

Series B—Survey Report No. 8

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION IN RURAL UTTAR PRADESH

(A STUDY OF MIRZAPUR DISTRICT IN U. P.)

By

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PREFACE

The Demographic Research Centre, since its establishment in 1966, has sponsored a number of field enquiries to understand the reproductive behaviour of the people including their level of receptivity to different aspects of population control programme and attitudes towards family building in both rural and urban parts of Uttar Pradesh. In rural Uttar Pradesh the Centre has so far covered seven districts, namely, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Basti, Deoria, Nanital, Almora and Pithoragarh. The present Report is based on the field study conducted during April, 1976 - November 1976 in rural Mirzapur. The study was oriented to understand the demographic aspects of the Scheduled Caste population. Dr. Sita Ram Rastogi, Research Officer, supervised the field work and Mr. T.N. Kapoor, Mr. M.A. Khan, Mrs. Geeta Pant and Mrs. Shusheela Singh conducted the interviews. I record my appreciation for their hard work.

Dr. Shridhar Misra, Director of the Centre, kindly read the whole manuscript and made several suggestions. This report is the result of his keen interest.

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APPENDIX I

The demographic survey of Scheduled Caste population in rural Mirzapur was spread over two sub-divisions of the district, namely, Duchi and Robertsganj. Further, from each sub-division two development blocks were selected. One village each from the selected blocks was drawn for survey work according to following criteria :

1. A selected village should have atleast 1,000 people belonging to Scheduled Castes.
2. The village should be on the road and be situated within the radius of 5 kms. from the block headquarter. Attention was given to this point in view of very poor means of communication in the area, and also the field team did not have at its disposal any means of transport to make required field visits. This factor led to selection of well accessible villages.

Selection of the Couples

In order to select the Scheduled Caste couples for our enquiry we conducted house listing in the selected villages through a printed proforma. In the houselisting we recorded all households in a sample village according to caste and name and of the household head. We also recorded number of couples in the household, names and ages of both husband and wife, total number of their children and details regarding their family planning acceptance. The household size for each household was also noted. Thus, the houselisting data provided us

the total population of the selected villages and number and names of all Scheduled Caste couples. Table I exhibits total population, total Scheduled Caste population, number of all couples and number of Scheduled Caste couples in the selected villages.

After preparing the list of Scheduled Caste couples for each sample village, we embarked on selecting the couples for the purpose of interview. We decided to interview 200 couples in each sample village. Thus, 800 couples were selected from the sample villages. Table I shows that in the selected villages one-third of the enumerated Scheduled Caste couples were interviewed. We interviewed only male partners of the selected couples.

Field Work

The sample couples (male partners) were interviewed through a printed questionnaire (see Appendix II). Our interview schedule included questions on personal particulars of the respondents, their occupational status and other economic characteristics, household details, information on reproductive history including marriage and details regarding knowledge and attitude towards family planning and practice of birth saving devices etc.

The field work was performed during April- November 1976. The survey team experienced difficulties in conducting interviews in Dudhi sub-division as many of the selected Schedules Caste respondents were not available in their villages. Main reasons for their non-availability were as follows:

1. seasonal nature of employment in forest ;
2. many of them were working as construction labour outside the village;
3. some of them were engaged as market and general labour in adjoining towns, and
4. some of the respondents could not be contacted as they were away to their fields which lie at a considerable distance from their villages.

However, we tried to contact them in several visits in their villages both in day and night, yet all could not be traced. Out of 800 selected Scheduled Caste couples, we could, in all, interview 542 couples.

Interviews of the selected persons were performed by the trained investigators of our Centre. All completed schedules were internally checked by the Research Officer (Surveys). He also checked 10 percent of these schedules at the spot.

APPENDIX TABLE I

TOTAL POPULATION, SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION AND NUMBER OF COUPLES
ACCORDING TO HOUSELISTING CONDUCTED IN SURVEY VILLAGES
DURING 1976

Tahsil	Block	Village	Total Population 1976	Total Number of Households	Total Number of couples	Total S.C. Popu- lation	Total S.C. House- holds	Total S.C. couples	Number of Sample couples selected for interview	Number of couples actually interviewed
1.	Dudhi	Bidar	2386	469	573	1158	219	279	200	128
	Muir- pur	Raspa- bari	2227	381	427	1516	194	211	200	102
2.	Roberts- ganj	Salkhan	2926	557	745	2171	431	491	200	163
	Chopan	Billim- parkundi	4770	649	840	3311	613	647	200	149
Total ..			12309	2056	2585	8156	1457	1628	800	542

S.C. =Scheduled Caste.

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