

The Oraons of Barasat: A Study on Some Aspects of Demography

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INTRODUCTION

Demography may be defined as the empirical, statistical and mathematical study of human population. According to Bouge (1969) three primary focuses of demographic research may be identified i.e. population growth and decline, composition of population, distribution of population in space. The study of the structure and characteristics of population known as the study of the composition of population of which embraces basic personal, social and economic characteristics or attributes any population: age, sex, race, nationality, religion, language, marital status, household and family composition, literacy and educational attainment, employment status, occupation, income etc (Bhende and Kanitkar, 1991).

The Oraons are the scheduled tribe population of India. They are mainly concentrated in the State of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. In West Bengal mainly they settled as agriculturist. But in the Barasat town some of them are engaged as sweeper in Municipal Corporation office.

According to 1981 census of India, the total population of the Oraon is 18,65,995.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The data for the present study were collected

from Barasat town. Altogether 50 households are considered for the present study. For the purpose of data collection a schedule were prepared designed to record demographic composition of the families. The households were selected at random without following any specific sampling technique. To obtain the age of some cases retrospective method depending on recall has been applied.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Age and Sex Composition: age and sex are the basic characteristics of any population which affect its demographic as well as social, political and economic structure also. (Bhende and Kanitkar, 1991). Population differs greatly in accordance with the number of age and sex category. In any population age and sex group are the building blocks which contract the composition of family. Ramkumar says, sex is a biological characteristic, which devised the human race into male and female.

Table 1 shows the distribution of Oraons according to age and sex. The percentages for male and female are 50.8 and 49.20. Highest percentage (10.37) of male found in the age group 15-19 and 20-24 years. No male is found in the age group 50-54 years. In the female population highest percentage is present in the age group

Table 1: Distribution of Oraons according to age and sex

Age group (in years)	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
0-4	9	7.06	6	4.87	15	6.0
5-9	10	7.87	11	8.94	21	8.4
10-14	12	9.44	18	14.63	30	12.0
15-19	18	10.31	12	9.76	30	12.0
20-24	18	10.31	18	14.63	36	14.4
25-29	12	9.44	12	9.76	24	9.6
30-34	13	10.02	6	4.87	19	7.6
35-39	11	8.68	8	6.50	19	7.6
40-44	6	4.92	9	7.29	15	6.0
45-49	10	7.87	12	9.76	22	8.8
50-54	-	-	3	2.43	3	1.2
Above 55	8		8	6.50	16	6.4
Total	127	99.99	123	100.00	250	100.0

20-24 years.

Table 2 show the age-sex composition of Oraons population. From the table it is found that the masculinity proportion is 50.8 per 100 males; the sex-ratio is 103 males per 100 females; the proportion of aged person is: 5.2 aged person (P60) per total population (Tp); the proportion of children is 26.4 children (P 0-14) per total population (Tp); the aged child ratio is 23.31 children (P 0-14) per aged person (P 65); the aged dependency ratio is 20.2 aged dependent per 100 workers and the median age of population is 19.02.

Table 2: Distribution of age–sex composition among the Oraons

i)	Masculinity Proportion	50.8
ii)	Sex-ratio	103.25
iii)	Proportion of aged person	6.2
iv)	Proportion of children	26.4
v)	Aged child ratio	23.31
vi)	Aged dependency ratio	20.2
vii)	Median age of population	19.02

Marital Status: Marital status is not a biologically ascribed characteristic but it is acquired characteristics, which involves the first step in the information of a biological life.

Table 3 show the marital status of the Oraons. From the table it is found that 43.30% males are

unmarried while 61.41% are married. In females, the percentages for married and unmarried while are 68.29% and 31.70%, respectively. Again no male is found to be married below 15 years of present age but four males (3.14%) of 15-19 years age group are married .In female 1.62% married are present in the age group 0-14 years and 8 (6.52%) are in the 15-19 years age group.

Educational Status: Education is most important for any population .it develops employment opportunity and way of life. Bharati and Dastidar (1990) say that in case of women, education can make it safe and improve child bearing and the health of entire family. Educated women are more likely to marry at a late age, may follow the family planning methods and seek consultation with the doctor for prenatal care at the time of pregnancy.

Table 4 shows the distribution of educational status among the Oraons. From the table, it is found that of the total population 148 are literate and 102 are illiterate .the percentages for literate and illiterates are 59.2 and 40.80, respectively. The male literacy is 76.38 % and female literacy is 42.28%. Again 23.62% male are illiterate while the percentage for illiterate female is 57.72%.

Amongst the male literate 65.98% are primary level, 28.87% are high school and 5.15% are college. Amongst the female literate 84.46% are

Table 3: Marital status of Oraons according to age and sex

Age group (in years)	Male				Female			
	Unmarried	Married	Widower	Total	Unmarried	Married	Widow	Total
0-14	31(24.40)	-	-	31	33(26.82)	2(1.62)	-	35
15-19	14(11.02)	4(3.14)	-	18	4(3.25)	8(6.52)	-	12
20-29	10(7.87)	20(15.74)	-	30	29(1.62)	30(24.39)	-	30
30-39	-	24(18.89)	-	24	-	14(11.38)	-	14
39+	-	20(15.74)	4(3.14)	24	-	26(21.13)	6(4.87)	32
Total	55(43.30)	66(61.41)	4(3.14)	127	39(31.70)	67(68.29)	6(4.87)	123

Table 4: Distribution of Oraon according to educational status

Age group (in years)	Male				Female		
	Illiterate	Primary	High school	College	Illiterate	Primary	High school
0-14	6(20.00)	19(29.69)	6(21.43)	-	20(27.78)	13(29.55)	2(25.00)
15-19	6(20.00)	6(9.36)	6(21.43)	-	5(6.94)	5(11.36)	3(37.50)
20-29	6(20.00)	16(24.96)	6(21.43)	2(40.00)	11(15.28)	16(36.36)	3(37.50)
30-39	4(13.33)	11(17.27)	6(21.43)	3(60.00)	9(12.50)	5(11.36)	-
39+	8(26.67)	12(18.72)	4(14.28)	-	27(37.50)	5(11.36)	-
Total	30 (100.00)	64 (99.99)	28 (100.00)	5 (100.00)	72 (100.00)	44 (99.99)	8 (100.00)

Table 5: Distribution of Oraon according to occupational status

Age group	Male					Female				
	Day	Agricul	Service	Helping	Total	Day	Maid	Service	Helping	Total
15-19	6 (37.5)	2 (8.69)	-	10 (45.45)	18	-	2 (22.22)	-	2 (11.76)	9
20-29	1 (6.25)	8 (34.78)	9 (39.13)	-	18	2 (33.33)	3 (33.33)	3 (75.00)	5 (29.41)	13
30-39	8 (50.00)	6 (26.09)	10 (43.48)	-	24	1 (16.67)	2 (22.22)	1 (25.00)	4 (23.53)	8
39+	1 (6.25)	7 (30.43)	4 (17.39)	12 (54.54)	24	3 (49.99)	2 (22.22)	-	6 (35.29)	11
Total	16 (100.0)	23 (99.99)	23 (99.99)	22 (99.99)	84	6 (99.99)	9 (99.99)	4 (100.00)	17 (99.99)	36

Table 6: Distribution of Oraon according to income

Type of occupation	Male (per month income in rupees)					Female (per month income in rupees)				
	100-300	301-600	601-1000	1001-1500	1500& above	100-300	301-600	601-1000	1001-1500	1500& above
Day labour	-	4 (33.33)	6 (42.85)	6 (20.66)	-	1 (4.76)	3 (20.0)	2 (100)	-	-
Agriculture	-	-	-	16 (56.17)	7 (25.92)	-	-	-	-	-
Maid servant	-	-	-	-	-	6 (28.57)	3 (30.0)	-	-	-
Service	-	-	-	3 (10.34)	20 (74.07)	-	1 (10.0)	-	1 (100)	2 (100)
Helping agriculturist (100)	2 (66.66)	8 (57.14)	8 (13.79)	4	-	14 (66.66)	3 (30.0)	2 (100)	-	-
Total	2 (100)	12 (99.99)	14 (99.99)	29 (99.99)	27 (99.99)	21 (99.99)	10 (100)	2 (100)	1 (100)	2 (100)

of primary level and 15.54% are of high school.

Occupational Status: Occupation means gainful earning by cash or exchange of labour.

Table 5 show the distribution of occupational status among the Oraons .It is seen from the table that there is not a single worker who is aged 14 years or below in both males and females. The age of the working group starts 15 years. Of the total 120 workers, 84 (69.99%) are male and 36 (30.00%) are females. Again of the 130 non-worker (29.99%) are male and (70.00%) are female. When we consider the percentages of non-worker and workers and 130 (52.00%) are non-workers. So, the non-worker ratio is 520 non-worker per 1000 workers.

Income: Table 6 show the distribution of Oraons according to income. From the table, it is found that among the male highest percentage of the monthly income of the worker is Rs. 1001-1500 and among the female it is Rs. 100- 300.

From the above discussion, it is clear that Oraons are generally belonging to the lower

income group and they lead very simple life. Socially and economically till now they are in backward stage. But the literacy condition of male and female is 76.38% and 42.28%. Child marriage also practice among them. The sex-ratio is 103 male per 100 females.

KEY WORD Sex-ratio. Masculinity Proportion. Education. Occupation and Income.

ABSTRACT Demographic composition of the Oraon tribes of North 24 Pgs is considered for the present study .The sex-ratio of Oraons are 103.25.The percentage of literacy is 59.04.most of the literates are studied up to primary classes. Child marriage prevalent among them. None of them are engaged in white colour job and they belonging in the lower income group.

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