



Vaghris.

THE
TRIBES AND CASTES
OF *Rare section*
BOMBAY

BY

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VOLUME I

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NOTE TO FIRST EDITION.

The present edition is intended for use in India. Vernacular terms such as *panch*, *shraddha*, *linga*, etc. have been freely used without explanation. It is proposed to issue an English Edition later, in which the results of the Survey will be dealt with in greater detail. The letter 'á' has the sound of 'a' in the word father. Other diacritical marks have been omitted.

APPENDIX.

ETHNOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS.

GENERAL SERIES.

1. Write in English and vernacular the name of the caste with synonyms, if any, noting if any of these are used only by outsiders.

2. Write in English and vernacular the names of the exogamous sub-divisions of the caste, if such sub-divisions exist.

N.B.—By the term exogamous sub-division is meant a group from within which its male members cannot take their wives.

3. Show the endogamous divisions of the caste, if such divisions exist. If these divisions consist of groups of the sub-divisions mentioned in question 2, show the grouping. If they are distinguished by separate names, write the names in English and vernacular.

N.B.—By the term endogamous division is meant a group from outside of which its male members cannot take their wives.

4. State the limits within or beyond which marriage is prohibited, *e.g.*, that a man must marry within the caste, but must not marry into his own or certain other sub-divisions or within certain degrees of relationship or may not marry two sisters.

5. Name any prohibitions on intermarriage based upon (a) social status, (b) geographical or local position, (c) differences of religious belief or practice, (d) differences or changes of occupation.

6. State the popular traditions, if any exist, as to the origin of the caste, naming the common ancestor, if any, the part of the country from which the caste is supposed to have come, and the approximate time of its emigration, as marked by the reign of any particular king, or the occurrence of any historical event, together with the number of generations supposed to have intervened.

7. Is the habit of the caste settled or wandering? Have they any recognized headquarters in the province? If wandering, over what tract of country do they wander? Are their migrations periodical or irregular and what are the shape and material of their dwellings?

8. Do they admit outsiders into the caste? If so, from what classes, by what forms and under what conditions?

9. Is marriage infant or adult? If the latter, is sexual license before marriage recognized or tolerated?

10. Is (a) polygamy, (b) polyandry, permitted; if so, under what conditions and within what limits? In the case of polyandry, must all the husbands be brothers?

11. What form of marriage ceremony is in ordinary use? Name the forms and state the essential and binding portion of the ceremony.

12. Is the remarriage of widows permitted? If so, is the widow obliged or expected to marry her husband's elder or younger brother? If she does not marry a brother, within what limits may she marry? What form of marriage ceremony is used, and what is the essential and binding portion of it?

13. Under what circumstances is divorce permitted, and by what form is it effected? May wives who have been divorced marry again?

14. Do the members of the caste follow the Hindu or Mahomedan law of inheritance, or a tribal custom of their own?

15. To what religion and to what sect within the religion do the caste belong? If Hindus, do they by preference worship any special one of the regular Hindu deities, and are there any reasons for this preference?

16. Name any minor gods or patron saints specially worshipped by the caste. State what offerings are made, on what days of the week, and what class of people receive them. Is the worship of any of these gods or saints confined to women and children?

17. Do the caste employ Brahmans for religious and ceremonial purposes? If so, are these Brahmans received on terms of equality by other Brahmans? If they do not employ Brahmans, what class of people serve them as priests?

18. Do the caste burn, bury, or expose their dead? If buried, in what position? Where are the bodies or ashes finally disposed of?

19. Are any ceremonies performed for the propitiation of (a) ancestors in general, (b) childless ancestors, (c) men who have died a violent death; and if so, of what nature and at what seasons? Is the ceremony of *shrâddh* performed or not?

20. Is the caste, or any of its sub-divisions, named after any animal, plant, weapon or implement? Do they show their reverence for any such object either by special worship or by abstaining from killing, eating, cutting, burning, using, or naming it?

21. What do the caste believe to have been their original occupation or group of occupations? To what extent have they or any sections of them departed from it? Describe their present occupation.

22. If they are agriculturists, state what position they usually occupy in the agricultural system, i.e., are they—

- (1) Zamindars :
- (2) Tenure-holders, specifying the kind of tenures they hold ;
- (3) Occupancy or non-occupancy rayats, stating whether they have or claim any privileges in respect of rent ;
- (4) Nomadic cultivators, specifying the mode of cultivation they follow :
- (5) Landless day-labourers, stating the manner in which they are paid

23. ~~If their~~ occupation is that of—

(a) *Artisans*, what is their industry, and what special material do they work, or abstain from working ?

(b) *Hunters*, do they catch game or vermin ?

(c) *Fishermen*, do they catch fish only, or also crocodiles and tortoises ?

(d) *Scoopers*, do they remove night-soil or not ?

24. Name any implement or mode of working which is characteristic of the caste, and also note whether there is any form or detail of their main occupation by abstaining from which they believe themselves to be raised above others of the same craft ?

25. Do they habitually prostitute their (1) unmarried, (2) married women ?

26. Which of the following articles of food do the caste eat or abstain from eating :—flesh, wine, monkeys, beef, pork, the flesh of cloven-footed or uncloven-footed animals, fowls, scaly or scaleless fish, crocodiles, snakes, lizards, jackals, rats, other vermin, the leavings of other people ? Is there any special article of food their abstaining from which tends in their opinion to raise them above some other caste which does not abstain from it ?

27. Name the lowest well-known caste with which the caste will—

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| (a) Eat pakki, | (c) Drink, |
| (b) Eat kachhi, | (d) Smoke. |

Name the highest well-known caste which will eat, etc. (as above) with the caste.

Sources of information.—Here should be noted the names, residence (village and thána), profession, caste, sub-caste, and section of the persons who answered the question. If any of them are *ghataks*, genealogists, heads of caste *panchayat*, or occupy any hereditary official position in relation to the caste the fact should be stated. If the answers to the questions have been derived from any source other than personal enquiry addressed to members of the caste concerned, the source should be stated; and such references given as may enable the officer in charge of the enquiry to test the correctness of the answers.

(Signed) DENZIL C. J. IBBETSON.

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