

Population based on caste, Religion and economic status of the schedule casts : A Study of the Sopore sub district of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory

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Abstract

Sopore tehsil, with the population of about 2.2 lakh is the Baramulla district's 2nd most populous sub district. Sopore town also known as Suyyapur in antiquity, it is 45 km north west of capital city Srinagar and 16 km from north east Baramulla. Sopore city is famous for its Asia's fresh water wular lake and Asia's 2nd largest fruit mandi in which provide job to various sections of the people of district. The population of the town is 118,608 and area of the town is 61 sq kilometres there are 57 villages in the sub district. Majority of the people, nearly 68% lives in rural area and 32% lives in the main town. Muslims contribute to 98% of the total population and are largest community of the town. Other religious community of the town are Hindu and Christian. Sopore town is having different castes such as General, schedule caste, schedule tribe which belongs to different religious organizations and involved in various economic activities.

Key words: Sopore, Baramulla, Muslims, Religion.

I. Introduction

Sopore town is the most populous town of the district Baramulla with the population of about 2.2 lakh located in the northern area of Jammu and Kashmir 45 kms from the capital city of Jammu and Kashmir. The Sopore area is famous for its fruit mandi and wular lake. There are 57 villages in the town among them Dangepora is the most populous village of the town and Rakh Haigam is the biggest village of the Sopore town and the Gund Brath is the smallest village of the town. The economic activities of the people of town are mainly dependent on the fruit business, vegetative activities etc that is why Sopore town is also known as apple town of Kashmir. Sopore has 29% population engaged in marginal work. 47% male and 10% female population are working population. 36% of the male population are the full time workers and 4% of total female population are main workers. The various religious groups of Sopore town include Muslims, Hindu and Christians among all of them Muslims contribute most. The various caste of Sopore town are general category, schedule caste and schedule tribe among them general category contribute the most.

II. Methodology

In order to analyze the various parameters of the Sopore town such as population, caste, Religion and economic activities carried out by the people of the town both primary and secondary data were used in this research. Books, journals, census report of 2011, government efforts etc were also used. Intensive field study was conducted for primary data in the selected areas with help of an interview schedule.

III. Results and Discussion

The data on population, caste, religion and economic activities of the people of the Sopore town have been taken which shows that general category constitute maximum portion of population. While as based on religion Muslim's population are present in majority and Christian population and Hindu's are present in minority.

3. Demographic profile of Sopore town

The Sopore town is home to about 2.2 lakh people, among them 1.1 lakh are males and about 1.1 lakh are females. Child include 53% of the population are boys and 47% are girls. Majority of the population lives in rural part and other in main parts (Table 1)

The size wise distribution of the Sopore sub district has been done and are shown below via table 2.

3.2 Population growth of Sopore town during last ten years

As per the data collected in field and govt records there has been decrease in the -17.5% of population in the sub district in last ten years. The decrease in population among various castes have been shown below through table 3.

1. Female population growth rate is -16.7% which is 1.7% higher than male population growth rate
2. In gen caste population has been decrease by -17.3%
4. Schedule caste population has been increased by 498.15
5. Schedule tribe population has been decreased by -61.7%
6. Child population has been decreased by -16.7% in the sub district since 2001

3.3 Economic status of schedule castes of the Sopore sub district

3.3.1 Primary occupation of the schedule caste

In ancient times occupation of people were based on their caste but now trend has changed by Indian constitution which provides reservation to various castes in education and employment. The information regarding the primary occupation of the schedule caste households of area are selected and are presented table 4.

The study is one of the important component which shows economic status and economic wellness of the households. The information regarding annual income is shown in table 5.

The data shows that 40 % households were having income less than rs 50 thousand , 45 % of the population is having income more than 50 thousand and others shows above one and two lakh up to 3 lakh

3.3.2 Living conditions of schedule caste households

Living condition of the household is also one of the important factor that shows economic status of schedule castes .The number are indicators that shows living condition of schedule caste households such as sanitation facility, separate kitchen and drinking water supply facility as mentioned in table 6.

3.3.3 Educational status of schedule caste of study area of sopore sub district

Education is one of the important tool which fills the gap between upper and lower castes.It is fundamental right of every person to obtain the basic fundamental education. The various households of schedule castes of Sopore have been surveyed which are shown in table 7.

It is quite discouraging that only few percents obtain higher education in schedule castes of sopore area and most of households are illiterate as mentioned in table 8.

3.3.4 Separate toilet facility

It is important for the security and safety of women.It is been observed that schedule caste of the area lack separate toilet facility. Only 5 % have separate toilets as listed in table 9.

IV. Conclusion and Recommendations

Analysis of data shows that population of sopore sub district based on caste and religion shows decline since showed that majority of the people are engaged in agriculture activities (50%) and minimum are self employed. Income last 10 year sand. the economic status of the schedule caste of sopore sub district was not satisfactory, and the housing facility and living condition of schedule castes were not good. Study shows that they are far behind in access to various basic facilities such as education, drinking water , sanitation and housing etc. Their annual income is very low. there should be the provisions of all these facilities in the area of sopore for raising their economic status. It is the important duty of government to address the problems of schedule castes in sopore sub district. Therefore necessary programmes and schemes should be implemented in the area of sopore for the well being of people.

References

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Table 1. Caste wise population of Sopore town as per census 2011.

Total	Gen	SC	ST	Child
219913	218855	311	747	32796

Survey as per census 2011

Table 2. Most populous area of sopore town.

Name	Population
Dangerpora	9021
Seer jagir	7997
Trazoo	6910
Tujar pahlehar	6612
Haigam	6212
Warpora	5891

Data collected via tehsil office sopore and field survey

Table 3. Population growth of Sopore town during last ten years.

2001	2011
Total population	Total population
2.7 lakh	2.2 lakh

Table 4. Distribution of the primary occupation of the schedule caste of spore.

Particulars	Number	Percentage
Agriculture	50	50
Daily wage	30	30
Government job	10	10
Private job	3	3
Self employed	2	2
Semi govt jobs	5	5
Total	100	100

Table 5. Annual income level of schedule caste households.

Particulars	Numbers	percentage
Less than 50,000	40	40
50,001-100000	45	45
1,00,001-1,50,000	8	8
150001-200000	2	2
200001-300000	2	2
Total	100	100

Table 6. Housing condition of schedule caste in sopore area.

Particulars	Numbers	Percentage
Kacha	99	99
Semi-pacca	1	1
Pacca	0	0
Total	100	100

Source, field survey

Table 7. Educational status of schedule caste of study area of sopore sub district.

Particulars	numbers	Percentage
Illiterate	150	37.5
Primary education	100	25
Middle	80	20
secondary	40	10
graduation	20	5
Post graduation	10	2.5
Total	400	100

Source, field survey

Table 8. Literacy rate of schedule caste in the area of study.

Particulars	Number	Percentage
Literate	250	62.5
Illiterate	150	37.5
Total	400	100

Source, field survey

Table 9. Separate toilets for schedule castes.

Particulars	Numbers	Percentage
Yes	5	5%
No	95	95%
Total	100	100%