

## Chhattisgarh

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

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The State of Chhattisgarh was constituted on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2000, with sixteen districts carved out from the erstwhile composite State of Madhya Pradesh. It became the 26<sup>th</sup> State of Indian Union. The Scheduled Caste (SC) population of Chhattisgarh is 2,418,722 as per 2001 census constituting 11.6 per cent of the total population (20,833,803). It holds 16<sup>th</sup> position among all the States and UTs as far as the SC number is concerned. The decadal growth of SC population has been 12.6 per cent which is 5.7 per cent lower than the growth of State population.

2. The SC population in the State is overwhelmingly rural as 78.5 per cent of them reside in the rural areas.

3. District-wise distribution of SC population shows that they have their highest concentration in Janjgir-Champa district (22.5 per cent), followed by Bilaspur (18.5 per cent), Raipur (16.2 per cent) districts etc. Bastar district has the lowest share of SC population (3 per cent), preceded by Dantawada (3.4 per cent) and Kanker (4.2 per cent).

#### Population : Size & Distribution

4. Out of forty three (43) SCs, Chamar has the largest number, with a population of 1,659,303. They constitute 68.6 per cent of the total SC population of the State. Ganda is the second largest caste having a population of 303,792, followed by Mahar, Ghasi with population of 212,099 and 113,897 respectively. These four castes together constitute 94.6 per cent of the total SC population. Five (5) SCs, namely, Dom, Chikwa, Bhangi, Basor and Dewar having a population in the range of 19,540 down to 11,109 have a share of 3.3 per cent; remaining thirty four (34) SCs along with the generic castes constitute the balance 2.1 per cent of total SC population. As many as twenty three (23) SCs each has below 500 population. Of them, seventeen castes are very small each having population less than 100.

5. Chamars have registered large number in Raipur, Bilaspur, Janjgir-Champa and Durg districts. Ganda have their maximum population in Raigarh and Raipur districts. Mahars are primarily concentrated in Durg and Rajnandgaon whereas Ghasi have their major concentration in Surguja and Raigarh districts.

#### Sex Ratio

6. The over all sex ratio of the SC population in Chhattisgarh is 994 females per 1000 males which is higher than the national average of 936 for the total SC population.

At the individual level, three major groups, Ganda, Ghasi and Mahar have recorded the over all sex ratio above 1000 showing the preponderance of females over males while Chamar having sex ratio lower than that of the State average (994).

7. The sex ratio among SCs, in the age group 0-6 years (968) is higher than that of the SCs at the national level. All the major groups have registered the child sex ratio higher than that of the national average.

**Statement - 1: Sex Ratio**

Age groups	All SCs (India )	All SCs (State)	Ganda	Ghasi	Mahar	Chamar
All ages	936	994	1023	1021	1010	985
0 - 6yrs.	938	968	973	967	953	968

**Literacy & Educational Level**

8. The overall literacy rate of the SCs is 64 per cent at 2001 census, showing an improvement from 38.7 per cent recorded at 1991 census. This is higher than the national average of 54.7 per cent aggregated for all SCs. Male and female literacy rates (78.7 per cent and 49.2 per cent) are higher than those of all SCs at the national level. (66.6 per cent & 41.9 per cent).

9. Among the larger castes, Mahar have registered the highest literacy rate and Ghasi have the lowest literacy rate. Mahar also have more than 60 per cent female literates followed by Ganda and Chamar and Ghasi who have recorded female literacy less than 50 per cent. Ghasi have the lowest percentage of female literates.

**Statement - 2 : Literacy Rate**

Literacy rate	All SCs	Mahar	Chamar	Ganda	Ghasi
Persons	64.0	76.9	63.5	62.5	54.2
Females	49.2	66.4	47.8	48.5	40.4

10. Among the SC literates, 38 per cent have attained education below primary level, while literates without any educational level constitute 5 per cent. The proportions of literates up to primary and middle levels are 27.4 per cent and 13.8 per cent respectively. The literates educated up to matric /secondary/ higher secondary level constitute 12.2 per cent. Proportion of the graduates & above is only 3.2 per cent. Non-technical & technical diploma holders constitute 0.3 per cent only.

**Statement - 3 : Educational levels among the 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	5	38	27.4	13.8	12.2	0.3	3.2
Chamar	4.5	39.1	27.4	13.8	11.9	0.2	3.1
Ganda	7.8	39	29.2	13.1	9.2	0.1	1.6
Mahar	3.9	28.8	25	15.9	19.2	0.7	6.5
Ghasi	7.9	43.2	28.8	11.5	7.3	0.1	1.3

11. Among numerically larger groups, Mahar have the highest proportion of matriculates, followed by Chamar, Ganda and Ghasi. Mahar also have the highest percentage of graduates.

12. The data on educational levels indicate that the drop out rate is high after primary level as the proportion of middle level literates is half of the primary level literates. It declines sharply from higher secondary level onwards.

13. Out of the total 6.5 lakh SC children in the age group 5 -14 years, only 4.5 lakh children attend school, constituting 70 per cent. As many as 1.9 lakh tribal children in the corresponding age group are not sent to school. Among the major SCs, Mahar and Chamar have more than

70 per cent children attending school; this proportion is above 60 per cent among Ganda and Ghasi.

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

Age Group	All SCs	Mahar	Chamar	Ganda	Ghasi
5-14 yrs.	70	78.1	70.4	68.6	62

### Work Participation Rate (WPR)

14. The Work Participation Rate (WPR) of the SC population is 42.9 per cent at 2001 census, which is lower than that recorded (46.9 per cent) at 1991 census. This figure (42.9 per cent) is 2.5 per cent higher than that of the national average (40.4 per cent). While male WPR (47.7 per cent) is lower than that of the national average (50.7 per cent), female WPR (37.9 per cent) is 8.5 per cent higher than that of all SCs at the national level (29.4 per cent). Among the total workers, 71.8 per cent are main workers which are comparable with the national average recorded for all SCs (73 per cent).

15. At the level of individual caste, Ganda and Ghasi have shown WPR higher than that of the state average whereas Mahar and Chamar have recorded WPR marginally lower than that of total SCs at the state level.

### Category of Workers

16. 'Agricultural Labourers' constitute the highest proportion of 41.6 per cent among all SC workers. This figure is lower than that of the national average, 45.6 per cent. 'Cultivators' account for 32.6 per cent which is significantly higher than that of all SCs at the national level (20 per cent). This implies that every third SC worker is a 'Cultivator'. Workers engaged in Household Industries (HHI) constitute 2.7 per cent which is comparable with the corresponding figure registered by all SCs at the national level (3.9 per cent). Persons working as 'Other Workers' have a share of 23.2 per cent only which is lower than the national average recorded for all SCs (30.5 per cent).

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

Economic category	All SCs	Chamar	Ganda	Mahar	Ghasi
<b>Cultivators</b>	32.6	38.5	20.1	25.6	16.1
<b>Agricultural Labourers</b>	41.6	42.3	48.5	26.9	56.4
<b>HHI Workers</b>	2.7	1.3	1	6.8	1.9
<b>Other Workers</b>	23.2	17.9	30.4	40.7	25.6

17. Among the major castes, 'Agricultural Labourers' constitute more than half of the total workers among Ghasi followed by Ganda, Chamar and Mahar. Chamar have the highest proportion of 'Cultivators' (38.5 per cent). Mahar have recorded the highest percentage of 'Other Workers' as well as 'HHI' workers.

### **Marital Status**

18. As shown from the data, slightly more than half of the SC population is 'never married' (50.8 per cent) whereas 'married' persons constitute 43.5 per cent. 'Widowed' persons are 4.8 per cent while only one percent persons are 'divorced and separated'.

19. The marriages of girls and boys below the stipulated age for each are rarely practised in Chhattisgarh. Married girls below 18 years and married boys below 21 years constitute only 1.7 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively. These proportions are lower if compared to those at national level for all SCs (2.8 per cent and 3.1per cent).

20. The mean number of children ever born per ever married SC woman (age-group 45 – 49 yrs.) is 4 which is same as that of all SCs at the national level.

### **Religion**

21 Hinduism is the predominant religion of the SCs of the State (97.6 per cent). The SCs following Buddhism and Sikhism constitute 2.4 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively. Among the major groups, cent per cent Ghasi, Chamar and Ganda are Hindus whereas a quarter (25.4 per cent) population of Mahar are Buddhists.

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