



A Study of Demographic Aspects of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Gadchiroli District

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Abstract :

Scheduled cast and Scheduled Tribes together contributed 10.7 lakhs persons, representing 49.96% percent to total population of Gadchiroli in 2011. Their demographic aspects are examined in this paper based on the census data from 2001 to 2011. It is found that both castes and tribes recorded decelerated growth rates in last few decades. Though the population of castes was lower than the tribes the rural population was 86.2% percent which was even higher than the state realization rate. As far as literacy is concerned they have similar trends from 1982 onward. The sex ratio of tribal population increased indicating imbalance structure between male and females. The work participation in Agricultural activities for both castes and tribes were relatively high engaging above 54.60% percent in which man works shared more than women workers.

Key words : Density, work participation, urban-rural ratio, population growth.

Introduction :

Gadchiroli is a big and large forest area District located in the Eastern in Vidarbha. On the border of Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. Total Geographical area 14,412 square kilometers, is plain and the rest belongs to hills. The central and east area surrounded Den forest area and all sides by hills where the inhabitants are chiefly tribes and have habitations right from the early days of the 12th Taluka 10th Taluka are in the hills where 24 subdivisions spread all over.

The administrative headquarters of plain are linked with Gadchiroli, the district headquarter which is located at the plain area of sub-capital Nagpur and C.P. and Bearar Region. Nearly 60 percent of the district total population 1148099 (census 2011) on the plain where Hindu Tribal, including Gond madia scheduled Tribe and Buddhists, Muslims scheduled castes many merchants from other states of India settle. On the extreme Eastern part madia Gonds a large is located and the majority of population belongs Gonds community. The state experienced rapid increase of population for the last many years as a result of migraton and natural growth. Tribes dominate the distribution of population in the hills Bhamrabad, Tipagad, Palasgad, Surjagad. 40 person per square kilometers. In the plain area, the density of population is high recording. 500 persons per square kilometer in 2011 where madia Gonds concentrate muslims, chhatisgad, Marwans, Bengalis, and 7.71% Buddhiss scheduled casts like Dhobi, Teli etc. are also living in the district and has multilingual, multireligions, multiethinic and multicultural characteristics. There is large influx of



population to the main river Basin, Godavari, Indravati, wainganga and hills area else where during the last decades. The tribal population madia is very important as it plays important social and political roles to the development of district. The scheduled caste population is small, however has importance in the society in terms of Socio-Economic and cultural factors. The district has imbalance ethics composition and in its population structure between hills and plains. The social pattern of today in much indicative of having environment of Economic disparities and social tension which may affect on the stability of the Government. The demographic characteristics of tribes as well as castes of the state are associated with the existing nature of disparities in regional development scheduled casts and scheduled tribes population in the state contributed 89.24% percent and 10% percent respectively in 2011.

As per census, there are seven castes and madia Gonds who have distributed both in plain and forest hill areas. Indigenous people and migrants contributing 27.37 person who settle mainly in the plain area with madia, the major community in the district, composes the scheduled castes.

Scheduled tribes are chiefly indigenous type of people who have been colonizing their own kinships occupying pocket hilly enclaves. They are richly blessed by nature and have identical feeling of free and independent society. They migrated from different directions during the historical periods and settled in the hill areas. In course of time, number of tribes and dialects come into existence and they are broadly divided into two groups, Gonds, Madia Gonds, of late the dimension of their philosophy of ethic values and political ideas has become a complicated matter demanding for identification of separate groups of tribes. By Hindu tribal religion, must of Scheduled tribes are Gonds who worship their markanda old god. But scheduled caste are either Hindus which Mahar hindu community converted into Buddhists in 1956 philosophy under Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in Nagpur.

Objective :

An attempt is made here to Examine the demographic characteristic of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and their roles in the Gadchiroli District development, after madia Gond's population in the district and study the aspects like population growth, sex ratio concentration and distribution, urban-rural composition, literacy and education and work participation are studied.

Data source and Methodology :

This study is based on the census data from 1901 to 2011 and personal observation. As far as 2011 data is concerned, the final population totals published by census of India is extensively used for the present study. Tables wherein population data are calculated accordingly basically with the nature of examination and logical points support the analysis.

Historical perspective :

The origin of tribes in Berar region of is difficult to say precisely from where and when they come to the other state. Johnstone (1971) stated that the hill tribes migrated in waves. Brown (1975) opined that Kuki's were from the north and east directon where as Nagas and marings were from the south and east direction.

In accient time the region was ruled by the Rashtrakutas, the Chalukyas, the Yadavas of Deogiri and the Gonds of Gadchiroli 13th century Khandkya Ballarl shah founded chandrapur and made its his capital. 1853 Berar of which chandrapur was



part, was ceded to British East India Company. Gadchiroli district was carved out on the 26th of August 1982 by the division of erstwhile Chandrapur district. It was part of Chandrapur district and only two places namely Gadchiroli and Sironcha were tehsils of Chandrapur District before the formation of Gadchiroli District. Gadchiroli district is situated on the north eastern side of Maharashtra state having state border of Telangana and Chhattisgarh. Naxalism is highly prevalent in Gadchiroli district subsequently, has been highlighted as part of the Red corridor, used to describe areas in India that are plagued by Naxalities. They took the shelter in the dense forest & hills of this district.

Location and Geographical Data :

Gadchiroli district lies between 19° to 21° north latitude and 80° to 81° East longitudes. Total area of the district is 14,412 sq. kms. Which is about 4.68% of total area of Maharashtra state.

Population growth :

Tribal population in Gadchiroli district is 1,07,294 male and female population is 5,41,328 and 5,31,614 (as per census 2011). There was population growth of 81.50 percent in 50 years recording 1.8 lakh in 1901. The population rose 11,61,411 lakh accounting for 150.6 percent between 1911 and 1981. A sudden increase of 62.94 percent was found from 1981 to 1991 against 29.29 percent of state. The increase of tribal population from 1991 to 2001 was 48.28% percent (excluding the three sub divisions of Aheri, Gadchiroli Dhanora & Chamorshi). It is observed that state experienced steadily increase of tribal population largely due to in migration and natural growth. Perhaps this is a trend found in most of the tribal dominated district of East Maharashtra. The district of Gadchiroli got an about rise of tribal population from the 1991 census and continued 2001.

Table No. 1

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Population in Gadchiroli District

Year	Total Population	Scheduled caste Population	Scheduled Tribe Population
1901	108315	12997	41156
1911	116141	13936	44133
1921	124270	14912	47222
1931	137270	16472	52162
1941	133741	18448	58421
1951	172189	20662	65431
1961	213514	25621	81335
1971	264757	31770	100607
1981	360069	43208	136826
1991	505069	60608	191926
2001	808110	96973	307081
2011	1070033	128403	406612
2021	1148099	137771	436277

Source : Census of India, 2011, Maharashtra Excluding four sub-division of Gadchiroli, MS.



Table I clearly reveals the decadal variation of tribal population socio Economic survey stated through the fertility rate of scheduled Tribe was more than the Hindus in state through the fertility rate declined from 3.53 to 2.31 between 1992-93 and 1998-99. The impact of increase tribal population may cause rapid depletion of forest resources and degoation of biodiversily in the region since shufting cultivation is the only alternative to get staple food in terms in the hill forest.

Concentration and Distribution :

The tribal communities are unevenly distributed largely in forest area and hill areas of the district. However there are three types of settlers visible among them i.e. foot hill settlers, hill settlers and plain settlers. Each tribe has socio-cultural multey and specific problems. The spatial distribution of tribes in Gadchiroli is examined by calculating the location quotient based on 1971, 1981 and 1991 data was found more concentration in the hills areas where the have separate habitats with their own social and cultural status (singh, 1993). It is true that the interior parts of hill area such as chamorshi, mulchra, Anori, Bhamragad, Kurheda, Korchi Sub-Division etc. obtained above 90% percent of tribal population in 2001. But there distribution is found with low percent in the sub-division 85% percent scheduled. Tribes population in 2001. The tribes populated altogether in about 1700 hill & forest villages and one town in 2001. The tribes populated altogether in about 1700 hills & forest villages and one town in 2001. most of the administrative headquarters are being touched by transport routes and facilitated with educational institutions services of Gonds god 'perasha pen' temples, government office, etc. scheduled castes population in Gadchiroli district was 120745 person in 2011 standing second rank and had an abrupt increase of 14.3% percent between 1981 and 1991.

The distribution of multi-tribes in the plain areas is well noticed though madia Gonds were the first settlers right from the historical period.

Table No. 2

Scheduled Tribe & Scheduled Caste Population in Gadchiroli District

Census	Scheduled Tribe			Scheduled Caste		
	Sex Ratio	Urban Pop.in %	Literacy in %	Sex Ratio	Urban Pop.in %	Literacy in %
1931	-	-	0.40			
1941	-	-				
1951	1070	-	-	955	-	-
1961	1022	1.66	27.25	942	1.18	21.93
1971	1009	4.46	28.71	914	3.50	26.44
1981	975	11.64	39.7.	996	16.66	33.63
1991	960	842	33.63	973	22..28	46.80
2001	980	4.75	44.75	1006	19.18	48.00
2011	976	6.93	60.1	1001	12.25	--

Source : Census Report, Maharashtra State Central Provinces District Gazetteers

There is tendency of tribal to shift from forest areas to the central valley due to Gonds Madia tension developed recently and otherwise for getting better economic avenues. Their distribution is being disturbed due to the ethnic identification is being



disturbed due to the ethnic identification process among the tribe. Their political consciousness has brought a change in the scenario of tribal composition and spatial distribution in the district. Concentration of scheduled caste is found in the plain areas where, Rajputs, Mahar, Teli, Dhimar, Mahar, Komti Dhangar and Kurumwar, Velama, Sonars, Sironcha village Velamas are the cultivator caste of Telugus to which superior proprietor sub division Taluka Achori belongs to Velmas has less than 198 person in 2001.

Sex Ratio :-

Sex ratio is one of the basic Characteristics of Demography, which relates to the socio-economic and political structure of the district. Gadchiroli has been experiencing a declining trend of the sex ratio of tribes. Females per 1000 male by recording 976 in 1991 and 2001 sex ratio one striking feature that may be observed from Table -2 is that the magnitude of excess of females over males was upto 1991 then found declined sex ratio from 1981, this pattern of sex ratio existed in the district from 1931 to 1961 recording above 1015 sex ratio in each census. This suggests that there were some dissimilar characteristics in term of sex ratio of births, mortality females etc. between tribes and castes in District Gadchiroli.

Urban and rural composition :-

The Development of region will be indicated by the urbanization rate, which gives the idea that the people who are in the urban area get better amenities and service, facilities. The urbanization rate of Gadchiroli recorded about 24.58 % again India 27.81 % in 2001. It is observed that urbanization in hills of Gadchiroli district, whose scheduled tribes are living under rigorous environment for ages has been found with very slow progress from 1961 to 2001(1.66% to -4.75%) the rural population is above 95% relecting that their socio-economic condition are very poor. As indicated by the census of India 1991, nearly 47% of scheduled tribes of Gadchiroli enjoyed drinking water facility and 0.16% of household received biogas cooking. But the households having electricity were 34.05 %, against 22.80% of India which attributed those tribe even in the interior rural areas got domestic electric connection (Table .3) The rural habitations are otherwise characterized with agricultural and allied activities to support their lives. Those who are at the plain as well as football are comparatively better off because of the advantage of transportation another economic pursuits so, the tribes at large do not share more than 4.75 % urban population in 2001 in spite of the fact that they are migrating from other state to the central valley, and plain area since the last few Decades. All the Subdivisions of the plain were with population.

Literacy and Education :-

Scheduled Tribe of Gadchiroli District are not lagging behind in education compared to other tribes in the country, being recorded 33.63% in 1991, which is above the all India average, 29.60% They were illiterate in the past but increased the rate of literacy since independence, from 0.40 %(1931) to 60.1% percent (2011). Table II reveals the fact that education among the tribal population in the state has been improving since he last few decades. As noted in the statistical abstract of Gadchiroli 2011 there were.

Work Participation:-

By and large the district depends on Agricultural resources. In both forest area and hill & plain, the workforce participated in these sector shares more than 55.35 %



of the total main workers in the district. The dependency ratio remains high because the proportion of non-workers is always high recording above 55%. The scheduled tribes who practice shifting cultivation right from the early days are still depending on agriculture engaging 75% above in the district. Both man and women participate in struggling for food to sustain their lives for which agriculture and forest resources are the only means. Rice is the staple food which is grown in the terrace and plain pocket area with an estimate area of 2,89,506 hectares in twelve Talukas of forest area & hills. Irrigation area 63136 Hectares hill villagers for growing vegetables, pulses, root, Soybean, Sesame, cotton, wheat, Gram Chilli. The family member put heavy works with the traditional implements of axe, chopper etc. The scheduled casts are also 70% of the total main workers. They have more proportion 1991 than the tribes as they are in the plain urban as well. However, their female worker are lesser than the make counterparts in the categories of cultivator and agricultural laborers. Ploughing of paddy fields is the duty of male while females do transplantation.

Concluding remarks :

The above discussion of demographic aspects of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes population in Gadchiroli district reveals that their population has been increasing steadily. The trend of population increase among the tribes southern India is common phenomena. Scheduled castes being in the plain area represent dominantly some townships in spite of their small population in District. Where as the tribes are with large number in the rural area where difficult terrain imposes on many economic activities, besides the poor transport and communication. However, the encouragement in education along with Christianity enable them to came up to modern society.

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