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GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

**STUDY OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES
WHO ARE DECLINING IN
POPULATION IN
MAHARASHTRA STATE**



By

**TRIBAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE,
MAHARASHTRA STATE, PUNE**

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according to ascending order of percentages of declined population.

Sr. No.	Tribal community	Percentage of declined population
1.	Rathwa	96.66
2.	Dhanwar	77.50
3.	Barda	77.34
4.	Nagasia	71.43
5.	Bavacha or Bamcha	31.91
6.	Patellia	26.67
7.	Thoti	24.77
8.	Nayaka or Naikda	20.60
9.	Dhodia	17.45
10.	Dubla including Talavia or Halpati.	8.48
11.	Kawar	1.30

The above table reveals that the Rathwa tribal community has maximum declined trend in population while the Kawar tribal community has minimum declined trend.

The districtwise tribal population of the above tribal communities were further studied. They are grouped into (3) categories according to their total population.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Tribal communities</u>	
<u>Category I :- Tribal community having population below 1,000 in 1961.</u>	i)	Barda
	ii)	Bavacha or Bamcha
	iii)	Dhanwar
	iv)	Nagesia
	v)	Patellia
	vi)	Thoti

<u>Category II :- Tribal community having population in the range 1,000 to, 9,999 in 1961.</u>	i)	Kawar
	ii)	Rathwa

<u>Category III :- 10,000 and above in 1961.</u>	i)	Dhodid
	ii)	Dubla including Talavda or Halpati
	iii)	Nayaka or Naikda

Category I (Population below 1,000)

1. Barda

The districtwise distribution of tribal population of Barda was as under:-

<u>Sr. No.</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Population</u>	
		<u>1961</u>	<u>1971</u>
1	2	3	4
1.	Greater Bombay	- 11	10
2.	Thane	- 2	9
3.	Nashik	- 142	91
4.	Dhule	- 429	-
5.	Jalgaon	- 275	23
6.	Ahmednagar	- 1	-

F O R W A R D

It has been revealed by the census figures that some tribal communities have, in the recent past, shown a decline in population and they are getting reduced in size and also their possible extinction. The tribal groups in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and tribal groups like the Todas of Nilgiris have been referred to in this connection.

It is possible that within a State there may be some tribal communities showing a consistent demographic decline and therefore leading to the possibility of their ultimate extinction. However, we do not, as yet, have authentic information about communities actually declining in population, rate at which the population is declining, causes leading to such decline etc.

In order to understand the matter in the proper perspective it was necessary to have a scientific data and systematic analysis of tribal communities. The Tribal Research & Training Institute, Maharashtra State, was entrusted to study the population trend of tribal communities in the State. Accordingly, this Institute took up a study of tribal communities who are declining in population in the State. The study reveals that there is no community in Maharashtra which is getting reduced in size and also its possible extinction. It further reveals that number of tribal communities which are located on the border areas of the State have shown a migratory trend and therefore their population are many a times found declined or increased.

Shri M.B.Surana, Deputy Director has completed this study and analysis within a shortest possible time which is quite interesting to know demographic phenomenon of the tribal communities in the State. We hope this Report will be useful to the Planners, Administrators and Academicians too.

3rd March, 1982.
Pune.

(Dr.G.M.GARE)
Director,
Tribal Research & Training Institute,
Maharashtra State, Pune.



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1. Bhaina - 12
2. Birhul - 22
3. Khairwar - 275

1. Bhaina

The Bhainas were 12 (7 males + 5 females) which comprises 2 or 3 families, were residing in urban areas in Yavatmal, Kelapur and Wani in Yavatmal district. They were Hindi speaking. These families might have out migrated from Maharashtra in Madhya Pradesh before 1971 census.

2. Birhul

The total Birhuls or Birkhors were 22, (15 males and 7 females) in 1961 census from the rural area of Kelapur in Yavatmal district. These appear to be - immigrants to Maharashtra from Madhya Pradesh. Later on they might have out migrated before 1971 census from Maharashtra to Madhya Pradesh.

3. Khairwar

Total 275 (137 males + 138 females) Khairwars were reported in 1961 census. These 275 Khairwars were, however, returned only from nine villages of Gadchiroli, Tahsil of Chandrapur district. They might have out migrated from Orissa where this tribe is prominent. No family of Khairwar community was reported in 1971 census in Maharashtra. All might have been out migrated from Maharashtra before 1971 census.

Besides the above tribal communities, the following (11) tribal communities show declining trend in population in 1971 over 1961. They are arranged

STUDY OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES SHOWING DECLINING TREND IN POPULATION

The study has been conducted on the basis of available figures of tribal population in 1961 and 1971 census.

Total (48) tribal communities were reported in 1961 and 1971 census. The tribewise population in 1961 and 1971 census (Appendix No. 1) reveals that the following (14) tribal communities show declining trend in population in 1971 over 1961.

Tribal community	Percentage of declining population over 1961
1. Barda	77.34
2. Bavacha or Bamcha	31.91
3. Bhatna	X
4. Birhul	x
5. Dhanwar	77.50
6. Dhodia	17.45
7. Dubla including Talavia or Halpatt.	8.48
8. Kavar	1.30
9. Khairwar	X :
10. Nagasia	71.43
11. Nayaka or Naikda	20.60
12. Patellia	26.67
13. Rathwa	96.66
14. Thoti	24.77

(X - means figures not reported in 1971 census)

It is revealed that the following (3) tribal communities were not reported in 1971 census. The population of these communities in 1961 were as under:-

The population figures in the table reveal that the population of Patellia is declined in 1971 census in Thane, Kulaba (Raigad) and Dhule districts. The Patellia Tribe is Gujarathi speaking tribe found in Maharashtra. Out of 180 persons, 94 were reported from urban areas and 86 were from rural areas. Declined population was due to out migration of the community mostly in Gujarat State. About 73 percent of workers of this Tribe are engaged in non-agricultural activities.

6. Thoti

The districtwise population of the Thoti Tribe was as under:-

Sr. No.	District	Population	
		1961	1971
1	2	3	4
1.	Nanded	64	74
2.	Chandrapur	45	8
Total		109	82

The population figures reveal that the population of the Thoti tribe declined in 1971 census in Chandrapur district. This may be due to out - migration of this community to adjoining areas of Andhra Pradesh.

Category II

(Population in between 1,000 to 10,000)

7. Kawar

The districtwise population of the Kawar community was as under:-

Sr. No.	District	Population	
		1961	1971
1	2	3	4
1.	Amravati	-	8
2.	Chandrapur	28	-
Total		28	8

In 1961 census the population of the tribe was returned only 28 persons and that too from only one village of Gadchiroli tahsil of Chandrapur district. No population of this community was reported in 1971 census in Chandrapur district. This may be due to out migration of the Nagesia families to their original habitat of Madhya Pradesh.

5. Patelia

The districtwise population of the Patelia Tribe was as under:-

Sr. No.	District	Population	
		1961	1971
1	2	3	4
1.	Greater Bombay	43	95
2.	Thane	44	19
3.	Kulaba	18	-
4.	Nashik	-	12
5.	Dhule	69	5
6.	Pune	6	5
Total		180	132

Sr. No.	District	Population	
		1961	1971
1	2	3	4
1.	Nanded	-	5
2.	Amravati	2	-
3.	Yavatmal	101	-
4.	Chandrapur	2812	2872
Total		2915	2877

The population figures indicate that the population of the Kavar community was not reported in Amravati and Yavatmal districts in 1971 census. Moreover the decade growth rate of population of the Kavar community was also very low in Chandrapur district.

The population distribution of the tribe in 1961 census was as under:-

Tehsil	Persons
Gadchiroli	2812
Yavatmal	99
Kalapur	2
Melghat	2
Total	2915

The population of the Kavar tribe as recorded in the census of 1891, 1911, 1921 and 1931 and ¹⁹⁶¹ 1971 in the districts of Maharashtra was as below:-

District 1	Population					
	1891 2	1911 3	1921 4	1931 5	1961 6	1971 7
Wardha	-	-	-	1	-	-
Nagpur	27	22	-	4	-	-
Chandrapur	3860	1447	1494	1831	2812	2872
Bhandara	655	940	1959	1382	-	-
Amravati	-	-	12	1	2	-
Yavatmal	-	-	-	-	101	-
Nanded	-	-	-	-	-	5
Total	4512	2409	3465	3219	2915	2877

The population figures in the above table reveal that the population of the Kawar community is declining since 1891. They might have out-migrated to the Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh, from where they have originally migrated to Maharashtra.

8. Rathwa

The Rathwas were found mainly in Sholapur district. They were found highly concentrated in Kadabgaon, a village in Akalkot tahsil.

This tribe was not mentioned in the caste index of 1891 census. It did not figure in the census of 1911 and 1921 of Bombay Presidency also. In 1931 census the population of this tribe in the entire Presidency was reported 7 and it was returned from Jalgaon district.

1	2	3	4
7. Pune	-	-	45
8. Satara	-	-	21
9. Sangli	-	3	-
10. Sholapur	-	54	9
11. Kolhapur	-	1	-
Total	-	918	208

In the districts except Thane, there is a declined trend in population of this tribe in 1971 over 1961. In Dhule district, there were 429 Barda in 1961 census, however, no Barda population was reported in 1971 census. There appears large out migration of this community in other districts. In Pune and Satara districts the Barda population is newly reported in 1971 census.

The Bardas have a total population of 1207 persons. During the 1961 census, they were found in (3) States, 918 in Maharashtra, 268 in Mysore and 21 in Gujarat. The majority of the Bardas have Marathi as their mother tongue. It has happened that the Bardas have been reported as "Bhil" and as such they have been counted under "Bhil". They are considered as Barda Bhils by other Bhil groups.

2. Bavacha or Bamcha

The districtwise population of Bavacha or Bamcha was report as under:-

Sr. No.	District	Population	
		1961	1971
1	2	3	4
1.	Greater Bombay	8	33
2.	Thane	2	6
3.	Nashik	52	-
4.	Pune	25	25
5.	Sholapur	7	-
Total		94	94

No declined trend is observed in any districts except Nasik and Sholapur. In Nasik and Sholapur district no population of Bavacha is reported in 1971 census. The Bavacha is a small tribe of Gujarat. It is their original habitat. It is likely that they might have been migrated to Gujarat.

3. Dhanwar

Dhanwar tribe is found in Yavatmal district and that too in Yavatmal and Kelapur tahsils only. In the 1961 and 1971 census only 49 persons (40 and 9 persons respectively) were reported as Dhanwars. In 1971 census, the community might have been out migrated to the adjoining areas of Madhya Pradesh where they are in good number.

4. Nagasia or Nagesia

The districtwise population of the Nagasia tribe was as under :-

The distribution of population of the Rathawa Tribe as recorded in 1931, 1961 and 1971 census was as under :-

District	Population		
	1931	1961	1971
1	2	3	4
Greater Bombay	-	34	29
Thane	-	104	29
Kulaba	-	2	-
Nasik	-	5	-
Dhule	-	91	38
Jalgaon	7	62	-
Ahmednagar	-	10	-
Pune	-	7	-
Sangli	-	25	-
Solapur	-	2533	-
Kolhapur	-	1	-
Total	7	2874	96

From the above table it is revealed that not even a single person of the Rathawa Tribe from Sholapur and Jalgaon districts reported in 1971 census.

Category-III

(Population 10,000 and above in 1961)

9. Dhodia

The districtwise population of the Dhodia community was as under:-

District	Population			
	1911	1931	1961	1971
Greater Bombay	-	-	5270	3458
Thane	-	-	6260	6123
Kulaba	-	-	18	-
Nashik	-	-	51	3
Dhule	-	-	438	347
Pune	-	-	-	5
Total	12289	14615	12037	9936

The Dhodia is a Gujarathi speaking Scheduled Tribe, mainly found in the districts Thane, Greater Bombay and Dhule. Thane and Greater Bombay account for about 96 per cent of their entire population in the State. In Thane district, the Dhodias from Talasari, Dahanu and Bhivandi tahsils accounted about 68 per cent of their total population in Maharashtra State. Of the total population 50 per cent returned from urban areas in 1961 census. The Dhodias are concentrated in the largest number in Gujarath State and they are found in boarder districts of Maharashtra and Gujarath State. The declined trend in population of this tribe is due to the reasons that they might have been out migrated from Maharashtra to Gujarath State.

10. Dubla including Talavia or Halpati

The Dubla including Talavia or Halpati is one of the predominant tribes of Gujarat, who are also found in Maharashtra State mostly in the districts adjoining Gujarat. In 1961 census, they were returned in the largest number in Gujarat (3,23,644). They were returned 13,630 in Maharashtra.

The districtwise population of Dubla community was as under;-

District	Population	
	1961	1971
Greater Bombay	5007	3795
Thane	7238	7975
Kulaba (Raigad)	572	4
Nashik	5	3
Dhule	787	695
Jalgaon	21	-
Difference	-	2
Total	13,630	12,444

Thane and Greater Bombay account for about 94% of their total population in the State. The Dublas appear to be the more urbanised in the State as were mainly found in urban areas of Bombay and Thane.

The population figures indicate that there is large out migration of this tribe from Kolaba, Greater Bombay and Dhule districts. They might have immigrated in Gujarat State from where they have been originally migrated to Maharashtra.

11. Nayaka or Naikda

Nayaka or Naikda tribe includes Cholitvala Nayaka, Kapadia Nayaka and Nana Nayaka.

The districtwise population of Nayakas during different census was as under:-

District	Population				
	1911	1921	1931	1951	1971
1. Greater Bombay-	-	-	-	753	302
2. Thane	-	-	-	956	587
3. Kulaba	-	-	-	52	1
4. Ratnagiri	-	-	-	10	113
5. Nashik	-	-	-	295	542
6. Dhule	-	-	-	9253	587
7. Jalgaon	-	-	-	165	621
8. Ahmednagar	-	-	-	19	22
9. Pune	-	-	-	126	498
10. Satara	-	-	-	16	-
11. Sangli	-	-	-	18	252
12. Sholapur	-	-	-	9	202
13. Kolhapur	-	-	-	58	688
Total	-	Not mentioned in the present notified districts.	2011	11731	9315

It reveals that the concentration of Naika or Naikda was in the district of Dhule. The Naikdas in Maharashtra speak Bhili and they consider it as their mothertongue too. There is declined trend of Naika population in the districts of Dhule, Greater Bombay and Thane. They might have been out migrated to - Gujarat State.

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Appendix - I

Communitywise tribal population of Maharashtra State
as per 1961 and 1971 census.

Sr. No.	Tribe	Population	
		1961	1971
1	2	3	4
1.	Andh	60,261	76,147
2.	Baiga	-	7
3.	Barda	918	208
4.	Baveche or Bamcha	94	64
5.	Bhaina	12	N.A.
6.	Bharia-Bhumia or Bhuminhar-Bhumia including Pando.	N.A.	11
7.	Bhattra	3	4
8.	Bhil (including the list in Census Handbook 1971)	5,75,022	6,78,750
9.	Bhunja	6	230
10.	Binjhar	24	139
11.	Birhul	22	N.A.
12.	Chodhara	157	649
13.	Chanka including Padvi, Tetaria and Valvi.	48,089	53,649
14.	Dhanwar	40	9
15.	Dhadia	12,037	9,936
16.	Dubla including Talavta or Halpati.	13,630	12,474
17.	Gavit or Gamta or Gavit including Mavchi, Padvi, Vasava, Vasave and Valvi.	1,02,321	1,28,831
18.	Gond or Rajgond as per list in Census Handbook.	2,72,564	3,31,798

1	2	3	4
19.	Halba	5,430	7,205
20.	Kamar	-	8
21.	Katkari or Kathodi	1,40,672	1,46,785
22.	Kawar	2,915	2,877
23.	Khairwar	275	NA
24.	Kharia	-	3,827
25.	Kokna	2,12,836	2,64,009
26.	Kol	53	58
27.	Kolam	43,788	56,061
28.	Koli Dhor	15,461	43,528
29.	Koli Mahadeo	2,74,244	3,39,855
30.	Koli Malhar	89,047	99,613
31.	Khond	-	N.A.
32.	Korku	50,279	67,742
33.	Koya	33	43
34.	Nagasia	28	8
35.	Nayaka or Naikda	11,731	9,315
35(A).	Mihal	-	3,604
36.	Oran	1	1
37.	Pardan	32,237	50,910
38.	Pardhi	21,417	24,956
39.	Parja	-	44
40.	Patelia	180	132
41.	Pomla	263	614
42.	Rathawa	2,874	+
43.	Sawar	-	11
44.	Thakur	1,59,372	1,78,805
45.	Thoti	109	82
46.	Warli	2,43,980	2,93,931
47.	Vitolia	898	1,031
48.	Unspecified	3,836	66,192
Total		23,97,159	29,54,249

Appendix-IITribal communities showing declining trend in 1971
over 1961

Sr. No.	Tribe/Community	Population		Difference in population	Percentage of declined population 1961
		1961	1971		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Barda	918	208	710	77.34
2.	Bavacha or Bamcha	94	64	30	31.91
3.	Bhaina	12	N.A.	X	-
4.	Birhul	22	N.A.	X	-
5.	Dhanwar	40	9	31	77.50
6.	Dhodia	12,037	9,936	2,101	17.45
7.	Dubla including Kalaric or Hulpatt	13,630	12,474	1,156	8.48
8.	Kawar	2,915	2,877	38	1.30
9.	Khairwar	275	N.A.	X	-
10.	Nagasia	28	8	20	71.43
11.	Naika or Naikda	11,731	9,315	2,416	20.60
12.	Patelia	180	132	48	26.67
13.	Rathwa	2,874	96	2,778	96.66
14.	Thott	109	82	27	24.77

X - means figures not reported in 1971 census
N.A. - Not available

Appendix-III

Districtwise population of tribal communities showing
declined trend in 1971 over 1961.

Sr. No.	District	Barda		Bavacha or Bamcha		Dhanwar		Dhodia		Dubla including Talavia or Halpati	
		1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Gr. Bombay	11	10	8	33	-	-	5270	3458	5007	3795
2.	Thane	2	9	2	6	-	-	6260	6123	7238	7975
3.	Kulaba	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	572	4
4.	Ratnagiri	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Nashik	142	91	52	-	-	-	51	3	5	0
6.	Dhule	429	-	-	-	-	-	438	347	787	695
7.	Jalgaon	275	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-
8.	Ahmednagar	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Pune	-	45	25	25	-	-	-	5	-	-
10.	Satara	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11.	Sangli	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Solapur	54	9	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Kolhapur	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14.	Aurangabad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Parbhani	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Bhir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Nanded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Osmanabad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Buldhana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Akola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Amravati	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Yavatmal	-	-	-	-	40	9	-	-	-	-
23.	Warhda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Nagpur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Bhandara	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Chandrapur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Total		918	208	94	64	40	9	12037	9936	13630	12474

Kawar		Nagasia		Naika or Nayaka		Patalia		Rathwa		Total	
1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
-	-	-	-	753	302	43	95	34	29	-	-
-	-	-	-	956	587	44	15	104	29	-	-
-	-	-	-	52	1	18	-	2	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	10	113	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	295	542	-	12	5	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	9253	5487	69	5	91	38	-	-
-	-	-	-	166	621	-	-	62	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	19	22	-	-	10	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	126	498	6	5	7	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	18	252	-	-	25	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	9	202	-	-	2533	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	58	688	-	-	1	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64	74
-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2812	2872	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	8
2915	2877	28	8	11731	9315	180	132	2874	96	109	82

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