GUJARAT

DATA HIGHLIGHTS : THE SCHEDULED CASTES
Census of India 2001

The total population of Gujarat in 2001 Census has been 50,671,017. Of this 3,592,715 persons are Scheduled Castes (SCs) constituting 7.1 per cent of the total population of the state. The state has registered 17.4 per cent decadal growth of SC population in 1991-2001. There are thirty (30) notified Scheduled Castes, and all have been enumerated at 2001 Census.

Population: Size & Distribution

2.   The Mahyavansi has the highest population (43.2%) out of the total SC population of the state. Bhambi (29%), Bhangi (11.3%), Meghval (4.9%), Senva (3%), Garoda (1.9%), and Nadia (1.3%) along with Mahyavansi together constitute 94.6 per cent of the total SCs. The rest of the SCs have small population (Statement-1).

Statement-1: Population of Major SCs, 2001 Census

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheduled Caste	Total SC population	Proportion to the total SC population
1	All Scheduled Castes*	3,592,715	100%
2	Mahyavansi	1,551,766	43.2
3	Bhambi	1,041,886	29.0
4	Bhangi	407,083	11.3
5	Meghval	174,875	4.9
6	Senva	109,539	3.0
7	Garoda	67,450	1.9
8	Nadia	46,793	1.3

* Includes Generic population and other small SCs

3.   Among the districts, Kachchh (11.7%), Surendranagar (11%), Banas Kantha (10.8%), and Ahmadabad (10.7%) have higher percentage of SC population to their respective total population. As regards percentage distribution of the total SC population, Ahmadabad has returned the highest (17.3%), followed by Banas Kantha (7.6%), Rajkot (6.8%), Junagadh (6.6%), Vadodara (5.7%), and Kachchh (5.2%) districts. Other districts account for one per cent or less proportion (Statement-2).

Statement-2: District wise SC population

State/ District	Percentage of SCs to total population of the State/ District	District wise percentage of total SC population
GUJARAT	**7.1**	100
Kachchh	11.7	5.2
Banas Kantha	10.8	7.6

Patan	9.9	3.3
Mahesana	8.1	4.1
Sabar Kantha	8.3	4.8
Gandhinagar	8.7	3.2
Ahmadabad	10.7	17.3
Surendranagar	11.0	4.6
Rajkot	7.7	6.8
Jamnagar	8.1	4.3
Porbandar	9.0	1.3
Junagadh	9.6	6.6
Amreli	8.3	3.2
Bhavnagar	5.8	4.0
Anand	5.3	2.7
Kheda	5.2	3.0
Panch Mahals	4.6	2.6
Dohad	2.0	0.9
Vadodara	5.6	5.7
Narmada	2.0	0.3
Bharuch	4.5	1.7
Surat	3.4	4.7
The Dangs	0.5	0.0
Navsari	3.2	1.1
Valsad	2.6	1.0

4. Gujarat is one of the few states having high urban concentration of SC population. In 2001 Census, 39.3 per cent of the total SC population has been registered in urban areas. Individual Scheduled Caste wise, highest 53.6 per cent urban population has been recorded among Nadia closely followed by Bhangi with 53.1 per cent. On the contrary, Senva (82.8%) are predominantly found in rural areas.

Sex Ratio

5. The sex ratio of total SC population in the state is 925, which is below national average (936) for all SCs. Quite lower sex ratio has been recorded among Senva (916) and Mahyavansi (919).

6. The child sex ratio (0-6 age group) for SCs in the state is, however, alarmingly low (885). Of the seven major SCs, Garoda has recorded the lowest child sex ratio (864). However, Nadia (946), Meghval (925), and Bhangi (900) have recorded comparatively higher child sex ratio than the state average.

Literacy & Educational Level

7. According to 2001 Census, in Gujarat 70.5 per cent of the SC population is literate. This is higher than the aggregated national figure for SCs (54.7%). The gender gap in literacy among SCs is conspicuous with male and female literacy of 82.6 and 57.6 per cent respectively (Statement-3).

Source: Office of the Registrar General, India

Statement-3: Literacy among Major SCs

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheduled Caste	Literacy Rate		
		Total	Male	Female
1	All Scheduled Castes	70.5	82.6	57.6
2	Mahyavansi	73.9	85.3	61.6
3	Bhambi	69.7	82.1	56.6
4	Bhangi	65.7	77.7	53.0
5	Meghval	58.1	73.5	41.8
6	Senva	65.3	77.9	51.7
7	Garoda	82.4	94.2	69.8
8	Nadia etc.	67.3	78.9	55.2

8.   Of the seven major SCs, Garoda with 82.4 per cent literacy rate, are not only on top but also well above the state average. Mahyavansi comes next with 73.9 per cent literacy. On the other hand Meghval is at the bottom of the list having only 58.1 per cent of their population as literate.

9.   The gender gap in literacy is very conspicuous among Meghval. The male and female literacy rate at 73.5 per cent and 41.8 per cent respectively show that Meghval females are lagging behind their male counterparts by 31.7 percentage points.

10.   According to the 2001 Census, three fourth of SCs (74.8%) in the age group 5-14 years have been recorded as to be attending school or any other educational institutions. As regard the individual SCs, Garoda has recorded the highest school attending population (5-14 years) of 80.9 per cent, closely followed by Mahyavansi (78.3%), Bhambi (76.2%), and Senva (73.3%). On the other hand this proportion is lower among Meghval (66.4%), Bhangi (66.5%), and Nadia (69.5%).

11.   In terms of the achievement in level of education, only 4.2 per cent of the SC literates in Gujarat have recorded educational level 'graduation' and above. Individual SC wise, Garoda with 5.6 per cent and Mahyavansi with 5.5 per cent are on top in this respect. On the other hand, Bhangi are at the bottom with just one per cent of their total literates having graduation and above level of education.

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

12.   The percentage of SC workers to total population (WPR) is 39.6 per cent, which is slightly lower than the aggregated figure for all SCs at national level (40.4%). Of the total workers 79.7 per cent have been recorded as main workers and 20.3 per cent as marginal workers. The female WPR is only 27 per cent, which is lower than their male counterparts (51.3%). The overwhelming workers among males are main workers (91.6%), Statement-4.

Source: Office of the Registrar General, India

Statement-4: Distribution of Total, Main & Marginal Workers among SCs

T/M/F	Total Workers (% to Total Population)	Main Workers (% to Total Workers)	Marginal Workers (% to Total Workers)
Total	1,423,917 (39.6%)	1,134,872 (79.7%)	289,045 (20.3%)
Male	958,008 (51.3%)	877,336 (91.6%)	80,672 (8.4%)
Female	465,909 (27.0%)	257,536 (55.3%)	208,373 (44.7%)

13.   Senva has recorded the highest WPR at 45.6 per cent, while Garoda has recorded the lowest (34.5%). Female WPR is also quite low at just 19.9 per cent among Senva.

Category of Workers

14.   Of the total main workers among SCs, 32.1 per cent have been recorded as agricultural laborers and only 10.8 per cent as cultivators.

15.   Of the seven major SCs, Bhambi have recorded the highest 15.1 per cent cultivators, while Bhangi have recorded the lowest 3.4 per cent cultivators. Nadia (4.6%), Garoda (5%), and Senva (9.9%) have also recorded low involvement in cultivation works, as main workers. It is significant that Senva have recorded the highest 54.7 per cent agricultural labourers (Statement-5).

Statement-5: Main Workers among Major SCs

SL. No.	Name of the SC	Percentage to total Main Workers	
		Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers
1	All Scheduled Castes	10.8	32.1
2	Bhambi	15.1	34.7
3	Meghval	11.7	28.8
4	Mahyavansi	10.5	32.3
5	Senva	9.9	54.7
6	Garoda	5	23.7
7	Nadia	4.6	36.8
8	Bhangi	3.4	23.8

Marital Status

16.   As regards marital status, 49.8 per cent of the SC population is never married, 45.3 per cent currently married, 4.4 per cent widowed, and only 0.5 per cent divorced/ separated.

Source: Office of the Registrar General, India

17.   The practice of child marriage is not prevalent among the SCs in Gujarat. Merely 1.3 per cent of the SC female below 18 years – the minimum legal age for marriage – has been reported ever married. The ever married SC males below the stipulated age for marriage (21+ years) constitute only 1.9 per cent. The Senva have recorded the highest percentage of ever married female (3.1%) as well as of male (4.1%) below the stipulated age.

Religion

18.   In 2001 Census, of the total of 3,592,715 Scheduled Caste population 3,585,380 are Hindus constituting 99.8 per cent of the total SC population. Besides, 7,144 SCs are Budhists and 191 Sikhs accounting for negligible percentage.

Source: Office of the Registrar General, India