ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Geography

WARD-WISE DISTRIBUTION AND GROWTH OF SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION IN RANEBENNUR TOWN

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ABSTRACT

The present study intended to study about the distributional pattern and growth of Scheduled Caste population in Ranebennur town. The concept of population distribution is very useful tool for the analysis of man's distribution in space. The analytical study of the growth and distributional pattern of population play an important role not only in evaluating the socio-economic condition of the town, but also in facilitating for monitoring and introducing corrective measures for the future. Although Scheduled Caste are in a minority, they constitute about 6.65 per cent of the total population of town (Census of India, 2011). The Scheduled Caste throughout the town occupies the lowest rank in the caste hierarchy and faced many problems, which are social, economic, political and educational in nature. For present investigation secondary data is obtained from Census of India. In this study the growth and distributional pattern of Scheduled Caste population of Ranebennur town has been discussed.
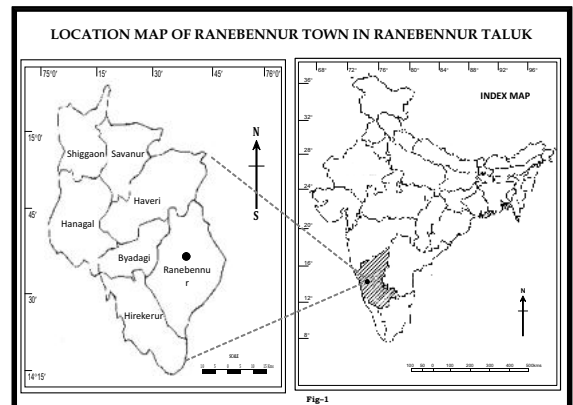
Introduction

Throughout the earth surface distribution of population is one of the most important topics of human geography. The term distribution refers to the way the people are spaced over the earth's surface; the emphasis is that, on the pattern actual place location of a population (Chandan and Sidhu, 1980).

The Indian society is recognized by its diversity and in terms of religion, caste, region and language. Caste is a rigid system of occupationally specialized, interdependent groups. The castes are mostly and strongly endogamous (Shinde, 2013). This kind of diversity gives rise to population with very different kinds of family backgrounds and demographic characteristics. The inequality of the caste system is a special type of inequality, of ideas and values based on the purity-population which is the basic to the hierarchy in caste structure (Dumont, 1970). Scheduled Castes are worst victims of social inequality in very sphere of life. Contemporarily, the rigours of pollution, social practices of untouchability and social relations of servility vary greatly in different parts of the town. They remain at the bottom of social hierarchy and have been socially deprived, discriminated and exploited by the upper castes. The Constitution of India, mandated special protections and provisions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population of India, as they have suffered historically and are in immense disadvantaged situation. The caste has been undergone significant change since independence of India.

Scheduled Castes have historically been disadvantaged and vulnerable, although Scheduled Castes are in a minority. According to the Census of 2011, 1241 castes are notified under the total Scheduled Castes and population is 106406 (1.6 lakh) constituted 6.65 per cent of the total population of the town. The Scheduled Castes population throughout the country occupy the lowest rank in the caste hierarchy and faced many problems which are social, economic, political and educational (Parul, 2014). The suffering of Scheduled Caste varies from region to region and caste to caste as also in the time frame. However, both temporarily and spatially, the Scheduled Castes have been vital in India's population. Despite discrimination of various sorts against the person of these castes functionally they have been from the beginning and everywhere an integral part of India's life (Gosal and Mukherjee, 1972). The Scheduled Castes population in higher education level differs from region to region as the region specificities are acting predominantly on the social attributes. Therefore, the understanding of distribution and relative concentration of Scheduled Caste population is very important to know the complex nature of society and to the comprehension of the population geography of India. Concentration and distribution pattern of Scheduled Caste to look into the spatial pattern of disparity in higher level of education among the Scheduled Caste and general population.

Study Area

Ranebennur town is located between 14 24 and 14 48 north latitude and 75 29 and 75 50 east longitude. Ranebennur town is spread across 42.32 sq.kms. This town is well served by a network of roads and railways connecting to the state capital as well as other important towns of Karnataka, Maharashtra state in the north, Andhra Pradesh state in the east. The National Highway No. 4 passes through this town with Pune and Bombay in the North and Bengaluru in the South.

Fig-1

Ranebennur is surrounded by Hadagali and Harapanahalli talukas in the north-east, Harihara taluk in the south-east, Hirekerur taluk in the south-west, Byadgi and Haveri talukas in the north-west.

Ranebennur town is the taluka headquarters in Haveri district of Karnataka. The town is divided into 31 Wards. Tungabhadra river flows along the border of Ranebennur taluk in the south. Another river Kumudvati which originates from Madagh Masur lake flows all the way from Hirekerur taluk and passes through Ranebennur taluk and finally joins river Tungabhadra in Ranebennur taluk.

According to 2011 census Ranebennur town consists of 31 Wards and 8 declared Slum and 3 undeclared Slum with population of 106406.

Objectives

The main objectives of this research paper is to

1) To examine the pattern of SC population in Ranebennur Town.
2) To analyse the ward-wise SC population variations in Ranebennur Town.

Data Base and Methodology

The present investigation is purely based on secondary data collected from Census of India-2011. The collected data are

analysed by statistical and cartographic techniques. In order to assess the population growth, the following formula has been adopted. The following statistical equation is used to understand the growth rate.

$$\text{Formula:} \quad GR = \frac{P1-P0}{P0} \times 100$$

Whereas, GR = Growth rate of population
P1 = Population of the present year
P0 = Population in the previous year

Decade-wise Growth of Scheduled Castes Population

The term growth of population is used in its broadest connection to cover change in population numbers inhabitant a territory during a specific period of time, irrespective of the fact whether the positive or negative. This change/growth can be measured both in terms of absolute numbers and percentage (Chandana and Sidhu, 1980).

Table-1 : Decade-wise Growth of Scheduled Castes Population in Ranebennur Town

Sl. No.	Year	Non Scheduled Caste		Scheduled Caste	
		Population	Growth Rate (%)	Population	Growth Rate (%)
1	1981	55191	0.00	2927	0.00
2	1991	62406	13.07	5036	72.05
3	2001	84669	35.67	4949	-1.72
4	2011	99327	17.31	7079	43.03

Table-1 shows the decadal growth of Non Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Caste population in Ranebennur town from 1981 to 2011. The population of Non Scheduled Caste has increased from 55191 in 1981 to 99327 in 2011. The Scheduled Caste population rose to 72.5 per cent in 1991. But after one decade it decreased to -1.72 per cent in 2001. During 2011 Scheduled Caste population increased to 43.03 per cent of the total population. It seems that after growth rate is decreased than previous year.

Distribution of Scheduled Caste Population in Ranebennur Town

The Scheduled Castes are historically disadvantaged people recognized in the constitution of India. Distribution is known as their spatial spared of population in the town. The total population of town, as per 2011 census is 106406 in 2011 and of this 7079 (6.65 per cent) are Scheduled Castes. The Scheduled Castes are by and large landless agricultural labourers, cultivators with small land holding and small commodity producers or artisans. The proportion of Scheduled Caste population the town ranges from a minimum of 0.13 per cent in Ward No. 14 to the maximum in Ward No. 2 (70.34 per cent). In 2011 the 31 wards of the town are divided into five categories for showing the distribution in the wards very categorically.

Table-2 : Ward-wise Distribution of Scheduled Caste Population

Ward No.	Total Population	Total S.C. Population	% of S.C. Population
1	3748	393	10.48
2	2448	1722	70.34
3	2396	329	13.73
4	4272	223	5.22
5	5907	544	9.20
6	4069	258	6.34
7	2600	96	3.69
8	2346	78	3.32
9	2168	07	0.32
10	2476	86	3.47
11	1881	110	5.84
12	2521	05	0.19
13	2403	81	3.37
14	3751	05	0.13
15	3032	58	1.91
16	3568	38	1.06
17	1722	49	2.84
18	1306	10	0.76
19	2835	111	3.91
20	2866	164	5.72
21	3454	407	11.78
22	2278	147	6.45
23	5546	407	7.33
24	4200	286	6.80
25	3909	311	7.95
26	3866	155	4.00
27	3669	18	0.49
28	4916	281	5.71
29	4857	69	1.42
30	4715	56	1.18
31	6681	575	8.60

Very Low (<1%)

There are 5 wards namely Ward No. 9 (0.32%), Ward No. 12 (0.19%), Ward No. 14 (0.13%), Ward No. 18 (0.76%), Ward No. 27 (0.49%), where the Scheduled Caste are almost very low and negligible and in each of these wards the proportion was less than one per cent to total population. '

Low (1 to 5%)

In this range/category of Scheduled Caste population the proportion ranged from 1 to 5 per cent. It incorporates 11 wards, for instance, Ward No. 7 (3.69%), Ward No. 8 (3.32%), Ward No. 10 (3.47%), Ward No. 13 (3.37%), Ward No. 15 (1.91%), Ward No. 16 (1.06%), Ward No. 17 (2.84%), Ward No. 19 (3.91%), Ward No. 26 (4.00%), Ward No. 29 (1.42%) and Ward No. 30 (1.18%). These are all the wards that come under low category.

Medium (5 to 10%)

In the medium category of 5 to 10 per cent, there were as many as 11 wards with Scheduled Caste population. These wards are Ward No. 4 (5.22%), Ward No. 5 (9.20%), Ward No. 6 (6.34%), Ward No. 11 (5.84%), Ward No. 20 (5.72%), Ward No. 22 (6.45%), Ward No. 23 (7.33%), Ward No. 24 (6.80%), Ward No. 25 (7.95%), Ward No. 28 (5.71%) and Ward No. 31 (8.60%). In these wards Scheduled Caste has made their fast relations among themselves to support the socio-cultural and economic development in the town.

High (10 to 20%)

In this category there are 3 wards have Scheduled Caste population 10 to 20 per cent. These wards are namely Ward No. 1 (10.48%), Ward No. 3 (13.73%) and Ward No. 21 (11.78%).
Very High (>20%)
Very high distribution of Scheduled Caste population is found in only one ward, i.e. Ward No. 2 (70.34%).

Conclusion

The present study concluded that, largest concentration of Scheduled Caste population in Ward No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 31, etc. Ward No. 14 has the least Scheduled Caste population i.e. 0.13 per cent (05 persons). Very high proportion of Scheduled Caste population is found in Ward No. 2 i.e. 1722 persons (70.34%).

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