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A STUDY ON POPULATION OF TRIBALS IN INDIA - CENSUS 2011

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Abstract: Tribal peoples constitute 8.6 percent of India's total population, about 104 million people according to the 2011 census (68 million people according to the 1991 census). This is the largest population of the tribal people in the world. One concentration lives in a belt along the Himalayas stretching through Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh in the west, to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, and Nagaland in the northeast. Another concentration lives in the hilly areas of central India (Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and, to a lesser extent, Andhra Pradesh); in this belt, which is bounded by the Narmada River to the north and the Godavari River to the southeast, tribal peoples occupy the slopes of the region's mountains. Other tribals, the Santals, live in Bihar and West Bengal. There are smaller numbers of tribal people in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, in western India in Gujarat and Rajasthan, and in the union territories of Lakshadweep and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Index Terms - India, Tribal people, Hilly areas, Population and Mountains.

I. INTRODUCTION

Tribal groups in India are considered to be the earliest inhabitants of a country that experienced diverse waves of invaders and other settlers over thousands of years, making it difficult to identify the precise origin of today's tribal peoples from a purist perspective. The state and discourse in India reject the term indigenous peoples and prefer instead to use the Constitutional term Scheduled Tribes (see Annex 1). The self-preferred term Adivasi is commonly translated as 'original inhabitants', and literally means 'Adi or earliest time', 'vasi resident of'. The Constitution Order 1950 declared 212 tribes located in 14 states as Scheduled Tribes (STs). The Government of India today identifies 533 tribes. The Bhil tribe is regarded by some as "the oldest of the aboriginal tribes comprising India's original inhabitants. They are regarded as the original inhabitants of the forest of central India and were driven into their current homelands by Muslim invaders. Their name is believed to be derived from word in Dravidian languages for "bow," which until fairly recent times they always were seen carrying." Ethnic origins and linguistic affiliations in India match only inexactly, however: while the Oraon adivasis are classified as an Australoid group, their language, called Kurukh, is Dravidian. Khasis and Nicobarese are considered to be Mongoloid groups and the Munda and Santals are Australoid groups, but all four speak Austro-Asiatic languages. The Bhils and Gonds are frequently classified as Australoid groups, yet Bhil languages are Indo-European and the Gondi language is Dravidian.

II. Origin of Tribal's

Tribal, black aborigines similar to those found in New Guinea and Australia, are believed to be the original inhabitants of much of southern India. DNA evidence from the Negrito tribes of the Andaman Islands spans back 70,000 years and suggests they originated from people from Africa who migrated to India, Southeast Asia and Indonesia. DNA evidence also indicates that they are direct descendants of the first modern humans to leave Africa but lack a distinctive feature of Australian aborigines, another early group to leave Africa. The

Onge from the Andaman Islands carry some of the oldest genetic markers found outside Africa. The tribes of the Andaman Islands are believed to be related the Negritos of Southeast Asia and the Philippines (See Malaysia and the Philippines). Some scholars theorize that they arrived in the Andaman Islands from Burma or Malaysia at some time in the distant past by sea, or perhaps arrived from Sumatra by way of the Nicobar Islands. However there are no firm evidence to back this up and is regarded mostly as speculation.

III. History of Tribal's in India

The Tribal concentration is found in the forests as well as the highlands of India. According to the census of the year 1971, nearly 39 million heads belonging to the different tribal groups are estimated to inhabit the Indian Sub-continent. In the year 1981, the estimation reached to 52 million heads. With the amendment Act of 1976, the restriction within the states which segregated the Tribes from mixing with other people were uprooted. After the act had been realized, nearly or more than 7% of the Tribal population received a new life of recognition. The **Tribal India** in India follow a completely different life style which is distinctive of its own. They have the separate language, separate rituals and even separate source of living. The most spectacular aspect the tribes is that they abide by their heritage, and also love their self-identity and freedom. **Tribal India**, as mentioned earlier, was seen in the naturally isolated areas, forest areas, and hilly areas. Their names were ruled by the name meaning of the forest as well as the people. The most common names are the Adivasis, Anusuchit Janajati, Janajati, Adimjati, Pahari, Vanvasi, and Vanyajati. It is evident that the tribal people have continuously kept terms with their neighbors since the very inception of their existence.

III.1 Showing Constitutional definition of Scheduled Tribes in Different Census

Census	Scheduled Tribes are defined as
1891	Forest Tribes
1901	Animists
1911	Tribes Animists
1921	Hill and Forest Tribes
1931	Primitive Tribes
Government of India Act 1935	Backward Tribes
1941	Tribes
1951	Scheduled Tribes

Prior to the adoption of Indian constitution the tribes were variously termed as aborigines, aboriginals, adivasis, Vana jatis, forest tribes, hill tribes, primitive tribes etc. India is the second largest tribal concentration (10.42 crores by 2011 census) in the world after Africa. We have in our country 705 Scheduled Tribes' as they have been referred to in the Constitution, defined differently in different census reports given in the above table. The number and population of these communities have been fluctuating from time to time. The number of these scheduled tribes which was 212 in 1950, further increased in 1956 when the Scheduled Tribes List (Modification) Order 1956 was issued. The Anthropological Survey of India, in 1967, estimated the number of these tribal communities to be 314. While the Census of India 1971 put their number at 427, as per 1991 Census the number of scheduled tribes or groups of tribes notified together stands at 573 and as per 2011 census the numbers of Scheduled Tribes or groups of tribes are 705¹

III.2 Scheduled Tribe in India

The Constitution of India, which came into existence on 26 January 1950, prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15) and it provides the right to equality (Article 14), to freedom of religion (Articles 25-28) and to culture and education (Articles 29-30). STs are supposedly addressed by as many as 209 Articles and 2 special schedules of the Constitution - Articles and special schedules which are protective and paternalistic.

Article 341 and 342 provides for classification of Scheduled Castes (the untouchable lower castes) and STs, while Articles 330, 332 and 334 provides for reservation of seats in Parliament and Assemblies. For purposes of specific focus on the development of STs, the government has adopted a package of programmes, which is administered in specific geographical areas with considerable ST population, and it covers 69% of the tribal population.

¹ Samal, A. (2001). Tribal Development Administration: Case Study of a District in Orissa. Thesis. The Institute of Development Studies. The University of Mysore, Mysore.

The 67.7 million people belonging to "Scheduled Tribes" in India are generally considered to be 'Adivasis', literally meaning 'indigenous people' or 'original inhabitants', though the term 'Scheduled Tribes' (STs) is not coterminous with the term 'Adivasis'. Scheduled Tribes is an administrative term used for purposes of 'administering' certain specific constitutional privileges, protection and benefits for specific sections of peoples considered historically disadvantaged and 'backward'. However, this administrative term does not exactly match all the peoples called 'Adivasis'. Out of the 5653 distinct communities in India, 635 are considered to be 'tribes' or 'Adivasis'. In comparison, one finds that the estimated number of STs varies from 250 to 593.

IV. Objectives of the Study

1. To attempt the State / UT wise overall population, ST population, percentage of STs in India / State to total population of India / State and percentage of STs in the State to total ST population
 2. To Study about the State/UT wise Population of Scheduled Tribes by Sex and Residence: Census 2011
- Methodology and Data Sources** Data sources collection included only secondary data. The Secondary data collected from Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MOTA) Annual reports, journals, ITDA reports, etc.

V. Review of Literature

In the ethnographic map of India and as per the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002 (Act 10 of 2003) the list of Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal enumerating of 40 communities as compared to the other States and Union Territories and it also has the largest concentration of tribal people next only to 5 other states. The tribal communities, in varying concentrations, are found almost in all the districts of the state. Each tribe has a cultural identity of its own. The distinctiveness of each tribe is manifested in its language, social organization, rituals, and festivals, in their dress pattern, adornments and art and craft. Tribes in general live in a close relationship with nature and depend on it for their survival. As per the Indian Constitutional provision (Article 342), in West Bengal, as many as 40 groups have been categorized as Scheduled Tribes. From the World Bank's Operational Policy (OP) 4.12, Perspective, these 40 groups constitute indigenous people'. Out of 40 Scheduled Tribes Communities of the State, there are 10 communities, whose population jointly shares a little more than 98% of the total ST population of the State²

The study was conducted in the district of Burdwan, West Bengal in India. In 2011, Barddhaman had population of 7,717,563 (Total population of W.B. 91276115) of which male and female were 3,966,889 and 3,750,674 respectively. In 2011 census, Barddhaman had tribals population 489447 of which rural tribal population were 379262 and urban tribal population were 110185 of which males were 243,581 and remaining 245, 866 were females; and that of tribals were 6.34% and 9.24% to district and state population respectively. As per 2011 census Literacy Rates of tribal people in the district of Burdwan was 47.48% of which literate males and females were 137880(59.32%) and 94537(40.67%). Remarkably feature for Scheduled Tribes Population in the Burdwan District has 1,009 females per 1,000 males and it ranks 4th among all the districts in the state in this category³

The Government of India, in its Draft National Tribal Policy, 2006 records 698 Scheduled Tribes in India. As per the Census of India 2011, the number of individual groups notified as Scheduled Tribes is 705. ⁴

The Scheduled Tribes are notified in 30 States/UTs and the number of individual ethnic groups, etc. notified as Scheduled Tribes is 705. The tribal population of the country, as per 2011 census, is 10.43 crore, constituting 8.6% of the total population. 89.97% of them live in rural areas and 10.03% in urban areas. The decadal population growth of the tribal's from Census 2001 to 2011 has been 23.66% against the 17.69% of the entire population. From Census 2001 to Census 2011, the percentage of Scheduled Tribes Population in the Rural Areas has increased from 10.4 to 11.3 whereas the Urban Tribal Population has increased only a marginally (from 2.4% to 2.8%)⁵

² In the ethnographic map of India and as per the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002 (Act 10 of 2003)

³ District Census handbook Burdwan (2011). Village and Town Wise Primary Census Abstract , Directorate of Census Operations, West Bengal Series-20 Part XII-B. Census of India 2011.

⁴ The Tribal Committee Report (2014). —Report of the High Level Committee on Socio-economic, Health and Educational Status of Tribal Committees of India. Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Government of India. May 2014.

VI. State / UT wise overall population, ST population, percentage of STs in India / State to total population of India / State and percentage of STs in the State to total ST population

S.no	India/State	Total Population	ST Population	% STs in India/State to total population of India/State	% STs in the State to total ST population in India
	India	121,08,54,977	104545716	8.6	-
1	Andhra pradesh	49386799	2631145	5.3	2.5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1383727	951821	68.8	0.9
3	Assam	31205576	3884371	12.4	3.7
4	Bihar	104099452	1336573	1.3	1.3
5	Chhattisgarh	25545198	7822902	30.6	7.5
6	Goa	1458545	149275	10.2	0.1
7	Gujarat	60439692	8917174	14.8	8.5
8	Haryana	25351462	NST	NA	NA
9	Himachal Pradesh	6864602	392126	5.7	0.4
10	J&K	12541302	1493299	11.9	1.4
11	Jharkhand	32988134	8645042	26.2	8.3
12	Karnataka	61095297	4248987	7.0	4.1
13	Kerala	33406061	484839	1.5	0.5
14	Madya Pradesh	72626809	15316784	21.1	14.7
15	Maharashtra	112374333	10510213	9.4	10.1
16	Manipur	2855794	1167422	40.9	1.1
17	Meghalaya	2966889	2555861	86.1	2.4
18	Mizoram	1097206	1036115	94.4	1.0
19	Nagaland	1978502	1710973	86.5	1.6
20	Orissa	41974218	9590756	22.8	9.2
21	Punjab	27743338	NST	NA	NA
22	Rajasthan	68548437	9238534	13.5	8.8
23	Sikkim	610577	206360	33.8	0.2
24	Tamil Nadu	72147030	794697	1.1	0.8
25	Telangana	35193978	3286928	9.3	3.1
26	Tripura	3673917	1166813	31.8	1.1
27	Uttarakhand	10086292	291903	2.9	0.3
28	Uttar pradesh	199812341	1134273	0.6	1.1
29	West Bengal	91276115	5296953	5.8	5.1
30	A & N Islands	380581	28530	7.5	0.0
31	Chandigarh	1055450	NST	NA	NA
32	D & N Haveli	343709	178564	52.0	0.2
33	Daman & Diu	243247	15363	6.3	0.0
34	Delhi	16787941	NST	NA	NA
35	Lakshadweep	64473	61120	94.8	0.1
36	Puducherry	1247953	NST	NA	NA

Source: Census 2011, Office of the Registrar General, India NST: Non notified Scheduled Tribes (as in 2011), NA: Not Applicable

Percentage of STs in India/State to total population of India/State highest is 94.4 in Mizoram state and the lowest is 0.6 in Uttar pradesh. Hence the ratio of UT is 94.8 at Lakshadweep. When Calculate % STs in the State to total ST population in India the highest ratio is 14.7 in Madya Pradesh and the lowest ratio is 0.1 in states of Goa and UT of Lakshadweep. Hence 0.0 in UT of Daman & Diu. Inthe above table Haryana, Punjab,

⁵ Statistical Profile of Scheduled Tribes in India 2013. Section- 1 & 2. Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Statistics Division. Government of India. Pp.223. Available on www.tribal.nic.in

Chandigarh and Puducherry. In the above population of ratios some of the states/UT are Non notified Scheduled Tribes and Not Applicable as in Census 2011

VII. State/UT wise Population of Scheduled Tribes by Sex and Residence : Census 2011

S.NO	India/State/UTs	TRU	Person	Male	Female
	INDIA	Total	104545716	52547215	51998501
		Rural	94083844	47263733	46820111
		Urban	10461872	5283482	5178390
1	JAMMU & KASHMIR	Total	1493299	776257	717042
		Rural	1406833	730075	676758
		Urban	86466	46182	40284
2	HIMACHAL PRADESH	Total	392126	196118	196008
		Rural	374392	186896	187496
		Urban	17734	9222	8512
3	UTTARKHAND	Total	291903	148669	143234
		Rural	264819	134691	130128
		Urban	27084	13978	13106
4	RAJASTHAN	Total	9238534	4742943	4495591
		Rural	8693123	4454816	4238307
		Urban	545411	288127	257284
5	UTTAR PRADESH	Total	1134273	581083	553190
		Rural	1031076	526315	504761
		Urban	103197	54768	48429
6	BIHAR	Total	1336573	682516	654057
		Rural	1270851	648535	622316
		Urban	65722	33981	31741
7	SIKKIM	Total	206360	105261	101099
		Rural	167146	86059	81087
		Urban	39214	19202	20012
8	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	Total	951821	468390	483431
		Rural	789846	390625	399221
		Urban	161975	77765	84210
9	NAGALAND	Total	1710973	866027	844946
		Rural	1306838	665351	641487
		Urban	404135	200676	203459
10	MANIPUR	Total	1167422	588279	579143
		Rural	1055808	533856	521952
		Urban	111614	54423	57191
11	MIZORAM	Total	1036115	516294	519821
		Rural	507467	257987	249480
		Urban	528648	258307	270341
12	TRIPURA	Total	1166813	588327	578486
		Rural	1117566	563908	553658
		Urban	49247	24419	24828
13	MEGHALAYA	Total	2555861	1269728	1286133
		Rural	2136891	1070557	1066334
		Urban	418970	199171	219799
14	ASSAM	Total	3884371	1957005	1927366
		Rural	3665405	1847326	1818079
		Urban	218966	109679	109287
15	WEST BANGAL	Total	5296953	2649974	2646979
		Rural	4855115	2428057	2427058
		Urban	441838	221917	219921
16	JHARKHAND	Total	8645042	4315407	4329635
		Rural	7868150	3928323	3939827

		Urban	776892	387084	389808
17	ODISHA	Total	9590756	4727732	4863024
		Rural	8994967	4428522	4566445
		Urban	595789	299210	296579
18	CHHATTISGARH	Total	7822902	3873191	3949711
		Rural	7231082	3577134	3653948
		Urban	591820	296057	295763
		Urban	591820	296057	295763
19	MADYA PRADESH	Total	15316784	7719404	7597380
		Rural	14276874	7187769	7089105
		Urban	1039910	531635	508275
20	GUJARAT	Total	8917174	4501389	4415785
		Rural	8021848	4042691	3979157
		Urban	895326	458698	436628
21	DAMAN & DIU	Total	15363	7771	7592
		Rural	7617	3843	3774
		Urban	7746	3928	3818
22	DADRA & NAGARHAVELI	Total	178564	88844	89720
		Rural	150944	75049	75895
		Urban	27620	13795	13825
23	MAHARASTRA	Total	10510213	5315025	5195188
		Rural	9006077	4540456	4465621
		Urban	1504136	774569	729567
24	TELENGANA	Total	3286928	1659963	1626965
		Rural	2939027	1482516	1456511
		Urban	347901	177447	170454
25	ANDHRA PRADESH	Total	2631145	1309399	1321746
		Rural	2293102	1138376	1154726
		Urban	338043	171023	167020
26	KARNATAKA	Total	4248987	2134754	2114233
		Rural	3429791	1723762	1706029
		Urban	819196	410992	408204
27	GOA	Total	149275	72948	76327
		Rural	87639	43263	44376
		Urban	61636	29685	31951
28	LAKSHADWEEP	Total	61120	30515	30605
		Rural	13463	6752	6711
		Urban	47657	23763	23894
29	KERALA	Total	484839	238203	246636
		Rural	433092	213208	219884
		Urban	51747	24995	26752
30	TAMIL NADU	Total	794697	401068	393629
		Rural	660280	333178	327102
		Urban	134417	67890	66527
31	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	Total	28530	14731	13799
		Rural	26715	13837	12878
		Urban	1815	894	921

Source: Office of the Registrar General, India. Note: No Notified Scheduled Tribes in Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, NCT of Delhi and Puducherry as in 2011

The population of Schedule Tribes (STs) in the country as per Census 2011 is 10.45 crore. STs constitute 8.6 percentage of the country's total population. Population of ST male is 5.25 crore and Female is 5.20 crore.

VIII. Composition of Scheduled Tribe Population

State/UT	Sex Ratio 2001			Sex Ratio 2011		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
INDIA	978	981	944	990	991	980
Jammu & Kashmir	910	916	799	924	927	872
Himachal Pradesh	996	1002	809	999	1003	923
Uttarakhand	950	956	867	963	966	938
Rajasthan	944	950	851	948	951	893
Uttar Pradesh	934	945	850	952	959	884
Bihar	929	934	839	958	960	934
Sikkim	957	950	1024	960	942	1042
Arunachal Pradesh	1003	1000	1020	1032	1022	1083
Nagaland	943	942	946	976	964	1014
Manipur	980	977	1040	984	978	1051
Mizoram	984	959	1012	1007	967	1047
Tripura	970	971	921	983	982	1017
Meghalaya	1000	987	1072	1013	996	1104
Assam	972	974	929	985	984	996
West Bengal	982	984	950	999	1000	991
Jharkhand	987	989	965	1003	1003	1007
Odisha	1003	1006	948	1029	1031	991
Chhattisgarh	1013	1017	941	1020	1021	999
Madhya Pradesh	975	979	912	984	986	956
Gujarat	974	978	926	981	984	952
Daman & Diu	947	952	928	977	982	972
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1028	1032	973	1010	1011	1002
Maharashtra	973	979	931	977	984	942
Telangana	962	965	922	980	982	961
Andhra Pradesh	983	986	957	1009	1014	977
Karnataka	972	975	960	990	990	993
Goa	893	827	928	1046	1026	1076
Lakshadweep	1003	1001	1006	1003	994	1006
Kerala	1021	1020	1053	1035	1031	1070
Tamil Nadu	980	977	997	981	982	980
A & N Island	948	954	796	937	931	1030

Source: Office of the Registrar General, India

See ratio in respect of STs is 990, which is higher than national average of 943. Also, ST sex ratio has improved from 978 female per 1000 males in 2001 to 990 in 2011. Goa, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, etc., have shown high ST sex ratio at 924 in 2011. State/UT wise ST sex ratio in 2011, by residence are given above table.

IX. Findings

- The Constitution Order 1950 declared 212 tribes located in 14 states as Scheduled Tribes (STs). The Government of India today identifies 533 tribes.
- Article 341 and 342 provides for classification of Scheduled Castes (the untouchable lower castes) and STs, while Articles 330, 332 and 334 provides for reservation of seats in Parliament and Assemblies.
- 68 million Tribal peoples according to the 1991 census.
- Tribal Peoples constitute 8.6 percent of India's total population, about 104 million people according to the 2011 census. This is the largest population of the tribal people in the world.
- ST sex ratio has improved from 978 female per 1000 males in 2001 to 990 in 2011.

X. Suggestions

The tribal people problem is lack of proper education, trainings, guidance and exposure. The Government has launched several plans and programmes for all-around development and welfare of the tribal society in particular, which are carefully planned to deal with issues at micro level. Tribals live in small groups and thus they do not intermingle with city peoples and communication is a major problem in communities. They are mostly living in jungles and near thick forests so Government should find tribal problems and issues to do need full.

XI. Conclusion

Tribal is very different from all the people living in Rural, Urban and Semi Urban areas. In tribal community mostly the work is distributed among men and women, the young and adults on the basis of age and sex. The tribal own land in common and zealously guard their territory as communal property given by Tribal gods. The economic life of tribal people in India can be described as being at a level of subsistence. Most Indian tribes who engage in their traditional occupation have a hand to mouth existence.

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