

Socio demographic profile of respondents in Gajapati district: A study

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Abstract

This paper discussed Socio Demographic Profile of Respondents in Gajapati district. Gajapati district is tribal dominated district of Odisha i.e., 53 percent population of the state average. The Saoras is a vulnerable primitive group in Gajapati district as well as Odisha. The Saoras are plains depend on their wet cultivation, wage earning and selling firewood for their survivable and The Saoras are also depend Hill or forest. The Hill Saoras are practice shifting cultivation, mixed farming cultivation; terraced cultivation on the hill slopes and collection firewood is the main occupation of the Sabara or Saura women which provides them minimum sustenance throughout the year. Both men and women are collect firewood but the collection of Mahua flowers is done exclusively by women and children.

Keyword: Saora tribal, Agriculture, Sex Ratio, Literacy.

Introduction

According to population census of India 2001, there are about 31.7 million are cultivators and 26.6 million are agricultural labourers and 41.7 million other workers (table-1). The latest available agricultural census data (Govt. of India, Agricultural Census Division, and Ministry of Agriculture 2002) also reveal that about 78 percent of operational holdings in the country are marginal and small, having less than 2 hectares. About 13 percent holdings have 2 to 4 hectares and 7.1 per cent have 4 to 10 hectares of land. The relatively large holdings above 10 hectares number only about 1.6 percent of the total operational holdings. However, this 1.6 per cent of the large holdings occupies about 17.3 per cent of the total area, while 78 percent of holdings which are less than 2 hectares, and

operate only about 32.4 percent of the total area. This speaks of inequality in the distribution of operational holdings. Also there is inequality of income between agricultural and non-agricultural workers, which is evident from the fact that percentage share of agriculture in current total GDP is only 24.2, while the percentage share of agricultural work force to total work force comes to about 60 percent. The agricultural Census data clearly bear out the fact that Indian agriculture is dominated by small and marginal farms, which are basically subsistence farmers. They provide mainly for self consumption. However, some of these farmers have to sell their produce immediately after harvest at low prices and buy the same products later at high prices.

Table 1: Population and Agriculture Workers in India

Years	Cultivators	Agriculture	Other Workers
1951	49.9	19.5	30.6
1961	52.8	16.7	30.5
1981	37.8	22.7	39.5
1991	35.2	23.8	41
2001	31.7	26.6	41.7

Source: Registrar General of India, New Delhi, 2001

Another important source of data is Census of India (2001), according to which there are nearly 127 million cultivators, 107.5 million agricultural labourers and 6 million other farm workers engaged in livestock, forestry and plantations. Of the total agricultural labourers, 38.0 per cent were female and 61.9 percent male workers. Also among livestock, forestry and plantation workers, 78.3 percent were male workers and 21.7 percent were female workers. About 99.2 percent

of agricultural workers were reported to be unorganized and unprotected.

According to various rounds of National Sample Survey, the absolute number of rural poor persons increased from 232 million in 1987-88 to 244 million in 1993-94 and then declined to 193 million in 1999-2000. As shown by table 1.2 still about 27 percent rural people are reported to be below the poverty line. Equality between men and women is a matter of human rights and condition for social justice and is also a

necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, developmental and faeces. Gender composition reflects nationality, mortality and migration character of a given population. Distribution pattern of male and female in a population affects relative roles and economic relationships. Agrarian field is one of the most importances in sectional analysis to measure gender unbalanced. According to the provisional population totals of census 2011, out of a total population of 41974218, persons10707543 are main and 6834046 marginal workers. In agrarian fields women are basically marginalised in total of population and women are marginalised out of total marginal workers. Odisha is a poor state, where majority of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Before

discussing the agrarian economic conditions of the state, In Odisha 2001 census, men are 1797266 marginalised and female are 2894953 marginalised out of Odisha total population. Main worker for male is 8004740 and female main worker 1584529 out of total population in Odisha 2001 census. In District of Gajapati is total men marginal workers 28096 and women 67476 marginalised worker out of total Gajapati population and women main workers 63536. So we need to have detail idea about the socio- demographic pattern of Odisha and that of Gajapati. Sex ratio is one of the most vulnerable indicators of the social profile of any society. Sex ratio of the state is consistently declining since 2001 to 2011.

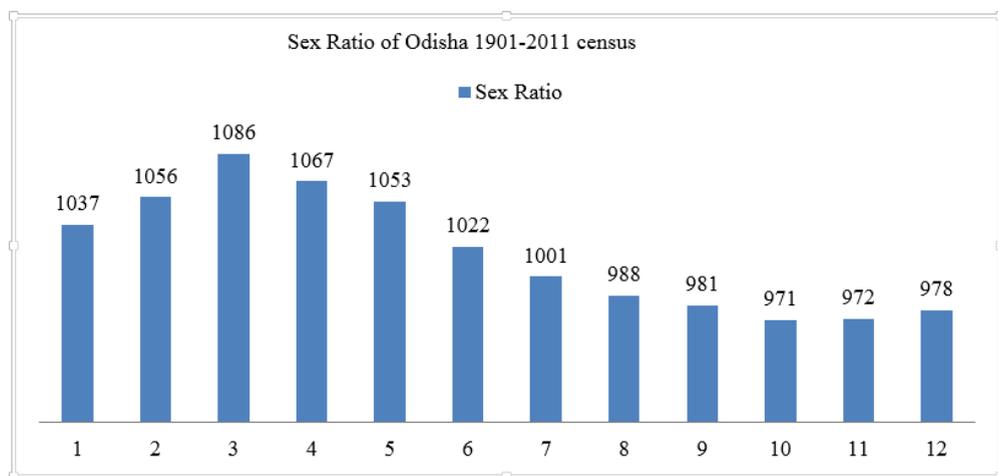


Fig. 1: Sex Ratio of Odisha 1901-2011Census

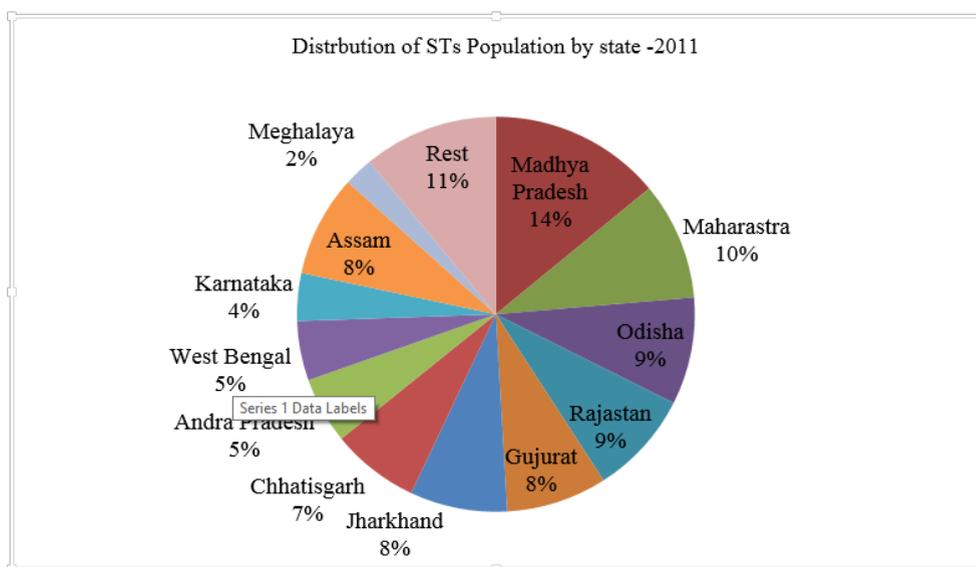


Chart 1: Distribution of STs Population by state 2011

Chart 1, reflect the pie-CHAT the distribution of ST population by states- 2011 in India. Reflect 15% of highest ST populated area is the state of Madhya Pradesh, 10% of populated area is Maharashtra, 9.2%

of is Odisha, 9% of is Rajasthan, 8.6% of is Gujarat, 8.3% of is Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh is 7.5%, Andhra Pradesh is 5.7%, West Bengal is 5%, Karnataka is 4%, Assam 3.4%, Only 3% of is Meghalaya and rest 12% of

population on other communities in India. In Odisha the total Scheduled Tribe population returned in census 2011 is 9590756. Of this, 8994967 are in rural areas and 595789 in urban areas. In terms of population, the Scheduled Tribe population constitutes 22.8% of the total population. The proportion during the last census was 22.1%. The highest proportion of Scheduled Tribes has been recorded in Mayurbhanj (58.7%) and the lowest in Puri (0.4%).

Sex Ratio of Study Area

The study on “Socio Demographic Profile of Respondents in Gajapati district: A Study” reflects an average sex ratio in comparison to Odisha and that of Gajapati district sex ratio. Total sex ratio of our sample families is 896, adult sex ratio is 905 and the child sex ratio is 880. The child sex ratio is much lower, around 40 points difference than the total sex ratio of the area. Child Sex Ratio (0-6 years) in Indian is on decline in the country. Odisha child Sex Ratio is 941 ranging 19th in the country ladder in the declining order of the child Sex Ratio between 0-6 years Age. Highest Child Sex Ratio is found in Arunachal Pradesh i.e. 972 and the lowest child sex ratio is Haryana i.e. 834.

In Odisha the highest Child Sex Ratio is found in Nabarangapur i.e. 998. Mostly Tribal district such as Nabarangapur, Malkangiri, Nuapada, Boudh, kandhamal, koraput, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Balangir, Baripada, Bargargh and Subarnpur. Child Sex Ratio is better i.e. 950 in the state. Whereas comparatively develop district such as Nayagargh, Ganjam, Khurda and Sambalpur. Child Sex Ration is comparatively

lowest Child Sex Ratio is found Nayagargh District i.e. 855. Nayagargh, and Dhenkanad a being lowest the Child Sex Ratio that is between 855 to 889. Total Sex Ratio is 1042 and Child Sex Ratio is the district is 967 which is quit better than many other develop district. The Gajapati District is divided a being block 7, population 575880 and Geographical area 3850.00 sq. Km. The female population of out number of male population.

In Gajapati District has 7 Blocks Rayagada block is having highest sex ratio i.e. 1042 and Kasinagar block is 950 (Census 2011). We have selected Rayagada block and Kasinagar block for our study. Our study area reflects age grouping of respondents and our sample shows the sex ratio in study area. A comparative picture of these three tables reveal total sex ratio in our study is 896, adult sex ratio is 905 and child sex ratio is 888. It is a fact that child sex ratio in Odisha is always less than the adult and total sex ratio.

Caste Structure

Our sample is purposive to study the Lanjia soura tribal women and their involvement in agriculture. It reflects the caste structure of tribal male and female in our sample among soura community. In total around 57% respondent are tribal women from all the soura community of the study area of Gajapati district. Our sample consists 43% tribal male from all the soura community in the study area of Gajapati District. Langia Soura constitute 50% of our sample and a little less on 17% each constitute mala soura, telegu soura, and zorai soura.

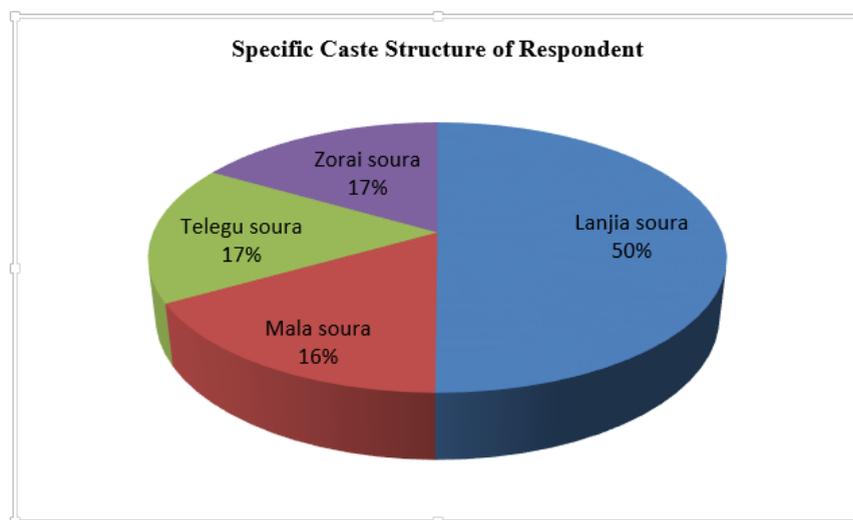


Chart 2: Specific caste structure of Respondent

Chart 2 explains the specific caste group composition of the area in my sample. I have purposively taken the interview of men and women in Saura tribe. Within the Saura communities there are various sub-caste groups such as; Langia Saura, Mala Saura, Zorai Saura and Telegu Saura. Only Langia Saura constitute 50 per cent and other caste constitute 16.6 per cent each.

Literacy

Illiteracy is very high in our study area. Fig. 2 shows that nearly 82% are illiterate and only 18% are literate. Illiteracy is much high among women i.e. 90% and that of men is 69%. Literacy among women is only 9% and among man is 31%.

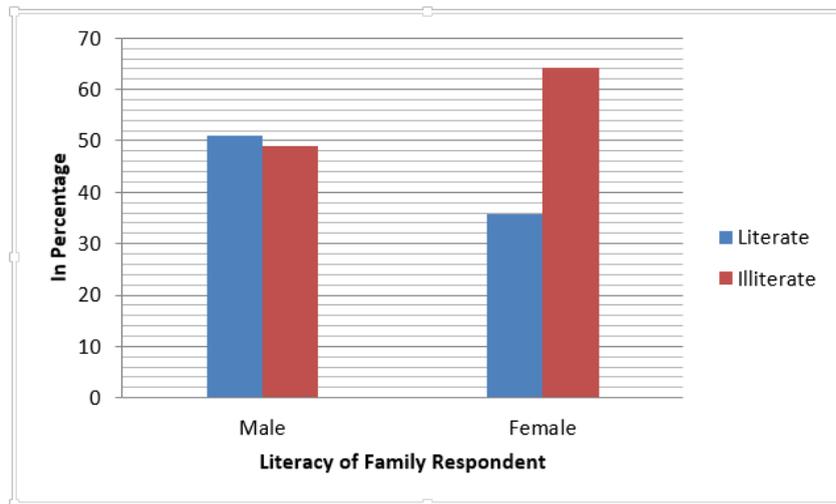


Fig. 2: Literacy Rate in Families (in percentage)

Among the literate person around 3% have studied up to class 7th are women and 6% of up to class 9th among women. Among men literacy rate is 31%, around 16% of have studied up to class 7th, 12% per cent up to class 10th and 4% of studied up to +2. This shows among even men, education is very low. It shows only 4% of men is matriculate. Among women nobody has studied beyond school level and only 8 percent of women are literate who have been educated within class 7th and 10th. More than 81 percent of women are illiterate and mostly women are engaged as the agricultural and daily wage labourer.

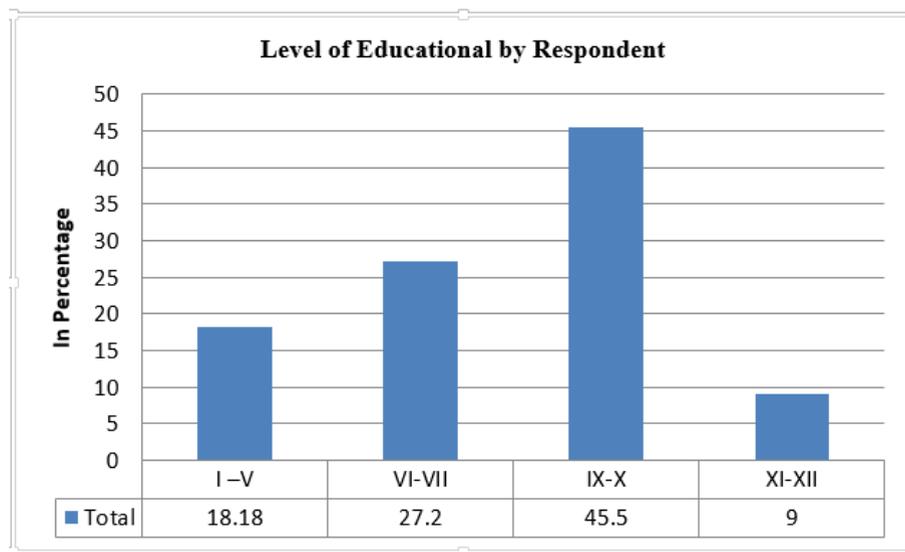


Fig. 3: Level of Educational of Respondent by Sex (in percent)

Fig. 3 shows the educational level of family members. Maximum people (i.e. 28%) were educated up to 5th, 20% up 8th, 25% up to 10th, 16% up to +2, 9% up to +3 and 2 percent have done their study up to graduation.

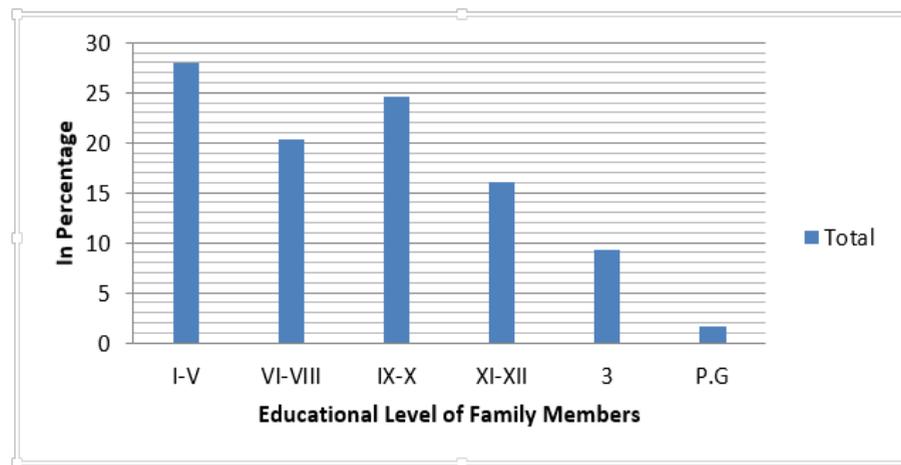


Fig. 4: Educational Level of Family Members (In per cent)

Dropout rate in Gajapati district among children is very high. When the age is between 5 to 10, when children start initiation of their study, 7 children have dropped out within primary level (1-5 class). But among the families of our respondent those adult persons had dropped out at the primary level, 6 adult in middle class level (6 to 8 class). In our study area shows among adults within the age group of 11 to 12; the dropout is the highest. In total 22 adults have dropped out in total at primary, middle, secondary level. Among the ladder of classes, we find the dropout is highest at the middle class level next to secondary level (9 to 12). From among our respondent all are married (see table 12). 33% of married have been widows and only 4% of have become widower. Table shows marital status of respondent reveals, 20 per cent are widow/widowers. One interesting thing has come out from is table. More than 32 per cent women are widowed and 4 per cent of men are widower. We find the highest group (45%) are unmarried men/women 43% are married and 4% have been widow/widower of our study area. All respondents had nuclear family. In Soura tribe it is the culture of the community that after marriage they like own nuclear family instate of staying within joint families.

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