

“Spatial Distribution of Scheduled Caste Population, Guntakal Division of Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh”

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Abstract

This study examines the spatial distribution of the Scheduled Caste population in the Guntakal Division of Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh, utilizing secondary data from the 2011 Census. The Scheduled Castes (SCs) represent a significant demographic segment in India, and understanding their distribution is crucial for effective policy formulation and resource allocation. The research employs quantitative methods to analyze the population data across various mandals within the Guntakal Division, highlighting patterns of concentration and dispersion. The findings reveal distinct spatial variations in the Scheduled Caste population, influenced by factors such as socio-economic conditions, historical migration patterns, and access to educational and employment opportunities. This analysis not only contributes to the existing literature on caste dynamics in India but also provides insights for stakeholders aiming to enhance the socio-economic status of Scheduled Castes in the region. The study underscores the importance of targeted interventions and inclusive policies to address the challenges faced by these communities in Guntakal Division.

Keywords: SC, Population, Division, Education & Communities

Introduction:

The significance of demographic analysis in comprehending regional disparities is underscored by studies examining the spatial distribution of the Scheduled Caste population in India. It was emphasized by Chandna (2006) that spatial patterns associated with caste are intricately connected to socio-economic disadvantages and landlessness. An investigation conducted by Mandal (2013) into caste distribution in rural Andhra Pradesh revealed that a substantial concentration of Scheduled Castes exists in areas susceptible to drought, where reliance on agricultural labor is prevalent. Reddy (2017) conducted an examination of demographic variations in Rayalaseema, noting that environmental constraints exacerbate the social and economic vulnerabilities faced by Scheduled Castes. In a similar vein, Kumar and Singh (2020) highlighted the critical role of spatial mapping techniques in identifying population concentrations, thereby facilitating the formulation of inclusive policy planning.

The theoretical foundation for analyzing the distribution of the Scheduled Caste population in Guntakal Division is established by these studies, which indicate that socio-economic vulnerabilities are further exacerbated by the region's susceptibility to drought..

Study area:

The present study is confined to the Guntakal Division of Anantapur district in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. The division lies in a semi-arid tropical zone, marked by low and erratic rainfall, high temperatures, and recurrent droughts, which strongly affect the socio-economic conditions of the people. The study region has an area of 2830 Sq. kms. Administratively, it consists of the mandals Gooty (353sq.km), Guntakal (404sq.km), Vajrakarur(408sq.km), Vidapanakal (377sq.km), Peddavadugur (287sq.km), Uravakonda (412 sq.km), Pamidi (274 sq.km), and Yadiki (315sq.km), covering both rural and semi-urban areas.

The economy of the division is predominantly agrarian, dependent on rain-fed farming and agricultural labor. Due to frequent droughts, productivity remains low, forcing many households, especially Scheduled Caste communities, into wage labor and unskilled occupations. According to the 2011 Census, Anantapur district has one of the highest proportions of Scheduled Caste population in Rayalaseema, with Guntakal Division reflecting this trend through uneven distribution and vulnerable socio-economic conditions.

Objective:

- To study the spatial distribution of the Scheduled Caste Population in the 2011 census
- To examine the status of male and female Scheduled Caste Population in the 2011 census

Data Collection: The secondary data was gathered from the 2011 Census of India and the Handbook of Statistics for Anantapur District, 2011. The data was computed and analyzed for the mandals of the Guntakal division.

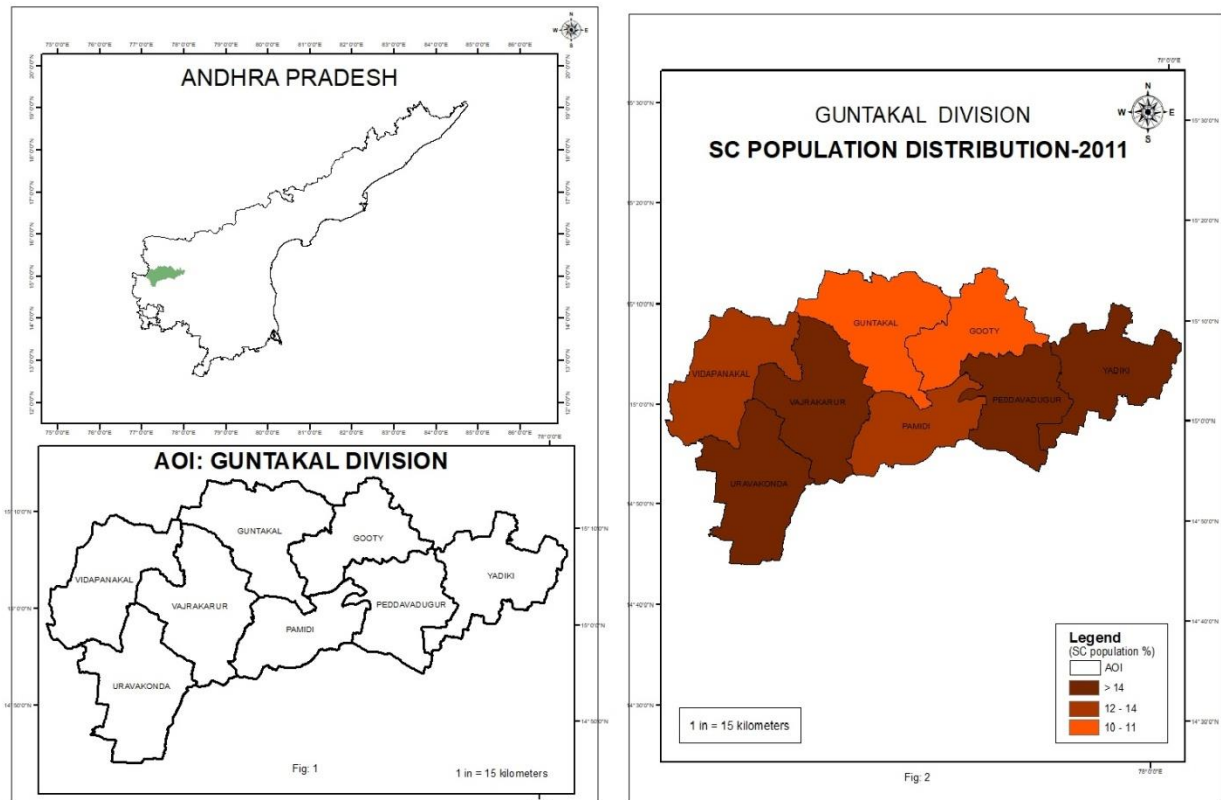
Methodology:

The present study is based on secondary data obtained from the Census of India, 2011, particularly mandal level population statistics. The data pertaining to the Scheduled Caste population were compiled and analyzed to assess their spatial distribution in the Guntakal Division of Anantapur district.

For analysis, percentage method was employed to calculate the proportion of Scheduled Caste population to the total population in each mandal of Guntakal division. To identify patterns of

concentration and mapping techniques using GIS tools were applied. The results were then interpreted to highlight regional variations and socio-economic implications of the distribution.

Result and Discussion:



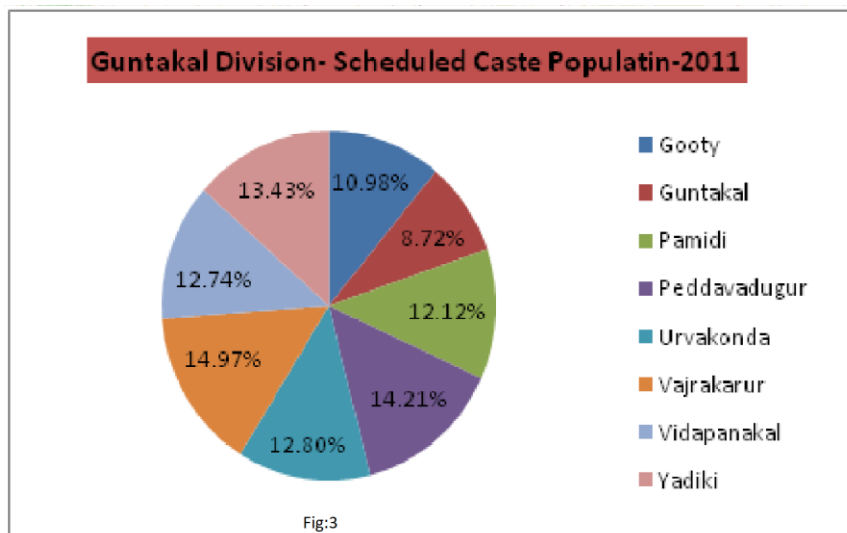


Table: 1
Scheduled Caste population in Guntakal Division-2011

S.No	Name of the Mandal	Total SC population	Percentage out of Division population
1	Gooty	6,725	10.98
2	Guntakal	5,342	8.72
3	Pamidi	7,424	12.12
4	Peddavadugur	8,705	14.21
5	Urvakonda	7,842	12.80
6	Vajrakarur	9,173	14.97
7	Vidapanakal	7,805	12.74
8	Yadiki	8,227	13.43
Total		61,243	10.18

Mandal wise Population of Scheduled Castes - 2011:

Presents a detailed overview of the Scheduled Caste (SC) population within the Guntakal Division as recorded in the 2011 census. The data is organized by individual mandals, providing both the total SC population for each mandal and the corresponding percentage of the SC population relative to the overall population of the division (Table:1 & Fig:1,2 &3).

High Population of the Mandals:

The total Scheduled Caste population across the Guntakal Division amounts to 61,243 individuals, which constitutes approximately 10.18% of the total population in the division. Among the mandals, Vajrakarur has the highest Scheduled Caste population, with 9,173 individuals, representing 14.97% of its local population. This is closely followed by Peddavadugur, which has an Scheduled Caste population of 8,705, accounting for 14.21%. Other mandals such as Yadiki and Urvakonda also show significant Scheduled Caste populations, with 8,227 (13.43%) and 7,842 (12.80%) individuals, respectively.

Medium & Low Population of the Mandals:

On the lower end of the spectrum, Guntakal and Gooty have the smallest Scheduled Caste populations, with 5,342 (8.72%) and 6,725 (10.98%) individuals, respectively. Pamidi, with a total SC population of 7,424, represents 12.12% of its population, while Vidapanakal has 7,805 individuals, making up 12.74% of its population.

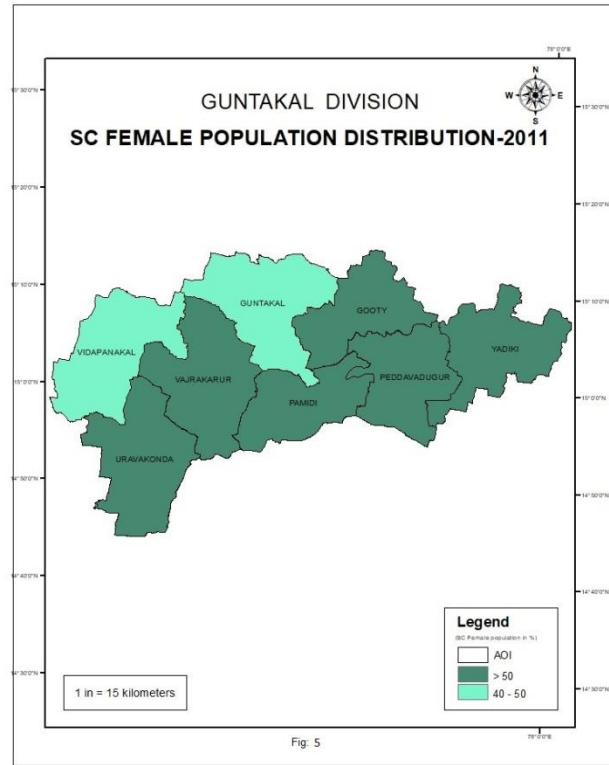
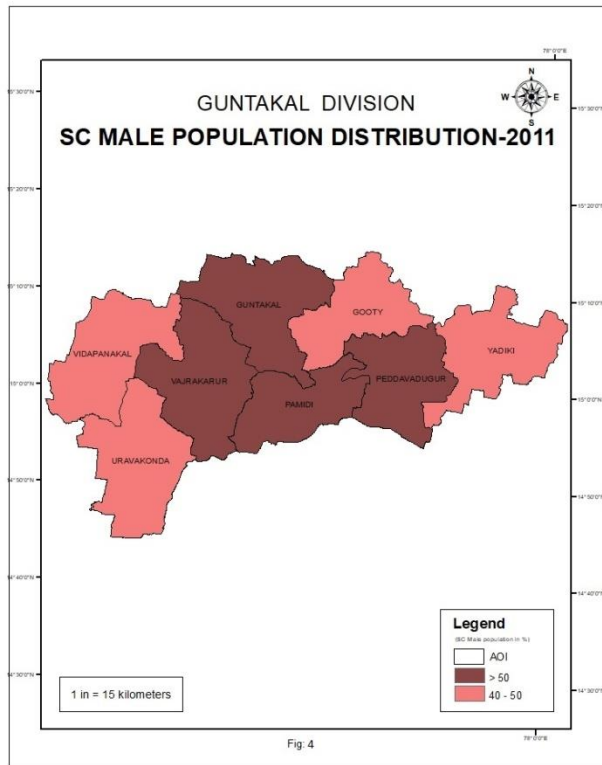
This distribution of the Scheduled Caste population across the mandals indicates varying demographic characteristics and highlights the need for targeted social and economic policies to address the specific needs of these communities within the Guntakal Division. The data underscores the importance of understanding the SC population dynamics in order to implement effective development programs and ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities.

Table: 2

Scheduled Caste population, both male and female, in the Guntakal Division - 2011

S.No	Name of the Mandals	Total sc population	Percentage out of Division population	SC Male population	%	SC Female population	%
1	Gooty	6,725	10.98	3153	46.89	3572	53.13

2	Guntakal	5,342	8.72	2743	51.34	2594	48.55
3	Pamidi	7,424	12.12	3765	50.71	3659	49.29
4	Peddavadugur	8,705	14.21	4407	50.62	4298	49.37
5	Urvakonda	7,842	12.80	3957	50.45	3885	49.54
6	Vajrakarur	9,173	14.97	4654	50.73	4519	49.26
7	Vidapanakal	7,805	12.74	3900	49.96	3650	46.76
8	Yadiki	8,227	13.43	4167	50.65	4060	49.34
	Total	61,243	10.18	30,746	20.20	30,237	49.37



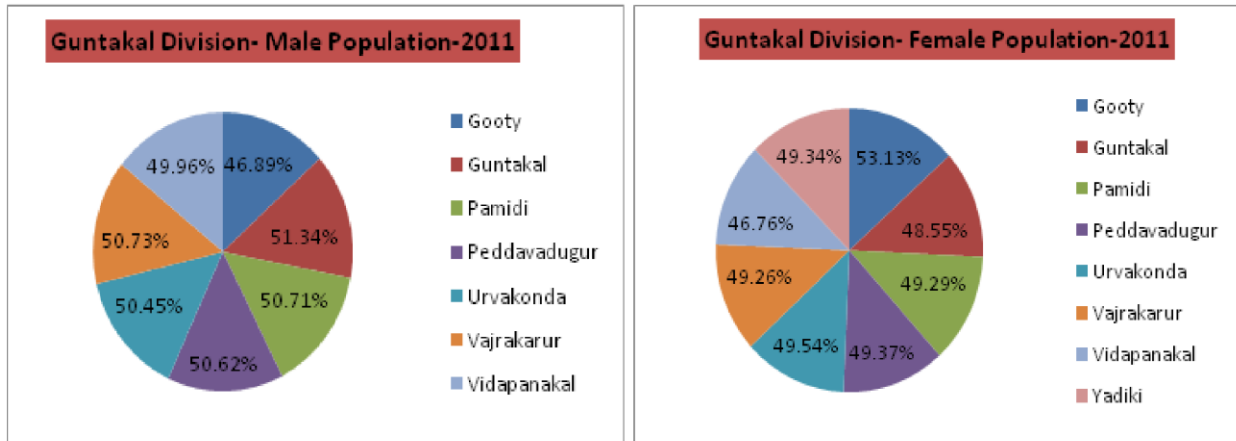


Fig:6

Male & Female Population 2011:

The detailed demographic analysis of the Scheduled Caste (SC) population in the Guntakal Division as recorded in the 2011 census. The table outlines the total SC population across various divisions, the percentage of the Scheduled Caste population relative to the overall division population, and the gender distribution within the Scheduled Caste community, specifically highlighting the male and female populations along with their respective percentages (Table:2 & Fig:4,5 & 6).

The total Scheduled Caste population in the Guntakal Division amounts to 61,243 individuals, which constitutes approximately 10.18% of the total population in the division. Among the individual divisions, Peddavadugur has the highest Scheduled Caste population at 8,705, representing 14.21% of its total population, while Guntakal itself has a SC population of 5,342, accounting for 8.72% of the division's total. The gender distribution reveals that the male Scheduled Caste population across the divisions is 30,746, making up 20.20% of the total Scheduled Caste population, while the female Scheduled Caste population stands at 30,237, indicating a near parity in gender representation within the Scheduled Caste community.

In terms of gender ratios, Gooty and Guntakal exhibit notable differences, with Gooty having a higher female population percentage (53.13%) compared to males (46.89%). Conversely, Guntakal shows a male majority, with males constituting 51.34% of the Scheduled Caste population. Other divisions, such as Pamidi and Peddavadugur, also reflect a balanced gender distribution, with male percentages hovering around 50% and female percentages slightly lower. This data underscores the demographic diversity within the Guntakal Division, highlighting both the prevalence of the Scheduled Caste population and the gender dynamics that characterize this community. Overall, the findings from this table provide valuable insights into the socio-demographic landscape of Scheduled Castes in the region, which can inform policy-making and targeted interventions aimed at improving the living conditions and social status of these communities.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the Guntakal Division exhibits a diverse Scheduled Caste (SC) population, comprising 10.18% of the total population. Vajrakarur and Peddavadugur stand out with the highest Scheduled Caste populations, indicating a significant presence of this community in these mandals. The gender distribution within the Scheduled Caste population is nearly equal, highlighting a balanced demographic, although some mandals, like Gooty, show a higher percentage of females. Conversely, Guntakal has the lowest SC population, suggesting potential areas for social and economic development. Overall, the data reflects both the strengths and challenges within the Scheduled Caste community in the Guntakal Division, emphasizing the need for targeted policies to support and uplift this demographic.

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