over all literacy rate, which was merely 26.3 per cent at 1991 census has increased to 52.2 per cent at 2001 census, higher by 25.9 per cent. Male literacy has increased from 42.4 per cent to 69 per cent while female literacy has

increased four times i.e. from 8.3 per cent to 33.8 per cent during 1991-2001.

10. Among the major SCs, Khatik have registered the highest literacy rate (64.4 per cent), followed by Chamar, Balai, Koli etc. Megh has a considerably lower literacy rate. Khatik also have female literacy (45.6 per cent) higher than that of the national average (41.9 per cent). Other major SCs namely Chamar, Balai, Koli have revealed female literacy higher than the state average but lower than the national average. Baori have shown the lowest over all as well as female literacy.

Statement - 2: Literacy Rate

Literacy Rate	All SCs (India)	Khatik	Chamar	Balai	Koli	Bairwa	Bhangi	Megh	Thori	Baori
Persons	52.2	64.4	58	57.8	56.8	52.5	51.6	48.2	43.5	37.6
Females	33.9	45.6	38.1	39.2	37.3	31.3	35.4	29.8	28.4	22.4

Source: Office of the Registrar General, India

11. So far as the levels of education are concerned, as many as 47.7 per cent of the total SC literates are either without any educational level or have attained below primary level of education. The primary level literates constitute 26.7 per cent of all literates. Literates up to middle school level have a share of only 13.9 per cent whereas 9.4 per cent of literates have attained education up to secondary/ higher secondary

levels. This implies that every 11th literate person is a matriculate. Proportion of SC literates who are graduates & above are 2.3 per cent only. Non-technical & technical diploma holders have shown a negligible 0.1 per cent only. Statement - 3 presents SC wise differentials in educational attainment among nine major groups.

Statement - 3 : Educational levels among the major Scheduled Castes

Names of SCs	Literate without educational level	Below primary	Educational levels attained				
			Primary	Middle	Matric/Secondary Higher Secondary/ Intermediate etc.	Non-technical & Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree	Graduate and above
All SCs	7.5	40.2	26.7	13.9	9.4	0.1	2.3
Bhangi	6.6	40.3	30.3	14.6	7.0	0.0	1.3
Khatik	4.3	32.8	28.8	16.7	13.4	0.1	3.9
Bairwa	6.4	39.0	27.3	14.7	9.8	0.1	2.5
Baori	8.8	50.8	27.1	8.3	4.4	0.0	0.7
Koli	5.4	34.4	26.9	17.8	12.1	0.1	3.3
Chamar	6.6	38.4	26.8	14.9	10.5	0.1	2.7
Balai	7.3	37.6	26.2	14.5	11.0	0.1	3.2
Thori	10.4	48.7	26.0	9.4	4.8	0.0	0.8
Megh	10.6	43.8	24.4	11.5	7.6	0.1	1.9

12. There is a sharp decline in the percentage of literates from secondary level onwards. The percentage of matriculate is almost one third of the primary level literates and percentage of graduate is one fourth of the matriculates. Similar trend has been seen in the case of major castes in respect of level of education.
13. Out of a total 27.9 lakh SC children in the age of 5 -14 years, 16.5 lakh are attending school, constituting 59.1 per cent. A large number of 11.4

lakh children (40.9 per cent) are not attending school. The Statement-4 given below shows that the larger groups namely Chamar, Balai and Khatik and Bairwa have more than 60 per cent school going children whereas remaining five major SCs have comparatively lower percentage of school attending children.

Statement - 4 : Percentage of School going children in the age group 5-14 yrs.

Age group	All SCs (State)	Khatik	Balai	Chamar	Bairwa	Koli	Megh	Bhangi	Thori	Baori
5 -14yrs.	59.1	71.4	67.6	65.4	62.2	58.5	56.1	53.2	50.2	46.9

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

14. The work participation rate (WPR) of the SC population in the state is 41.6 per cent which is slightly higher than that of all SCs at the national level (40.4 per cent). Male work participation rate (48.5 per cent) has not registered any increase whereas female WPR (34.1per cent) has shown an accretion of 5.2 per cent during 1991-2001. Among all workers, 70.3 per cent workers are main workers which is lower than that recorded for all SCs at the national level (73 per cent).
15. At the individual level, the numerically larger group, Megh, Baori, Bairwa, Thori, Chamar Balai have registered higher WPR whereas Koli, Khatik & Bhangi have shown lower WPR than that of all SCs at national level. Similar trend has been shown by these major castes in respect of female WPR also.

Category of Workers

16. Majority of the SCs workers are engaged in agriculture. It is an interesting finding that, as many as 44 per cent of the workers are 'Cultivators', which is more than double of the national average of 20 per cent in respect of all SCs in this category. 'Other Workers' also have a significant share of 32 per cent showing higher proportion than that of all SCs at country level (30.5 per cent). Persons working as 'Agricultural Labourers' constitute only 20 per cent which is significantly lower if compared with that of the country (45.6 per cent). Workers in 'Household Industry' account for 3.4 per cent which is very close to that of the total SCs at the national level (3.9 per cent).
17. At the individual caste level, Megh, Bairwa, Balai, Thori, Baori and Chamar have the highest proportion of 'Cultivators' whereas Bhangi, Khatik and Koli have the highest percentage of 'Other Workers' in their total working population.

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

Economic Category	All SCs	Megh	Bairwa	Balai	Thori	Baori	Chamar	Koli	Khatik	Bhangi
Cultivators	43.8	58	55	49.2	44.8	44.4	43.2	30.2	23.1	8.9
Agricultural Labourers	20.7	19.3	17	16.4	31.3	34.4	19.8	15.7	12.5	14.4
HHI Workers	3.4	1.8	1.1	1.7	1.2	1.6	4.9	6.2	4.6	4.8
Other Workers	32.0	20.8	26.9	32.7	22.8	19.5	32.1	47.9	59.8	71.9

Marital Status

18. The data on marital status show that 51.7 per cent persons of the total SC population of Rajasthan are 'never married'. The 'married' persons constitute 44.2 per cent while 4 per cent persons are 'widowed' and a negligible 0.2 per cent persons are 'divorced & separated'.
19. Marriage of girls and boys below the legal age are prevalent in Rajasthan. The proportion of married girls below 18 years (5.3 per cent) and boys below 21 years (5.9 per cent) in the state is considerably higher than those at national level (2.8 per cent and 3.1 per cent). Among the major castes, Khatik, Bairwa, Balai, Thori, Chamar have higher proportions of married boys and girls below the stipulated age for each than those recorded by all SCs of the State.

Statement- 6 : Percentage of married girls & boys below the stipulated age

Age group	All SCs (State)	Khatik	Bairwa	Balai	Thori	Chamar	Baori	Megh	Bhangi	Koli
Married girls (less than 18 yrs.)	5.3	7.7	7.7	6.1	5.8	5.5	4.9	4.4	3.5	2.7
Married boys (less than 21 yrs.)	5.9	7.7	7.8	5.9	7	6	6.7	5	5	3.5

20. The mean number of children ever born per ever married SC woman (age-group 45- 49yrs) is 5 which is higher than that registered by all SCs at the national level (4).

Religion

21. Hinduism is the predominant religion of the State. The Scheduled Castes professing Hinduism account for 98.1 per cent. Remaining SCs follow Sikhism (1.8 per cent) and Buddhism (0.1 per cent).