

BIHAR

DATA HIGHLIGHTS : THE SCHEDULED CASTES Census of India 2001

The State of Bihar was bifurcated, with the formation of the State of Jharkhand in November 2000. Presently, the State has 37 districts, after its reorganization.

The Scheduled Caste (SC) population of Bihar State is 13,048,608 as per 2001 census constituting 15.7 per cent of the total population (82,998,509) of the State. The State holds 3rd rank among all the States and UTs in terms of SC population. The growth of SC population during 1991-2001 has been 30.7 per cent which is 2.1 per cent higher than the growth of total population (28.6 per cent). The State has a total of twenty three (23) Scheduled Castes and all of them have been enumerated at 2001 census. Overall, the State accounts for 1.3 per cent of the total SC population of the country.

2. The Scheduled Castes are overwhelmingly rural, with 93.3 per cent residing in rural areas. Among the districts, Gaya has the highest proportion of SCs (29.6 per cent) followed by Nawada, Aurangabad, Kaimur, Vaishali and Nalanda. Kishanganj district has the lowest proportion of the SC population (6.6 per cent).

3. Out of twenty three (23) SCs, Chamar is the most populous caste with a population of 4,090,070, constituting 31.3 per cent of the total SC population. Dusadh is the second largest SC, having a number of 4,029,411 forms 30.9 per cent of the SC population. Four other SCs in the descending order are Musahar, Pasi, Dhobi and Bhuiya. Along with Chamar and Dusadh, the six castes constitute 93.2 per cent of the total SC population of the State. Five castes, namely Chaupal, Bantar...upto Rajwar having population in the range of 100,111 to 213,795, constitute 5.8 per cent and the remaining 12 castes along with the generic castes constitute the residual 1.1 per cent of the total SC population. Eight (8) SCs have below 5000 population. Of them, two castes, namely, Ghasi and Lalbegi are very small, having population less than 1000.

4. Chamar constitute 58 – 67 per cent of the total SC population in Gopalganj, Siwan, Buxar and Kaimur districts. Dusadh constitute 54 per cent each in Vaishali and Begusarai districts. Pasi and Bhuiya are primarily concentrated in Gaya district whereas Musahar and Dhobi have maximum concentration in Purnia and Purba Champaran districts respectively.

Sex Ratio

5. The over all sex ratio of the SC population in Bihar is 923 females per 1000 males which is lower than the national average of 936 in respect of all SCs.

6. Among numerically larger groups, Bhuiya have recorded the over all sex ratio higher than the national average. Other five major SCs have the over all sex ratio lower than the national average.

7. The sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years (963) is higher than that of the SCs at the national level. All the major castes have recorded child sex ratio higher than the national average with Bhuiya having equal number of male as well as female children.

Statement - 1: Sex Ratio

Age group	All SCs (India)	All SCs (Bihar)	Bhuiya	Musahar	Chamar	Dhobi	Pasi	Dusadh
All ages	936	923	940	932	927	922	920	912
0 - 6	938	963	1000	973	959	940	975	955

Literacy & Educational Level

8. The literacy among the Scheduled Castes of Bihar is dismally low. The over all literacy rate of SCs is 28.5 per cent at 2001 census which is nearly half of that recorded for all SCs at the national level (54.7 per cent). Male and female literates constitute 40.2 per cent and 15.6 per cent respectively. These figures are lower than those at the national level (66.6 per cent & 41.9 per cent).

Among the numerically larger castes, Dhobi have registered the highest over all literacy as well as female literacy followed by Pasi, Dusadh and Chamar. Musahar have shown the lowest literacy rate.

Statement - 2 : Literacy Rate

Literacy rate	All SCs (Bihar)	Dhobi	Pasi	Dusadh	Chamar	Bhuiya	Musahar
Persons	28.5	43.9	40.6	33.0	32.1	13.3	9
Females	15.6	27.9	25.3	18.5	16.8	6.5	3.9

9. Among the literates, 39.7 per cent of SCs 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 28.4 per cent & 13.1 per cent respectively. As many as 15.1 per cent literates are educated up to matric/ secondary/higher secondary etc. Graduates & above are 3.6 per cent while non -technical & technical diploma holders constitute a meagre 0.1per cent only.

10. Among the major castes, Dhobi have the highest proportion of matriculates (19.7 per cent) whereas Musahar and Bhuiya have the lowest proportion of matriculates (6 per cent each). Chamar have every 7th literates, a matriculate, whereas Dusadh and Pasi have every 6th literate, a matriculate.

11. It may be discerned from the educational levels attained by all SCs, the drop-out rate is high after primary level as the percentage of middle level literates is less than half of the primary level literates. Number of students decline sharply from secondary level onwards.

Statement - 5 : Levels of Education 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.	Technical & Non-technical diploma etc.	Graduate & above
All Scheduled Castes	6.6	33.1	28.4	13.1	15.1	0.1	3.6
Bhuiya	15.3	44.1	26.5	7.4	6	nil	0.6
Chamar	5.9	33.6	28.5	13.4	15	0.1	3.5
Dhobi	4.5	28.3	27	14.9	19.7	0.2	5.4
Dusadh	6	32	28.5	13.7	16.1	0.1	3.5
Musahar	15.3	44	27.8	6.7	5.5	nil	0.8
Pasi	5.7	30	27.1	13.4	17.9	0.2	5.6

12. Out of the total 38.8 lakh SC children in the age group 5 -14 years, 11.4 lakh attend school constituting 29.4 per cent. Alarmingly, as many as 70.6 per cent (27.4 lakh) children in the corresponding age group do not go to school. Among the major SCs, Dhobi have the highest share of school going children followed by Pasi, Dusadh and Chamar.

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

Age Group	All SCs	Chamar	Dusadh	Musahar	Pasi	Dhobi	Bhuiya
5-14 yrs.	29.4	33.7	34.1	9.8	39.4	45.6	15.1

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

13. The Work Participation Rate (WPR) of the Scheduled Caste population is 39.7 per cent which is marginally lower than that of all SCs at the national level (40.4 per cent). While there has been a marginal decline in male WPR from 50.4 per cent to 49.2 per cent, female WPR has increased from 23.3 per cent to 29.5 per cent during 1991-2001. Among the total workers, 71 per cent are main workers and this proportion is almost comparable with that of all SCs at the national level (73 per cent).

14. Among the major groups, Musahar and Bhuiya have WPR higher than the national average for all SCs whereas Chamar, Dusadh, Pasi and Dhobi have WPR lower than the state as well as national averages.

Category of Workers

15. 'Agricultural Labourers' constitute the highest proportion of 77.6 per cent among all workers. This implies that more than three fourth of the total SC workers are 'Agricultural

Labourers'. This figure is higher than the national average (45.6 per cent). 'Other Workers' constitute 11.2 per cent which is lower if compared to the national average of 30.5 per cent in respect of all SCs. 'Cultivators' account for 7.9 per cent against the national average of 20 per cent. Workers engaged in Household Industry (HHI) constitute 3.3 per cent which is at par with the national average for SCs (3.9 per cent).

16. Among the major castes, Musahar have the highest proportion of 'Agricultural Labourers' followed by Bhuiya, Chamar and Dusadh whereas in 'Other Workers' category, Pasi are leading followed by Dhobi.

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

Economic category	All Scheduled Castes	Chamar	Dusadh	Musahar	Pasi	Dhobi	Bhuiya
Cultivators	7.9	7.9	10.3	2.7	12.3	14.8	6.6
Agricultural Labourers	77.6	80.2	75.9	92.5	46.5	48.1	86.8
HHI Workers	3.3	2.1	1.6	0.8	12.2	9.6	1.0
Other Workers	11.2	9.8	12.2	4.0	29.0	27.5	5.6

Marital Status

16. The data show that slightly more than half of the SC population is 'never married' (51.2 per cent) whereas 'married' persons constitute 45.5 per cent. 'Widowed' persons form 3.3 per cent while a negligible percent (0.1 per cent) are 'divorced and separated'.

17. In Bihar, proportions of married girls below 18 years (4.4 per cent) and married boys below 21 years (5.3 per cent) are higher than those at the national level (2.8 per cent & 3.1 per cent). Among the larger castes, Bhuiya have registered the highest proportion of married girls and boys below the legal age followed by Pasi, Musahar etc.

18. The mean number of children ever born per ever married SC woman (45 – 49 years) is 3 which is less than that of all SCs at the national level (4).

Religion

19. Hinduism is the predominant religion of the SCs of Bihar. Nearly cent per cent (99.9 per cent) SCs are Hindus. Only a negligible number of SCs are Sikhs(878) and Buddhists (4,842) who together constituting 0.04 per cent.