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ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ଓଡ଼ିଶା ୭୬୧୦୦୧

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Government of Maharashtra

**A DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE
OF TRIBALS IN MAHARASHTRA STATE**



By
Tribal Research & Training Institute,
Maharashtra State
28, Queen's Garden,
PUNE-1.

1985

P R E F A C E

In spite of increasing urbanisation, nearly 80% of the India's population lives in about 6 lakhs of villages. During the last 25-30 years there has been a considerable growth of industries, but this has hardly made any impression on the standard of living of the rural masses. Economically and socially the conditions of life in the villages are still unsatisfactory and the real India being the rural India, the population problem of India is largely a problem of rural areas where the bulk of the people are living in conditions of grinding poverty, malnutrition, ill-health, poor sanitation, poor housing, illiteracy, ignorance, under-employment and unemployment.

Social change is the result of many factors, one of the more important of which is population growth. When the population increases, so do the needs of the society and the effort it makes to meet these needs through innovations, necessarily involves social change. Consequent to the innovations new roles emerge which may mean a new pattern in the division of labour, all of which are indicative of an increasing complexity of the social system, in which social relations become less normative and secondary roles more predominant. Such a situation, particularly in rural areas, tend to create a feeling of normlessness.

In order to understand the problems of population growth in the rural sector, one needs to understand the social and cultural values of the people which

function as major determinants of the relationship between social change and population growth.

Though population growth retards human development, it is only one factor in the complex problem of rural under-development. Hence an effective population policy needs to integrate positive measures to promote economic and social progress of the rural masses, improve health and nutrition, provide educational facilities and more opportunities for productive and gainful employment.

This analytical exercise on the available demographic data pertaining to the tribal population in Maharashtra has been attempted by Shri John S. Gaikwad (Lecturer), under my guidance.

I hope that this paper would certainly serve the interests of academicians, administrators field officers, and policy makers as well.

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A Demographic Profile of Tribals
in Maharashtra State

Introduction

The census of India is the most important source of demographic data. As per the enumeration of tribal population is concerned, prior to 1976 and launched in 1956, there was an 'area restriction' upon the enumeration of the tribals, taking into consideration their habitation and particularity. So the 1961 and 1971 censuses were conducted, taking into account the 'area restriction'. Due to the removal of 'area restriction' in 1976, the 1981 census is enmarked as the first census wherein complete enumeration of the tribes is accounted for, irrespective of their habitation and particularity. Apparently it gives a clear and a more vivid picture of the existing tribal population all over the State.

Methods and material

This paper primarily based on secondary data deals with some characteristics of the tribal population on the basis of 1981 census, but not in a synchronous way. The characteristics dealt with, in the paper are discussed in the light of the corresponding available data from 1961 and 1971 censuses as well.

In case of the portion pertaining to 'Age group distribution in children' and 'Land holding' - data from Universal Bench Mark Survey conducted by Tribal Research and Training Institute in 1980, has been utilised.

About the Tribal population in India - in Brief -

There are about 250 tribal communities speaking about 105 languages and 225 subsidiary languages. Amongst them are groups as large as about 5 million and as small as 26 Great Andamanese. Each community irrespective of its size, has come to occupy a place of its own in the national life, retaining its own identity and culture.

The tribals occupy about 18.75% of the total area of the country, mostly living in remote hilly and forest regions of 19 states and 6 Union Territories.

Two thirds of the total tribal population is concentrated in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Gujrat and Rajasthan. The other states having tribal population are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Goa, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

PART-I

Characteristics of population growth

The tribal population of about 38 million at the time of 1971 census, increased to about 42 million when the area restriction relative to the demographic distribution of the Scheduled Tribes population within a State was removed.

Nearly 82% of the tribal population is concentrated in Central and Western part of the country, about 11% in the North-Eastern states and about 7% is dispersed in small pockets in the Southern zone.

Table No. 1

It deals with the statewise distribution of the tribal population along with the re-enumerated tribal population after the removal of area restriction in 1976.

Table No. 1

Statewise distribution of the Scheduled Tribes population along with the Re-enumerated tribal population as per the Amendment Act, 1976

Sr. No.	State/Union Territory	Total population (in lakhs)	S.T. population (1971 census)	Percentage to total population (of col. 4 to 3)	Scheduled Tribe population (in lakhs)	Revised as per the Constitution S.C./S.T. order (Amendment Act, 1976)	Percentage to total population (of col. 6 to 3)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	435.03	16.58	3.81	22.26	5.12	
2.	Assam	146.25	16.07	10.99	16.07	10.99	
3.	Bihar	563.53	49.33	8.75	49.33	8.75	
4.	Gujarat	266.97	37.34	13.99	37.57	14.07	
5.	Haryana	100.37	-	-	-	-	
6.	Himachal Pradesh	34.60	1.42	4.10	1.42	4.10	
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	46.17	-	-	-	-	
8.	Karnataka	292.99	2.32	0.79	2.62	0.89	
9.	Kerala	213.47	2.69	1.26	1.93	0.90	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	416.54	83.87	20.13	98.15	23.56	
11.	Madharashtra	504.12	29.54	5.86	38.41	7.62	
12.	Manipur	10.73	3.34	31.13	3.34	31.13	
13.	Meghalaya	10.12	8.14	80.43	8.14	80.43	
14.	Nagaland	5.16	4.58	88.76	4.58	88.76	

38ml
29.54
887



This table shows that :

- a) There is no tribal population in the states of Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Sikkim and Union Territories of - Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondicherry.
- b) All the remaining states and Union Territories have tribal population.
- c) There was an increase in the enumeration of tribal population, as a result of the removal of area restrictions Act 1976 - in the following states - Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamilnadu, Rajasthan and West Bengal.
- d) However an anomaly is observed in case of Kerala where there is a decline in the population enumerated (from 2.69 to 1.93) after the removal of Area Restrictions Act 1976.

Tribes in Maharashtra and their
Distribution in general

In all, there are forty-seven tribes in Maharashtra. Out of these, seventeen are numerically and ethnographically important tribes. These principal tribes are Bhil, Mahadeo Koli, Gond, Warli, Kokna, Kathari, Korku, Kolan, Gamit, Thokar, Pardhi, Andh, Malhar Koli, Pardhan, Dhanka, Dhor Koli and Halba.

Other minor tribal communities include - Baiga, Barda, Bavacha, Bhatna, Bharia, Bhanja, Binjhar, Bhattra, Chodhra, Dhanwar, Dhodia, Dubla, Kavar, Kharid, Kol, Nagesia, Naikda, Parja, Patelia, Pomla, Rathawa, Sawar, Thoti and Vitolia.

Though the tribal population is spread over in almost all the districts in Maharashtra, it is mainly concentrated in the following fourteen districts : Pune, Ahmednagar, Nashik, Thane, Dhule, Jalgaon, Raigad, Amravati, Yavatmal, Nanded, Nagpur, Bhandara, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli.

Wanakra, Marla, Andhama

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15. Orissa			219.45	50.72	23.11	50.75	23.13
16. Punjab			135.51	-	-	-	-
17. Rajasthan			257.66	31.26	12.13	31.35	12.17
18. Sikkim			2.10	-	-	-	-
19. Tamil Nadu			412.60	3.12	0.76	4.50	1.09
20. Tripura			15.56	4.51	28.98	4.51	28.98
21. Uttar Pradesh			883.41	2.03	0.23	2.03	0.23
22. West Bengal			443.12	25.33	5.72	26.03	5.87
23. Andaman & Nicobar Islands			1.15	0.18	15.65	0.18	15.65
24. Arunachal Pradesh			4.68	3.69	78.85	3.69	78.85
25. Chandigarh			2.57	-	-	-	-
26. Dadra and Nagar Haveli			0.74	0.64	86.49	0.64	86.49
27. Delhi			40.66	-	-	-	-
28. Goa, Daman and Diu			8.58	0.07	0.82	0.07	0.82
29. Lakshadweep			0.32	0.30	93.75	0.30	93.75
30. Mizoram			3.32	3.13	94.28	3.13	94.28
31. Pondicherry			4.72	-	-	-	-
INDIA (OVERALL)			5481.60	380.15	6.94	411.48	7.51

Percentage of Tribal population in the State
of Maharashtra

Table No.2

Percentage of country's tribal population residing
in the State of Maharashtra and the percentage of
the tribal population to the total population of
the State of Maharashtra.

Year	Tribal population (in lakhs)		Total popula- tion of Mahara- shtra (in lakhs)	Percentage of country's tribal population residing in the State of Mahara- shtra (of 3 to 2)	Percen- tage of tribal popula- tion, in the State of Maha- rashtra (of 3 to 4)
1	India	Maharashtra	4	5	6
1971	380.15	29.54	504.12	7.8	5.86
1976	411.48	38.41	504.12	9.3	7.62
1981	516.29	57.72	627.50	11.2	9.20

This parameter being double faceted, happens to be relative, and hence has been considered in two stages, in order to touch upon both the facets - namely:

- a) Percentage of country's total tribal population residing in the State of Maharashtra.
- and
- b) Percentage of tribal population to the total population of the State;

Furthermore to get a clear picture, these have been considered in a way of comparison between the latest 1981 census figures available and the corresponding figures of 1971 census, (including the figures of enumeration, modified w.e. of the removal of Area Restrictions Amendment Act, 1976 - but corresponding to the 1971 census figures).

Table No.2, deals with the percentage of country's total tribal population residing in the State of Maharashtra and the percentage of this tribal population to the total population of the State of Maharashtra.

In the first phase of 1971 census the Scheduled Tribe population residing in the State was 29.54 lakhs, when the country's total Scheduled Tribe population was 380.15 lakhs. So the percentage of country's tribal population in the State of Maharashtra was 7.8 %.

As a result of removal of area restrictions by virtue of the Amendment Act, 1976 which was but a second phase of 1971 census, when the country's tribal population went upto 411.48 lakhs and the State's tribal population went upto 38.41 lakhs. So the percentage of tribal population residing in the State of Maharashtra was estimated to be 9.3%.

In the 1981 census the country's total tribal population was found to be 516.29 lakhs, and that of Maharashtra State was 57.72 lakhs. This works out to be 11.2% of the country's tribal population.

It is observed that during the 1971 census, total population of the State was 504.12 lakhs. In the first phase the tribal population of the State was found to be 29.54 lakhs - which formed 5.86 % of the State's total population. In the second phase (1976), the tribal population was enumerated to be 38.41 lakhs, comprising thereby 7.62% of the State's total population.

In the 1981 census the total population of the state was 627.50 lakhs out of which the tribal population of the State was found to be 57.72 lakhs and this comprises 9.20 % of the State's total population.

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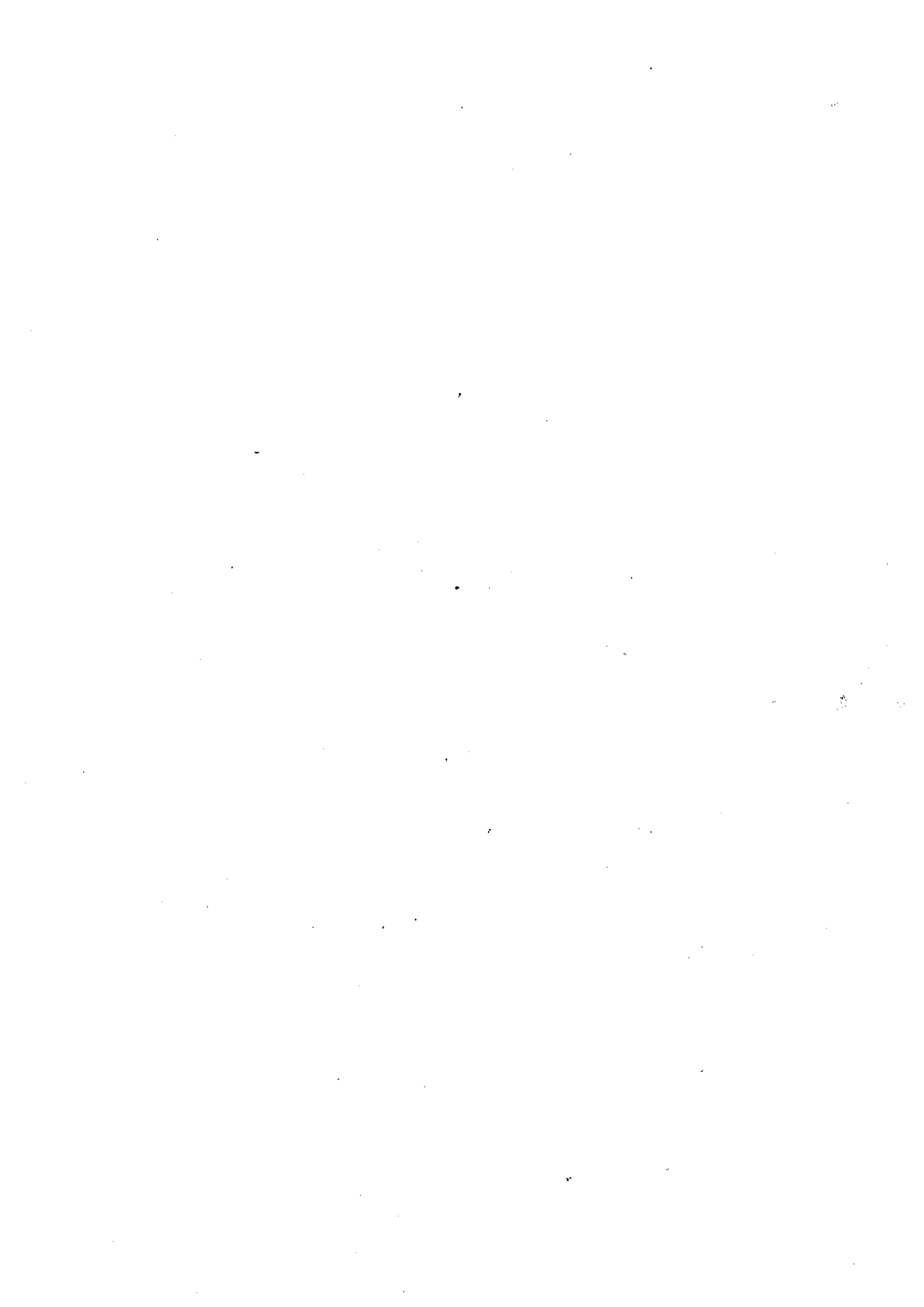


Table No. 3

State-wise Increase in the enumeration of the Scheduled Tribes population
as per the removal of area restrictions (Amendment) Act, 1976.

Sr. No.	State/Union Territory	S.T. population 1971 census (in lakhs)	Revised as per the Constitution S.C./S.T. Order, (Amendment Act, 1976) (in lakhs)	Percentage increase in the enumeration of the tribal population as per the Amendment Act, 1976.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Tamilnadu	3.12	4.50	44.23
2.	Andhra Pradesh	16.58	22.26	34.26
3.	Maharashtra	29.54	38.41	30.03
4.	Madhya Pradesh	83.87	98.15	17.03
5.	Karnataka	2.32	2.62	12.93
6.	West Bengal	25.33	26.03	2.76
7.	Gujarat	37.34	37.57	0.62
8.	Rajasthan	31.26	31.35	0.29
9.	Orissa	50.72	50.75	0.06



The above table presents in a descending order the statewise increase in the enumeration of the scheduled tribes population as per the removal of area restrictions Act, 1976. As soon as this act was enforced in 1976, immediately the 1971 estimates were actually revised by undertaking an enumeration corresponding to the 1971 census. The maximum of percentage increase of the enumeration of the tribal population is registered in the State of Tamilnadu (44.23) while the minimum in the State of Orissa (0.06), Maharashtra happens to be third in this list (30.03). Thus the next step in this analysis is that of taking into consideration the comparative decadal growth rates of the tribal population in the State of Maharashtra.

Table No. 4

Comparison of decadal growth rates of the tribal populations in Maharashtra State for the decades 1961-71 and 1971-81

	1961	1971(a)	1971(b) (after the amendment act, 1976)	1981
Tribal population (in lakhs)	23.97	29.54	38.41	57.72
Decade	(a) 1961-71(a)		(b) 1971(b)-81	
Decadal growth rate	23.24		50.27	

The first and the foremost thing observed in the above table is that there is a marked difference between the decadal growth rates thus obtained from the data available. The decadal growth rate for the decade 1971(b)-81, is no doubt apparently abnormal.

Thus, in order to ascertain the normalcy of the apparently abnormal decadal growth rate for 1971(b)-81, it will be necessary to logically deduce the figures on uniform and analogous platforms, using the projection method, thereby enabling to arrive at an unbiased, viable and statistically significant result.

There is a peculiarity about the decadal growth rates derived from the data available.

a) 1961-1971(a):- 23.24 is the decadal growth rate for the tribal population prior to the Amendment Act, 1976 (with the exclusion of certain tribals in certain areas); while -

b) 1971(b) - 81:- 50.27 is the decadal growth rate for the tribal population - after the enforcement of the Amendment Act, 1976 (with the inclusion of the formerly excluded tribals).

Taking into consideration the decadal growth rate for 1961-71(a) and assuming that the "area restrictions" existed even during the 1981 census, then from the 1971 (a) census population (29.54 lakhs), the population during 1981 census (in the conditions similar and analogous to those, during the 1971 (a) census) can be projected at the decadal growth rate of 23.24.

Table No. 5

	1961	1971(a)	1981(a)
Tribal population (in lakhs)	23.97	29.54	(36.41)
Decade		1961-71(a)	<u>projected</u>
Decadal growth rate		23.24	at the decadal growth rate - (23.24)

Table No. 3 has indicated the percentage increase in the enumeration of tribal population as per the Amendment Act, 1976 as 30.03, in the State of Maharashtra. This means that approximately 30% of the tribal population was unspecified prior to the removal of area restrictions.

The 1981(a) population estimated by projection (Table No.5), represents the population prior to the removal of area restrictions. The area restriction having been removed by virtue of the Amendment Act, 1976, the 1981(a) population thus derived needs to be corrected by adding 30.03% as a correctional factor, to get a picture, which though projected, would represent, to the nearest approximation, the real factual position of the tribal population in Maharashtra during the 1981 (b) census (with the inclusion of the formerly excluded tribals).

Table No. 6

	<u>1981(a) - (projected) -</u>	<u>1981(b)</u>
Tribal population (in lakhs)	(36.41) (exclusion of certain tribals in certain areas).	(36.41) + (30.03% - correctional factor) = <u>(47.34)</u> (inclusion of formerly exclu- ded tribals).

The actual population figure corresponding to 1971 (b) census (including the formerly excluded tribals) is available (table Nos. 1,2,3,4) = 38.41 lakhs (actual).

The corresponding projected figure for 1981(b) census is also available - (Table No.6) = 47.34 lakhs (projected).

These two figures being on uniform and analogous platforms, can be used to project the decadal growth rate for the decade 1971 (b) -81(b).

Table No. 7

	1971(b)	1981(b)
Tribal population (in lakhs)	38.41	(47.34) (projected)
	(both including the formerly excluded tribals).	
Decade	1971(b)-81(b)	
Decadal growth rate	(23.25)(projected)	

Thus, the projected decadal growth rate for 1971(b)-81(b), works out to 23.25.

Even if 2.33 units (10% margin) are added (arbitrarily), the corresponding decadal growth rate would be (25.58) - at the most.

Hence it is crystal clear and proved beyond doubt that the decadal growth rate (50.27) for 1971(b)-81, derived from the actually reported population for 1981 census is certainly abnormal.

In order to analyse further and to particularise the area and extent of the abnormal decadal growth rate, a comparison of divisionwise decadal growth rate for the decade 1971(b)-81 has been considered in the following table.

(for this purpose the former four (4) divisions in the State have been considered).

The data available divisionwise for 1971(a) census (excluding certain tribals in certain areas) has been projected for obtaining figures divisionwise for 1971(b) census (including the formerly excluded tribals). Hence the figures in 1971(b) and 1981 are placed on uniform and analogous platforms. Thus, these figures can be used to determine the share of percentage increase and the decadal growth rate, divisionwise.

Table No.8

Comparison of Divisionwise share of percentage increase and decadal growth rate for the tribal population of Maharashtra State for the decade 1971(b)-1981.

S.No.	Division	Tribal population (in lakhs) 1971 (a)	Revised as per the Amendment Act, 1976 (1971(b)) (b)	4	5	Rise in tribal population (in lakhs) 1971(b)-81	Percentage with the total (6)	Decadal growth rate for the decade 1971(b)-1981
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Western Maharashtra	15.75	(20.48)*	22.03	1.55	(8.02)		7.57
2.	Konkan region including Bombay	7.33	(9.53)*	10.35	0.82	(4.25)		8.60
3.	Marathwada	1.38	(1.79)*	3.98	2.19	(11.34)		122.35
4.	Vidarbha	5.08	(6.61)*	21.36	14.75	(76.39)		223.15
	Total	29.54	38.41	57.72	19.31	(100.00)		50.27

() * projected.



From the above table it is observed that there is an abnormal growth in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. (Having 223.15 and 122.35 as decadal growth rate respectively). It can be seen that in Vidarbha region there is an addition of 14.75 lakhs of tribals out of the total addition of 19.31 lakhs in the last decade (1971(b)-81). This constitutes the extent of addition to 76.39% of the total increase for the state. Thus it is clearly indicated that the major abnormal growth of the tribal population is in Vidarbha region only.

The percentage growth rate of Marathwada, though appears high, has actually contributed a very smaller increase (11.34), (as compared to that contributed by the Vidarbha region). But the percentage increase in Marathwada region alone is approximately equal to the percentage increase in Western Maharashtra and Konkan regions taken together.

Though most of the abnormal growth is prominent in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions, there are all possible chances of 'contribution' to this 'abnormal growth', even from the Western Maharashtra and Konkan regions.

PART - II

Other Demographic Characteristics

Age Group Distribution of the Tribal population in Maharashtra State.

As per the age group structure of the Indian population is concerned, it can be observed that India has a considerably high population of children, which happens to be one of the consequences of high birth rate. Nearly 42 % of India's population in the 1971 census was below the age of 15 years and only 6 % of the population was aged 60 years and above.

Table No.9

Age group distribution of the tribal population as per 1971 census.

Age group	Tribal population (in lakhs)	Percentage with total population (%)
1	2	3
Upto 14 years	13.06	44.21
15 - 44 years	12.00	40.62
Above 45 years	4.44	15.03
Age not stated	0.04	0.14
Total	29.54	100.00

From the above table it is indicated that in 1971 - the children below 14 years constituted 44.21% of the total tribal population. The percentage of persons above 15 years is 55.65%. (In 0.14% cases age was not stated).

The data regarding age group distribution which was collected (along with other data) by virtue of the Universal Bench Mark Survey conducted by Tribal

Research Institute in the Tribal Sub Plan Area of Maharashtra State in 1980 is presented in the following table -

Table No.10

Age group distribution of children in the Tribal Sub Plan area of Maharashtra State (1980)*

Age group	Tribal population (in lakhs)	Percentage with total population %
1	2	3
Upto 5 years	3.97	16.62
6-11 years	3.80	15.91
12-15 years	1.96	8.21
Above 15 years	14.15	59.26
Total	23.88	100.00

The above table shows that the children (upto 15 years) constitute 40.74% of the tribal population in the Tribal Sub Plan Area. The percentage of persons above 15 years is 59.26%.

Table No.11

Sexwise distribution of the tribal population in Maharashtra State - 1981

	Tribal population (in lakhs)		
	Total	Males	Females
	57.72	29.24	28.48
Percentage to total	(100)	(50.56)	(49.34)

As per the 1981 census, the tribal population in the state comprises 50.56% males and 49.34 females.

* T.R.I.-U.B.M.S. - 1980

However, to have a more clear picture, the comparative position of the sex-ratio, as observed in the tribal population as well as the general population has been considered in the following table.

Sex-ratio - As observed in Tribal population

There are more males than females in India, hence obviously the sex ratio is expressed as number of females per 1000 males.

Table No. 12

Comparison of observed sex-ratio in tribal population with that of general population for the census years 1961, 1971 and 1981.

Census	Sex-Ratio	
	Females /1000	Males
	General	Tribal
1961	936	974
1971	930	975
1981	938	978

From the above table it can be seen that in case of general population the sex ratio seems to be fluctuating while in case of the tribal population it is observed that the number of females per 1000 males is steadily increasing. However the increase for 1971-81 is apparently more when considered in the light of the corresponding increase for 1961-71.

Also it can be observed that the number of females per 1000 males among the tribal population is more as compared to the corresponding number in the general population.

Knowing the areawise (rural-urban) distribution is of utmost importance as it ultimately helps in the process of planning for the development.

Table No. 13

Areawise (Rural-Urban) Distribution of the
Households with tribal members-in the State

Maharashtra State

<u>Households with</u> <u>tribal members</u> <u>(in lakhs)</u>		<u>Total number of</u> <u>households with</u> <u>tribal members</u> <u>(in lakhs)</u>
<u>Rural</u>	<u>Urban</u>	
9.80	1.15	10.95

Thus it can be seen from Table No. 13 that the total number of households with tribal members are reported to be 10.95 lakhs in Maharashtra State.

Out of the total number of households with tribal population, 9.80 lakhs reside in rural area and 1.15 lakhs reside in Urban area. As per the tribal households are concerned, their rural-urban proportion comes around 9:1.

The size of the tribal family as per the 1981 census comes to 5.3 and it co-incides with the family size of the general population of the State.

Migration of tribal population to
Urban and Semi-Urban areas

The tribals normally reside in hilly, remote and interior forest areas. Very few of them migrate to urban and semi-urban areas to earn this livelihood and a very small fraction of the tribals come to urban and semi-urban areas in the pursuance of higher education, technical/vocational education and similar such training courses.

The migration of the tribal population needs to be discussed in the light of comparison with the migration of general population.

Table No. 14

Comparison of trends of rural-urban ratio among General and Tribal population for the years 1961, 1971 and 1981

<u>Census Year</u>	<u>Percentage population</u>			
	<u>General</u>		<u>Tribal</u>	
	<u>Rural</u>	<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural</u>	<u>Urban</u>
1961	71.78	28.22	96.25	3.75
1971	68.83	31.17	95.66	4.34
1981	64.97	35.03	89.50	10.50

From the above table it can be seen that as per the general population is concerned, their migration towards urban area is gradual and steady. While the migration of the tribal population towards urban area seems to have been abruptly increased during the 1981 census, when considered in the light of the corresponding figures for 1961 and 1971 census.

The percentage of general population migrating towards the urban area as compared to the corresponding percentage of tribal population, is already high. The percentage of tribal population in the urban and semi-urban areas in 1981 is less than half of the percentage of the general population in urban and semi-urban areas long back in 1961. The ratio of the percentage of the general and tribal population in urban and semi-urban areas is 7.5 : 1; 7.2 : 1; and 3.3 : 1 during 1961, 1971 and 1981 respectively.

Pace of literacy among the tribals of Maharashtra
An overview of the National scene

Literacy which is the capacity to read and write with an understanding in any language was as low as 5.8% in 1891 and only 9.5% in 1931. In 1981 it had reached to 36.1%. Rural and tribal areas have literacy rate lower than the urban areas.

During the 1981 census male literacy has been reported to be nearly 47% and female literacy about 25%.

Table No. 15

Comparison of literacy amongst the general and the tribal population for the two decades (1961-71-81)

Year	General			Tribal		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1961	29.82	42.04	16.76	7.21	12.55	1.75
1971	39.13	51.04	26.43	11.74	19.06	4.21
1981	47.02	58.65	34.63	22.29	32.38	11.94

From the above table it can be observed that the literacy rate among the tribal population is increasing in a profound manner. When compared with the literacy level of the general population, it can be noted that the literacy level among the tribals is 22.29 in 1981, which has not even reached the literacy level of the general population in 1961 i.e. 29.82. Hence it is observed that, even if the literacy level of the tribal population is on an increase, it is comparatively low when considered in the light of the literacy level of the general population.

Further it can be seen that the ratio between the literacy levels of general population and tribal population has come down from approximately 4 : 1 to approximately 2 : 1 from 1961 to 1981 through 1971.

Taking into consideration the male literacy, the corresponding ratio has come down from approximately 3 : 1 to approximately 2 : 1 from 1961 to 1981 through 1971.

Taking into consideration the female literacy, the corresponding ratio has come down from approximately

16 : 1 to approximately 3 : 1 from 1961 to 1981 through 1971. Though this seems to be a gallop, the literacy level achieved by the tribal females in 1981 is less than the literacy level achieved by females in the general population as well as the tribal males in 1961. i.e. : literacy level of tribal female in 1981 - 11.94, as against 16.76 - (general female) and 12.55 (tribal male) in 1961.

Taking into consideration only the tribal literacy - it is observed that the gallop in literacy from 1971-81 for the total tribal population as well as the tribal males and females, is very high when considered in the light of the corresponding increase in literacy for 1961-71.

Table No. 16

Occupational structure of the tribals in Maharashtra

	Scheduled Tribe population		Total Main workers (I - IX)				Cultivators(I) (II)				Agricultural Labourers		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
MAHARASHTRA	57.72	28.48	27.65	16.60	11.05	10.93	7.13	3.80	12.50	6.20	6.30		
STATE													
a)	(100)	(100)	(47.90)	(56.77)	(38.79)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
b)	-	-	(100)	(100)	(100)	(39.53)	(42.97)	(34.37)	(45.22)	(37.34)	(57.04)		
c)	(100)	(50.56)	(49.34)	(100)	(60.04)	(39.96)	(100)	(65.26)	(34.74)	(100)	(49.58)	(50.42)	





Occupational structure as per the 1981 census

In order to adjudge the exact position regarding workers, marginal workers, and non-workers - amongst the tribals, the available statistics has been discussed in the light of the corresponding position in the general population.

Table No.17

Comparative position of percentage of main-workers, marginal workers and non-workers in the general and the tribal populations (1981)

Category	Percentage population	
	General	Tribal
1. Total main workers (I - IX)	38.71	47.90
2. Marginal workers	3.96	5.32
3. Non workers	57.33	46.78

It can be seen from the above table that the percentage of main workers and marginal workers is higher amongst the tribal population in comparison with the general population, and obviously the observation is the other way round in case of the percentage for non-workers, (though the percentage of non-workers is quite high in both the general as well as the tribal population).

It can be very well stated that the percentage of main workers and marginal workers is directly proportional to the Rural-Urban ratio of normal residence and is inversely proportional to the literacy level of the population in the context.

While the percentage of non-workers can be considered as directly proportional to the rural-urban ratio of normal residence as well as directly

proportional to the literacy level of the population in the context.

(As per the tribal population in Maharashtra is concerned - 1.52 males and 9.23 females are marginal workers.

While - 41.71 males and 51.98 females are non workers)

Occupational distribution of the Main Workers amongst the tribals in Maharashtra State

The occupational distribution of Main workers into various categories (with emphasis given over to the items suitable to the population in context) - such as - cultivators; Agricultural labourers; Home Industries manufacturing, processing, servicing, repairs etc; and other workers; has been considered in the following table. (for computing these percentages the figures corresponding to the total main workers-with break up as persons, males and females have been taken as base line.)

Table No.18

Occupational distribution of Main Workers amongst the tribal population in the Maharashtra State as per the 1981 census.

Category	Percentages		
	Persons	Males	Females
Cultivators(I)	39.53	42.97	34.37
Agricultural labourers (II)	45.22	37.34	57.04
Household Industries, Manufacturing, Processing, Servicing and Repairing (Va)	2.00	2.03	1.97
Other workers (III, IV, Vb, and VI-IX)	13.25	17.66	6.62

The above table reveals that the major occupation of the tribals is Agricultural labour - (45.22%), followed by the cultivators - (39.53%). Hence, altogether 84.75% of the main workers are engaged in agricultural and allied activities. The percentage of tribal main workers engaged in Home Industries, Manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs etc., is negligible i.e. (2.00%). Remaining 13.25% of the main workers are engaged in other categories which seem to be insignificant in the context of the population under consideration.

Another important observation in the above table is that - among the total male and female workers, the percentage of male workers engaged in cultivation is more than the percentage of female workers engaged in cultivation, while the percentage of male workers engaged in agricultural labour is less than the percentage of the female workers engaged in the same activity.

In case of Household industries, Manufacturing, Processing, Servicing and Repairing though the percentage of male workers engaged there is more than the females engaged in the same activity, the difference is more or less negligible.

In case of other workers - the percentage of male workers in this category is higher than the percentage of female workers engaged in activities classified under III, IV, Vb and VI-IX.

It can be observed that out of the total male and female workers -
80.31 % of the male workers are engaged in agricultural and allied activities;
While 91.41% of the female workers are engaged in agricultural and allied activities;
i.e. approximately 11% of male workers are less in the agricultural and allied activities.

It can be clearly observed in the above table that the difference of 11% of male workers in agricultural and allied activities is counter balanced in the activities classified under III, IV, Vb and VI-IX wherein - the male workers are approximately 11% more than the percentage of female workers in the same category.

Table No. 19

Percentage*Sexwise percentages considered for individual categories of total main workers, marginal workers and non workers

Category	Percentage	
	Males	Females
<u>Total Main Workers(I-IX)</u>	60.04	39.96
Cultivators (I)	65.26	34.74
Agricultural labourers(II)	49.58	50.42
Household Industries, Manufacturing, Processing, Servicing & Repairs(Va)	60.72	39.28
Other workers (III, IV, Vb and VI-IX)	80.04	19.96
<u>Marginal workers</u>	14.44	85.56
<u>Non workers</u>	45.17	54.83

The above table shows that the percentage of males is more than that of the females in case of total main workers (60.04 and 39.96 respectively). Hence, obviously the percentage of males is less than that of the females in case of the marginal workers and non workers. (14.44 and 85.56 for marginal workers and 45.17 and 54.83 for non-workers respectively).

The observation already recorded from the previous table, i.e. the percentage of male workers engaged in cultivation is more than the percentage of female workers engaged in cultivation, while the percentage of male workers engaged in agricultural labour is less than the percentage of the female workers engaged in the same activity, also is observed in the above table.

In case of activities classified in (V a) and (III, IV, Vb and VI-IX) i.e. Household Industries, Manufacturing, Processing, Services and Repairs as well as, other workers - the percentage of male workers is more than the percentage of female workers engaged in the similar activities. The ratio of male : female percentages in the above mentioned categories is approximately 1.5 : 1 and 4 : 1 respectively.

Further analysis of the data suggests that 86.72 percent of the tribal population resides in the districts having Tribal Sub Plan area, while 13.28 percent of the tribal population resides in the districts not having tribal sub plan.

Land Holding

India being a country having agriculture as a principal occupation, the average size of land holding becomes an important index among the other indices dealing with the socio-economic status of any population group largely residing in rural/tribal area of the country.

The data regarding operational holdings of tribals which was collected (along with other data) by virtue of the Universal Bench Mark Survey conducted by Tribal Research Institute in the Tribal Sub Plan Area of Maharashtra State in 1980, is presented in the following table.

Table No.20

Distribution of tribal households by size
class according to the land possessed (1980)*

<u>Size class</u> <u>land poss-</u> <u>essed (hect.)</u>	<u>No. of tribal</u> <u>households</u>	<u>Total land</u> <u>possessed</u> <u>(hect)</u>	<u>Average</u> <u>land po-</u> <u>ssessed with</u> <u>per tri-the</u> <u>bal fa- total</u> <u>mily (%)</u> <u>(hect)</u>	<u>Per-</u> <u>centage</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Landless	1,93,212	-	-	44.80
Below 01.00	43,202	27,000.70	0.63	10.02
01.00 - 02.00	58,624	76,928.40	1.31	13.59
02.00 - 05.00	93,232	2,79,313.40	3.00	21.62
05.00 - 06.00	9,997	52,470.00	5.25	2.32
06.00 - 10.00	21,683	1,59,672.50	7.36	5.03
10.00 - 20.00	8,566	1,05,976.00	12.37	1.98
20.00 and above	2,742	1,51,804.30	55.36	0.64
Including the landless	4,31,258	8,53,165.40	(1.98)	(100)
Excluding the landless	2,38,046	8,53,165.40	(3.58)	(100)

*T.R.I. - U.B.M.S. - 1980

It is revealed from the above table that 44.39% of tribal families are landless; 21.42% families fall in the size class of 02.00 to 05.00 hectares; 13.47% families possess 01.00 - 02.00 hectares of land and 10.84% of families possess land less than 1 hectare. Further, we can see that 4.98% of families fall in the size-class of 06.00-10.00 hectares; 2.30% of families have 05.00 - 06.00 hectares of land; 1.97% of families have land holding between 10.00 - 20.00 hectares and 0.63% families fall in the size-class of 20.00 hectares and above.

Further it can be stated that the average land possessed by individual tribal family comes to - 1.98 hectares (including the landless); and 3.58 hectares (excluding the landless).

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CONCLUSION

The observations from table Nos. 3,4,5,6,7 and 8 are very important, as an abnormal growth of 9-10 lakhs. (57.72 (1981-actual)- 47.34 (projected-1981) pertaining to the tribal population in Maharashtra has come to the surface. An inflation to such a high tune cannot be possibly explained demographically. This inflation cannot be directly justified as an attribute of the "Removal of Area Restrictions - (Amendment) Act, 1976", - as well.

However, in the light of the above discussion, it becomes pertinent to make a special mention pertaining to certain demographic parameters, (in the context of the tribals in Maharashtra)- such as the % - population in the state; Sex-Ratio; Rural-Urban Distribution; Pace of Literacy and the occupational structure - (though the results and observations for these have been already discussed), - certainly get a tinge of "over-estimation" to a certain extent, as evidenced by an inflation to a considerably high tune.

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The observations from Table Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are very important, as an abnormal growth of 9-10 lakhs (57.72 (1981 actual) - 47.34 (projected-1981)) has come to the surface.

The main reason behind this anomaly is the fraudulent and undue advantage taken by the non-tribals. The census which happens to be a reliable and an important national document pertaining to demographic data, has been fraudulently misused by some non tribals on a considerably large scale especially during the 1981 census merely with a malified intention of posing themselves as belonging to S.T. communities and getting this recorded in the important national document (i.e. the census), in order to regularise and get a sanctity to their fake identity, at governmental level and thereby getting the population figures pertaining to S.T. overestimated, in order to continue to exploit and violate the benefits and concessions meant for the genuine tribals, without any interruption.

During the 1981 census this anomaly has attained an utmost promiscuous prominence due to the complex culmination of undue advantage taken by the non tribals by virtue of - "Similarity of nomenclature and the "Removal of Area Restrictions (Amendment) Act, 1976".

It has been noticed that, the non-tribals having a potential of taking an undue advantage of similarity of nomenclature, formed ethnic and caste associations such as Akhil Maharashtra Munnervarlu

Sanghatana, Pune; Adivasi Koli Sanghatana, Marathwada; Akhil Bharatiya Koli Samaj, Bombay; Halba Kriti Samittee, Nagpur; Adivasi Thakur Jamat Sanghatana; Chatri Samaj Sanghatana; Dhanwar (Dhangar) Samaj Sanghatana, Amravati - Yeotmal; Mana Samaj Sanghatana, etc.-and by virtue of meetings and handbills instigated the members of their caste groups to get themselves enumerated as if belonging to the corresponding scheduled tribe community and thereby give sanctity to their fake identity.

The maximum and abnormal growth in tribal population in Vidarbha region can be attributed to the complete enumeration of the tribals after the removal of area restriction, but to a very limited extent. As revealed from the analysis, much of the inflation can be very well attributed to the complex culmination of undue advantage taken by the non-tribals by virtue of "Similarity of nomenclature" and the "Removal of Area Restrictions (Amendment) Act, 1976"

