



OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF TRIBAL POPULATION (J&K)

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ABSTRACT

It is believed that tribal people used indigenous way of livelihood and their occupation is primary. This study wants to find out the present scenario of tribal workforce and how much the tribal communities of Jammu and Kashmir are different from each other in terms of workforce. For this study census data of 2011 on tribal population was used. The study takes twelve tribal communities of Jammu and Kashmir. Results stated that tribal communities belonged to Ladakh region shows higher percentage of their working population in main worker category and majority of them are engaged in other workers category. The tribe whose livelihood depends upon livestock herding such as Gujjar and Gaddi are engaged in cultivator category.

KEYWORDS: *Cultivator, Livelihood, Population, Tribe, Workers.*

INTRODUCTION

The information on livelihood and occupation structure of the individual was collected since from census 1872. In the census of 1872 and 1881 only one question related to 'occupation' was asked from the respondent and the workers were classified into various occupations. In the census 1891 the idea of 'means of subsistence' was commenced. The question of means of subsistence was recorded in case of every person. In case of dependents the occupation of the individual on whom they were dependent was recorded. From 1901 to 1921 the data on means of livelihood of actual workers was recorded (Govt. of India 2021). In 1931 Census, the term 'actual worker' was replaced by the 'earner'. The population was classified as earners, working dependents and non-working dependents. The Principal and subsidiary occupation of each worker was traced. Occupation of dependents was recorded under the caption 'subsidiary occupation'. Besides, the Industry in which an individual was employed was also noted. In 1941 Census 'Means of Livelihood, in order of importance was recorded in respect of each employee. It was also enquired whether a particular means of livelihood existed throughout the year, if not, for what part of the year (Sikri 2008).

After independence the Censuses of 1951 classify the workers into three categories that self-supporting, earning dependents and non earning dependents. In the census of 1961 time disposition of

work, approach was adopted. The census of 1971 categorized all workers into two broad stream workers and non-workers according to the main activity of a person. The change in the definition of worker between 1961 and 1971 resulted in a substantial reduction in the workforce. Using the time disposition approach as in the two earlier Censuses the 1981 census divides the total population into three broad categories that are main workers, marginal workers, and non-workers categories (Chandana 1985). The 1991 census followed by census 2001 followed the same process pure as in the 1981 census for dividing the population into main workers marginal workers and non workers (Govt. of India 2021). The concept of occupation changed from time to time (Chandana 1985). This study used census classification of workers and used this classification on tribal population of the state. The importance of knowing work participation rate gives information on the ability of an economy to create employment (Sikri 2008).

DEFINITION OF TRIBE

It refers to community or social group having same language, dialect, customs, race, religion, blood ties and has a group leader, who is responsible for all group decisions (OED 2021). Dictionary of Anthropology consider tribe as a social group, with definite area, dialect, cultural homogeneity and unifying social organization and also have a group



leader, who is the decision-maker of the group. International Labour Organization (ILO) convention No. 169 has provide the criteria for recognition of particular community as a tribe that is a tribe or tribal are characterized by traditional lifestyle and have their own social-cultural and economic setup that are totally distinct from others (ILO 1989). In Indian context, tribe was first used in the census of 1891 and the “Animism” term was used for them and made subheading “Forest tribes” based on castes according to their traditional occupations that is agricultural and pastoral. In census 1931 Dr. J.H Hutton commissioner census of India distinguish tribal religion to Hinduism, Islam, Christianity etc. and used primitive tribe instead of forest tribe (Govt. of India 1931). In independent India, term tribe first appeared in article 342 of Indian constitution, article 342 explain tribal as a group declared by the president of India on the recommendation of the governor of respected state, the criteria for declaration of group as a tribe are isolation, backwardness, shyness when taken as whole group behavior, distinct culture and less developed technology and also called by *adivasi or jungli*.

TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

The tribal population contributes eleven percent of the state population; they are distributed in different parts of the state such as Balti tribe mostly can be seen in Kargil and Leh district. It is believed that their origin is from Baltistan region. They are considered as a racial type which is an admixture of Mongolian and Dard blood (Kaul 1998). Beda is another tribe of J&K, they can be seen in Leh majority of them are nomads for subsistence (Mann 2002). Boto which is another tribe of J&K are considered themselves form Mongolian race. Agriculture, rearing flocks of sheep and herds of cattle are the chief economic activities performed by this tribe. They are followers of Buddhism in Leh district and few of them also follows the Shia sect of Islam mainly in Kargil district (Kaul 1998). Brokpa tribe is also called as “Shin” they mostly found in Kargil and Bandipore district. Their mother tongue is Shina dialect. They are the yak meat eater and are the sedentary agriculturist but unsuitable agriculturist climatic condition has leads to poor agriculture

production and force them to go for other activities such as labour work. Changpa which is a famous tribe of Leh region inhabited at Changthang region, situated between Indus and the Sutlej in Leh district. They speak Changskhat among themselves and are divided into two groups. One is *Fangpa* (sedentary) and *Phalpa* (nomadic). Their main economic activity is livestock rearing (Bhasin 1996). Goat and yak are the important livestock. Dharmshala and Hemis are their places of pilgrimage. Gaddi is another tribe of J&K, they graze large flocks of sheep and goats moving up the mountains in the summer and returning to the low country when the first snow falls. Presently Gaddis are nomadic, semi-nomadic and semi-agriculturist. Their chief economic activities are rearing sheep and seasonal agriculture. They are shepherds who inhabit in mountainous areas of Jammu province in the southeastern margin of state like Billawar, Basoli, Ramnagar, Udhampur, Ramban and Batot. Gara is also a tribe of J&K, they are also known as Garba, divided into lineage called *rigs* or *gayuts* (Shashi 2006). The tribe like Beda tribe is also among the least population tribe of J&K state, their absolute population according to 2011 census was 504 persons. They speak Ladakhi. By physical appearance they have broad and flat faces with some obliquity in the eyes; their hair is straight and slightly wavy. Gujjar is a major tribe of J&K they rear buffaloes and few of them practices agriculture (Warikoo 2000). During the British period, the tribe was considered as a criminal tribe or forest enemies (Lawrence 1909). Their greater concentration of population can be found in Rajauri, Punch, Reasi and Jammu. Mon is tirbe which is mostly concentrated in Leh district. Their chief occupation is entertainment they are Musicians and flute players they sparsely inhabit in Zanskar and Kargil. They speak Ladakhi, the Mons are the follower of Buddhism (Bihst and Bankoti 2004). Purig-Pa tribe is found in Kargil district only. In Kargil district, their area of inhabitation is lying between Nameik-la and Zoj-la. They got their name from the ancient name of the Kargil area known as Purigpa. Their dialect is a mixture of Balti and Bodhi (Kaul 1998). Sippi tribe is spatially distributed in block Duggan, Bani and Lohai-Malhar in Kathua. They are also found in few numbers in Chenani, Dudu Basantgarh block of Udhampur District.

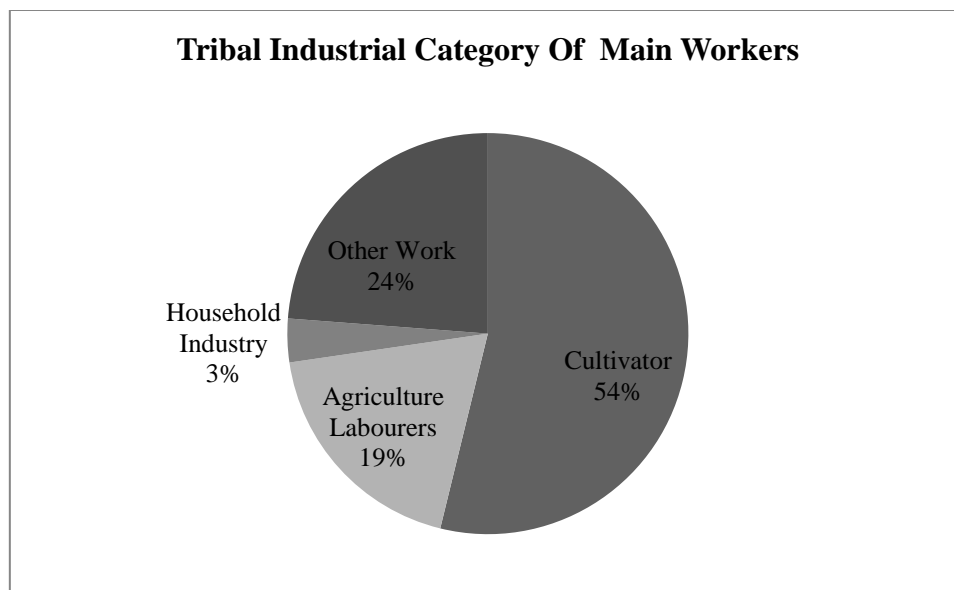
**Table-1 Tribal Communities of Jammu and Kashmir**

Tribal Communities	Population	Percentage
Bakarwal	113198	8.19
Balti	51918	3.75
Beda	420	0.03
Boto	91495	6.62
Brokpa	48439	3.50
Changpa	2661	0.19
Gaddi	46489	3.36
Gara	504	0.03
Gujjar	980654	70.97
Mon	829	0.05
Purigpa	39101	2.82

OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

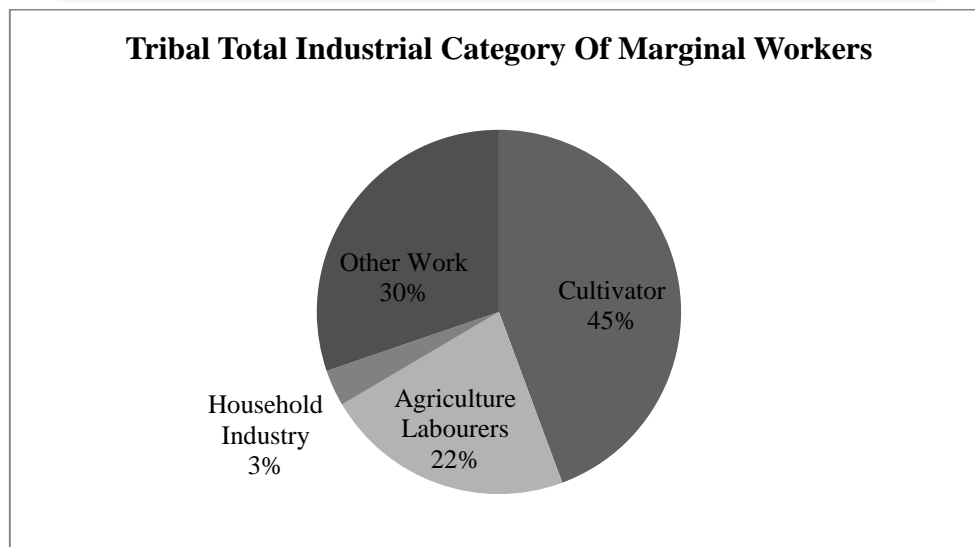
Workers are mainly classified as *main and marginal workers* on the basis of their work. Those workers who had worked for the major part of the year were termed as main workers. Major part of the

year meant six months (183 days) or more. Those who had not worked for the major part of the year that is those who had worked for less than 6 months or less than 183 days in a year were termed as marginal workers (Government of India 2006).





Tribal Total Industrial Category Of Marginal Workers



CULTIVATOR

Cultivator category refers to the category where worker engaged either as employer, single or family worker in the cultivation of land that is owned or held from any institution either government or private for payment in money, or in kind or on the basis of sharing of crops. It also takes into consideration supervision and direction of cultivation (Government of India 2021). Among tribal population most of people are engaged in this category. Cultivator accounts for 54 per cent of main workers and 45 for marginal workers.

AGRICULTURAL LABOURER

Any individual who had given out his/her land to another person or persons for cultivation for money, kind or share of crop and who did not even supervise or direct the cultivation of land, was not treated as cultivator. Similarly, a person working on another person's land for wages, either in cash or in kind or a combination of both, (agricultural labourer) was not treated as cultivator (Government of India 2021). A person who worked on another person's land for wages in money, kind or share of crop was regarded as an 'agricultural labourer'. About 19 per cent tribal workers among main category workers and 22 per cent marginal workers category belong to this category.

HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY

Household Industry was defined as an industry conducted by the head of the household

himself or herself and/or by the members of the household at home or within the village in rural areas and only within the precincts of the house where the householder lives in urban areas. The larger proportion of workers in household industry consists of members of the household including the head. This industry is not run on the scale of registered factory. Household industry relates to production, processing, servicing, repairing or making and selling (but not merely selling) of goods (Government of India 2021). About 3 per cent of tribal population drawn their livelihood from this category.

OTHER WORKERS

All workers that are those who had been engaged in some economic activity during the year preceding enumeration and who were not cultivators or agricultural labourers or household industry workers were termed as "**Other Workers**" (OW). The type of workers that came under this category included factory workers, plantation workers, those in trade, commerce, business, transport, mining, construction, political or social work, all government servants, municipal employees, teachers, priests, entertainment artists, etc. In fact, all persons who work in any field of economic activity, other than cultivation, agriculture labour or household industry, were covered in this category (Government of India 2021). About 24 per cent of main workers engaged in this category and 30 per cent of marginal tribal workers belong to this category. The absolute numbers of main and marginal workers are given in Table-2 and Table-3.

**Table-2 Industrial category of main workers in per cent age**

Tribe	Cultivators (%age)			Agricultural labourers (%age)			Household industry (%age)			Other Work(%age)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Bakarwal	31.15	25.75	5.39	6.28	5.19	1.09	1.57	1.16	0.41	61.00	51.04	9.97
Balti	15.13	8.47	6.66	2.00	1.51	0.48	1.24	0.76	0.47	81.63	68.36	13.27
Beda	8.70	5.43	3.26	2.17	2.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	89.13	75.00	14.13
Bot, Boto	34.97	19.59	15.38	2.48	0.97	1.51	1.53	0.65	0.87	61.03	40.67	20.35
Brokpa, Drokpa,	10.12	8.63	1.49	2.89	2.43	0.46	1.57	1.24	0.33	85.43	74.94	10.48
Changpa	40.00	28.83	11.17	2.07	1.10	0.97	1.52	0.41	1.10	56.41	40.28	16.14
Gaddi	71.01	53.05	17.96	2.93	2.61	0.32	0.40	0.28	0.12	25.66	19.14	6.52
Garra	24.50	13.25	11.26	1.99	0.66	1.32	3.31	3.31	0.00	70.20	58.94	11.26
Gujjar	46.68	40.65	6.03	12.46	11.45	1.00	1.90	1.11	0.79	38.96	32.11	6.85
Mon	24.86	19.46	5.41	5.95	5.41	0.54	1.08	1.08	0.00	68.11	56.22	11.89
Purigpa	6.68	4.30	2.38	1.11	0.90	0.21	1.56	1.24	0.32	90.65	75.73	14.92
Sippi	63.92	46.19	17.73	1.18	0.97	0.21	0.35	0.28	0.07	34.56	29.22	5.33

The comparison of main workers by community wise (Table-I) shows that maximum number of main comes from the cultivator category. In cultivator category Gaddi tribal community shows higher percentage of workers under this category followed by Sippi, Gujjar and Changpa shows 40 to 45 per cent worker under this category. Tribal communities like Balti, Brokpa, Purigpa have very few percentage of main workers under the category of cultivators. If we look at the gender based comparison, male percentage is higher than female worker under the cultivator category. In Agricultural labourers category Gujjar tribal group is on the top having 12.46 percent of its main working population engaged in Agricultural labourers' category and Purigpa is on the bottom having 1.11 percent population under this category. Similarly, under this category female share is lower in comparison to male population. The third category under the Industrial

category of main workers is 'workers under household industry'. Under this category about three percent of the tribal working population engaged and it is the category where minimum number of people are engaged. The fourth category is other work, workers that came under this category includes plantation workers, and factory workers those in trade and commerce, transport, construction, business, mining, political or social work, all government servants, municipal employees, teachers, priests, entertainment artists, etc. Majority of main workers are engaged in this category such as Beda, Brokpa and Balti are on top. More than 80 per cent of their working population has drawn their livelihood from this kind of category. Whereas Sippi, Gujjar and Gaddi are the communities whose very few working population engaged in this category. If we look at the contribution of different gender group, again we see the same scenario that is male surpass female.

Table-3 Total Industrial category of marginal workers

Tribe	Cultivators			Agricultural Labourers			Household industry			Other work		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Bakarwal	47.40	20.51	26.89	15.61	10.20	5.40	3.33	1.17	2.16	33.66	16.27	17.39
Balti	39.93	15.00	24.93	7.95	5.09	2.86	5.34	1.07	4.27	46.78	36.67	10.11
Beda	18.60	6.98	11.63	11.63	11.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.77	67.44	2.33
Bot, Boto	58.21	22.79	35.42	14.43	5.64	8.80	2.17	0.47	1.70	25.18	16.49	8.69
Brokpa, Drokpa,	21.04	7.71	13.33	14.08	10.99	3.09	5.29	1.19	4.10	59.59	44.72	14.86
Changpa	30.71	19.57	11.14	9.43	3.71	5.71	18.14	2.86	15.29	41.71	18.86	22.86
Gaddi	64.07	23.21	40.85	6.69	5.12	1.57	2.74	0.30	2.44	26.51	11.52	14.99



Garra	42.67	17.33	25.33	20.00	13.33	6.67	2.67	2.67	0.00	34.67	25.33	9.33
Gujjar	44.55	21.82	22.73	25.39	19.01	6.38	2.71	0.74	1.97	27.35	12.39	14.96
Mon	36.26	13.19	23.08	10.99	2.20	8.79	3.30	1.10	2.20	49.45	31.87	17.58
Purigpa	21.92	12.02	9.90	9.76	5.64	4.12	5.66	1.83	3.83	62.66	49.60	13.07
Sippi	53.59	20.72	32.88	9.20	4.33	4.86	1.69	0.42	1.27	35.52	21.14	14.38

If we look at the total industrial category of marginal workers we found that majority of workers are engaged as cultivators. If we look at the cultivator category we found that Gaddi tribe is on the top whereas as Brokpa tribe is on the bottom. In terms of gender more males are engaged in this category in comparison to females. In the agricultural labourers category, we found that Gujjar tribe is on the top followed by Garra and Bakarwal whereas if we look at the bottom Balti tribe has very low percentage of its working population in this category followed by Gaddi. In household industry category of marginal workers we found that very few percentage of population is engaged in this category, Changpa tribe is on the top that is 18.14 percent of its population is engaged in this category whereas majority of tribes have less than three per cent of its working population is engaged in this category. The last category of working population is "Other worker", if we look at this category we found that Beda tribe is on the top followed by Brokpa whereas Changpa, Beda and Mon shows more than 35 percent of their working population in this category and Bot is on the bottom. In gender based analysis it was found that female shares in different categories are lower than male.

CONCLUSION

Mostly tribal peoples of Jammu and Kashmir are drawing their livelihood as doing occupation of cultivator and very few workers are engaged in household industry. Tribal communities belong to Ladakh region shows higher percentage of their working population under main worker category and majority of them are in other workers category. Livestock cultivator like Gujjar and Gaddi usually engaged as cultivator. The marginal workers represent significant part of the labour market with high rates of growth of population. The part-time work absorbs most of the expanding labour force.

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