

THE STATUS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN CHHATTISGARH AFTER STATE RE-FORMATION (A Demographic Study)



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Research paper

The population of Chhattisgarh, is notable for the high proportion of scheduled tribes. Of the total population of Chhattisgarh, tribals constitute at least 31.76% of it, which is a significantly high percentage. In India, the combined population of the Scheduled Casts and Tribes is 23.6% of the total population and for Madhya Pradesh; this figure rises to 37.1%. The combined population of the Scheduled Caste and Tribes in Chhattisgarh is significantly higher at 44.7% and this is largely due to a high population of tribal population. Tribes are one of the prominent categories of the backward classes and historically disadvantaged groups of Indian Society. They have since centuries, remained outside the mainstream of national life due to low rate of literacy and acute state of poverty. Although sustained and coordinated efforts have been made by the government and special attention has been paid, over the years, to lift them out of poverty trap and stagnation, yet the benefits of planning and economic development have reached to them scantily. It is being realized that the tribal development blocks are not touching even the fringe of the problem and the greater efforts are needed.

These efforts can be accelerated with the declaration of the state as a tribal state, which will automatically be followed by special attention, funds and developmental programmes for the tribes of the state. The present paper is an effort to give reasons for its declaration as a Tribal State. Chhattisgarh, having high density of tribes, came into existence as the 26th State of Indian Union on 1st Nov. 2000, after getting alienated from Madhya Pradesh under Madhya Pradesh Re-Formation Act 2000. The geographical boundaries of the state extend from 17.46" to 24.5" in

the Northern latitude to 80.15" to 84.20" Eastern longitudes. Its total area is 135194 square km., 4.10 percent of the total area of the country. Its boundaries touch the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. The State comprises of total 18 districts, which are Raipur, Mahasamund, Dhamtari, Kanker, Bastar, Dantewada, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Kawardha, Bilaspur, Korba, Janjgeer-Chanpa, Raigarh, Jaspur, Sarguja, Korla, Narayangarh and Beejapur.

The total population of the State as per the census of 2001 was 2,08,33,803, which includes the population of scheduled Tribes- 66,16,596, which is 31.76 percent of the total population. As per the 2001 census, there are 31 Scheduled Tribes living in this State, which are given here- The list of Scheduled tribes, that was released in 1950 (revised in 1976), for old Madhya Pradesh by Government of India was released as it is, for the State of Chhattisgarh, which included 42 tribes in it. Among these Bheel, Bheelmeeda, and Domar inhabit the western Madhya Pradesh; whereas, Saharia, Sour, Sonr etc. live in the Northern Madhya Pradesh. Similarly, Korku, Karku and Mawasi tribes are found in Khandawa, Baitul and Chhattisgarh district of Madhya Pradesh. Andhra and Kolam tribes belong to Maharashtra and these are not found in Chhattisgarh.

The Status of Aboriginal Tribes -The Government of India planning commission, in 1969 has identified 75 tribal groups as aboriginal tribes on the basis of their primitive rate of literacy or their isolated life style, so that speedy measures can be taken to uplift their social and economic conditions by establishing separate developmental agencies for them. The detail of these aboriginal tribes in Chhattisgarh is given here

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Table No. 1 DISTRIBUTION OF SHEDULED TRIBES IN CHHATTISGARH (According to 2001)

S.No.	Name of Sheduled Tribes	Population	Residing Districts
1	Gond (Agaria, Asur, Maria, Dandami Maria, Hill Maria Bade Maria, Chota Maria, Kuchaki Muria, Dorla, Ojha, Dhurwa, Ghuru, Koitar Koya, Thatia, Nagvanshi, Kandra,)	3659384	Allover District of Chhattisgarh
2	Kanwar	760298	Jashpur, Raigarh
3	Uraon	645950	Raigarh, Jashpur, Sarguja, Korla
4	Halba	326671	Kawardha, Dhamtari, Rajnandgaon
5	Bhatra	185514	Bastar, Dantewada, Narayanpur
6	Sawra	104718	Korba, Raigarh, Mahasamund
7	Korwa	102035	Korba, Raigarh, Jashpur, Sarguja
8	Binjhwar	100692	Raipur, Mahasamund, Raigarh
9	Khairwar	98701	Jashpur, Sarguja, Korla
10	Bhumia, Bhuihar	88981	Raigarh, Jashpur, Sarguja, Korla
11	Nagesia	84846	Jashpur, Sarguja
12	Baiga	69993	Bilaspur, Kawardha, Korla
13	Majhi	60246	Korba, Raigarh, Jashpur, Sarguja
14	Agriya	54574	Bilaspur, Korla, Jashpur, Sarguja
15	Majhwar	48510	Raigarh, Korba, Jashpur, Sarguja
16	Bhaina	46452	Bilaspur, Raigarh
17	Dhanwar	42172	Raipur, Mahasamund, Bilaspur
18	Khariya	41901	Raipur, Mahasamund, Raigarh
19	Kamar	23113	Raipur, Mahasamund, Dhamtari
20	Kol	16966	Bilaspur
21	Pao	13071	Bilaspur
22	Munda	12383	Sarguja, Jashpur
23	Pardhi, Shikari, Baheliya	10757	Bastar, Korba, Bilaspur, Dhamtari
24	Pardhan	10481	Bilaspur, Kawardha
25	Kondh	10114	Raipur, Mahasamund, Raigarh
26	Bhunjiya	9357	Raipur
27	Gadba	6317	Bastar, Dantewada, Narayangarh
28	Biar	4403	Sarguja, Korla
29	Saounta	2959	Sarguja, Korba, Raigarh
30	Birhor	1744	Raigarh, Jashpur, Sarguja
31	Parja	1588	Bastar, Dantewada, Bijapur
	Total	6616596	18

Source- *The Scheduled Tribes of Chhattisgarh, The Institute of Tribal Research and Training Center, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur 2008.*

Table No. 2 DISTRIBUTION OF PRIMITIVE TRIBES IN CHHATTISGARH (According to 2006)

S.No.	Name of Primitive Tribes	Population	Residing Districts
1.	Abujhmaria	19401	Baster, Kanker, and Dantewara
2.	Baiga	67241	Bilaspur, Kawardha, Korba & Durg
3.	Birhor	2626	Raigarh, Jashpur, Sarguja and Durg
4.	Hill Korwa	34122	Jashpur, Sarguja and Korba
5.	Kamar	23033	Raipur, Dhamtari, and Mahasamund
	Total 05	146423	

Source- *The Scheduled Tribes of Chhattisgarh, The Institute of Tribal Research and Training Center, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur 2008.*

It is to be noted that the number of primitive tribes in undivided Madhya Pradesh was six. Since, after re-formation of the State, the primitive tribe “Bharia” has gone to Chhindwada district of Madhya Pradesh, the total number of primitive tribes in Chhattisgarh has been five.

The Tribal Review of the State

1 As per 2001 census, the total population of the state is 20833803 and the total population of the scheduled tribe is 6616569, which comes to 31.76% of the total population. 2 According to the list of scheduled tribes, released by the Government of India in 1950 (revised in 1976), the total number of scheduled tribes in the undivided Madhya Pradesh was 42 and among them, maximum tribes 31 live in Chhattisgarh. 3 The number of primitive tribes in the undivided Madhya Pradesh was six (Hill Korwa, Birhor, Kamar, Baiga, Abhujmaria and Bharia) and five of these primitive tribes live in Chhattisgarh at present, which means, more than 80% of the primitive tribes live in Chhattisgarh. 4 As per the Indian Gazette Part-2, Subpart-3-1, dated 20 February 2003, 9 districts of the state (Sarguja, Korba, Bastar, Dantewada, Kanker, Beejapur, Narayanpur, Korba and Jaspur) have been declared as completely tribal areas and 9 district of the state (Bilaspur, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Raipur, Dhamtari, Mahasamund, Raigarh, Ambikapur and Janjgeer-Chanpa) have been declared

as partially tribal areas. 5 Out of total scheduled tribe population of the country, 8.44% of it live in Chhattisgarh, where as only 2% of total general population of the country live in the state. 6 Chhattisgarh occupies eighth place among the states having maximum tribal population in the country, after Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Daman & Nagar Haveli and Manipur, whereas there are total 35 states and Union territories in the country. 7 Although the distribution of the tribes in the State is uneven (70.5% in Dantewada district and 11.6% in Janjgeer-Champa district), yet each of the districts has tribal population to some extent. None of the districts is devoid of them. 8 Out of 11 Parliament seats of Chhattisgarh, 4 seats; and out of 90 Legislative seats of the State 34 seats are reserved for the scheduled tribes. Thus, more than one third seats have been reserved for scheduled tribes by the Government of India. 9 The Government of India has included 88000 square Km. of land, out of 135133 Km. of total land of the state in the Tribal Development Project, which is 65.12% of the total area, whereas the total land area of the State is only 04.10% of the total area of the country. Thus, after glancing through the tribal Status of the State, it would be proper to categorize it as a tribal state along with its recognition as a rice-bowl state.

R E F E R E N C E

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