



Original Article

Spatial Distribution of the Scheduled Caste Population in Maharashtra

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Abstract

This study examines the spatial distribution and gender composition of the Scheduled Caste (SC) population in Maharashtra based on the 2011 Census data. Historically marginalized under the Varna system as "untouchables," SC communities have faced centuries of social and economic exclusion. The research examines district-wise and administrative division-wise patterns, male-female variation and rural and urban population. Pune district has the highest SC population (8.89%), while Nandurbar records the lowest (0.36%). Division-wise, the Pune and Aurangabad divisions shows high SC populations, whereas Nashik and Konkan divisions show relatively low figures. Gender distribution across the state remains nearly balanced, with males constituting 50.98% and females 49.02% of the SC population. According to the study, 56% of SC people live in rural areas, although the Konkan division has a much higher urban concentration (86%). These results highlight the necessity of region-specific policy measures to address the socioeconomic growth of SC communities in Maharashtra's various regions.

Keywords: Spatial Distribution, Scheduled Castes, Maharashtra.

Introduction

In India, from ancient times, there was a system in which the Varna system was Brahmin (the priest class), Kshatriyas (the warrior class), Vaishyas (the trader class), and last on that is known as Shudras (the worker class). Along with this, another class also existed, which was considered inferior to all the other classes. This class was known as the untouchable. Untouchables historically disadvantaged, faced social exclusion and discrimination and deprived social and political rights. In the British period untouchables were known as Harijan, Dalits, and the depressed class. The term "Scheduled Castes" was coined by the Simon Commission for Dalit and codified in the 1935 Government of India Act. Article 341 of the Indian Constitution defines "Scheduled Castes". After Indian independence in 1947, the practice of untouchability was legally abolished and safeguard the socio-economic and political right by the constitution. The spatial distribution of population demonstrates how people are distributed across a country. In this study examines district wise and administrative wise spatial pattern, variation in male-female and rural-urban concentration of Scheduled caste population in Maharashtra.

Objectives:

1. To study the district-wise and administrative-division-wise spatial pattern of the Scheduled Caste population in Maharashtra.
2. To study the male and female variation and the rural-urban concentration of the SC population in Maharashtra.

Study Area:

Maharashtra state is located in the Central western part of India. It lies between 72° 36' E to 80° 54' E longitude and 15° 45' N to 22° 6' N latitude. It is surrounded by Madhya Pradesh state to the north, Chhattisgarh to the East, Telangana to the south east, Karnataka to the South, Goa to the southwest and Gujarat to the Northwest. According to census 2011, Maharashtra has 35 districts classified into six administrative division: Nashik, Konkan, Pune, Aurangabad, Amravati, and Nagpur.

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Map No.1

Methodology:

The study is based on secondary sources. To study special pattern of SCs population district wise and division wise relations data were procured from the 2011 census. Table & chart has been used to represent the data.

Result and Discussion:

According to the 2011 census, India has 20,137,8372 SC population that is 16.6% the total population of India those populations mainly living in rural areas. Uttar Pradesh is the highest SCs populated state of India. According to 2011 Census, total population of Maharashtra is 11,23,74,333. It is 9.3 % of the total population of India. Maharashtra is a second most populated state in India. Maharashtra has 1,32,75,898 scheduled caste population that is the 11.81% of the total SC populations in India. Maharashtra is the six largest SC populated state in India.

District-wise and Administrative-Division-wise Spatial Distributions of SCs Population in Maharashtra:

The population of the scheduled caste people in Maharashtra State was 1, 32, and 75,898 in 2011, according to the census 2011. It is 11.81% of the total population of Maharashtra.

Table No.:1

District-wise and Administrative Division-wise Distributions of SCs Population in Maharashtra:

Region	Total	%	Proportion to total population	Male	%	Female	%	Rural %	Urban %
Nandurbar	47,985	0.36	2.91	24,273	50.58	23,712	49.42	64	36
Dhule	1,27,571	0.96	6.22	65,068	51.01	62,503	48.99	65	35
Jalgaon	3,89,273	2.93	9.20	1,99,427	51.23	1,89,846	48.77	69	31
Nashik	5,54,687	4.18	9.08	2,82,213	50.88	2,72,474	49.12	42	58
Ahmadnagar	5,73,698	4.32	12.63	2,91,521	50.81	2,82,177	49.19	77	23
Nashik Division	16,93,214	12.75	9.11	8,62,502	50.94	8,30,712	49.06	62	38
Thane	7,30,089	5.50	6.60	3,77,885	51.76	3,52,204	48.24	12	88
Mumbai Suburban	5,83,302	4.39	6.23	3,00,291	51.48	2,83,011	48.52	0	100
Mumbai	2,19,934	1.66	7.13	1,11,564	50.73	1,08,370	49.27	0	100
Raigarh	1,34,952	1.02	5.12	67,980	50.37	66,972	49.63	48	52
Ratnagiri	66,948	0.50	4.15	31,967	47.75	34,981	52.25	86	14
Sindhudurg	55,586	0.42	6.54	26,830	48.27	28,756	51.73	88	12
Konkan Division	17,90,811	13.49	6.26	9,16,517	51.18	8,74,294	48.82	14	86
Pune	11,80,703	8.89	12.52	6,02,755	51.05	5,77,948	48.95	31	69
Solapur	6,49,745	4.89	15.05	3,31,960	51.09	3,17,785	48.91	68	32
Satara	3,23,236	2.43	10.76	1,61,703	50.03	1,61,533	49.97	77	23
Kolhapur	5,04,461	3.80	13.01	2,53,390	50.23	2,51,071	49.77	70	30
Sangli	3,53,093	2.66	12.51	1,77,108	50.16	1,75,985	49.84	71	29
Pune Division	30,11,238	22.68	12.84	15,26,916	50.71	14,84,322	49.29	55	45
Nanded	6,40,483	4.82	19.05	3,28,797	51.34	3,11,686	48.66	74	26
Hingoli	1,82,565	1.38	15.51	93,379	51.15	89,186	48.85	89	11
Parbhani	2,47,308	1.86	13.47	1,25,883	50.90	1,21,425	49.10	70	30
Jalna	2,72,266	2.05	13.90	1,38,957	51.04	1,33,309	48.96	83	17
Aurangabad	5,39,368	4.06	14.57	2,77,228	51.40	2,62,140	48.60	46	54
Bid	3,51,254	2.65	13.59	1,79,777	51.18	1,71,477	48.82	79	21
Latur	4,80,913	3.62	19.60	2,47,918	51.55	2,32,995	48.45	77	23
Osmanabad	2,65,184	2.00	16.00	1,36,354	51.42	1,28,830	48.58	83	17
Aurangabad	29,79,341	22.44	15.91	15,28,293	51.30	14,51,048	48.70	72	28

Division									
Buldana	4,70,895	3.55	18.21	2,41,445	51.27	2,29,450	48.73	84	16
Akola	3,64,059	2.74	20.07	1,86,244	51.16	1,77,815	48.84	70	30
Washim	2,29,462	1.73	19.17	1,17,867	51.37	1,11,595	48.63	87	13
Amravati	5,06,374	3.81	17.53	2,59,398	51.23	2,46,976	48.77	68	32
Yavatmal	3,28,518	2.47	11.85	1,67,009	50.84	1,61,509	49.16	76	24
Amravati Division	18,99,308	14.31	16.87	9,71,963	51.17	9,27,345	48.83	76	24
Wardha	1,88,830	1.42	14.52	96,569	51.14	92,261	48.86	61	39
Nagpur	8,67,713	6.54	18.65	4,39,205	50.62	4,28,508	49.38	27	73
Bhandara	2,00,372	1.51	16.69	1,00,421	50.12	99,951	49.88	77	23
Gondiya	1,75,961	1.33	13.31	87,434	49.69	88,527	50.31	77	23
Gadchiroli	1,20,745	0.91	11.25	61,041	50.55	59,704	49.45	84	16
Chandrapur	3,48,365	2.62	15.80	1,76,898	50.78	1,71,467	49.22	54	46
Nagpur Division	19,01,986	14.33	16.18	9,61,568	50.56	9,40,418	49.44	49	51
Maharashtra	1,32,75,898	11.81	11.81	67,67,759	50.98	65,08,139	49.02	56	44

Source: Census 2011, A-10 Appendix: District wise scheduled caste population (Appendix), Maharashtra – 2011

Table no.1 shows that scheduled caste population in Maharashtra is unevenly distributed. Some region has high population whereas some region has low population. That region classified into following:

1) Area of High Population:

Pune (8.89%), Nagpur (6.54%), Thane (5.50%), Solapur (4.89%), and Nanded (4.82%) are the districts with the highest SC population. The most SC-populated district and division in Maharashtra is Pune. The Pune and Aurangabad divisions are noted in this high SC population division.

2) Area of Moderate Population:

Sangli (2.66%), Bid (2.65%), Chandrapur (2.62%), Akola (2.74%), and Jalgaon (2.93%) are the districts with the moderate population. Amravati and Nagpur Division have a moderate SC population.

3) Area of Low Population:

The districts of Nandurbar (0.36%), Dhule (0.96%), Gadchiroli (0.91), Ratnagiri (0.50), and Sindhudurg (0.42%) have the lowest populations. In this district Nandurbar has the lowest SC population. In the Nashik and Konkan Division, very low SC populations are observed.

Male and female population:

According to the 2011 census, there is no substantial difference between the male and female populations of Maharashtra: 50.98% are men and 49.02% are females. Few districts in Maharashtra have more than 50% female populations, notably Gondia, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurga, because to male migration for work. A division-by-division analysis of the male and female populations reveals that no division has more than 50% female population.

Division Wise Spatial Distributions of SCs Population in Maharashtra:

In Maharashtra there are six administrative divisions. The following divisional analysis is based on the 2011 census.

1. Nashik Division:

There are 16,93,214 members of the scheduled caste in the Nashik division, accounting for 9.11% of the division's overall population and 12.75% of the state's total SC population. Nashik Division has the lowest scheduled caste population in Maharashtra. In the Nashik division, 62% of members of the scheduled caste resided in rural regions. balanced differences between men and women in the Nashik division.

2. Konkan Division:

The scheduled caste population in the Konkan division is 17,90,811 it is 13.49% of the total SC population of the state and 6.26% of the division's total population. This division is the most urbanized division in Maharashtra, sharing 86%. The female SC population is slightly lower, contributing 48.82%.

3. Pune division:

The scheduled caste population in the Pune division is the highest among all the divisions in Maharashtra. It has a population of 30,11,238 which is 22.68% of the total SC population of Maharashtra and 12.84% of the division's total population. The Pune district in this division is a major contributor to urbanization. Balanced in male-female variations.

4. Aurangabad Division:

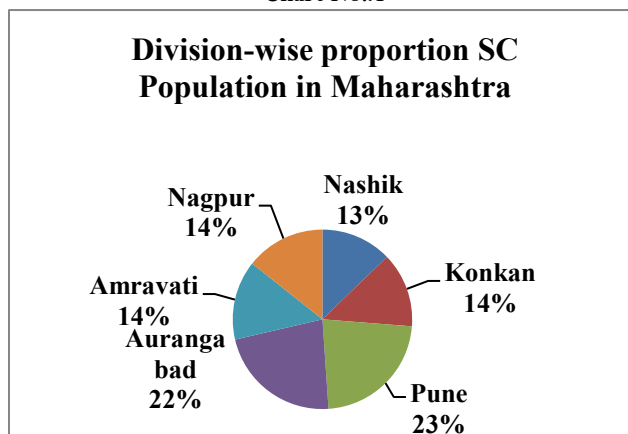
Maharashtra's second-most populous SC division accounts for 22.44% of the state's total SC population. 29,79,341 population in Aurangabad Division which is 15.91% to the total division population. 72% of the population is concentrated in rural areas, as this division demonstrates. Out of all the districts in this division, Aurangabad is the only one that is highly urbanized (54%).

5. Amravati Division:

There are 8,99,308 SC people in the Amravati division, which makes up 12.75 % of the state's total SC population and 16.87 of the total division population. The Amravati division has the highest proportion of SC population to the total population of division. With 76% of the SC population residing in rural areas, it is one of the most rural divisions; the districts of Buldhana and Washim have significant SC populations in rural areas.

6. Nagpur Division:

With 1,901,986 residents, the Nagpur division accounts for 14.33% of the state's SC population. The Nagpur division has the second largest proportion of SC population to the total population of division which is 16.18%. This division contains more than 50% of the urban population. Gender differences are negligible.

Chart No.:1

Source: Handbook of Basic Statistics of Maharashtra 2020

Rural and Urban Population:

The scheduled caste population in Maharashtra was more likely to reside in rural than in urban areas. 44% of people lived in cities, while 56% of people lived in rural areas. Konkan (86%), Nagpur (51%), and Pune (45%) are the divisions with the highest levels of urbanization. Because most people are drawn to large cities for employment, there is a high trend of urbanization in those divisions.

Conclusions

The spatial distribution of the scheduled castes population in Maharashtra reveals varying concentrations across districts or divisions. Scheduled caste population in Maharashtra is unevenly distributed. Pune district has a large SC population, whereas Nandurbar district has a small SC population. In division Pune division is highest and Nashik is lowest populated division in Maharashtra. A gender analysis reveals little variation between the male and female populations. The majority of the SC population lived in rural areas. In contrast more than 80% SC population in Konkan Division lived in urban areas.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper

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