

## Jammu & Kashmir

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

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The State of Jammu & Kashmir, known as the crown of India is located in the extreme north of the country. The State has three geographical divisions namely Ladakh, Kashmir and Jammu. These regions are distinct in terms of culture, language and ethnicity. The Scheduled Castes are mainly concentrated in the Jammu region.

According to 2001 census, the Scheduled Caste (SC) population of Jammu & Kashmir is 770,155 which form 7.6 per cent of the total population of the State. As the 1991 census was not conducted in the State, decadal (1991-2001) growth rate of population is not possible to work out. The growth of the Scheduled Caste population during 1981-2001 i.e. in a span of twenty years has been 54.9 per cent. Thirteen (13) castes have been scheduled in respect of Jammu & Kashmir. All of them have been enumerated at the 2001 census.

2. The SCs are overwhelmingly rural. As many as 82.6 per cent of them reside in rural areas. District wise distribution of the SC population shows that they have maximum concentration in Jammu with a share of 24.9 per cent, followed by Kathua(23.2 per cent) and Udhampur(19.1per cent). The districts of Kashmir region have returned a meagre SC population. Four districts of Kashmir region have recorded SC population below 500 . Of these, Kupwara and Pulwama districts have less than 100 SCs each.

#### Population : Size & Distribution

3. Out of thirteen SCs, Megh is the most populous caste having a population of 300,980, constituting 39.1 per cent of the total SC population. They are followed by Chamar with 187,277 population (24.3 per cent) and Doom having a number of 159,908 (20.8 per cent). These three SCs together constitute 84.2 per cent of the total SC population. Four SCs, namely Batwal, Barwala, Basith and Saryara with population ranging from 39,385 to 13,327 account for 12.9 per cent; remaining six castes along with generic castes constitute the residual 2.9 percent of the total SC population of the State. Among all the thirteen SCs, Watal is the smallest community having population below 200.

4. At district level, Megh, Chamar and Batwal are primarily concentrated in Jammu district. Dooms have the highest proportion of the total SC population in Kathua district.

#### Sex Ratio

5. The over all sex ratio of the SC population in Jammu & Kashmir is 910 females per 1000 males which is lower than the national average of 936 for the total SC population.

6. Among the larger groups, Megh have the highest sex ratio of 924, higher than the state average but lower than the national average. Remaining three major groups have sex ratio below the state and national averages both.

7. The sex ratio among SC children in the age group 0-6 years.(899) is lower than that of all SCs at the national level. Among the major SCs, Doom have registered the highest child sex ratio (935) which is close to the national average (939), Chamar and Batwal have the child sex ratio below 900 showing that they have preference for male child over the female.

**Statement - 1 : Sex Ratio**

Age group	All SCs (India )	All SCs (State)	Megh	Doom	Chamar	Batwal
All ages	936	910	924	905	898	891
0 – 6 yrs.	938	899	904	935	859	848

### Literacy & Educational Level

8. The literacy rate (7 years & above) among the SCs is 59.0 per cent. This figure is higher than the national average of 54.7 per cent in respect of all SCs. Male and female literacy rates in respect of all SCs of the State (69.6 per cent and 47.5 per cent) are also higher than those recorded at the national level (66.6 per cent male literacy & 41.9 per cent female literacy)

9. Among the numerically larger castes, Chamars have registered the highest overall as well as female literacy rates.

**Statement - 2 : Literacy Rate**

Literacy Rate	All SCs	Chamar	Batwal	Megh	Doom
Persons	59.0	65.5	64.0	59.6	49.7
Females	47.5	55.0	52.4	47.5	38.4

10. Among the SC literates, 24.8 per cent are either without any educational level or have attained education below primary level. The primary level literates constitute 29 per cent of all literates. Literates up to middle school level have a share of 27.7 per cent. Literates who have attained education upto matric / secondary / higher secondary level are 16.3 per cent. This implies that every 6<sup>th</sup> SC literate is a matriculate. Graduates & above are 2.1 per cent .

11. Among the larger castes, Chamars have shown the highest proportion of matriculates, followed by Megh. Doom have registered the lowest percentage of matriculates preceded by Batwal.

12. It may be discerned from the Statement -3 given below that there is a sharp decline in the percentage of literates from secondary level onwards. The percentage of matriculates (12.7 per cent) is less than half of the middle level literates and the percentage of higher secondary literates is almost one fourth of that of matriculates.

**Statement - 3 : 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 and above
All SCs	3.0	21.8	29.0	27.7	16.3	0.1	2.0
Megh	3.1	21.7	28.4	28.6	16.1	0.0	2.0
Chamar	2.4	17.9	26.3	28.8	21.3	0.1	3.2
Doom	3.7	28.1	32.8	23.3	11.0	0.0	1.0
Batwal	2.9	21.7	30.0	30.8	13.3	0.0	1.2

13. Out of the total 1.9 lakh SC children in the age group 5-14 years, 1.4 lakh (69.8 per cent) attend school. A large proportion of 30.2 per cent (58,930) children belonging to the same age group do not go to school. The Statement-4 given below shows that Batwal has the highest percentage of children attending school whereas Doom have the lowest (61 per cent).

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

Age Group	All SCs	Batwal	Chamar	Megh	Doom
5-14 yrs.	69.8	79.9	75.8	70.7	61

**Work Participation Rate (WPR)**

14. The Work Participation Rate (WPR) of the Scheduled Caste population is 36.7 per cent which is less than that of all SCs recorded at the national level (40.4 per cent). While male WPR (50.3 per cent) is nearly equal to that of the national average (50.7 per cent), female WPR (21.7 per cent) is lower than that recorded by all SCs at the national level (29.4 per cent). Among the total workers, 68.4 per cent are main workers and this proportion is also lower than the national average recorded by all SCs (73 per cent).

15. Among the major SCs, Megh have registered higher overall (37.2 per cent) as well as female WPR (23.5 per cent) than those of all SCs at the State level whereas Doom and Batwal have registered WPR less than those of the State average.

**Category of Workers**

16. Almost half of total SC workers are engaged in cultivation and this percentage is more than twice that of the national average (20 per cent) in respect of all SCs. 'Other Workers' also have a significant share of 39.8 per cent showing higher proportion than that of the country (30.5 per cent). 'Agricultural Labourers' constitute 8.7 per cent which is significantly lower if compared with the national average (45.6 per cent). Workers in 'Household Industry' account for 1.7 per cent only.

**Statement - 5 : Percentage distribution of Workers in four Economic Categories**

<b>Economic category</b>	<b>All Scheduled Castes</b>	<b>Megh</b>	<b>Chamar</b>	<b>Doom</b>	<b>Batwal</b>
Cultivators	49.7	56	46.6	42.2	26.4
Agricultural Labourers	8.7	7.8	6.6	10.9	22.5
HHI Workers	1.7	1.5	1.6	2.4	2
Other Workers	39.8	34.6	45.2	44.5	49.1

17. At the individual caste level, Megh and Chamar have maximum proportion of 'Cultivators' whereas Batwal and Doom have the highest percentage of 'Other Workers' in their total working population.

### **Marital Status**

18. The data on marital status show that 54.7 per cent persons among all SCs of Jammu & Kashmir are 'never married'. The 'married' persons constitute 41.7 per cent. 'Widowed' persons constitute 3.4 per cent persons and a negligible 0.2 per cent persons are 'divorced & separated'.

19. The marriages of girls and boys below the stipulated age for each are not common in Jammu & Kashmir. The proportion of married girls below 18 years (1.8 per cent) and boys below 21 years (1.7 per cent) are significantly lower than those at the national level (2.8 per cent and 3.1 per cent).

20. The mean number of children ever born per ever married SC woman (45 – 49 years) is 5 which is higher than that of all SCs at national level (4).

### **Religion**

21. Hinduism is the predominant religion of the Scheduled Castes (98.7 per cent) of Jammu & Kashmir. The SCs professing Sikhism are 1.3 percent (10,159). Buddhist SCs are 194 only.

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