

**SIKKIM**  
**DATA HIGHLIGHTS : THE SCHEDULED TRIBES**  
**CENSUS OF INDIA 2001**

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**Population: Size & Distribution**

2. The Bhutia shares 63.1 per cent of the total ST population of the state. The highest concentration of Bhutia has been reported from East The population of Sikkim in 2001 Census has been 540,851. Of these 111,405 are Scheduled Tribes (STs), which constitute 20.6 per cent of the total state's population. The state has registered 22.6 per cent decadal growth of ST population in 1991-2001. The Bhutia and Lepcha are the two notified STs in the state.

(48.3%) district, while the Lepcha are confined in North (33.4%). The Bhutia has recorded 10.9 per cent urban population and Lepcha 4.5 per cent. Thus, the tribal population is typically concentrated in the rural areas.

Statement-1: Population of STs, 2001 Census		
Name of the Scheduled Tribe	Total population	Proportion to the total ST population
All Scheduled Tribes	111,405	100%
Bhutia	70,308	63.1
Lepcha	40,568	36.4

**Sex Ratio**

3. As per 2001 Census, the sex ratio of the ST population is 957, which is quite low in comparison with the aggregated national average for STs (978). The child sex ratio (0-6 age group) of 964 is also lower than the national average of 973 for all STs. The sex ratio of total population among Bhutia (966) is higher than Lepcha (945). But, child sex ratio among Bhutia is slightly lower (954) than that of Lepcha (979).

**Literacy & Educational Level**

4. 67.1 per cent of the ST population is literate with male literacy rate of 73.8 per cent and female of 60.2 per cent. The Bhutia with 67.9 per cent literacy rate are slightly ahead of Lepcha (65.7%).

Statement -2: Percentage of Literacy among STs			
Name of the Scheduled Tribe	% of Literate*		
	Total	Male	Female
All Scheduled Tribes	67.1	73.8	60.2
Bhutia	67.9	74.6	61.0
Lepcha	65.7	72.3	58.6

5. Three fourth of the ST population (76%) in the age group 5-14 years is attending any of the educational institutions. The Bhutia are marginally ahead in this regard (78.2%) than Lepcha (72.8 %).

6. Of the total literates, 4.4 per cent of the ST population has been recorded having educational level graduate and above. The Bhutia is the better off group with 5.5 per cent than Lepcha (2.4%).

## Work Participation Rate (WPR)

7. In 2001 Census, 48.6 per cent of the ST population has been recorded as workers. Of which 77.6 per cent are main workers and 22.4 per cent marginal workers. The female WPR of 42.3 per cent is slightly lower than that of male (54.6%). While 85.2 per cent have been registered as main workers among males, this proportion is 67.5 per cent in case of female main workers.

Statement –3 : Distribution of Total, Main & Marginal Workers among the ST by Sex			
T/M/F	Percentage of Workers		
	Total Workers	Main Workers	Marginal Workers
Total	54132 (48.6)	42030 (77.6)	12102 (22.4)
Male	31077 (54.6)	26463 (85.2)	4614 (14.8)
Female	23055 (42.3)	15567 (67.5)	7488 (32.5)

8. Slightly higher WPR (49.8%) has been recorded among Lepcha as compare to Bhutia (47.9%). Three fourth of total workers are main workers among both the STs.

## Category of Workers

9. Of the total ST main workers, 54.2 per cent are cultivators, 3.8 per cent agricultural labourers, and another 3.5 per cent are engaged in farming related activities (e.g. plantation, livestock, forestry, etc.). The Lepcha are predominantly cultivators. Of the total main workers, 69 per cent population among Lepcha is cultivator, against 45.8 per cent among Bhutia.

## Marital Status

10. The distribution of ST population by marital status shows that 58.5 per cent is 'never married', 37.4 per cent 'currently married', 3.4 per cent 'widowed', and 0.8 per cent 'divorced/separated'.

Statement –4 : Percentage of ST Population by Marital Status				
Name of the Scheduled Tribe	Never married	Currently married	Widowed	Divorced/ Separated
All Scheduled Tribes	58.5	37.4	3.4	0.8
Bhutia	57.3	38.3	3.5	0.8
Lepcha	60.5	35.6	3.3	0.6

11. Merely 1.7 per cent of the female population below 18 years - the minimum legal age for marriage – has been reported as ever married. It is 1.8 per cent among Bhutia and 1.6 per cent among Lepcha. Ever married male below 21 years, which is their minimum legal age for marriage, constitutes only 1.6 per cent. Thus the incidences of child marriage are not common among the tribes of Sikkim.

## Religion

12. Of the total of 70,308 ST population, 88.6 per cent are Buddhists, 6.6 per cent Hindus, and 4.4 per cent Christians.

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