



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

DEMOGRAPHIC IMPLICATION OF CHANGING RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION IN INDIA: BRIEF ANALYSIS OF 2011 CENSUS REPORT

Author 1- Jinti Moni Boro

Research Scholar, Department of Geography,
Gauhati University, Guwahati- 781013, Assam, India

Author 2- Asha Boro

B.Tech, Department of Industrial and Production Engineering, Assam Engineering College, Jalukbari,
Assam, India

Author 3- Neithoilom Hrangkhoh

Post Graduate, Department of Geography, Gauhati University, Assam, India

Author 4- Bhrigu Raj Boro

Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, Gauhati University, Guwahati- 781013, Assam, India

Author 5- Pooja Das

Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Cotton University, Guwahati-781001, Assam, India, Email
Id: pooja003das@gmail.com, Contact no. - 7002642291

Abstract

The fluctuating religious profile of Indian population has a robust influence on the current history of India and it remains to be among the chief determining factor of the conflict on the Indian subcontinent. Consequently, it is likely to acquire an impartially laborious depiction of the fluctuations in the relative populations of diverse religions for the period enclosed by the census operations. In order to progress the effectiveness of guidelines, these need to be studied. The objectives of the paper entitled "Demographic Implication Of Changing Religious Composition In India: Brief Analysis Of 2011 Census Report" are to study the trend of population growth among major religious groups and changing growth rates in India; to highlight the spatial concentration and disparity of major religious groups and to study the demographic consequences of the varying form of religious composition. The research work is fundamentally based on secondary data collected from different government published handbooks. The collected data are then observed properly and then organized, tabulated and processed from transformation of the raw facts into beneficial information. The new in this study that may helpful and useful to readers is to know the religious composition of population in a spatial temporal pattern and Religious Composition and Literacy Rate as Spatial Analysis as Per 2011 Census.

Keywords: Religious groups; Demographic; Composition; Changing; Pattern.

1. INTRODUCTION

Solitary, the basic socio-cultural foundations of a society is religion. Diverse people comprehend and express religious identity in their personal way and thus, formed diversity of culture. Religion has been

well-defined differently by several researchers. In 18th century Friedrich Schleiermacher defined religion as feeling of absolute dependence. William James defined religion as the enthusiastic temper of espousal. In simple term religion may be defined as man's belief in supernatural or in what stimulates a feeling of awe or piety in him, or in what he considers sacred (Chandna, 2012). India is one of the utmost populous countries which covers only 2.4% of the total land area of the world. Study of composition of population in a certain area is very important, because it refers to the attribute of population such as ethnicity, tribe, language, religion, literacy, education etc. The study of composition of population aids us in understanding the social, economic and demographic structure of population. (Hussain, 2002) Religious composition of the population is pertinent for numerous reasons. It is a typical persuading several feature of distinct behaviours. Even though the features of individual behaviour are influenced by further reason, but religion is originated to have an autonomous conclusion on several demographic and economic outcome of the world. Every religion varies in their importance on marital obligation, divorce, rights, fertility demands etc. (Mukherji, 1970).

With a diverse physiographic and climate condition, the people of India also present an incredible variation of racial, religious and linguistics pattern. Religion is much more influential in the lives of people of India than the western countries of the world, thus the characteristics of the population of all major religious groups influence India's population characteristics in overall. (Khullar, 2012) The varying religious profile of Indian population has had a strong influence on the latest history of India, and it continues to be amongst the major factors of conflict on the Indian subcontinent. Coincidentally, contrary the caste and community affiliations, the religious relationships of the folks of India have continuously been documented in the survey procedures. So, it is likely to obtain a fairly rigorous picture of the changes in the relative populations of different religions for the period covered by the census operations. Fluctuating religious compositions can be observed as a problematic in different point. It is a problem of economic geography, when it shows alarm with economic disparities in resource utilization by different religions. It is a social geographic problem, when it concerns with social stratifications, conversations and communalism. It is a social geographic problem, when it concerns with the interaction between religious and landscape, religion and landscape, religion and physical environment. As well, it can be observed as a cultural geographic problem when it concerns diffusion, spatial interaction, development of culture etc. (Hoffman, 1948) But here we have to look it as a problem of population geography and demography. Number of total populations, growth rate, fertility rate, mortality rate, literacy, work participation rate, etc. of different religion is different among different religious groups. All these are governing by beliefs, culture, norms, customs etc of their religion. All these are governing by beliefs, culture, norms, customs etc of their religion. All of these characteristics of particular religious groups determine the overall population characteristics of India and thus, development of our country directly or indirectly. From planning point of sight, the population features of religious groups are very significant. In order to progress the efficiency of strategies, these need to be studied. This study is also significant to improve the condition and well-being of the religious groups. It will give detail information of demographic implications of changing religious composition in India.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To study the trend of population growth among major religious groups and varying growth rates in India;
- To highlight the spatial concentrations and disparities of major religious groups;
- To study the demographic consequences of the varying pattern of religious composition.

3. DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

The research work is basically based on secondary data source composed from the different government published handbooks. Various Census of India volumes relating to different time periods have been considered for the study of overall pattern of religious composition in India. In addition, many books like India: A comprehensive study, Census of India 2011, Primary Census Abstract etc have been thoroughly used for collection of other necessary secondary data.

The collected data are then surveyed suitably and then arranged, tabulated and

processed from alteration of the raw facts & figures into useful information. Different types of statistical techniques are used in the study.

4. BRIEF REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(Chandna, 2012) in his book titled *"Geography of Population"* analysed inter-religion diversities in designated feature of population in India and found that the Hindus are more prevalent in India, the Jains are the most literate, the Muslims record the highest growth rate as well as lowest sex ratio but not far behind Hindus in terms of literacy.

(Khullar, 2012) in his book entitled *"INDIA: A Comprehensive Geography"* analysed about population, population composition, migration patterns, trends in urbanisation and human development.

(Mukherji, 1970) in their study titled *"Religious Composition of India's population: A Spatial Analysis"* observed that the minority religious groups are focused in outlying location.

(Bhardwaj, 1983) in his book entitled *"Hindu Places of Pilgrimage in India: A Study in Cultural Geography"* put forth Hinduism spread to areas which were more to the cultivate agriculture and that the area less appropriate to this method of cultivation outside the realm of Hindu.

(Hoffman, 1948) deserves the credit for the first notable work on religious groups in India his study includes *"India: Main Population Concentration"*.

(Hussain, 2002) in his book entitled *"Human Geography"* analysed about nature and scope of Human Geography and about population distribution, density, growth and population composition and also about human development and human settlements.

(Ghosh, 2015) in his report *"Religious Census 2011: Hindus below 80% for first time, Muslim growth rate falls"* stated that conferring to a certified report, the portion of Hindus in the population has slid less than 80% for the foremost period. The population in 2011 was at 121 crores- Hindus make up 79.8% of the population at 96.63 crores.

(PLECHER, 2020) stated in his article entitled *"Total Population of India 2024"* stated total population of India from 2014-2024 and predicted to surpass China within 40 years. (INDIA, 2011) The National Portal of India stated the census reports of 2011. It presents information resources and online services from Government resources, available from a single point.

(The Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2011) entitled *"Population by Religious Community"* conducted, arranged and analysed the results of the demographic surveys of India including Census of India and Linguistic Survey of India in 2011.

(Wikipedia, n.d.) entitled *"Religion in India"* stated about the status of different religions in India also its history and law, according to 2011 census report.

5. RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION OF POPULATION: SPATIO-TEMPORAL PATTERNS

5.1 Trend of Population Growth Among Major Religious Groups in India:

Population growth means the variation in the number of populations of a place by increasing or decreasing. It is determined by the fertility, mortality and also by the migration of that particular place. In case of trend of growth of population of a country, different religion shows different picture. This is also applicable in case of India, where the three major religion of the country have different scenario of trend of growth of population. From 1961 to 2011, the trend of growth of population of the major religious groups in India can be shown in the given figure 1. (INDIA, 2011)

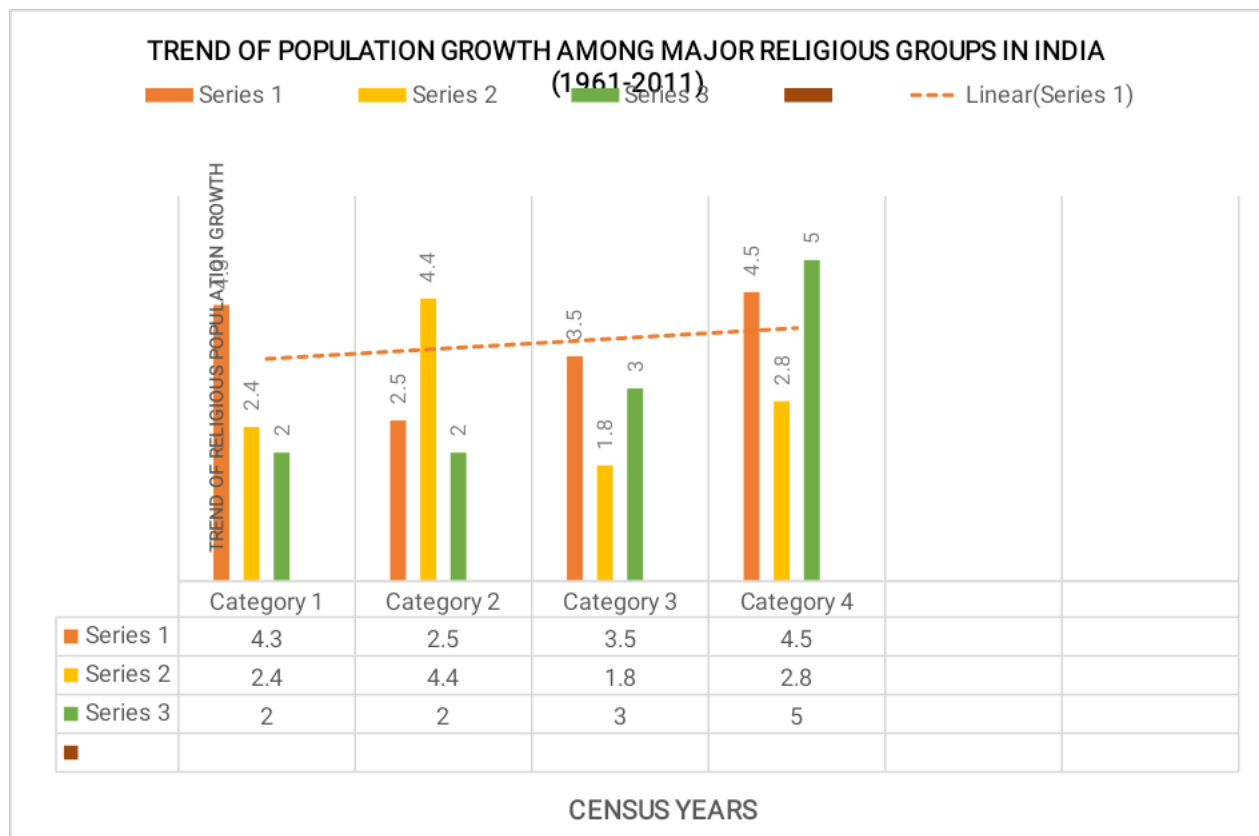


Figure 1: Trend of population growth among major religious groups in India (1961-2011)

Source: (INDIA, 2011)

From the above figure 1, we can see the trend of growth of population which is very high in case of Hindu than the other two religions since 1961-2011, besides, the rate of growth of total population is also in increasing trend. The above given data shows that the decadal growth rate of Hindus during 1961-1971 is less than that of Muslims and Christians. During the same period the growth rate of Hindus is also less than the total growth rate of the country. (RELIGION DATA CENSUS 2011, 2011) During all these periods between 1961-2011, the decadal growth rate of Muslim is always higher than the other two religion and also higher than the total growth rate of the country. The growth rate of Muslims is highest during the period of 1991-2001 i.e. 36%.

6. CHANGING RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION OF POPULATION AND ITS SPATIAL VARIATION DURING 2011 CENSUS IN INDIA

India is universally recognised as prominently inhabited by Hindus. In 1961, Hindu population accounts 83.45% of the country's populations. But in the year 2001, the percent share by Hindu population decreases to 80.5%. As the population shared by Hindu population decreased, it is obvious that proportion of population share by other religious groups shall increase. So, there is a varying composition of percentage of religious communities of India.

6.1 Variation of Religious Population Composition in India (States and Union Territories) as per 2011 Census:

In 2011, Chandigarh with increasing proportion of Hindu population i.e. 75.1% in 1991 to 81.8% in 2011, make its position in the Hindu majority states. Hindus are minority in a number of states including Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Lakshadweep.

Percentage of Muslim proportion in 2011 of each state are more than the country's total percentage of Muslim proportion more than about 14.2%. Percentage of Muslim population increased in all states and union territories except in Manipur. Though its population increased almost in all states but it considered minority in Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Goa.

Other areas that have considerable proportion of Christian population includes Goa, Kerala and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. All the above-mentioned states have Christian population more than the country's total percentage of Christian population in all the census year including 2011. In 2011, states and union territories of India shared by Christian population increased to some extent than the previous years.

Sikh population shares 1.7% proportion in 2011 mostly found in the states Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir.

Buddhists accounts only 3.45% of India's population in 2011. Buddhist population shares higher proportion of population more than the national average, approximately same in all the Census years in Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Similarly, Jainism shares about 0.2% in 2011 census mostly found in the western and central Indian states. (INDIA, 2011)

All the data of religious population composition of 2011 census will be given in the below table 1 and will be shown in figure 2.

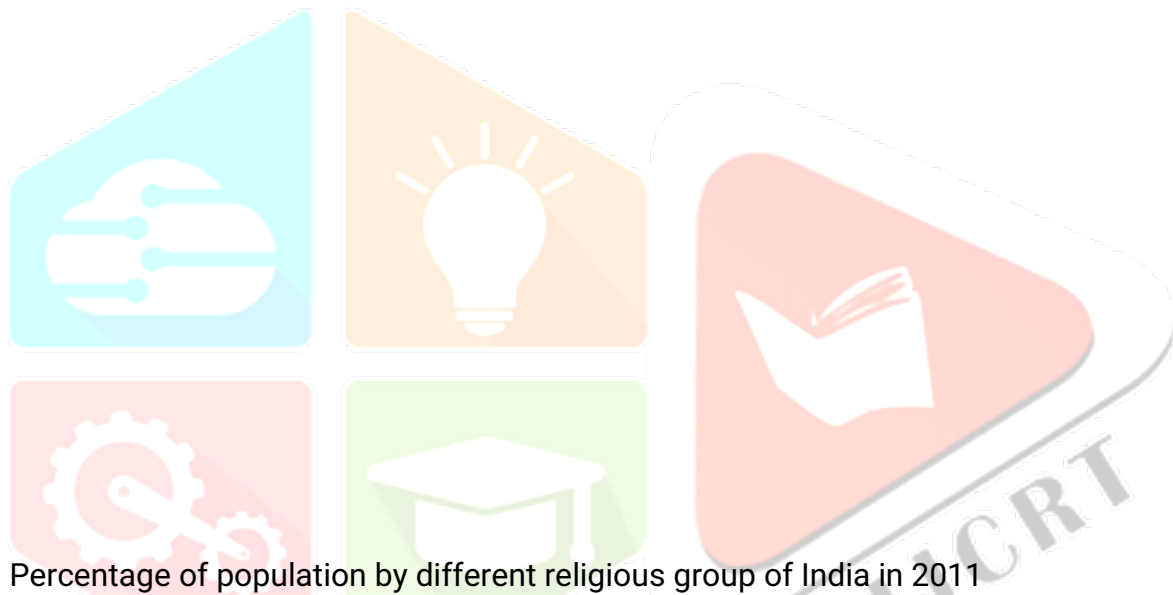


Table 1: Percentage of population by different religious group of India in 2011

States/Union Territories	Hindus (%)	Muslims (%)	Christians (%)	Sikhs (%)	Buddhists (%)	Jains (%)	Others (%)
1. Jammu & Kashmir	28.3	68.7	0.3	1.8	0.9	0.01	0.01
2. Himachal Pradesh	95.2	2.2	0.2	1.1	1.1	0.02	0.01
3. Punjab	38.5	1.9	1.2	57.7	0.1	0.2	0.03
4. Chandigarh	80.8	4.8	0.8	13.1	0.1	0.2	0.02
5. Uttarakhand	82.9	13.9	0.4	2.3	0.1	0.09	0.00009
6. Haryana	87.4	7	0.2	4.9	0.03	0.2	0.01
7. Delhi	81.6	12.8	0.9	3.3	1	0.9	0,01
8. Rajasthan	88.5	9.1	0.1	1.3	0.01	0.9	0.00005
9. Uttar Pradesh	79.7	19.26	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.00006

10. Bihar	82.7	16.87	0.12	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
11. Sikkim	57.76	1.62	9.91	0.31	27.39	0.05	2.67
12. Arunachal Pradesh	29	1.9	30.3	0.2	11.7	0.05	26.2
13. Nagaland	8.7	2.4	87.9	0.09	0.3	0.13	0.16
14. Manipur	41.4	8.3	41.3	0.05	0.2	0.05	8.1
15. Mizoram	2.7	1.3	87.2	0.02	8.5	0.03	0.07
16. Tripura	83.3	8.6	4.3	0.02	3.4	0.02	0.04
17. Meghalaya	11.5	4.3	74.5	0.1	0.3	0.02	8.7
18. Assam	61.4	34.2	3.7	0.06	0.2	0.08	0.08
19. West Bengal	70.5	27	0.7	0.06	0.3	0.06	1
20. Jharkhand	67.8	14.53	4.30	0.22	0.03	0.05	12.84
21. Odisha	93.6	2.1	2.7	0.05	0.03	0.02	1.1
22. Chhattisgarh	93.2	2	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.9
23. Madhya Pradesh	90.9	6.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.8
24. Gujarat	88.6	9.6	0.5	0.09	0.05	0.9	0.02
25. Daman and Diu	90.5	7.9	1.1	0.07	0.08	0.1	0.03
26. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	93.9	3.7	1.4	0.06	0.2	0.3	0.08
27. Maharashtra	79.8	11.5	0.9	0.2	5.8	1.2	0.15
28. Andhra Pradesh	88.5	9.5	1.3	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.01
29. Karnataka	83.9	12.9	1.8	0.04	0.15	0.7	0.01

30. Goa	66	8.3	25.1	0.1	0.07	0.07	0.01
31. Lakshadweep	2.7	96.6	0.5	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
32. Kerala	54.3	26.5	18.4	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02
33. Tamil Nadu	87.6	5.8	6.1	0.02	0.01	0.1	0.01
34. Puducherry	87.3	6	6.2	0.02	0.03	0.1	0.01
35. Andaman and Nicobar	69.4	8.5	21.3	0.3	0.08	0.00008	0.1

Source: (The Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2011)

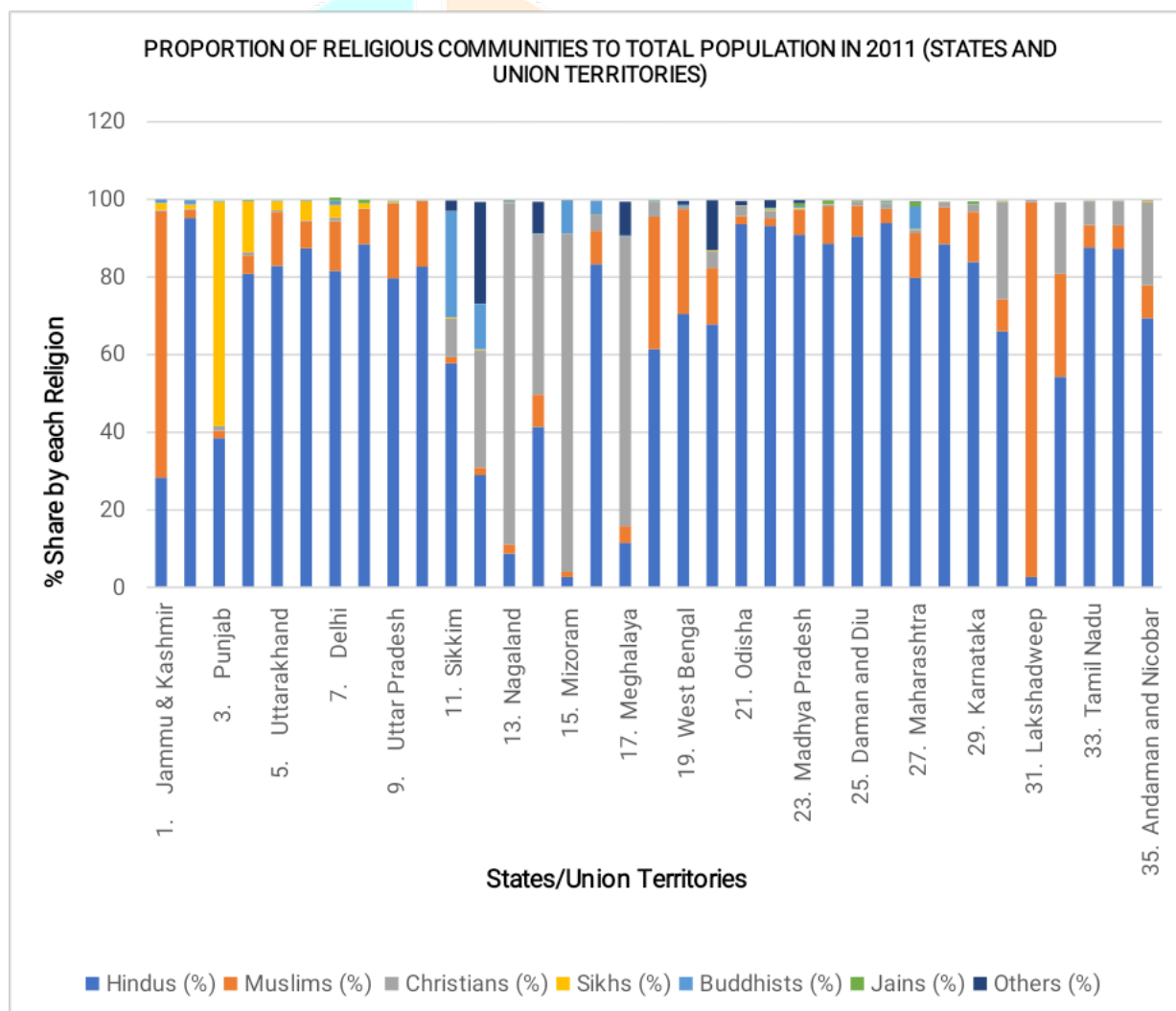


Figure 2: Proportion of religious communities to total population in 2011

6.2 Zonal Wise Variation among Religious Communities in India as per 2011 census: The population in 2011 census was at 121 crores, Hindus comprised up 78.8% of the population at 96.63 crores. Muslims, with 17.22 crore people, are 14.2% of the population. The growth proportion of Muslims is the maximum at 24.6%, the census discloses. Hindus track with a 16.8% growth rate; Christians arise next with 15.5%. the growth rates of Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains are less than 10% (Ghosh, 2015). Data of

zonal wise variation in the composition of the population of religious communities will help us to know the zonal variations of religious proportion based on social and cultural influences which is given in the below table-2 and figure-3.

Table 2 : Zone wise variation in percentage of population by different religious groups of India in 2011

Zones	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Buddhists	Jains	Others
Northern India	75	17.6	0.3	6.3	0.1	0.2	0.01
Western India	84.4	10.3	0.8	0.5	2.7	1	0.1
Central India	91.5	5.3	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.6	1.1
Southern India	82.6	11.6	5.1	0.03	0.05	0.2	0.01
Eastern India	78.4	17.7	1.2	0.06	0.2	0.04	2
Northeast India	53.9	25.4	17.3	0.07	1	0.07	1.9

Source: (The Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2011)

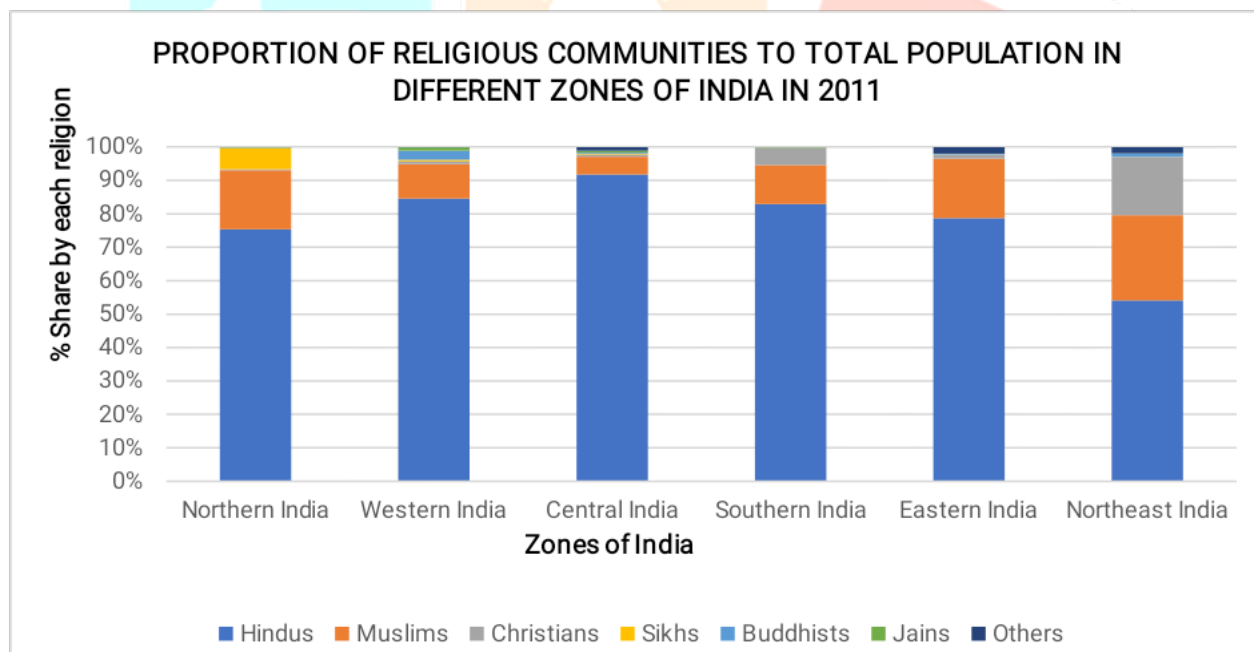


Figure 3: Proportion of religious communities to total population in different zones of India in 2011

There is a vast variation in the pattern of concentration of the major religious groups in India. This variation occurs in case of different states of India and in different zones of India. Percentage of Hindus is highest in all the six major regions of India. Central India shares highest percentage of Hindus than the other religion in 2011 census. Muslims share second highest percentage of population in all regions. Percentage of Muslim is more than the other religious community in North East India than the other regions. Proportion of Muslim increases in all regions than the previous census years. In North East India, the proportion of Christians among other religion is comparatively high than the other regions. Percentage of Sikhs decreases in all regions in 2011. Share of Buddhists and Jains percentage is comparatively higher than the other religion in Western India than the other regions as per Census of India.

7. RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION AND LITERACY RATE: A SPATIAL ANALYSIS AS PER 2011 CENSUS

The expansion of a country is

influence by one of the important qualitative aspect i.e. literacy. In Indian census, the commonly applied definition of literacy as an ability to read and write with understanding. As literacy rate itself is a good indicator of the socio-economic progress of a country and also of religious groups. (Bhardwaj, 1983)

India being a welfare country all its citizens enjoys equal economic, cultural and educational prospects to grow and progress. Nevertheless, diverse religious communities display variation in the level of literacy. Though, literacy of respective religion communities had improved from 2001-2011 in India.

In 2011, literacy rate of Jain (94.88%) is highest than all other religious groups, followed by Christians (84.53%), Buddhists (81.29%), Sikhs (75.39%), Hindu (73.27%) and Muslims (68.54%). Among the major religious groups, Muslims is in lowest position in literacy in 2011 as shown in figure 4. (Wikipedia, n.d.)

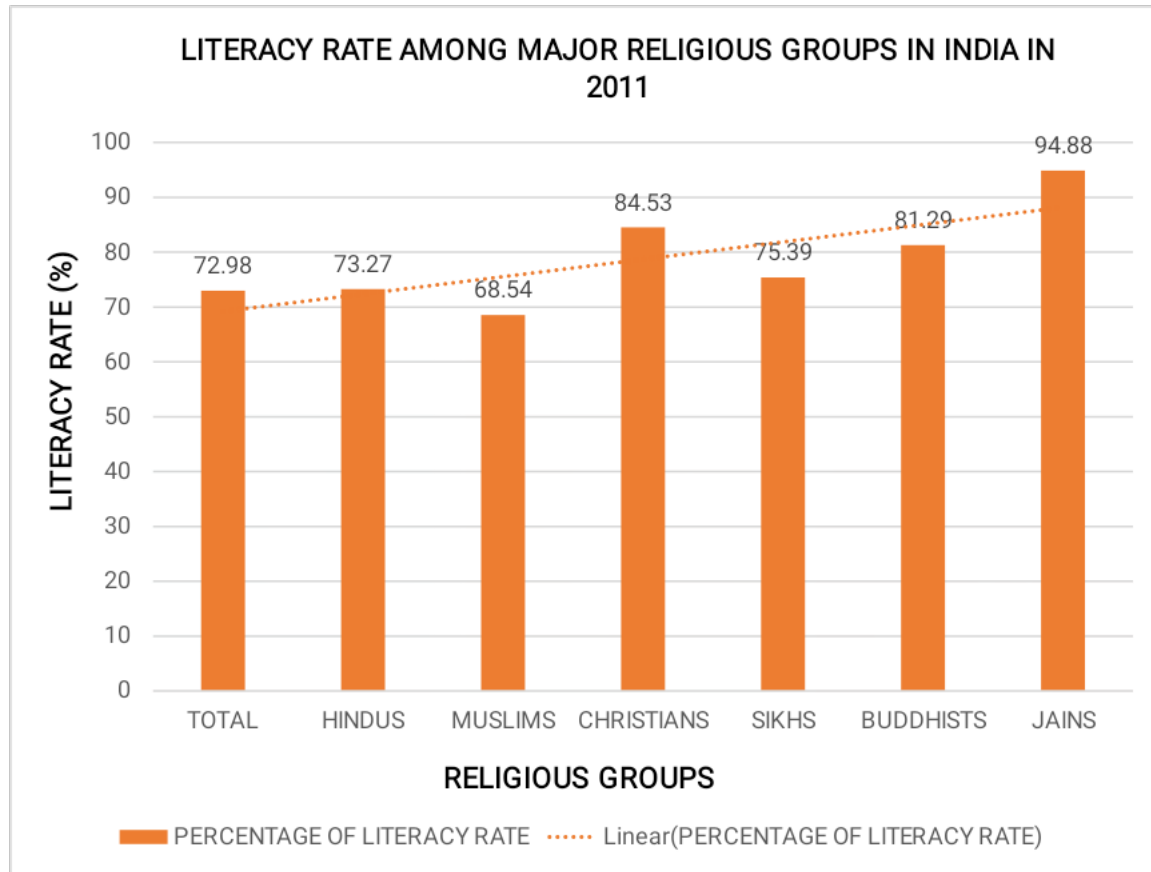


Figure 4: Literacy rate among major religious groups in India in 2011

Source: (Wikipedia, n.d.)

7.2 Inter-state variation of literacy rates among various religious groups in India as per 2011 Census:

There is wide inter-state variation in case of literacy of religious groups in different states and union territories.

Table 3 : Literacy rates of different religious groups in states and union territories of India

States/Union Territory	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Buddhists	Jains
1. Jammu & Kashmir	79.09	61.03	78.03	90.83	68.29	93.46
2. Himachal Pradesh	83.11	67.52	84.19	87.78	79.24	95.23
3. Punjab	80.05	61.88	65.99	73.64	80.36	95.25
4. Chandigarh	76.07	74.68	91.16	94.65	92.52	98.5
5. Uttarakhand	81.22	63.18	88.89	79.39	84.84	96.84
6. Haryana	77.08	53.39	83.46	75.4	81.7	95.87

7. Delhi	87.24	90.39	84.84	93.91	89.37	97.67
8. Rajasthan	66.04	62.68	80.68	70.07	75.79	95.13
9. Uttar Pradesh	69.68	58.76	73.63	79.35	68.59	94.05
10. Bihar	62.85	56.34	67.67	80.46	74.69	85.36
11. Sikkim	81.96	76.52	82.12	95.5	80.42	89.64
12. Arunachal Pradesh	70.11	67.69	62.54	94.37	57.89	60.61
13. Nagaland	79.95	57.86	80.08	96.08	79.43	92.14
14. Manipur	81.98	67.76	72.62	90.7	77.76	91.51
15. Mizoram	91.78	77.87	95.49	92.99	48.11	72.33
16. Tripura	88.16	83.16	86.15	91.89	74.6	88.49
17. Meghalaya	77.23	54	76.52	83.09	78.87	85.82
18. Assam	77.66	61.92	67	92.34	77.32	96.13
19. West Bengal	79.14	68.75	75.99	89.98	81.95	93.51
20. Jharkhand	67.66	66.21	74.95	92.76	80.41	93.45
21. Odisha	73.14	79.95	64.47	89.82	78.2	92.92
22. Chhattisgarh	69.79	84.55	77.85	93.16	87.89	97.24
23. Madhya Pradesh	68.63	74.89	81.88	85.83	79.59	96.23
24. Gujarat	77.46	80.82	83.94	87.35	79.86	96.98
25. Daman and Diu	87.07	85.86	94.29	96.1	93.01	96.17
26. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	75.61	86.57	81.84	94.79	88.06	97.55
27. Maharashtra	81.76	83.56	92.25	90.9	83.17	95.35
28. Andhra Pradesh	66.11	73.58	77.82	78.09	67.68	91.94
29. Karnataka	74.36	78.89	90.8	85.64	76.11	88.33
30. Goa	88.69	84.73	89.92	95	92.35	95.58
31. Lakshadweep	93.94	91.74	98.39	100	90	88.75
32. Kerala	93.49	93.29	96.49	95.18	95.34	97.07
33. Tamil Nadu	78.83	88.17	90.14	86.82	90.14	94.51
34. Puducherry	85.09	91.66	90.64	96.96	91.79	96.22
35. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	86.97	91.51	84.02	95.52	91.1	96.29

Source: (The Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2011)

The above table-3 shows that Hindus share highest percentage of population to the total population in each state but holds fifth position in case of literacy rate. Hindus have their highest literacy in the Union Territory Lakshadweep (93.94%). Besides Lakshadweep, only in Kerala (93.94%) and Mizoram (91.8%) have more than 90% of literacy rate. Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan have low literacy rate than the total literacy rate of Hindus in the country. Bihar holds the lowest literacy rate of Hindus (62.8%).

Muslim shares second highest percentage of population in India. But in case of literacy it has the lowest position. Among the other states of India, Kerala (93.3%) has the highest literacy rate of Muslims. Besides Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands (91.5%), Puducherry (91.7%), Delhi (90.4%), Lakshadweep (91.7%) have literacy rates more than the total literacy rate of Muslims in the country. Meghalaya holds the lowest literacy rate of Muslims (54%).

Christians have the second highest literacy rate among the religious groups. It has the highest literacy rate in Lakshadweep (98.4%). Five states including Kerala, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu & Karnataka have literacy rates more than 90%. Arunachal Pradesh holds the lowest literacy rate of Christians (62.54%).

Sikhs have the fourth highest literacy rate in India. It has the highest literacy rate in Lakshadweep (100%). Most of the states have literacy rate more than 90%. Sikhs have lowest literacy rate in Punjab (73.64%).

Buddhists have the third highest literacy rate in India. It has the highest literacy rate in Kerala (95.34%). Including Kerala six states have literacy rate more than 90%. Mizoram (48.1%) has the lowest literacy rate of Buddhists.

Jains is in the top position in case of literacy rate in India. Chandigarh has the highest literacy rate in Chandigarh (98.5%). All the states and union territories have more than 90% of literacy rate among Jains except 8 states and union territories i.e. Bihar, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Karnataka and Lakshadweep. Arunachal Pradesh have the lowest literacy rate of Jains (60.61%).

As a whole population wise, irrespective of religion, the highest literacy states of India are Kerala (94.00%), Lakshadweep (91.85%), Mizoram (91.33%), Goa (88.70%) and Tripura (87.22%). (RELIGION DATA CENSUS 2011, 2011)

8. FUTURE TREND OF POPULATION GROWTH (2021) AMONG MAJOR RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN MAJOR REGIONS OF INDIA

The estimated total population of India for 2021 is about 1387.58 million (PLECHER, 2020). For the expansion planning of a nation population projection is very important. In 2021 Eastern India will share highest number of Hindu populations followed by Western India. On the other hand, Southern India will share lowest concentration of Hindus. As usual Muslim population will be highest in North-East India followed by Eastern India. Muslim population will be lowest in Central India. Again, Christian population will be highest in Southern India followed by North-East India. The data of population projection of 2021 are given in table-4

Table 4 : Population Projection of Major Religious Groups India for 2021

ZONES	HINDUS	MUSLIMS	CHRISTIANS
Northern India	267328591	67291017	1367272
Western India	2402617888	32084626	1952469
Central India	1076871537	6575661	866401
Southern India	234513324	34313937	13847722
Eastern India	2485577434	59696596	4527994
North-East India	27030527	14823385	9851617

Source: (PLECHER, 2020)

The growth rate of Hindus, Muslims and Christians is expected to fall more in upcoming 2021 census while other religions like Sikhism, Jainism and Buddhism are expected to remain stable for subsequent 2 decades in view of already braked down growth rate of these religions. (RELIGION DATA

CENSUS 2011, 2011). India's last census was carried out in 2011 when the country's population stood at 121 crores. Next census total count may be near to 150 crores in 2021 in India according to Economic Times of India.

9. SUMMARY

The preceding study concludes that as Hindu is the major religious groups and also the trend of population growth is very high in case of Hindus, followed by Muslims. Among the religious communities the growth rate of Muslims is highest in every census year and Christians have comparatively lower growth rate. Growth rate is even higher than the total growth rate of the country.

In most of the states, the growth rate of Muslims is higher than the Hindus and Muslims. In Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep the growth rate of Muslims is comparatively less than the other states. It is because of comparatively high literacy rate in those states is more than the other states. Growth rates of Christians are low in all states. Growth rates of Muslims are always high in North-East India than the other region. But in this region the growth rates of Hindus are comparatively low.

Hindus share highest percentage of population in India and in most of the states than the other religion, but its percentage is decreasing. However, the Muslims which share second highest percentage of population in India and almost in all the states of India, but, its rate of percentage is increasing. In some states such as Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep, the percentage of Muslims is more than the other all religious communities. Christians share third highest percentage of population in India. Sikhs and Buddhists share negligible percentage of population.

Only in few states of India the concentration of Muslims and Christmas religion is high or very high. But there are number of states that have high concentration of Hindu than the low and medium. Concentration of Hindus is highest in Northern India. The concentration of both Muslims and Christians is highest in North-Eastern India. But concentration of Hindus is lowest in this zone. Central India have highest concentration of Hindu and Muslims but lowest concentration of Christians. Literacy rate of Jains is highest than the all religion. In Kerala and Lakshadweep, the literacy rate of all the six religion is very high than the other states. Highest literacy rates of Jains are influenced by its highest percentage of population live in urban area. Literacy rate of Muslims is lowest than the other religion. Muslims have the highest percentage of population in 0-6 age group.

10. CONCLUSIONS

The present study evaluates the population features of each of the major religious groups of India. It is an effort to acquire an impartially precise depiction of the comparative strengths of diverse religious groups, assessing their conditions of life and growing further genuine strategies for their advancement. It has been found that the existing research studies on population characteristics of major religious groups of India are very limited, and as such, the present study is a modest step towards knowing more about these groups.

Religion is a traditional principles, symbols and custom which is built on the idea of the spiritual and which ties devotees into a socio-religious community. It produces a different insolerance towards natural life and this orientation touches further progress of the humanity. A religious assemblage is an association or community that share alike opinions, symbols and religious ritual and customs.

Though, Hindu is the major religion of India, but the growth rates and resulted percentage of other religion specially Muslims are tremendously increasing. This is mainly due to the lower level of literacy rate of the Muslim population of India. Again, literacy rate and urbanisation of Hindu population is relatively low, however, it is the major religious community of India. For the appropriate development of the country, all the religious community should progress equally and there should not be disparity among religious community in case of literacy, education, level of urbanisation or any other infrastructure developmental scope.

References:

- Bhardwaj, S. M. (1983). *Hindu Places of Pilgrimage in India - A Study in Cultural Geography*. California: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS.
- Chandna, R. (2012). *Geography of Population*. Delhi: Kalyan Publisher.
- Ghosh, R. S. (2015, AUGUST 26). *NDTV*. Retrieved from Religious Census 2011: Hindus below 80% for the first time, Muslim growth rate falls.: <https://www.ndtv.com>
- Hoffman, L. A. (1948). India: Main Population Concentrations. *THE GEOGRAPHICAL JOURNAL PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY*.
- Hussain, H. (2002). *HUMAN GEOGRAPHY*. Jaipur: Rawat Publication.
- INDIA, C. O. (2011). *CENSUS OF INDIA 2011*. Retrieved from THE NATIONAL PORTAL OF INDIA: <https://www.censusindia.gov.in>
- Khullar, D. (2012). *India: A Comprehensive Geography*. Delhi: Kalyani Publishers.
- Mukherji, G. S. (1970). The Religious Composition of India's Population : A Spatial Analysis. *TIJDCHRIFT VOOR ECON.EN SOCIALE GEOGRAPHIE*, 91-100.
- PLECHER, H. (2020, May 5). *Total population of India 2024*. Retrieved from Statista: <https://statista.com>
- RELIGION DATA CENSUS 2011*. (2011). Retrieved from CENSUS 2011: <https://www.census2011.co.in>
- The Registrar General and Census Commissioner, I. (2011). *POPULATION BY RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY*. Retrieved from CENSUS OF INDIA: <https://www.censusindia.gov.in>
- Wikipedia. (n.d.). *Religion in India*. Retrieved from www.google.com: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_India

List of Figures:

- Figure 1: Trend of population growth among major religious groups in India (1961-2011) 4249
- Figure 2: Proportion of religious communities to total population in 2011.....4253
- Figure 3: Proportion of religious communities to total population in different zones of India in 2011 4254
- Figure 4: Literacy rate among major religious groups in India in 2011.....4255

List of Tables:

- Table 1: Percentage of population by different religious group of India in 2011.....4251
- Table 2 : Zone wise variation in percentage of population by different religious groups of India in 2011 4253
- Table 3 : Literacy rates of different religious groups in states and union territories of India 4255
- Table 4 : Population Projection of Major Religious Groups India for 2021.....4257