

Spatial Distribution of Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe Population: A Case study of Udhampur District (Jammu and Kashmir)

Poonam Bharti*

Abstract: Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes form a fundamental component in population. These groups are recognized as socio-economically backward and deprived groups in India. In the Indian Constitution special preferences should be given to these dejected groups. Still these communities remained backward not only in economic terms but also in terms of literacy, health etc. The spatial patterns of distribution and growth of the Scheduled Castes would be essential to understand the causes of lack and discrimination. The SCs are mostly intensely found in the alluvial plains and live by working on the land, which belongs to others. In this paper an attempt is made to investigate the spatial distribution and growth of Scheduled Caste and schedule tribe population of Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. The Scheduled Castes are mainly found in the Jammu region and Udhampur district which belong to this region. Out of thirteen SCs, Megh is the most populous caste having a population of 300,980, constituting 39.1 per cent of the total SC population. They are followed by Chamar with 187,277 population (24.3 per cent) and Doom having a number of 159,908 (20.8 per cent). These three SCs together constitute 84.2 per cent of the total SC population. Four SCs, namely Batwal, Barwala, Basith and Saryara with population ranging from 39,385 to 13,327 account for 12.9 per cent; remaining six castes along with generic castes constitute the residual 2.9 percent of the total SC population of the State. Among all the thirteen SCs, Watal is the smallest community having population below 200.

Introduction:

Indian society is still largely structured on the basis of caste and religion, which involve the social, economic and political structure of the society and thereby influence the course of population change (Abha, 1992). Social aspect in Indian cities, which is very peculiar in the society, is the distribution of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe. The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes encompass the 'core' among the weaker section in India (Ranade, 1990). The spatial distribution of population is one of the most significant topics of human geography (Husain, 2011). It is notably important, because man has brought unbelievable change over the earth surface. The term distribution refers to the way the people are spaced over the earth's surface; the stress is that, on the pattern of actual place locations of a population (Chandana and Sidhu, 1980). The President of India by Gazette notification, under article 341(1) of the Indian Constitution, has declared some castes, races or tribes as scheduled castes as there is no

*PoonamBharti (Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab), email.poonam4601@gmail.com

standard definition of scheduled castes. The term "*Scheduled Castes*" appeared for the first time in the Government of India Act 1935. Prior to this date they were generally known as "*Depressed Castes*", which were systematically categorized by Hutton, the Census Commissioner of India in 1931. The spatial patterns of distribution and growth of the Scheduled Castes would be essential to understand causes of poverty and inequity. The SCs are mostly concentrated in the alluvial plains and live by working on the land, which belongs to others. Gosal and Mukeijee (1972) in their all India study have mentioned that people belonging to Scheduled Caste community are mostly concentrated in those areas where feudal system has persisted over a long period of time and where cash crop farming has gained importance. In such a system Scheduled Caste persons cultivate the land either as tenants or agricultural labors apart from doing their traditional vocations. The most important factor of spatial distribution and concentration of Scheduled Castes in different areas are the service they provide to upper castes. Their distribution pattern is also determined by socio-economic attributes of agriculture, religious alteration and the presence of other population groups such as Scheduled Tribes.

Population and the natural resources are the most vital aspects of regional development. In this context distribution of tribal population is an significant aspect. India is having second largest concentration of tribal population in the world. There are number of tribal communities in India, known by different names such as the Adi vasis- the original inhabitants, Vanya Jati (live in forest), Adim Jati- primitive people, etc. Tribal community is very primitive and backward in India. Only those who have gone to urban centers to earn their livelihood have to some amount got expenditure to the modern culture and civilization. The Indian tribes display a very high degree of ethnic variety both in their racial composition and dialectal and linguistic affinity. There are 285 different tribal communities, which show an important index of their ethnic diversity. No less impressive is the pattern of their spatial distribution, it has been commonly observed that the tribes reveal strong tendencies of clustering and concentration in the hilly, forested and the geographically inaccessible tracts of the country (Ahmad, 2001). This is the main source for their backwardness. Tribal population is concentrated in geographically unreachable areas so one can say development of tribal mostly depends on the distribution of population in relation to resources available in the region.

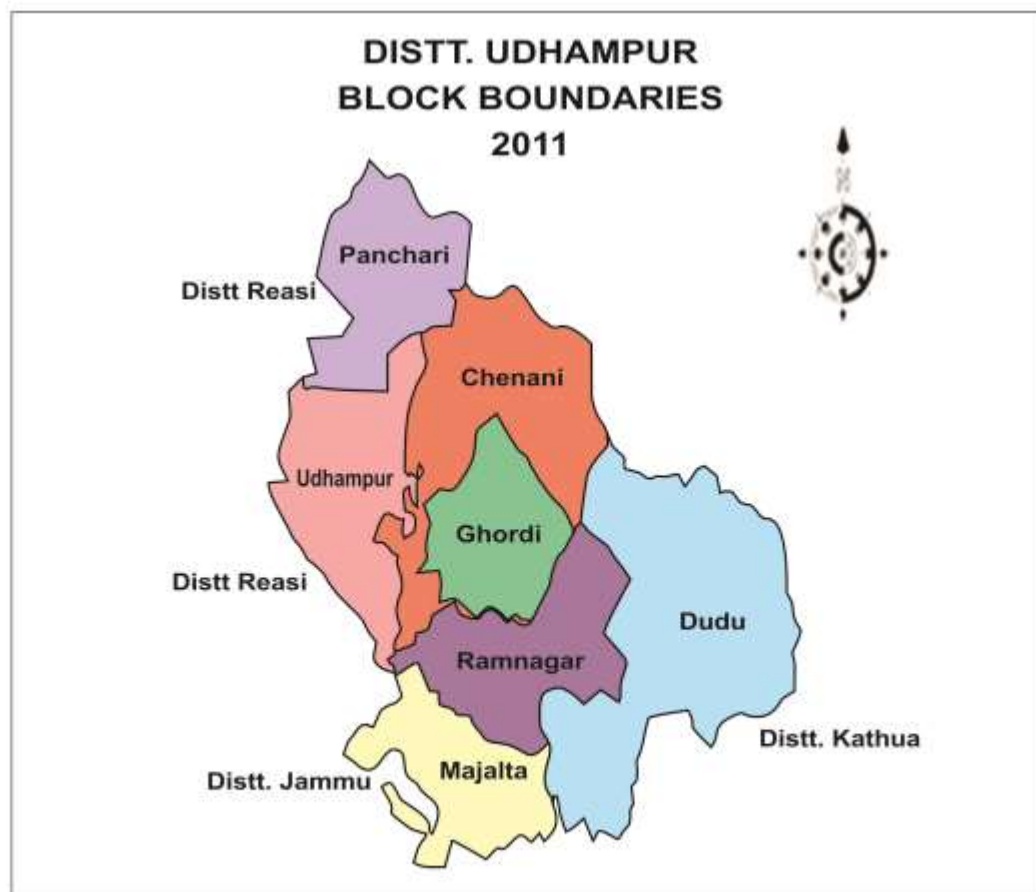
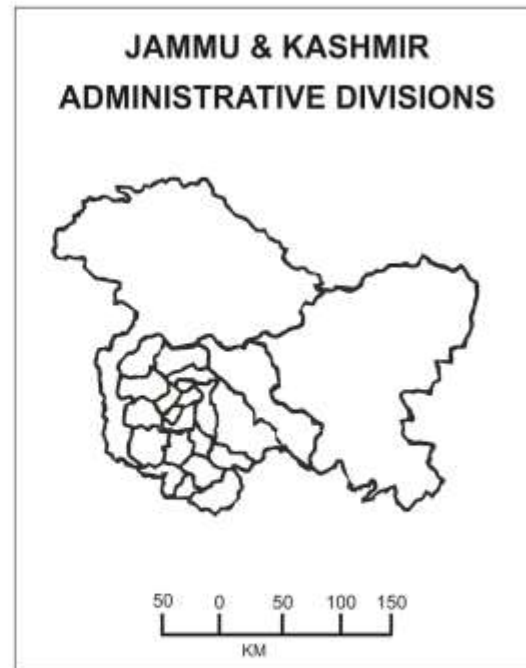
The State of Jammu & Kashmir, known as the crown of India is located in the extreme north of the country. The spatial distribution of population in Jammu and Kashmir is highly uneven. The distribution and density of population differ from district to district and from micro to meso-regions. Jammu & Kashmir is the only States in north-west India with a considerable share of the Scheduled Tribes in its population. They form 11.9 percent of the total population in 2011. Of 14.9 lakh STs counted in J&K in 2011, 13.2 lakh are Muslim, 1.0 lakh are Buddhist and about 67 thousand Hindu. During the last decade, Muslim STs have grown by about 38 percent and Hindu STs by 41 percent, but the number of Buddhist STs has contracted by 1.6 percent. The share of Buddhists in the total ST population has consequently declined from 9.3 to 6.8 percent, while that of the Muslims has increased from 86.3 to 88.4 percent and of Hindus from 4.3 to 4.5 percent. This absolute as well as relative decline of the Buddhist STs is one of the more outstanding aspects of the religion data of Census 2011. The Gaddi and Sippi are pastoral tribes, who belong to several Hindu castes. In Jammu and Kashmir, they live mainly in the southern districts of Udhampur, Kathua and Doda. Of 35,765 Gaddis counted in J&K in 2001, 15,468 were in Udhampur, 11,833 in Kathua and 8,129 in Doda. Of 6,561 Sippis counted in J&K in 2001, 4,347 were in Kathua, 1,481 in Udhampur and 673 in Doda.

Objective: The major purpose of the present paper is to reveal the spatial distribution of Schedule caste and Schedule tribe population of the Udhampur district of the Jammu and Kashmir State. It is also the aim of the paper to know the factors responsible for distribution of Schedule caste and Schedule tribe population in 2011.

Methodology: This study is empirical in nature and secondary sources of data are taken. Block is taken as unit of study. Cartographic techniques are applied for mapping the results.

About Study area: The district is named after its capital town Udhampur. It is said to have been named after Udham Singh, the eldest son of Gulab Singh, the founder of the Dogra rule in the State. The district has a varied topography. It is inter-woven with several ranges of hills and mountains. There are, however, very few inhabited areas above the height of 1,112 meters or so which experiences snow fall and severe cold in winter. Four main rivers traversing the district are Chenab, Anas, Tawi and Ujh. District Udhampur lies between 32°-34' to 39°-30' north latitude and 74°-16' to 75°-38' east longitude. It is situated in the south-eastern part of Jammu and Kashmir State. It is bounded in the north by Ramban district, in the north-east by Doda district, in the south-east by Kathua district and in the south-west by Jammu district and in the west by Reasi District.

At 2011 Census, the district has recorded a population of 5,54,985 and accounts for 4.42 percent of the total population of the State. Males and females are of the order of 2,96,784 and 2,58,201 respectively. In other words, males and females comprise 53.48 per cent and 46.52 per cent respectively of the total population of the district. Barring Jammu, Srinagar, Anantnag and Baramulla districts in order of the population size, all other districts have returned lower percentage of total population of the State than that of Udhampur. It is spread over an area of 2637.00 sq. kms. Having a density of 210, it ranks 11th among 22 districts of the State. The agro-climatic zones of Udhampur district ranges from high altitude temperate to subtropical type and altitude above mean sea level ranges from 600 m. to 3000 m. Thus, cultivation of crops is possible round the year. The irrigated area from all sources is 2903 hectares only which forms 6 per cent of the total cultivable area this shows that farming community is mostly dependent on rains for the cultivation of their 94 per cent cultivable area. It is estimated that 90 per cent population is residing in the rural areas and is mostly dependent on Agriculture sector. The farmers have very small holdings ranging from 1 to 2 hectare with poor economic conditions. The area of Udhampur district according to village papers is about 242663 hectares. The net cultivated area of J&K State is 390000 hectares of which Udhampur district occupies 12.40 Per cent i.e. 48369 hectares.



❖ **Distribution of Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe Population:**

Determination of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population is compulsory in each decennial Census since 1951. Both the SC population and the ST population are enumerated/counted strictly as per the SCs lists and the STs list valid within the jurisdiction of the State or Union Territory at the time of Census. It is vital to mention here that under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, no person who professed a religion different from Hinduism was deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Castes in addition to every member of a Scheduled Castes in addition to every member of the Ramdasi, Kabirpanthi, Majhabi or Sikligar Castes resident in Punjab or Patiala and East Punjab States Union were in relation to that State whether they professed the Hindu or the Sikh religion. Subsequently, in September 1956, by an amendment, the Presidential Order of 1950 and in all subsequent Presidential Orders relating to Scheduled Castes, the Hindu and the Sikh religions were placed on the same footing with regard to the specification of Scheduled Castes. Later on, as per the amendment made in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1990, the Hindu, the Sikh and the Buddhist were placed on the same footing with regard to the recognition of the Scheduled Castes. Out of thirteen SCs, Megh is the most densely inhabited caste having a population of 300,980, constituting 39.1 per cent of the total SC population. They are followed by Chamar with 187,277 population (24.3 per cent) and Doom having a number of 159,908 (20.8 per cent). These three SCs together constitute 84.2 per cent of the total SC population. Four SCs, namely Batwal, Barwala, Basith and Saryara with population ranging from 39,385 to 13,327 account for 12.9 per cent; remaining six castes along with generic castes constitute the residual 2.9 percent of the total SC population of the State. Among all the thirteen SCs, Watal is the smallest community having population below 200

The following castes have been treated as Scheduled Castes for the State of Jammu and Kashmir according to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) order of 1956, issued by the President in pursuance of the provision of Articles 341 of the constitution of India:

The list of SCs applicable in the State is given hereunder: -

1. Barwala
2. Basith
3. Batwal
4. Chamar or Ramdasia, Chamar-Ravidas, Chamar-Rohidas
5. Chura, Bhangi, Balmiki, Mehtar
6. Dhyar 13. Watal
7. Doom or Mahasha
8. Gardi
9. Jolaha
10. Megh or Kabirpanthi
11. Ratal
12. Saryara

The list of STs applicable in the State is given hereunder:-

1. Bakarwal
2. Balti
3. Beda
4. Bot, Boto
5. Brokpa, Drokpa, Dard, Shin
6. Changpa
7. Gaddi
8. Garra
9. Gujjar
10. Mon
11. Purigpa
12. Sippi

The following table shows the concentration of schedule caste and schedule tribe population in udhampur district (blockwise):

Table No. 1: Number and percentage of schedule castes and schedule tribes population in CD Blocks, 2011

Sr. No.	Name of CD Block	Total population	Total schedule castes population	Total schedule tribes population	Percentage of schedule castes population to total population	Percentage of schedule tribes population to total population
1	0121-Panchari	46604	11246	5565	24.13	11.94
2	0122-Chenani	102180	23316	18653	22.82	18.26
3	0123-Udhampur	89612	22380	8289	24.97	9.25
4	0124-Ramnagar	57221	19548	2398	34.16	4.19
5	0125-Ghordi	60401	19963	6308	33.05	10.44
6	0126-Dudu	50840	14793	8600	29.1	16.92
7	0127-Majalata	39919	11496	3823	28.8	9.58

	Total	446777	122742	53636	27.47	12.01
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Source: Census of India 2011, Jammu and Kashmir, District Census Handbook

The above data shows that percentage of scheduled castes population to total population is higher in rural areas of the district than that of its urban sector; standing at 27.47 per cent and 14.63 per cent respectively. Similar is the position in so far as scheduled tribes population is concerned, their percentages to total population 919. Scheduled castes number 122,742, comprises 27.47 per cent of the total rural population of the district. CD block wise statistics reveal that the largest concentration of scheduled castes is found in Ramnagar 34.16 per cent, followed by Ghordi (33.05 per cent). Followed by C.D. blocks namely Dudu (29.1) and Majalata (28.8). Three C.D blocks, namely; Udampur, Panchari and Chenani have recorded lower proportions of scheduled castes population than the district average. Scheduled tribes number 53636 constituting 12.01 per cent of the total rural population of the district. C.D block Chenani has recorded the highest proportion of scheduled tribes population at 18.26per cent. Second place has been occupied by Dudu with 16.92 per cent of such population. In all, 5 C.D blockshave registered smaller proportions of scheduled tribes population than the district average.

❖ Sex Ratio of Schedule castes and Schedule Tribes population:

The composition of a population according to sex is known as sex composition. The numerical measurement of sex composition is often expressed in terms of sex ratio. This ratio is calculated differently in different countries. In India, however, the sex ratio is calculated in terms of number of females per thousand males. It is calculated as under:

$$Pf/Pm * 1000$$

Sex ratio i.e. number of females per 1,000 males in the district stands at 870 which is lower than the State's ratio of 889 and also that of the corresponding ratio of the district (846) as obtained at 2001 Census. The child population in the age group 0-6 is 84,332 comprising 44,703 males and 39,629 females; thereby the sex ratio in this age group works out to 886 which are higher than the corresponding sex ratio of the State; standing at 862. Following table shows the concentration of sex ratio of Schedule caste and Schedule tribe population in CD Blocks in Udampur district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Table No. 2: Sex Ratio of Schedule castes and Schedule tribes population in CD Blocks, 2011

S. No.	Name of CD Block	Schedule caste Sex Ratio	Schedule Tribes Sex Ratio
1	2	3	4
1	0121-Panchari	931	942
2	0122-Chenani	930	957
3	0123-Udampur	910	911
4	0124-Ramnagar	929	906
5	0125-Ghordi	934	939
6	0126-Dudu	924	916
7	0127- Majalata	891	910
	Total	922	934

Source: Census of India 2011, Jammu and Kashmir, District Census Handbook

The above data shows that Number of females per 1,000 males in respect of scheduled castes pertaining to district (rural) is 922 which are slightly higher than the corresponding ratio of the State, standing at 911. C.D block wise data show that Ghordi (934), Panchari (931) Chenani (930) and Ramnagar (929) have recorded higher sex ratio than that of district average. In the remaining C.D blocks the number of females per 1,000 males varies from Dudu (924) and Majalata (891). The district (rural) sex ratio in case of scheduled tribes (934) is lower as compared to the corresponding State average (927). C.D block Chenani has recorded the highest number of females per 1,000 males, standing at 957. This is followed by Panchari and Ghordi C.D blocks with corresponding ratios of 942 and 939 respectively. Dudu, Udhampur, Majalata have registered lower number of females per 1,000 males as compared to that of district (rural) average.

❖ Literacy Rate of Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe population:

A person aged 7 and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language has been considered literate by the Indian Census. A person who can only read but cannot write is not literate. It is not necessary that a person who is literate should have received any formal education or should have passed any minimum educational standard. It is essential for removing poverty and mental isolation, for cultivating peaceful and friendly international relations and for permitting the free play of demographic processes. Trewartha (1969), considers that the basis of length of schooling not a valid measurement of educational accomplishment. He also disapproves the ability to read and write one's name in the language of his country as the criterion for defining a literate. Besides, all children of age 6 years or less are treated as illiterate even though they may be going to school and can read and write a few odd words. 3,22,354 persons or 58.08 per cent of total population in the district have been returned as literate which is substantially lower as recorded at 2001 Census (59.3 per cent) (excluding population in the age group 0-6).

The corresponding proportion for the State as a whole at 2001 Census is, more or less, the same (55.5 per cent). While male literates in the district account for 78.4 per cent, female literates constitute 57.1 per cent. Similar proportion with regard to 2001 Census was 71.2 per cent for males and 45.1 per cent in case of females, indicating thereby that male and female literates have witnessed an increase of 7.2 per cent and 12 per cent respectively during the period from 2001 to 2011 Census. Literacy rate among scheduled castes in urban areas is significantly higher (71.16 per cent) than that of rural sector (54.54 per cent) of the district. Similar position is observed in so far as literacy rate among scheduled tribes is concerned. Here also, urban areas of the district have observed higher proportion of literates than those of its rural sector, standing at 43.39 per cent and 61.39 per cent respectively. Following table shows the distribution of literacy rate among schedule caste and schedule tribe population in Udhampur district:

Table 3: Number of literates and illiterates, literacy rate by sex in CD Blocks (rural), 2011

S. No.	Name of CD Block	Number of Literates & Illiterates						Literacy Rate			Gap in male-female literacy rate
		Number of literates			Number of Illiterates			Persons	Male	Female	
		Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	0121-Panchari	19276	12267	7009	27328	11732	15596	50.7	62.46	38.13	24.33

2	0122- Chenani	50387	31301	19086	51793	21754	30039	59.62	71.45	46.88	24.57
3	0123- Udhampur	56720	33223	23497	32892	14092	18800	73.68	81.93	64.5	17.43
4	0124- Ramnagar	31088	18549	12539	26133	11189	14944	64.87	75.02	54.06	20.96
5	0125- Ghordi	32630	20001	12629	27771	11390	16381	64.69	76.59	51.92	24.67
6	0126-Dudu	22325	14435	7890	28515	12073	16442	53.62	66.43	39.64	26.79
7	0127- Majalata	24456	14290	10166	15463	6678	8785	72	80.55	62.66	17.89
	Total	236882	144066	92816	209895	88908	120987	63.42	74.14	51.8	22.34

Source: Census of India 2011, Jammu and Kashmir, District Census Handbook

In the rural sector, literates account for 63.42 per cent of the total rural population of the district (excluding the population in the age group 0-6). Male literates have recorded higher proportion (74.14 per cent) as compared to those of females (51.8 per cent), registering a gap of 22.34 per cent in male/female literacy rate which is higher as compared with the corresponding State's male/female gap of 20.32 per cent. Amongst the C.D blocks, Udhampur enjoys the prime place with 73.68 per cent literates. Majalata occupies the second position with 72 per cent literates, closely followed by Ramnagar at 64.87 per cent. Other C.D blocks which have exceeded the district average are Ghordi (64.69 per cent), Chenani (59.62 per cent) and Dudu (53.62 per cent). The lowest rank is, however, claimed by Panchari where the corresponding proportion stands at 50.7 per cent. The highest proportion of gap in male/female literacy rate has been recorded in Dudu C.D block at 26.79 per cent, followed by Ghordi (24.67 per cent). Third place has been taken by Chenani C.D block at 24.57 per cent. Fourth and fifth place has been occupied by Panchari and Ramnagar with 24.33 and 20.96 respectively. The lowest such gap is in Udhampur (17.43 per cent).

Conclusion: Out of a total population of 5,54,985 in the district, scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes number 1,38,569 and 56,309 respectively. In other words, whereas, scheduled castes account for 25 per cent, scheduled tribes claim 10.10 per cent of the total population of the district. Remarkably, the number of females per 1,000 males is higher in respect of scheduled tribes (932) than those of scheduled caste (922). The corresponding number of females per 1,000 males relating to scheduled tribes (924) and scheduled caste (902) of the State is same; being 910 each. The percentage of scheduled castes population to total population is higher in rural areas of the district than that of its urban sector; standing at 27.47 per cent and 14.63 per cent respectively. Similar is the position in so far as scheduled tribes population is concerned, their percentages to total population (919). The number of females per 1,000 males in respect of scheduled castes is slightly higher in rural areas (922) of the district as compared to that of its urban sector (is of the order of 934 and 901 respectively). Literacy rate among scheduled castes in urban areas is significantly higher (71.16 percent) than that of rural sector (54.54 per cent) of the district. Similar position is observed in so far as literacy rate among scheduled tribes is concerned. Here also, urban areas of the district have recorded higher proportion of literates than those of its rural sector, standing at 43.39 per cent and 61.39 per cent respectively.

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