

KARNATAKA

DATA HIGHLIGHTS: THE SCHEDULED CASTES Census of India 2001

The total population of Karnataka, as per 2001 Census is 52,850,562. Of this, 8,563,930 are Scheduled Castes (SCs). The SC population constitutes 16.2 per cent of the population of the state as a whole and 5.0 per cent of the SC population of the Country. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1976, has notified 101 SCs in Karnataka. This state has the highest number of SCs notified and living compared to other states/UTs of the Country. Two of the SCs namely, Adiya and Bant have been notified with area restriction. Adiya have been notified in Kodagu district only and Bant in Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwad and Uttar Kannada districts.

2. The growth rate of SC population in the decade 1991-2001 at 16.2 per cent, is higher in comparison to the overall 17.5 per cent of the population of the state as a whole. At the individual SC level, Adi Karnataka, the largest SC have reported negative growth rate of 12.5 per cent. The second largest SC, Madiga have registered very high (259.2 per cent) growth. Due to the ethnic affinity, it is likely that a large number of Adi Karnataka have reported as Madiga, resulting in fluctuation in the growth rate.

Population - Size and Distribution

3. Of the 101 SCs, Adi Karnataka, Madiga, Banjara, Bhovi, Holaya, Adi Dravida and Bhambi together constitute 85.0 per cent of the SC population of the state. Adi Karnataka are numerically the largest SC with a population of 2,199,170, constituting 25.7 per cent of the state's SC population. They are followed by Madiga 1,305,976 (15.2 per cent), Banjara 997,338 (11.6 per cent), Bhovi 955,752 (11.2 per cent), Holaya 641,472 (7.5 per cent), Adi Dravida 616,332 (7.2 per cent) and Bhambi 564,599 (6.6 per cent). Forty one (41) SCs have returned population below 1000 in 2001 Census.

4. District wise distribution of SC population shows that Kolar district has the highest 26.5 per cent SC population, followed by Chamarajanagar (24.6 per cent), where as the least percentage of SC population (6.1 per cent) is recorded in the newly formed Udupi district.

5. As per the 2001 Census, 74.9 per cent and 25.1 per cent of the SC population are residing in rural and urban areas respectively. Among major SCs, Banjara have the highest (88.9 per cent) rural population, followed by Holaya (82.0 per cent), Bhambi (80.7 per cent), Madiga (80.3 per cent), Adi Karnataka (76.2 per cent) and Bhovi (74.9 per cent). But on the other hand, Adi Dravida have 62.8 per cent urban population.

Sex ratio

6. The overall sex ratio of the SC population of Karnataka is 973 females per 1000 males, which is marginally higher than 965 reported for the state population at 2001 Census. The sex ratio of SC population has increased from 962 registered in 1991 Census. The Statement below shows sex ratio and child sex ratio (0-6) of SC population at the national, state and numerically the largest seven SCs in 2001 Census:

Age Groups	All SCs (India)	All SCs (Karnataka)	Adi Karnataka	Madiga	Banjara	Bhovi	Holaya	Adi Dravida	Bhambi
All Ages	936	973	976	979	938	973	969	988	992
0-6	938	960	968	969	944	969	948	961	970

7. The sex ratio as well as child sex ratio (0-6) of SC population of Karnataka is considerably higher than the corresponding national figures for SC population. At the individual caste level, Banjara and Holaya have lower sex ratio in overall and 0-6 age group populations, in comparison to the state SC population as well as other major SCs.

Literacy and educational level

8. Literacy and level of education are two basic indicators of the level of development achieved by a group/society. The literacy results in more awareness besides contributing to the overall improvement of health, hygiene and other social conditions. According to 2001 Census, percentage of literate persons (those who can read & write with understanding), aged 7 years and above, among SC population of Karnataka, is 52.9 per cent, which is lower than 66.6 per cent reported for the state population. The literacy data show that the SC population of the state has made significant improvement in literacy during the decade 1991-2001. The literacy rate, which was 38.1 per cent in 1991, has increased by 14.8 percentage points in 2001.

9. Among the major SCs, Adi Dravida have reported the highest 70.1 per cent literacy rate, followed by Adi Karnataka (56.7 per cent), Holaya (51.8 per cent), Bhovi (49.2 per cent), Bhambi (46.8 per cent), Madiga (45.7 per cent) and Banjara (43.0 per cent). The female literacy rate of 41.7 per cent among SC population is lower as compared to 56.9 per cent among state's female population. As in literacy rate, the highest and lowest female literacy rate of 46.9 per cent and 28.8 per cent have also been recorded among Adi Dravida and Banjara as well.

Educational levels attained by major SCs							
Name of SC	Literate without educational level	Below primary	Primary	Middle	Matric/Secondary /Higher Secondary Intermediate etc.	Technical & Non-technical diploma	Graduate & above
All SCs	2.4	31.3	28.6	13.9	18.8	0.9	4.1
Adi Karnataka	2.1	26.3	29.4	16.9	20.3	0.8	4.3
Madiga	3.0	35.3	29.2	12.9	15.9	0.5	3.1
Banjara	3.2	41.2	25.1	10.6	14.9	1.1	4.0
Bhovi	2.7	34.9	30.4	12.6	15.6	0.8	2.9
Holaya	2.6	31.6	27.8	11.1	20.3	0.8	5.9
Adi Dravida	1.5	22.2	28.2	17.3	24.8	1.7	4.3
Bhambi	2.6	41.0	26.6	10.2	15.3	0.8	3.5

10. Out of total literates, 33.7 per cent are literates without any educational level or have attained below Primary level. The literates, who have attained education up to Primary level and Middle level, constitute 28.6 per cent and 13.9 per cent respectively. 18.8 per cent are having educational level up to Matric/Higher Secondary etc. levels, implying that every 5th SC literate is a Matriculate. Literates with educational level of Graduation & above are 4.1 per cent. Individually, Holaya (5.9 per cent) and Adi Karnataka (4.3 per cent) have highest percentage of Graduation & above educational level.

11. From the above it also emerges that the drop out is more prominent in Middle level.

12. Population in the age group 5-14 years are the potential students. 64.7 per cent of the SC population in this age group is attending various educational institutions.

Economic activity

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

13. The WPR of the state SC population is 46.3 per cent in 2001 Census, which is higher than 44.7 per cent reported in 1991 Census. In WPR, Karnataka SCs have sixth position after Mizoram (68.8 per cent), Manipur (51.4 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (50.5 per cent), Himachal Pradesh (48.9 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (48.1 per cent). The WPR for male has been 54 per cent and for females 38.4 per cent in 2001 Census.

14. At individual caste level, the WPR varies from the highest 48.5 per cent among Madiga to the lowest 41.6 per cent among Adi Dravida.

Category of Workers

15. There has been a decline in the main workers from 92.6 per cent in 1991 Census to 78.4 per cent in 2001 Census. This has resulted in corresponding increase in the marginal workers from 7.4 per cent in 1991 to 21.6 per cent in 2001. Out of total workers,

'agricultural labourers' constitute 43.8 per cent, which is lower than 1.8 percentage points when compared to 45.6 per cent registered at national level SC population. 'Other workers' accounts for 33.1 per cent and only 20.5 per cent have been returned as 'cultivators'. Remaining 2.5 per cent have been workers in 'household industry'.

16. At the individual caste level, Bhambi have recorded the highest 63.1 per cent agricultural labourers, followed by Madiga (57.9 per cent) where as the lowest 20.4 per cent has been registered in case of Adi Dravida.

Marital status

17. The 2001 Census data on marital status shows that 51.1 per cent persons among the SCs of Karnataka are 'never married'. The 'currently married' constitute 43.4 per cent while 5.0 per cent are 'Widowed'. Only 0.4 per cent are 'divorced and separated'.

18. Majority of girls and boys among SCs in Karnataka are getting married after attaining the legal age of marriage. Marriages of SC girls below 18 years (2.1 per cent) are lower than that recorded among SC population at national level (2.8 per cent). Similarly, the incidence of marriage of boys below 21 years at 1.7 per cent is also lower than 3.1 per cent aggregated at national level for SC population.

19. The mean number of children ever born per ever married SC women of all ages as well as 45-49 years age group are 3.0 and 4.0, which are at par with the corresponding figures of 3.2 and 4.2 for SC population at national level.

Religion

20. Majority (96.1 per cent) of the SC population of the state are Hindus. There are 331,638 (3.9 per cent) Buddhists and 718 SC Sikh populations reported in the state. Among major SCs, Holaya have reported 34.1 per cent Buddhist population.
