

Demographical Study of the Primitive Tribes of Chhattisgarh

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Received
20 Dec. 2014

Reviewed
21 Dec. 2014

Accepted
22 Dec. 2014

The aim of the paper is to present the data regarding the status of the primitive tribes' population in the state of Chhattisgarh, as in comparison to the other tribal states of India. The paper also provides information not only about district wise population and sex ratio of primitive tribes in Chhattisgarh, but also about the sex ratio of the total population of the state. Chhattisgarh stands at the seventh place after Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Jharkhand from the point of view of population. If we go by the percentage of tribal population in each state, Chhattisgarh stands at the eighth place after Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Dadar and Nagar Haweli and Manipur. Thus it can be said that the percentage of scheduled tribes in Chhattisgarh is more than the other adjacent states like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand etc.

Introduction -

“India is the second biggest sub-continent after Africa where maximum tribes habitate. The format of “National Policy on Tribal Groups 2006”, which was formulated for the first time in India, was released by ministry of Tribal work on 21st July 2006. The format proclaims that there are 698 tribes (in-

cluding 75 primitive tribes) in India and their population as per the data of 2001 is about 0.44 crores I having 4.27 crores males and 4.17 crores females. This is 8.2% of the total population of the country. (Shrivastava,2011).

Many provisions were made in the Indian Constitution for their over all development and they were motivated to come forward to-

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wards development. In the fifth five year plan the government made a critical study of the development of these scheduled tribes and it was found that the tribal groups have not been benefited much by these policies. So, many commissions and committees have made recommendations from time to time for their development after the study of these tribal groups. Among them "The scheduled Area and Scheduled Tribes Commission" is a prominent one, which is also known as "Dhewar Commission". Later on, the planning commission of Indian Government organized the study team on Tribal Development Programme (1969), which is also known as Shilu AO Committee. It marked and identified 75 tribal groups as primitive tribes on the following basis. 1. On the basis of low literacy 2. Pre-Agriculture Economy 3. Isolated Life-Style 4. Stagnant and decreasing population. The committee termed all these tribes as Primitive Tribes and recommended for separate planning for their development. Both of these committees and commissions have recommended for hundred percent grant from the center to implement these planning for their all round development.

The five tribes, who have been identified in the fifth five year plan as primitive ones in the undivided Madhya Pradesh, are Baiga, Pahari Korwa, Abujhmaria, Bhatia and Sahariya. In the sixth and the seventh five year plan, Kamar and Birhor tribes were also included in it. The general unified tribal development plannings were said to be insufficient

and separate agencies were made for their upliftment.

"On November 1st 2000, the State of Chhattisgarh came into existence. There are 18 districts in the state; Raipur, Mahasamund, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Kawardha, Bilaspur, Janjgeer Chanpa, Raigarh, Jashpur, Sarguja, Koriya, Narainpur and Beejapur. As per 2001 census, the total population of chhattisgarh was 2,08,33,803 and the population of scheduled tribes is 66,16,596 which is 31.76 percent of the total population. Out of the total scheduled tribe population of the country, 8.44% live in Chhattisgarh. (Shrivastava,2006)

Chhattisgarh Stands at the seventh place after Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Gujrat, Rajasthan and Jharkhand from the population point of view. If we go by the percentage of tribal population in each state, Chhattisgarh stands at the eighth place after Mizoram, Lakhshadweep, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haweli, and Manipur. In other words, the percentage of scheduled tribes in Chhattisgarh is more than the other adjacent states like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand etc. Five tribes of Chhattisgarh; viz. Kamar, Abhujhmaria, Pahari Korwa, Birhor and Baiga have been identified as the primitive tribes by the Government of India. The number of tribal families in various districts is given in the following table -

District Wise Number of Primitive Tribal Families in the State

Table No. 1

Number of Families							Total
S.N	District	Kamar	Baiga	Hill Korwa	Abhujhmaria	Birhor	
1.	Raipur	3369					3369
2.	Dhamtari	1378					1378
3.	Mahasamund	671					671
4.	Kanker	67					67
5.	Bastar				3895		3895
6.	Narainpur						
7.	Bijapur						
8.	Dantewada						
9.	Kawardha		7340				7340
10.	Bilaspur		3009				3095
11.	Korba			514		86	867
12.	Jashpur			2987		353	3084
13.	Raigarh					97	153
14.	Sarguja			4864		153	4864
15.	Koria		4445				4445
16.	Rajnandgaon		975				975
17.	Durg						00
18.	Janjgeer Champa						00
	Grand Total	5485	15769	8365	3895	689	34203

Source- (Vaisnav,2008)

The above table shows that in Chhattisgarh, 34203 families of primitive tribes live in 16 districts of the state. In two districts Durg and Janjgeer-Champa, their population is nil. Among these tribes, the maximum families belong to Baiga Tribes. The Baigas mainly live in Kawardha, Bilaspur, Koria and Rajnandgaon district. The 8365 Hill Korwa families mainly reside in Sarguja, Jashpur and Korba districts.

Kamar tribe lives in Raipur, Dhamtari, Mahasamund and a very few quantity in Kanker. There are total 5485 Kamar families in Chhattisgarh. The Abujhmariya tribe is found in the Bastar, Narainpur, Beejapur and Dantewada districts and total 3895 families of this tribe live in these districts. The least families are of the Birhor tribe i.e. 689, live mainly, in Raigarh and Jashpur districts. The sex-ratio of primitive tribe population is given here-

The Status of Sex-Ratio of Primitive Tribes

Table No. 2

S.N.		Total Population					Total	Ratio
		Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent	
1.	Kamar	11474	49.82	11559	58.18	23033	100	1007
2.	Baiga	34250	50.94	32991	49.06	67241	100	963
3.	Pahari Korwa	17394	50.98	16728	49.02	34122	100	962
4.	Birhor	1277	48.63	1349	51.37	2626	100	1056
5.	Abujhmaria	9602	49.49	1799	50.51	19401	100	1021

Source- (.Govt. of Chattisgadha 2004)

The above table clarifies that in Chhattisgarh, the maximum population is of the Baiga (67241) and Hill Korwa (34122). But among them the males outnumber the females and the sex-ratio is 963:1000 and 962:1000 respectively. Another sad aspect is that when we see the population of the remaining three tribes in the de-

creasing order, they are Kamar (23033), Abujhmaria (19401), and Birhor (2626). Among them the sex-ratio is 1007:1000, 1021:1000 and 1056:1000 respectively. It is noteworthy that the minimum population is that of the Birhor primitive tribe, where the sex-ratio is 1056:1000, which is a good example not only for the state but for the country also.-

Sex Ratio of Total Population of the State, ST & Primitive Tribes

Table No. 3

S.N.		Number of Families						Sex Ratio
		Name of the Tribe	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Total Percent
1.	Total Population of the Sate		10474218	50.28	10359585	49.72	20833803	100
2.	Total ST Population		3287334	49.68	3329262	50.32	6616596	100
3.	Total Primitive Tribe Population		73997	50.54	72426	49.46	146423	100

Source : (Vaisnav, 2007)

The above table shows that out of the total population of the state, which is 20833803, the sex-ratio is 989:1000, whereas the tribal population, which is 6616596, this ratio is 1013:1000 and the primitive tribal population which is 146423, this ratio comes to 979:1000. It means among the tribal population, the number of women are more than men, when we compare them with the primitive tribe. It can be said that the number of women is less than the males, (979:1000) in the primitive tribes.

Conclusion

The total number of primitive tribe is 146423 in Chhattisgarh, which is 2.21 percent of the total tribal population. When we analyze the population of the primitive tribes, it becomes clear that the maximum population is of the Baiga tribes (45.92 Percent). There after come Hill Korwas (23.30%), Kamar (15.73%), Abuhhmria (13.25%) and Birhor (1.79%). The population of women are more among Kamar, Birhor and Abhujhmria tribe, whereas the men are more in the Baiga and Hill Korwa Tribe.

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