

Occasional Paper - 8

A PORTRAIT OF TRIBAL POPULATION OF ORISSA

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A PORTRAIT OF TRIBAL POPULATION OF ORISSA*

1. Introduction

There is a considerable segment of tribal population living in India who are at various stages of socio-economic development. Orissa is one of the States where tribals constitute a sizeable proportion of its population. Orissa has the highest percentage of tribal population in India as compared with the other States except Nagaland. The scheduled tribals are 5.07 million in number and constitute 23.11 per cent of the total population of the State. Further, the most primitive of the tribal groups in the whole of the country are also to be found in Orissa. A majority of these scheduled tribals, commonly known as Adivasis, are concentrated in the isolated and inaccessible areas of the State, cut off from the main stream of the Society. They have been in a state of social, educational and economic backwardness since a very long time. They eke out their existence with an economic standard so much below the poverty line as to appear almost incredible. It is of some academic interest to know the background of these tribals inhabiting the state.

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In this paper an attempt is made to give the salient features of the tribal population living in the State, i.e., distribution of tribal population in different parts of the State, level of literacy, rural urban concentration, occupational pattern, etc. Most of the information is drawn from the population census of 1971. For the purpose of comparison, wherever necessary, information has also been drawn from 1961 census reports.

2. Distribution of Scheduled Area

In exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution of India the President has scheduled certain tribes in the State as Scheduled Tribes. Similarly, suitable provisions have also been made under the fifth schedule of the Constitution to specify certain areas where the tribal concentration is large as scheduled areas for special administration.

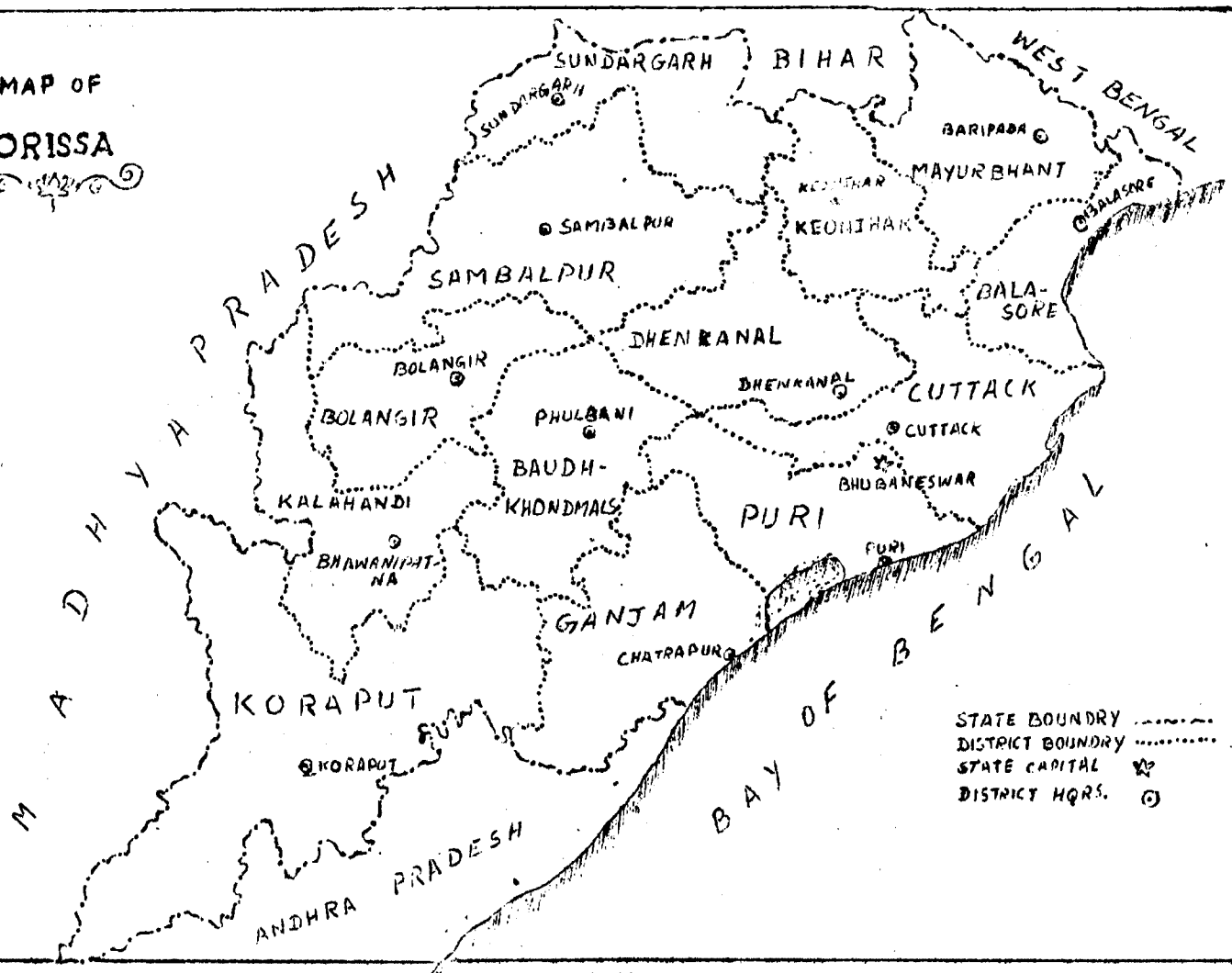
The scheduled area comprising 22,014 S.M. constitutes 36.56 per cent of the total area of the State. The area covers the entire districts of Koraput, Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, and Baliguda and Khondmals sub-divisions of Baudh-Khondmals district, and a part of Ganjam Agency.¹

3. Distribution of Tribal Population among different Districts

The bulk of the Scheduled Tribals are living in the scheduled areas among different districts in the State. Some districts contain large sections of tribal population while others have sparse population. Table-1 gives the distribution of tribal population among different districts.

¹A portrait of population, Orissa, B. Tripati, Census of India, 1971.

MAP OF
ORISSA



STATE BOUNDRY
 DISTRICT BOUNDRY
 STATE CAPITAL X
 DISTRICT HQS. ○

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TABLE-1

District	Tribal population (In lakhs)	% in the total tribal population
Sambalpur	5.19	10.23
Sundargarh	5.50	10.85
Keonjhar	4.49	8.85
Mayurbhanj	8.40	16.56
Balasore	1.29	2.55
Cuttack	1.11	2.18
Dhenkanal	1.67	3.29
Baudh-Khordha	2.51	4.94
Bolangir	2.49	4.91
Kalahandi	3.41	6.71
Koraput	11.51	22.70
Ganjam	2.29	4.51
Puri	0.86	1.72
ORISSA	50.72	100.00

Among the districts, Koraput shares bulk of the tribal population (22.70 per cent of the total tribal population of the State) followed by Mayurbhanj(16.56), Sundargarh(10.85) and Sambalpur(10.23) districts. These four districts together account for about 60 per cent of the total tribal population of the State. Since most of the scheduled area is distributed among these four districts the concentration of tribal population is also very heavy among these districts. Keonjhar and Kalahandi are the other districts where a considerable number of tribals are living. They are found in small numbers in the districts of Puri, Cuttack and Balasore.

4. Proportion of Tribal population in the total population among various Districts

The proportion of tribal population in the total population varies among the districts. Table-2 gives

the districtwise proportion of tribal population in the total population.

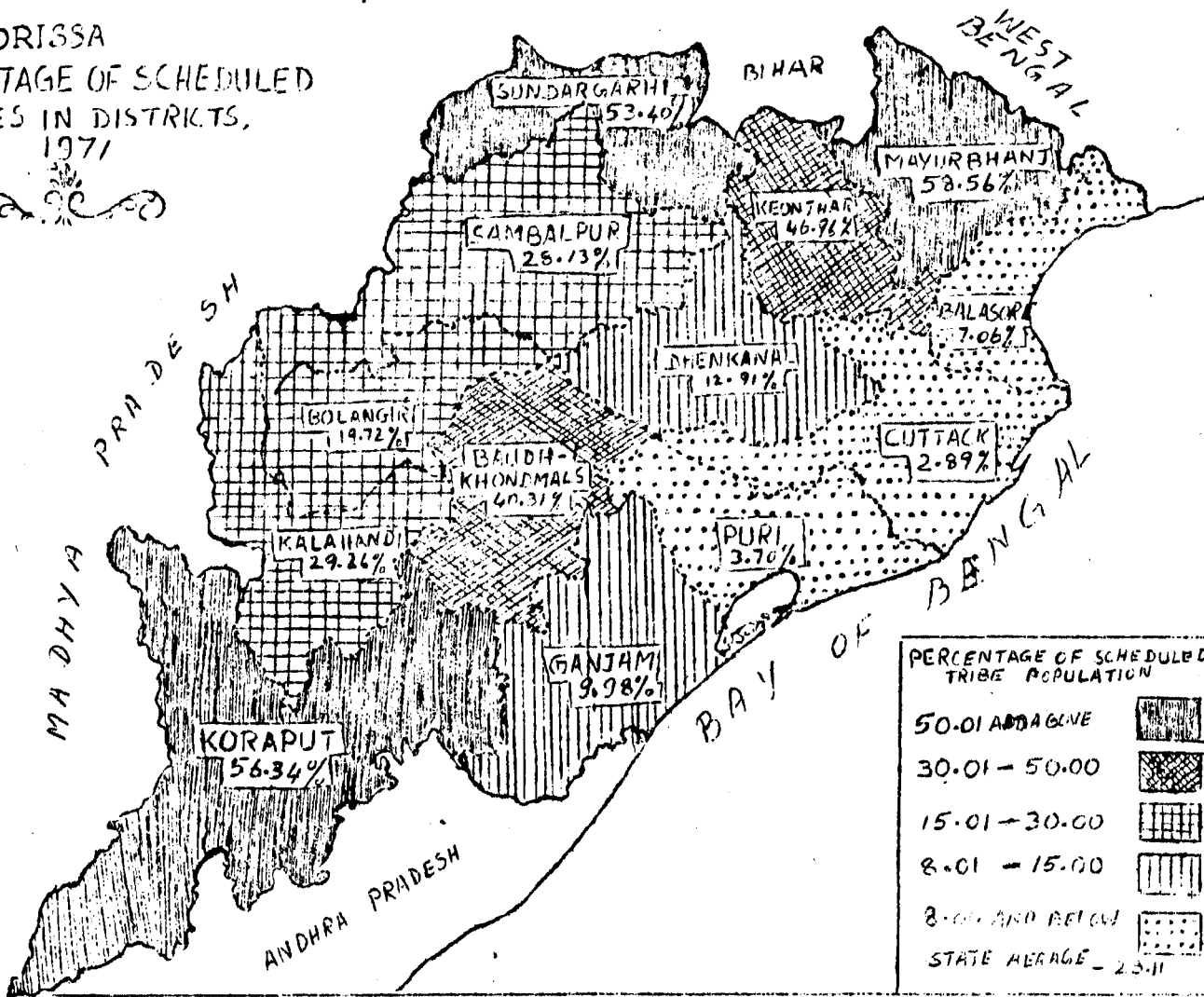
TABLE-2

District	Total population (In lakhs)	% of tribal population in the total population
Sambalpur	18.45	28.13
Sundargarh	10.31	53.40
Keonjhar	9.55	46.96
Mayurbhanj	14.34	58.56
Balasore	18.30	7.06
Cuttack	38.28	2.89
Dhenkanal	12.94	12.91
Baudh-Khondmals	6.22	40.31
Bolangir	12.64	19.72
Kalahandi	11.64	29.26
Koraput	20.43	56.34
Ganjam	22.94	9.98
Puri	23.41	3.70
ORISSA:	219.45	23.11

The distribution of scheduled tribe population among the districts is greatly uneven in the State. Mayurbhanj has the largest proportion of 58.56 per cent of tribal population to the total district population closely followed by Koraput(56.34), Sundargarh(53.40), Keonjhar (46.26) and Baudh-Khondmals(40.31). Their proportion is the lowest in the districts of Cuttack(2.89) and Puri (3.70).

The proportion of tribal population in the total population has slightly gone down between 1961 and 1971. It was 24.07 during 1961 and 23.11 during 1971 thus indicating a fall by 0.96 per cent in the proportion.

ORISSA
PERCENTAGE OF SCHEDULED
TRIBES IN DISTRICTS,
1971



Among the districts, the picture is quite varied. Table-3 gives the districtwise variation of the proportion of tribal population in the total population between 1961 and 1971.

TABLE-3

District	% variation of the proportion of tribal population between 1961 and 1971
Sambalpur	-1.00
Sundargarh	-4.72
Keonjhar	-0.18
Mayurbhanj	-2.05
Balasore	+0.28
Cuttack	+0.08
Dhen-Kanal	-1.03
Baudh-Khondmals	-1.30
Bolangir	-0.95
Kalahandi	-1.70
Koraput	-4.79
Ganjam	-0.06
Puri	+0.08
ORISSA:	-0.95

The proportion of tribal population to total population has gone down in case of ten districts while there has been a marginal increase in the districts of Balasore(0.28), Cuttack and Puri(0.08). The highest fall is noticed in case of Koraput(4.79) followed by Sundargarh (4.72) and Mayurbhanj(2.05).

In terms of growth rate, tribal population recorded a low rate of growth of 20.08% during the decade 1961-71 as against the growth rate of 26.62% of the State's non-tribal population.

Among the districts the growth rate is quite varied. Table-4 gives the rate of growth of tribal population among various districts in the State.

TABLE-4

District	Growth rate(1961-71)of	
	Tribal population	Non-tribal population
Sambalpur	+18.12	+23.99
Sundargarh	+24.83	+51.19
Keonjhar	+28.05	+28.99
Mayurbhanj	+15.08	+25.32
Balasore	+34.57	+28.90
Cuttack	+28.98	+24.85
DhenKanal	+16.39	+27.61
B.Khondmals	+17.07	+23.54
Bolangir	+12.77	+19.67
Kalahandi	+16.17	+25.94
Koraput	+20.63	+47.03
Ganjam	+21.78	+22.58
Puri	+28.33	+25.41
ORISSA:	+20.08	+26.62

Highest rate of growth of tribal population is recorded in the district of Balasore(34.57) followed by Cuttack(28.98), Puri(28.33), and Keonjhar(28.05) districts. The lowest rate of growth is recorded in Bolangir (12.77). This shows that the scheduled tribes in the first three districts are multiplying at a faster rate than the non-tribal population of the State. It is interesting to note that the districts like Balasore, Puri and Cuttack where the tribal population is very low a very faster rate of growth is observed than other districts whereas in the district like Mayurbhanj where the proportion of tribal population to the total population is the highest the rate of growth is as low as 15.08%.

Large scale migration of tribal population might be one of the reasons since these districts offer good employment potential than other districts.

5. Density of Tribal Population

The density of tribal population is generally sparse in the scheduled areas because of the scattered nature of the tribal villages in the most inhospitable hill terrains and forest tracts in the State. However, the density of tribal population would be slightly higher in the non-scheduled plains areas in the State. Since the exact figures of districtwise scheduled area and scheduled tribes population inhabiting those areas are not available, it is not possible to give the density figures in the scheduled areas in the State. However, as a sample, the density of scheduled tribal population in the districts like Koraput, Sundargarh and Mayurbhanj may be arrived at since the entire areas of these districts have been declared as scheduled areas. Accordingly, the density of scheduled tribal population in the Koraput district comes to about 45 persons per square kilometer while it stands at 57 for Sundargarh and 81 for Mayurbhanj districts. The density of non-tribal population among these districts comes to about 33 for Koraput and 50 and 57 for the other two districts per Square Kilometer respectively.

6. Tribewise Distribution of Scheduled Tribe Population

According to the scheduled castes and tribes lists (modification) order, 1956, as many as 62 tribes have been notified as scheduled tribes in the State of Orissa. Table-5 gives the tribewise population of major tribes in the State and their proportion in the total tribal population.²

2. For full list of Scheduled Tribes See Appendix-I.

TABLE-5**

Tribe	Population (In lakhs)	% in the total tribal population
Kondh	8.70	17.15
Gond	4.99	9.84
Santhal	4.53	8.93
Saora	3.43	6.76
Kolha	3.11	6.13
Shabar or Lodha	2.40	4.74
Munda	2.22	4.38
Paroja	2.07	4.08
Bhottada	1.95	3.84
Bhuiya	1.88	3.70
Kisan	1.80	3.54
Oraon	1.65	3.25
Khatia	1.20	2.38
Bhumij	1.47	2.90
Bathudi	1.31	2.58
Binjhal	0.84	1.65
Bhumia	0.62	1.22
Koya	0.59	1.17
Sounti	0.55	1.09
Gadaba	0.47	0.92
Others	4.94	9.75
ORISSA:	50.72	100.00

**For the purpose of analysis only major tribes which are numerically strong have been taken individually and all the other tribes have been put under the category 'others'.

Kondh is the single largest tribe constituting 17.15% of the total tribal population followed by Gond (9.84), Santhal(8.93), Saora(6.76)and Kolha(6.13)tribes. These five tribes together account for nearly half of the total tribal population of the State. Shabar,Munda, Paroja,Bhottada,Bhūiya,Kisan and Oraon are some of the other numerically important tribes inhabiting the State.

7. Spatial Distribution of Major Tribes among the Districts in the State³

The major tribes in the State are distributed among different districts in different proportions. While some tribes are confined to one or two districts, others are spread all over the State.

Kondh, which is numerically the largest tribe in the State and considered to be one of the most primitive tribes in the country, is predominantly populated in the districts of Koraput, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Baudh-Khondmals and Ganjam. A considerable segment of the population is also found in Sambalpur, Dhenkanal and Puri districts. Gonds are another predominant tribe chiefly found in the districts of Kalahandi, Sambalpur, Bolangir and Koraput in the State. A good number of Gonds are also found in Sundargarh, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts. The main abode of Santhals is Mayurbhanj district and they are also found inhabiting the districts of Balasore and Keonjhar in considerable number.

Saoras, another primitive tribe in the State, are found living in the hill tracts of Ganjam, Koraput, Sambalpur, Bolangir and Puri districts. A sizeable proportion of the population is also found in Dhenkanal, Keonjhar and Cuttack districts in the State. While tribes like Bhottada, Bhumia, Paroja, Koya and Gadaba are mostly

3. For detailed picture see Appendix -II.

confined to the Koraput district, Kisan, Oraon and Kharia are distributed in Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts in the State. While Kolhas and Bathudis are mainly distributed in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Balasore districts in the State, Mundas are found inhabiting the districts of Sundargarh, Sambalpur and Keonjhar. Shabars are chiefly found in Kalahandi, Koraput, Ganjam, Dhenkanal and Cuttack districts in the State. While Bhumij tribe is mainly living in Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts Binjhals are chiefly found in Sambalpur and Bolangir districts. Another important tribe Bhuiya is inhabiting the districts of Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj.

8. Sex Ratio

Unlike the non-tribal population, females outnumber males in the tribal areas in the State. Males constitute about 49.82% and females 50.18% of the total tribal population in the State. The corresponding figures are 50.46 and 49.54% for the non-tribal population in the State respectively. This clearly brings out the point that females predominate males in the tribal areas whereas males have an edge over females among the non-tribal population in the State. However, in the districts of Balasore, Cuttack, Dhenkanal and Koraput tribal males have an edge over females.

Tribewise ratio among the major tribes presents quite a different picture. While among the tribes like Gond, Santhal, Kondh, Saora, Paroja, Bhuiya, Oraon, Kharia, Bhumij, and Sounti females outnumber males, males predominate over females in the tribes like Shabar, Munda, Kolha, Bhoṭṭada, Kisan, Bhatudi, Binjhal, Bhumia, Gadaba and Koya in the State.

The ratio of females per thousand males is very high among the tribals compared to the ratio in the non-tribal population in the State. Table-6 gives the ratio of sex among the tribal and non-tribal population in the State.

TABLE-6 (In lakhs)

	Males	Females	Females per 1000 males
Tribals	25.27	25.45	1007
Non-tribals	85.14	83.58	982
ORISSA:	110.41	109.03	988

The ratio of sex is 1007 in the tribal areas whereas it is 982 for the non-tribal areas and 988 for the total population in the State.

Among the districts, the ratio is as high as 1041 in Baudh-Khondmals district and as low as 974 in the Cuttack district.

Among the tribes the ratio of sex is high in the tribes like Saora (1036), Bhuiya(1029), Oraon(1022), Bhumij(1021) and Gond(1019)and low among Koya(963), Gadaba and Kolha(974), Munda(981), Kisan(983) and Bathudi(985).

9. Literacy

The rate of literacy is very low among the scheduled tribes compared to the non-tribal population in the State. Table-7 gives the rate of literacy among the tribal and the non-tribal population in the State.

TABLE-7

	% of literacy		
	Males	Females	Total
Tribals	16.38	2.58	9.46
Non-tribals	44.79	17.37	31.21
ORISSA:	38.29	13.92	26.18

Among the sexes, males record higher literacy rate than females in the tribal population but compared to male literacy among non-tribal population it still stands at a very low level. Similarly, females among tribals show a poor rate of literacy compared to females among the non-tribals.

Among the districts the picture of literacy is varied. The rate of literacy is high in some districts and low in the other districts. Table-8 presents the districtwise rate of literacy among the tribals and the non-tribal population in the State.

The low rate of literacy in districts like Koraput, Ganjam, Balasore and Kalahandi may be attributed to the fact that tribes living in these districts, namely, Koya, Gadaba, Bhumia, Paroja, Bhattada, Kondh, and Kolha are the most backward in their socio-economic conditions among the tribes in the State because they live mostly in the scheduled areas in the State which are cut off from the main stream of development activities since long.

One interesting point worth noting is that there seems to be some correlation between the rate of literacy among the tribal and the general population in the districts. In some districts like Puri, Sambalpur, Sundargarh and Dhenkanal where the rate of literacy among the general

TABLE 8

DISTRICT	Percentage of literacy among					
	Tribal Population			Non-tribal Population		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Sambalpur	14.84	25.51	4.29	31.92	46.24	17.06
Sundargarh	16.04	24.35	7.77	38.41	49.87	25.29
Keonjhar	10.05	17.67	2.47	31.17	45.05	16.61
Mayurbhanj	9.64	17.17	2.14	29.94	42.93	16.45
Balasore	7.04	12.78	1.18	35.74	50.12	20.92
Cuttack	7.87	13.66	1.91	37.28	50.88	23.49
Dhenkanal	11.07	19.28	2.80	30.24	45.37	14.72
Baudh-Khondmals	12.37	22.59	2.56	24.79	39.70	9.58
Bolangir	11.97	21.85	2.25	21.87	34.80	8.78
Kalahandi	7.71	14.40	1.17	16.39	26.80	6.04
Koraput	3.25	5.97	0.52	20.05	28.92	10.78
Ganjam	6.80	12.07	1.71	26.37	40.62	12.71
Puri	13.77	24.85	2.93	36.17	50.74	21.24
ORISSA:	9.46	16.38	2.58	31.21	44.79	17.37

population is fairly high and above State average, a similar high rate of literacy is found among the tribal population also. However, this trend is not consistent with all the districts. For example, among the districts like Cuttack and Balasore where the literacy rate is highest among the general population the rate of literacy among the tribal population is found to be far too low and below the State average.

Another interesting point is that there seems to be some direct relationship between the urbanization of tribal population and their levels of literacy. For example Sundargarh has the highest number of urban tribal inhabitants in the district compared to any other district in the State and this district records the highest number of literates among the districts in the State. Similarly, the districts like Sambalpur, Keonjhar and Puri where a considerable number of tribals are living in the urban areas the literacy rate is found to be above the State average and fairly high.

Among the tribes, the rate of literacy is quite uneven, some having fair proportion of literates and some having poor proportion of their total population. Table-9 presents the detailed picture of the literacy among the major tribes in the State.

Among the males, Bhuiyas reported the highest rate of literacy followed by Oraons, Bathudi and Gonds. Among the females, Oraons recorded the highest percentage of literacy followed by Munda, Kharia and Bhuiyas. Others lag far behind.

Though the percentage of literacy among the tribals is far too low compared to the non-tribal population in the State, a faster rate of growth is noticeable

TABLE 9

TRIBE	% of literacy		
	Persons	Males	Females
Kondh	7.97	14.48	1.56
Gond	13.48	23.16	3.98
Santhal	9.06	16.14	2.04
Saora	10.15	18.25	2.34
Kolha	5.85	10.51	1.08
Shabar	8.65	15.46	1.81
Munda	13.27	19.65	6.77
Paroja	2.45	4.55	0.39
Bhottada	4.46	8.37	0.51
Bhuiya	14.88	25.38	4.68
Kisan	11.45	19.77	2.99
Oraon	16.33	24.54	8.30
Kharia	12.16	18.49	5.92
Bathudi	13.26	23.91	2.45
Binjhal	10.49	18.26	2.68
Bhumij	7.87	14.27	1.61
Bhumia	4.11	7.81	0.37
Gadaba	3.29	5.97	0.53
Koya	1.20	2.10	0.26
Sounti	10.53	19.45	1.71
Others	9.38	16.60	2.26
All Tribes:	9.46	16.38	2.58

among the tribals when compared to the non-tribal population between 1961 and 1971. Table-10 gives the growth rate of literacy among the tribal and the non-tribal population between 1961 and 1971.

TABLE-10

	Population	
	Non-tribal	Scheduled Tribe
<u>Literacy rate (including 0-4 age group population):</u>		
(a) <u>1961:</u>		
i) Persons	26.2	7.4
ii) Males	41.5	13.0
iii) Females	10.9	1.8
(b) <u>1971:</u>		
i) Persons	31.2	9.5
ii) Males	44.8	16.4
iii) Females	17.4	2.6
(c) <u>% increase of literacy (1961-71):</u>		
i) Persons	19.2	28.4
ii) Males	8.0	26.2
iii) Females	60.1	44.4

The literacy rate among scheduled tribes was 7.4% in 1961 which is improved to 9.5% in 1971, resulting in a growth rate of 28.4%, which is higher than the growth rate of 19.2% among the non-tribal population. Particularly, the growth rate is very significant in the case of females than males among the tribal population.

10. Distribution of Towns and Villages in the Tribal Areas

Most of the tribal villages are situated on the hill tops and the forest tracts in the scheduled areas of the State. Generally, tribal villages are small and scattered and a majority of the villages consist

population of less than 200. Bigger villages are small in number and towns with modern facilities are very scarce. Urbanization is negligible in the tribal areas in the State because of their continuous isolation from the mainstream of development activities since generations. However, information regarding the distribution of villages and towns in the tribal areas is not available.

11. Rural-Urban Distribution of Tribal Population

As in the case of non-tribal population, most of the tribal population also live in the rural areas in the State. But the proportion of tribal inhabitants in the rural areas is much more than the non-tribal population in the State. Table-11 gives the distribution of tribal and non-tribal population in the rural and urban areas in the State.

TABLE-11

	Rural population (In lakhs)	% of rural population in the total population	Urban population (In lakhs)	% of urban population in the total population
Tribal	49.25	97.09	1.47	2.91
Non-tribal	151.74	89.94	16.98	10.06
ORISSA:	200.99	91.59	18.45	8.41

About 97.09% of the tribal population is living in the rural areas compared to 89.94% of the non-tribal population in the State. A meagre 2.91% of the tribal people are urban inhabitants compared to 10.06% among the non-tribal population in the State. This brings out the point that the tribal set up is very much rural based than the non-tribal population in the State.

The picture is not different among the districts in the State. Table-12 presents the districtwise distribution of tribal population among the rural and urban areas in the State.

TABIE-12

District	% of rural population in the total tribal population
Sambalpur	95.01
Sundargarh	91.78
Keonjhar	95.41
Mayurbhanj	99.57
Balasore	95.70
Cuttack	96.55
Dhenkanal	99.54
Baudh-Khondmals	99.39
Bolangir	98.27
Kalahandi	98.74
Koraput	97.56
Ganjam	99.54
Puri	96.94
ORISSA:	97.09

As it is evident from the table, most of the tribals are living in the rural areas in almost all the districts in the State. This is due to the fact that most of the tribal area in these districts is scheduled area and people are living in the most inaccessible terrain and forest tracts. Sundargarh is the only district where a considerable section of the population (8.00%) is living in the urban areas though the entire district is declared as scheduled area. This can be attributed to the Rurkela Steel Plant which is located in the district where a considerable number of tribals are

employed. The other districts where signs of urbanization is evident are Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Balasore, Cuttack and Puri of which in the latter three districts the tribal population is rather small and the tribals are living in the non-scheduled plains areas in close contact with the non-tribals.

12. Labour Participation

The rate of participation is very low among the tribals as it is in the case of non-tribal population and bulk of the population constitutes non-workers in the State. Table-13 gives the proportion of workers in the tribal as well as non-tribal population in the State.

TABLE-13

	Tribal	Non-tribal	ORISSA
<u>Males:</u>			
i) Workers (in lakhs)	14.88	46.20	61.08
ii) % in the total male population	58.88	54.26	55.32
<u>Females:</u>			
i) Workers (in lakhs)	2.79	4.63	7.42
ii) % in the total female population	10.97	5.54	6.81
<u>Total:</u>			
i) Workers (in lakhs)	17.67	50.83	68.50
ii) % in the total population	34.84	30.13	31.22

Workers constitute about 34.84% among the tribal population and the corresponding proportion is 30.13% for the non-tribal population in the State. Though workers constitute small proportion of the total tribal population still the rate of participation is high when compared to the non-tribal population.

Among the sexes, males have a fair proportion of workers when compared to the females among the tribal as well as the non-tribal population. Female workers constitute very low proportion of their total population among the tribal as well as non-tribal population in the State. However, this proportion is higher among the tribal population compared to non-tribal population. Again, the proportion of workers, both male and female, among the tribals is relatively high when compared to the proportion among the non-tribal population.

The higher rate of participation of the scheduled tribe males and females, however, does not mean that the tribals have better employment opportunities than the rest of the population. It only means that the economic returns in the tribal economy are such that, the worker dependent ratio among them must remain as low as possible. As an average tribal worker is unable to maintain dependents to the same extent as an average general category worker, tribal boys and girls begin to participate in the active economic pursuits at a comparatively early age.

13. Rural Urban Distribution of Workers

The proportion of workers in the rural and urban population among the tribals presents a different picture. Table-14 gives the proportion of workers in the rural as well as urban population among the tribals in the State.

TABLE-14

	Rural	Urban
<u>Males:</u>		
i) Workers (In lakhs)	14.46	0.42
ii) % in the total population	58.99	55.33
<u>Females:</u>		
i) Workers (In lakhs)	2.68	0.11
ii) % in the total population	10.84	15.64
<u>Total:</u>		
i) Workers (In lakhs)	17.14	0.53
ii) % in the total population	34.81	35.91

It is evident from the table that 34.81 and 35.91% of the total rural and urban population are workers respectively in the tribal areas. Among the sexes, 58.99% of the total rural male population and 10.84% of the total rural female population are workers. The corresponding proportion of male and female workers are 55.33 and 15.64% in the urban areas. Both in rural as well as urban areas the male participation is considerably high compared to the female participation. Similarly, the rate of participation among males is high in the rural areas than in the urban areas. However, the rate of participation among females is slightly high in the urban areas compared to the rural areas.

As already mentioned, since a majority of tribal population is confined to rural areas, a heavy concentration of work force, as expected to be, is also concentrated in the rural areas. Of the total tribal working population in the State 97.00% are living in the rural areas while only a meagre proportion of 3.00% are inhabiting

the urban areas. Among the rural workers males constitute 84.36% and females account for only 15.64% whereas among the urban workers while males constitute about 78.68% females account for 21.32%.

Among the districts, the rate of participation of tribal population is low and nearer to State average in all the districts without exception. Table-15 gives the districtwise percentage of tribal participation in the State.

TABLE-15

District	% of workers in the total tribal population
Sanbalpur	36.74
Sundargarh	30.87
Keonjhar	32.05
Mayurbhanj	35.52
Balasore	35.43
Cuttack	35.31
Dhenkanal	33.81
Baudh-Khondmals	35.44
Bolangir	35.15
Kalahandi	32.18
Koraput	36.41
Ganjam	37.71
Puri	36.53
ORISSA:	34.84

Ganjam district has the highest proportion of 37.71% of workers among its total population followed by Sambalpur(36.74), Puri(36.53) and Koraput(36.41). The lowest percentage of workers is found in the Sundargarh district(30.87).

14. Occupational Pattern

Tribal workers are traditionally found at different stages of economic development, viz., food gathering, shifting cultivation and settled cultivation. The food gathering economy mostly involves the forest wealth. Collection of edible fruits, roots, tubers and honey and hunting wild animals in the forest are some of the avocations associated with food gathering economy. Shifting or podu is the major occupation for a number of tribes in the State. It is characterised by very simple technology, low yields and low degree of commercialisation. Some tribes follow settled plough cultivation which is also characterised by poor technology, inadequate scope for land development and low yields. These occupations are not mutually exclusive and tribes which follow settled cultivation are also involved in shifting cultivation and shifting cultivators are involved in food gathering. Of late, collection and sale of minor forest produce has become an important subsidiary occupation for majority of tribals who are inhabiting the scheduled areas in the State.

According to the modern industrial classification of 1971 census a large section of the tribal workers are engaged in the primary sector either in agriculture as cultivators and agricultural labourers or in activities allied to agriculture like forestry, fishing and livestock, etc., while a small proportion of the workers are engaged in the secondary and tertiary sector occupations in the State. Table-16 gives the categorywise distribution of workers among the different occupations and their corresponding figures among the non-tribal population in the State.

TABLE-16

Category of workers	% in the total scheduled tribe workers	% in the total workers of the non-tribal population
Cultivators	52.38	48.05
Agricultural labourers	36.72	25.35
Livestock, Forestry, etc.	1.87	2.24
Mining and Quarrying	1.32	0.56
<u>Manufacturing, Processing and servicing, etc., in:</u>		
a) Household industry	1.18	4.48
b) Other than household industry	1.22	2.67
Construction	0.24	0.66
Trader & commerce	0.58	4.26
Transport, storage and communications	0.67	1.71
Other services	3.82	10.02

About 91% of the tribal workers are participating in the agriculture and allied activities while the corresponding proportion among the non-tribal population is 75.64% in the State. Within this, 52.38% of the tribal workers are engaged in cultivation and 36.72% are engaged as agricultural labourers, whereas 48.05% and 25.35% of the workers among the non-tribal population are engaged in these occupations respectively. Occupations like forestry, livestock, fishing and hunting which are allied to agriculture absorb about 1.87% of the total tribal workers in the State whereas the corresponding proportion is 2.24% for the non-tribal population. The proportion of cultivators and agricultural labourers is high among the tribal workers compared to the non-tribal working

population. However, the proportion of workers engaged in the activities allied to agriculture is slightly high among the Non-tribal working population compared to the tribal workers in the State. Cultivators, who account for more than half of the total tribal workers in the State, are mostly concentrated in the scheduled areas among different districts where availability of land is in plenty.

About 3.96% of the total tribal workers are engaged in the secondary sector occupations whereas the proportion is about 8.37% among the non-tribal population in the State. Of this, 1.32% of the tribal workers are engaged in mining and quarrying, 1.18% of them are engaged in manufacturing, processing and servicing at household industry and 1.22% in other than household industry. Construction is another occupation in which 0.24% of the tribal workers are engaged. Except in mining and quarrying, in all other activities the proportion of workers is far too low among the tribals compared to the non-tribal population. However, in mining and quarrying the proportion of tribal workers is high compared to the non-tribal population.

About 5.07% of the tribal workers are engaged in the tertiary sector occupations compared to 15.99% among the non-tribal population. Among the occupations under this sector trade and commerce shares 0.58%, transport, storage and communication 0.67% and other services 3.82% of the total tribal workers. In all these occupations the participation of tribal workers is very low compared to the non-tribal population.

A careful observation of the above figures brings out the point that a large segment of the tribal population is dependent upon agriculture and allied

allied activities. The rate of participation in the secondary and tertiary sectors is rather marginal indicating the persistent backwardness of the tribal people in their occupational mobility, and specialization. Especially, in the tertiary sector which is considered to be highly advanced and specialised the rate of tribal participation is any thing but encouraging.

The pattern of tribal participation is quite varied among the districts in the State. Table-17 gives the districtwise pattern of participation among the tribals in the State.

Baudh-Khondmals, among the districts, has the highest proportion of tribal workers engaged in the agriculture sector (Primary) with 95.30% closely followed by Ganjam (94.81), Bolangir (93.97), Koraput (94.46), Dhenkanal (94.35), Mayurbhanj (93.76) and Kalahandi (93.56) districts. The tribals living in these districts depend mostly on agriculture because most of the scheduled area is distributed among these districts and land is available in plenty. Besides, the opportunities are also limited for the tribals living in these areas to pursue advanced occupations under secondary and tertiary sectors, since these scheduled areas have been subjected to prolonged isolation from the modern development activities for a long time. Added to this, these tribal areas have been inhabited by some of the most primitive tribes like Kondh, Koya, Gadaba, Paroja, Bhattada and Saora whose economic development did not cross the stage of shifting and traditional settled cultivation.

Within the agriculture sector, Baudh-Khondmals has the highest proportion of 68.72% of cultivators followed by Ganjam (64.69) and Koraput (60.22) districts. Balasore has the largest number of agricultural labourers

tribal participation

TABLE 17

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DISTRICT	Total Workers									
	Culti- vators	Agri. labou- rers	Live- stock, fores- try, fishing, etc.	Mining and quar- rying	Manufacturing & Processing at House- hold indus- try	Other than house- hold in- dustry	Constru- ction	Trade & Comm- erce	Trans- porting & commu- nications	Other servi- ces
Sambalpur	45.78	41.82	1.45	0.41	2.51	2.81	0.39	0.54	0.96	3.33
Sundergarh	57.22	20.83	1.67	4.30	1.07	5.65	0.38	0.85	1.68	6.35
Keonjhar	50.34	29.97	2.00	9.00	0.72	0.86	0.23	0.58	1.57	4.73
Mayurbanj	46.26	44.76	2.74	0.19	1.32	0.28	0.11	0.19	0.34	3.81
Balasore	21.57	65.82	0.68	1.47	0.92	2.35	0.90	0.19	1.58	4.52
Cuttack	26.22	55.62	5.60	0.75	0.61	1.03	0.39	3.47	1.31	5.00
Dhenkanal	36.43	53.65	4.27	0.45	0.74	0.25	0.73	0.19	0.24	3.05
B.Khondmals	68.72	25.84	0.74	0.01	0.83	0.12	0.11	0.33	0.16	3.14
Bolangir	57.04	36.24	1.19	0.07	1.36	0.45	0.14	0.51	0.28	2.71
Kalahandi	55.38	37.18	1.00	0.01	1.29	0.33	0.09	0.40	0.16	4.16
Koraput	60.22	33.13	1.11	0.10	0.80	0.25	0.18	0.51	0.41	3.29
Ganjam	64.69	28.32	1.80	-	1.56	0.25	0.10	0.70	0.22	2.36
Puri	31.88	51.65	7.54	0.08	0.61	2.37	0.10	2.86	0.16	2.75
ORISSA:	52.38	36.72	1.87	1.32	1.18	1.22	0.24	0.58	0.67	3.82

of 65.82% followed by Cuttack(55.62), Dhenkanal(53.65)and Puri(51.65)districts. The proportion of tribal population is very low among the latter four districts and they live in non-scheduled plains areas. Since land is scarce in the plains areas and tribals cannot compete with non-tribals in the acquisition of land,they resorted to agricultural labour in the neighbouring farms of non-tribals among these districts. Puri district recorded the highest proportion of 7.54% of workers engaged in livestock, forestry and fishing etc., followed by Cuttack(5.60)and Dhenkanal(4.27).

Among the secondary sector occupations,mining and quarrying shared the highest proportion of 9.00% of workers in the Keonjhar district followed by 4.30% in Sundargarh. This high proportion among these two districts is due to the presence of various mines in these districts. The other districts offered less scope in this regard. The proportion of workers engaged in household industry is very small among all the districts in the State except in Sambalpur where 2.81% of them are engaged in this avocation. However, the proportion of workers engaged in processing and manufacturing in other than household industry is encouraging in the districts like Sundargarh(5.65), Sambalpur(2.81), Puri(2.37)and Balasore(2.35). Since in all these four districts the tribal areas show signs of urbanisation,participation of tribal workers in industries situated in urban and semi-urban areas is encouraging among these districts.

A good proportion of workers are engaged in the category 'other services', compared to trade & commerce and transport among the tertiary sector occupations. Other services include professional and other white collar jobs and personal services like domestic servants, barbers,

dhobies, etc. Sundargarh has the pride of place with a proportion of 6.35% followed by Cuttack with 5.00%. This is due to the location of Roorkeela Steel Plant in the former case and non-tribal and urban influence in the latter case. The other districts where a considerable segment of the tribal workers engaged in these advanced occupations are Keonjhar(4.73), Balasore(4.52) and Kalahandi(4.16) which are also showing some signs of urbanisation.

CONCLUSIONS:

Orissa is one of the States where tribals constitute a considerable segment of its population. Some of the most primitive tribals in the country are also inhabiting the State. Most of the tribals are living in the scheduled areas which constitutes about 36.56% of the total area of the State. The proportion of scheduled tribal population is 23.11% of the total population in the State which is considered to be the highest compared to any other State except Nagaland in the country. The density of tribal population is generally low and sparse in the scheduled areas in the State because of the scattered nature of the villages on the hill and in forest tracts where most of the tribal people are living.

The rate of literacy is very low compared to the non-tribal population in the State. The appalingly low rate of literacy is said to be one of the root causes of the low standard of living of tribals in the State.

Tribal economy is still in the primitive stages of development characterised by low productivity due to lack of adequate infrastructure. Majority of the work force is dependent upon agriculture either as cultivators or agricultural labourers. Little occupational

specialisation or diversification is found among the tribals in the State. Though a little occupational mobility, at the level of the individual, is observed it is mostly confined to the agriculture sector, as participation in secondary and tertiary sectors of economy requires literacy, certain level of education and learning of skills. Since majority of tribals are confined to the remote and inaccessible scheduled areas which are bereft of the fruits of modern development activities, the avenues are also limited for the tribals to pursue advanced occupations. This has resulted in overdependence on agriculture by the tribals. Since tribal agriculture is characterised by fragmentation, primitive technology and inadequate infrastructure leading to low productivity, the over dependence on agriculture left the tribals in acute poverty. It is time to take adequate steps to minimise the dependence of tribals on agriculture by creating more employment opportunities through introducing agro-forest based industries in the tribal areas.

APPENDIX-I

LIST OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN ORISSA

S. No.	Name of Scheduled Tribe	S. No.	Name of Scheduled Tribe
1.	2.	1.	2.
1.	Bagata	32.	Kisan
2.	Baiga	33.	Kol
3.	Banjara or Banjari	34.	Kolah-Kol-Loharas
4.	Bathudi	35.	Kolha
5.	Bhottada or Dhotada	36.	Koli, including Malhar
6.	Bhuiya or Bhuyan	37.	Kondadora
7.	Bhumia	38.	Kora
8.	Bhumij	39.	Korua
9.	Bhunja	40.	Kotia
10.	Binjhal	41.	Koya
11.	Binjhia or Binjhoa	42.	Kulis
12.	Birhor	43.	Lodha
13.	Dondo Paroja	44.	Madia
14.	Chenchu	45.	Mahali
15.	Dal	46.	Mankidi
16.	Desua Bhumij	47.	Mankirdia
17.	Dharua	48.	Matya
18.	Didayi	49.	Mirdhas
19.	Gadaba	50.	Munda, Munda-Lohara or Munda-Mahalis
20.	Gandia	51.	Mundari
21.	Ghara	52.	Omanatya
22.	Gond, Gondo	53.	Oraon
23.	Ho	54.	Parenga
24.	Holva	55.	Paroja
25.	Jatapu	56.	Pentia
26.	Juang	57.	Rajuar
27.	Kandha Gauda	58.	Santal
28.	Kawar	59.	Saora, Savar, Saura or Sahara
29.	Kharia or Khariah	60.	Shabar or Lodha
30.	Kharwar	61.	Sounti
31.	Khond, Kond or Kandha including Nanguli Kandha and Sitha Kandha	62.	Tharua

APPENDIX-II

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF TRIBES AMONG VARIOUS
DISTRICTS IN ORISSA

Name of the Tribe	Predominantly populated	Considerably populated	Sparsely populated
1. Kondh	Kalahandi, Koraput, Bolangir, Baudh-Khondmals, Ganjam.	Sambalpur, Dhenkanal, Puri.	Sundergarh, Keonjhar, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, Balasore.
2. Gond	Kalahandi, Koraput, Sambalpur, Bolangir.	Sundergarh, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj.	Baudh-Khondmals Ganjam, Puri.
3. Santal	Mayurbhanj.	Keonjhar, Balasore.	Kalahandi, Koraput, Sambalpur, Ganjam, Sundargarh, Dhenkanal, Puri, Cuttack.
4. Saora	Koraput, Sambalpur, Bolangir, Ganjam, Puri.	Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Cuttack.	Kalahandi, BaudhKhondmals Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, Balasore.
5. Munda	Sambalpur, Sundergarh, Keonjhar.	Kalahandi, Koraput, Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, Balasore.	BaudhKhondmals Ganjam, Puri.
6. Kolha	Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore.	Sambalpur, Dhenkanal, Cuttack.	Kalahandi, Koraput, Bolangir, Baudh-Khondmal Puri.
7. Shabar	Kalahandi, Koraput, Ganjam, Dhenkanal, Cuttack.	Sambalpur, Bolangir, Puri, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore.	Baudh-Khondmal Sundargarh.

Contd...

APPENDIX-II(Contd..)

Name of the Tribe	Predominantly populated	Considerably populated	Sparsely populated
8. Bhattada	Koraput	--	Kalahandi, Sambalpur.
9. Bathudi	Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj.	Balasore.	Cuttack.
10. Bhuiya	Sambalpur, Sundergarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj.	Kalahandi, Dhenkanal, Balasore.	Koraput, Bolangir, Baudh-Kondmals Puri, Cuttack.
11. Bhumij	Mayurbhanj, Balasore.	Sundergarh, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Cuttack.	Sambalpur, Puri.
12. Binjhal	Sambalpur, Bolangir.	Kalahandi.	Sundargarh, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj.
13. Bhumia	Koraput.	--	Sambalpur, Ganjam.
14. Paroja	Koraput.	Kalahandi.	Sambalpur, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj.
15. Kisan	Sambalpur, Sundargarh.	Dhenkanal, Keonjhar.	Koraput, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj.
16. Oraon	Sundargarh.	Sambalpur.	Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj.
17. Kharia	Sambalpur, Sundergarh.	Dhenkanal, Puri, Mayurbhanj.	Kalahandi, Koraput, Bolangir, Baudhkhondmals, Ganjam, Keonjhar, Cuttack, Balasore.

Contd.:::

APPENDIX-III(Contd...)

Name of the Tribe	Predominantly populated	Considerably populated	Sparsely populated
18. Koya	Koraput.	--	Sambalpur, Baudh-Khondmaī Ganjam, Dhenkanal, Puri,Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore.
19. Sounti	Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj.	--	Koraput, Sambalpur, Ganjam, Sundargarh, Dhenkanal, Puri,Cuttack, Balasore.
20. Gadaba	Koraput.	--	Kalahandi, Sambalpur, BaudhKhondmal, Ganjam, Mayurbhanj.