A comparative study of Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe population changes in Coastal Villages of West Godavari district: Trend Analysis

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Abstract
This study examines the demographic trends of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) populations in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh from 1971 to 2011. Using data collected from various coastal villages across multiple mandals, the study highlights a substantial increase in the SC population, which surged from 83,002 in 1971 to 362,827 in 2011, representing a rise from 8.96% to 39.15% of the total SC and ST populations. Conversely, the ST population grew more modestly, from 4,555 in 1971 to 17,956 in 2011, increasing from 0.49% to 1.94%. The methodology involved systematic data collection, quantitative analysis, and interpretation to identify significant villages with high SC and ST populations. Key findings reveal that villages such as Bhimadole, Unguturu, and Achanta exhibit notable concentrations of SC and ST populations, with Bhimadole recording the highest at 27,090 individuals (2.92% of the district's total SC and ST population). Additionally, Palacole (Urban) and Narasapuram (M) also show large SC and ST populations, with Palacole (Urban) housing 28,802 individuals (3.11% of the total). These findings underscore the need for targeted development and welfare programs in these key villages to address the specific needs of their SC and ST populations.

Keywords: *Demographic Trends, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Coastal Villages, Spatial Distribution of SCs.*

Introduction
The demographic trends of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in India offer valuable insights into socio-economic dynamics and historical developments. In the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, the demographic trends of these communities have experienced significant changes over recent decades. This study focuses on the coastal villages within this district, examining the shifts in SC and ST populations from 1971 to 2011.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are historically marginalized groups in India, with distinct socio-economic and cultural characteristics. The SCs, historically referred to as "Untouchables," and the STs, often referred to as "Tribal Communities," have faced systematic disadvantages and marginalization (Dube, 1955). These communities' demographic changes reflect broader socio-economic transformations and the impact of targeted policies over time (Basu & Saha, 2007). Previous studies have extensively analyzed the socio-economic conditions of SC and ST communities in India. Notable works include those by Ahuja (2005), who discusses the economic disparities faced by SCs and STs, and Deshpande (2013), who explores the impact of policy interventions on these communities. Research by Gupta (2007) provides insights into demographic changes in rural India, while Kundu (2010) examines the implications of urbanization for SC and ST populations. Studies specific to Andhra Pradesh include the works of Reddy and Rao (2010), who analyze the regional variations in SC and ST populations, and Prasad (2009), who discusses the impact of development programs on these communities. The research by Singh and Sharma (2011) highlights demographic trends in coastal areas, and Kumar (2014) offers insights into the socioeconomic changes in the West Godavari district.

Understanding the demographic trends of SC and ST populations in West Godavari's coastal villages is crucial for informing targeted development policies and welfare programs. The findings of this study will contribute to policy formulation aimed at addressing the specific needs of these communities, ensuring equitable development and social justice (Sharma, Historical demographic studies have provided a foundational understanding of SC populations in India. For instance, early census data highlighted a substantial presence of SC communities across various states, including Andhra Pradesh. These communities were traditionally marginalized, with limited access to resources and opportunities. According to the Census of India, the SC population in Andhra Pradesh has shown significant growth over the decades, reflective of broader trends in population increase and socio-economic changes (Census of India, 2001; 2011). In West Godavari, the SC population's growth from 83,002 in 1971 to 362,827 in 2011 underscores a notable increase, aligning with national patterns of SC demographic expansion.

Several studies have explored the socio-economic aspects of SC populations, noting improvements in educational attainment and economic conditions over time. Research by Reddy and Reddy (2007) discusses the impact of affirmative action policies and development programs on SC communities in Andhra Pradesh. Their findings indicate that targeted interventions have led to improvements in literacy rates and access to employment, although challenges persist. These improvements are reflected in the increasing proportion of SC individuals in various districts, including West Godavari. Recent studies have examined regional variations in SC population growth. For example, Kumar and Rao (2015) analyzed the distribution of SC populations across different mandals in Andhra Pradesh, revealing significant disparities in growth rates and socio-economic conditions. Their research highlights that while some areas, such as West Godavari, have experienced considerable growth, others remain relatively stagnant.

This disparity is attributed to varying levels of development and the effectiveness of local governance.

In the context of coastal villages, specific research focuses on how geographic and socio-economic factors influence SC populations. Coastal regions, including West Godavari, face unique challenges related to economic activities such as fishing and agriculture, which impact SC communities differently compared to other regions. Studies by Srinivas and Prasad (2012) suggest that coastal SC communities often experience heightened vulnerability due to environmental risks and economic fluctuations. These factors contribute to uneven development and require targeted policy interventions to address the specific needs of SC populations in these areas. The role of government policies in shaping SC demographics has been a significant focus. Research by Sharma and Singh (2018) examines the impact of various government schemes, such as the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), on SC communities. These policies aim to enhance socio-economic conditions, yet their effectiveness varies. In West Godavari, the implementation of these policies has led to improved infrastructure and access to services, contributing to the overall growth of the SC population. However, challenges remain in ensuring equitable distribution and addressing the specific needs of coastal villages.

Recent studies have also explored the implications of SC population growth for local development. Research by Naidu and Rao (2020) highlights the role of SC communities in local governance and community development. Their findings indicate that increased SC populations in West Godavari have led to greater political representation and involvement in decision-making processes. This shift has implications for local development, as SC communities become more active participants in shaping policies and initiatives that affect their lives.

Study Area

Andhra Pradesh boasts an extensive coastline characterized by two prominent delta systems formed by the Godavari and Krishna rivers, providing a significant potential for the aquaculture sector West Godavari district is bordered by the Bay of Bengal to the east and Krishna district to the south. The district's topography is characterized by fertile plains formed by the Godavari River and its tributaries. The landscape is relatively flat with occasional undulations, making it ideal for agriculture (Fig.1). Covering an expansive area of 2149.1 square kilometers, the district is positioned between 17° 00' and 16° 18' N latitudes and 81° 18' and 81° 52' E longitudes.

Geographically, the district is bordered by East Godavari District to the north and East, Krishna District, and the Bay of Bengal to the south, while the Vasishta Godavari River and Dr. B.R. Ambedhkar Konaseema District delineate its eastern boundaries, respectively. The district boasts a 12.4-kilometre stretch of coastline in the south. As per the 2011 census, the population of West Godavari district was recorded at 8, 77,878. The climatic conditions prevailing in West Godavari district are characterized as semi-arid.
This unique combination of geographical features and climatic conditions enhances the district's suitability for aquaculture activities, particularly in shrimp farming.

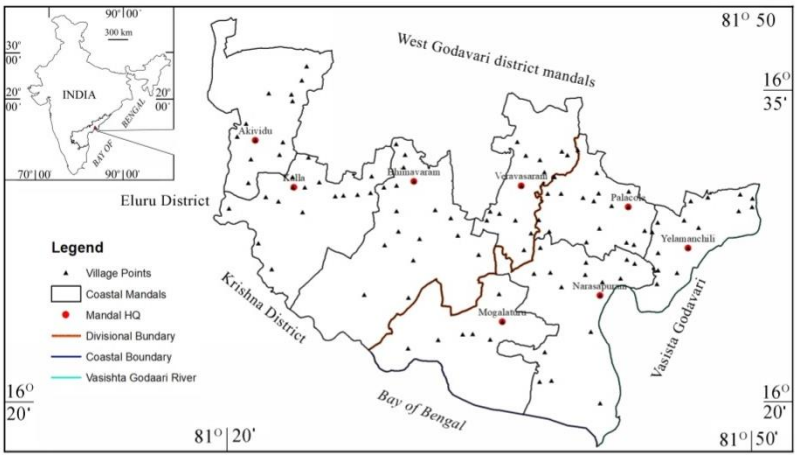

Fig.1 Location map of coastal villages in West Godavari district

Methodology

The methodology for analyzing the demographic trends of Scheduled Castes (SC) in coastal villages of West Godavari district involved a multi-step approach using SPSS and ArcGIS 10.4. Data was systematically collected from census reports and local surveys covering the period from 1971 to 2011. SPSS was utilized for statistical analysis to identify trends and changes in SC populations over time, including percentage increases and distribution patterns. Arc GIS 10.4 was employed to visualize spatial distributions and map demographic concentrations across different mandals and villages. This integrated approach enabled a comprehensive understanding of SC population dynamics and geographic distribution.

Objectives of the Study area

- To examine the changes in the SC and ST populations and focus on growth rates and percentage changes.
- To identify significant disparities in population distribution among different villages and mandals.
- To provide insights for targeted development and welfare programs that address the specific needs of SC and ST communities in key villages.

Results and Discussions:

Growth Rates and Percentage Changes:

Table 1 and Figure 1 show a detailed analysis of the demographic trends for the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) total populations in coastal villages of West Godavari district over the decades from 1971 to 2011 Between 1971 and 2011, the SC and ST populations in the coastal villages of West Godavari district experienced significant growth. In 1971, the SC population was 83,002, comprising 9.0% of the total population, while the ST population was 4,555, or 0.5%. By 1981, the SC population had increased to 117,676, representing 12.7% of the total population, with the ST population rising slightly to 5,031, maintaining 0.5%. In 1991, the SC population further expanded to 150,265 (16.2%), and the ST population increased to 5,522 (0.6%). The growth trend continued into 2001, with the SC population reaching 171,371 (18.5%) and the ST population growing to 8,620 (0.9%). By 2011, the SC population had surged to 362,827, constituting 39.1% of the total population, while the ST population had also grown to 17,956, or 1.9%. Over these decades, the combined SC and ST population grew from 87,557 in 1971 to 380,783 in 2011, reflecting a substantial increase in their proportion of the total population, from 9.5% to 41.0%. This dramatic rise indicates significant demographic shifts in the coastal villages, highlighting the growing proportion of these communities in the region.

Table 1 Decadal trends in scheduled castes (SC) and scheduled tribes (ST) (ST) coastal village's populations in West Godavari District (1971-2011)

Decades	**Community**	**Total Population in %**	**Total Population in %**
1971	SC	83002	9.0
	ST	4555	0.5
1981	SC	117676	12.7
	ST	5031	0.5
1991	SC	150265	16.2
	ST	5522	0.6
2001	SC	171371	18.5
	ST	8620	0.9
2011	SC	362827	39.1
	ST	17956	1.9
Total SC&ST Population		926825	100

Source: District handbook

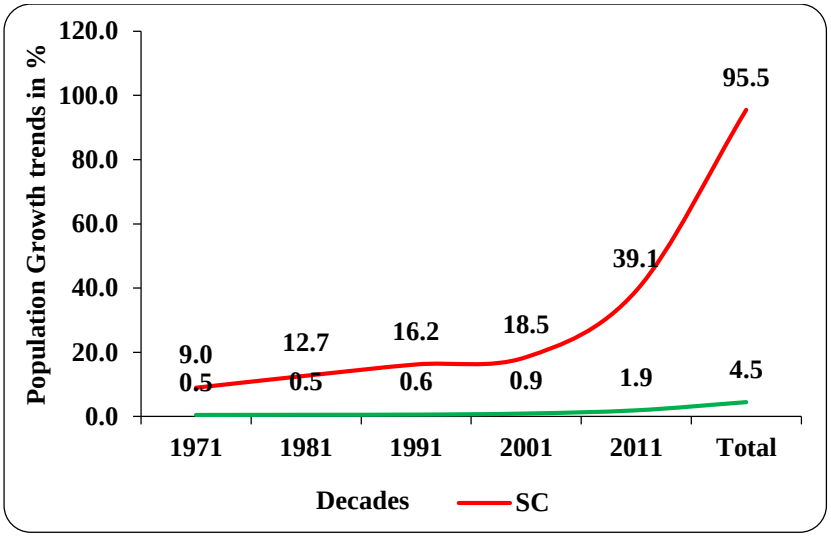

Fig.2Percentage distribution of scheduled castes (SC) and scheduled tribes (ST) Coastal village's populations over decades in West Godavari District

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Total Population in Decadal Intervals:

Over the four decades from 1971 to 2011, the demographic profile of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh has shown significant changes. In 1971, SCs constituted 9.4% of the total population, while STs made up just 0.5%. By 1981, the proportion of SCs had risen to 13.3%, maintaining the same percentage for STs. The trend continued into 1991, with SCs increasing to 17.0% and STs slightly up to 0.6%. The growth of SCs accelerated in the following decade, reaching 19.4% in 2001, while STs saw a more modest rise to 0.9%. By 2011, SCs represented a substantial 41.0% of the total population, and STs increased to 1.9%. Overall, SCs grew from 9.4% to 41.0% over these decades, while STs expanded from 0.5% to 1.9%. This data underscores a notable increase in the proportion of SCs within the population, reflecting either a higher growth rate or increased representation, and a more gradual increase for STs. The total proportion of SCs and STs combined reached 4.5% by 2011, up from 0.5% in 1971, indicating a broader demographic shift towards these communities in the region (Table.3).

Table. 3 Distribution of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Population by Decade (1971-2011)

Decades	**SC**	**ST**	**Total population % in Total SCs**	**Total population % in Total STs**
1971	83002	4555	9.4	0.5
1981	117676	5031	13.3	0.5
1991	150265	5522	17.0	0.6
2001	171371	8620	19.4	0.9
2011	362827	17956	41.0	1.9
Total Population	885141	41684	100.0	4.5

Total population distribution in villages of coastal Mandals

Table 4. Disparities in total SCs and STs Population distribution among different villages in coastal Mandals in West Godavari district.

Mandal Name	Coastal Villages	SC Total Population in %	ST Total Population in %	Total Population in %
AKIVEEDU	Kolleru	0.27	0.01	0.29
	Pedakapavaram	0.16	0.02	0.17
	Chinakapavaram	0.26	0.04	0.30
	Gummuluru	0.16	0.00	0.16
	Siddapuram	0.36	0.01	0.36
	Kollaparru	0.15	0.00	0.15
	Taratavau	1.62	0.37	1.99
	Akiveedu	1.37	0.06	1.44
	Dumpagadapa	0.26	0.00	0.26
	Ajjamuru	0.67	0.01	0.69
	Kuppanapudi	0.34	0.01	0.35
	A.I.Bheemavaram	0.29	0.00	0.29
	Cherukumilli	0.13	0.04	0.16
VEERAVASARAM	Konithiwada	0.37	0.01	0.38
	Madugupolavaram	0.84	0.06	0.89
	Tholeru	0.46	0.01	0.47
	Panjavemavaram	1.29	0.07	1.36
	Rayakuduru	0.31	0.02	0.33
	Thokalapudi	5.92	0.32	6.23
	Veeravasaram	0.13	0.00	0.13
	Mentepudi	0.27	0.05	0.32
	Machipuripalem	0.32	0.02	0.34
	Bobbanapalle	0.94	0.02	0.96
	Machipuri	1.08	0.01	1.09
PALACOLE	Aratlakatla	0.99	0.01	1.01
	Kapavaram	2.21	0.02	2.23
	Lankalakoderu	0.15	0.00	0.15
	Palamuru	0.50	0.07	0.57
	Ullamparru	0.58	0.01	0.58
	Ballipadu	0.93	0.02	0.95
	Sivadevunichikkala	0.68	0.07	0.75
	Dagguluru	0.81	0.03	0.85
	Chintaparru	1.25	0.04	1.28
	Poolapalle	1.27	0.04	1.30
	Palacole (Rural)	0.54	0.01	0.56
	Tillapudi	6.05	0.27	6.32
	Palacole (Urban)	0.45	0.00	0.45
	Chandaparru	0.67	0.00	0.67
	Velivela	1.24	0.02	1.26
	Agarru	0.19	0.02	0.21
	Varidhanam	1.11	0.04	1.15
	Digamarru	0.41	0.00	0.41
	Gorintada	0.11	0.00	0.11
	Pedamamidipalle	0.24	0.02	0.26
BHEEMAVARAM	Narasimhapuram	0.00	0.08	0.08
	Kovvada	0.58	0.05	0.63
	Chinamiram	0.52	0.02	0.54
	Rayalam	0.41	0.02	0.42
	Taderu	0.05	0.05	0.10
	Komarada	0.30	0.06	0.37
	Anakoderu	0.59	0.01	0.60
	Bethapudi	0.39	0.02	0.41
	Yenamadurru	0.28	0.03	0.31
	Tundurru	0.33	0.02	0.35
	Dirusumarru	1.31	0.09	1.40
	Gutlapadu	0.60	0.02	0.62
	Vempa	0.64	0.08	0.72
	Gutlapadu	0.03	0.01	0.05
	Annavaram	0.13	0.01	0.14
	A.I.Bheemavaram	0.17	0.02	0.19
	Annavaram	0.13	0.01	0.14
	A.I.Bheemavaram	0.17	0.02	0.19
KALLA	Kolanapalle	0.29	0.02	0.31
	Seesali	0.19	0.03	0.22
	Jakkaram	0.15	0.03	0.18
	Kallakuru	1.13	0.16	1.30
	Kalla	0.12	0.12	0.24
	Kopalle	0.25	0.03	0.28
	Vempadu	0.43	0.07	0.50
	Bondada	0.26	0.07	0.33
	Elurupadu	0.25	0.01	0.27
	Doddanapudi	0.25	0.02	0.27
	Pathallameraka	0.30	0.03	0.32
	Kalavapudi	0.34	0.05	0.38
	Pedamiram	0.48	0.02	0.51
YELAMANCHILI	Burugupalle	0.89	0.02	0.91
	Gumparru	0.64	0.00	0.64
	Penumarru	0.50	0.02	0.52
	Neredumilli	1.22	0.03	1.25
	Medapadu	3.61	0.03	3.64
	Doddipatla	2.13	0.03	2.16
	Kontheru	2.07	0.02	2.10
	Ilapakurru	0.98	0.02	1.00
	Siragalapalle	5.21	0.10	5.31
	Yelamanchili	0.86	0.02	0.88
	Kaza	0.48	0.02	0.49
	Utada	0.83	0.02	0.85
	Chinchinada	0.24	0.02	0.26
	Kalagampudi	0.78	0.01	0.78
	Yenuguvanilanka	0.32	0.01	0.33
NARASAPURAM	Kamsalibethapudi	0.89	0.06	0.94
	Chittavaram	0.40	0.01	0.41
	Chinamamidipalle(R)	0.76	0.05	0.82
	Saripalle	0.79	0.08	0.87
	Navarasapuram	1.14	0.02	1.16
	Kopparru	0.37	0.00	0.37
	Gondi	0.63	0.01	0.64
	Likhithapudi	1.02	0.03	1.05
	Rustumbada(R)	5.52	0.33	5.85
	Narasapuram (M)	1.68	0.06	1.74
	Seetharamapuram	0.94	0.01	0.95
	Lakshmaneswaram	0.72	0.02	0.73
	Linganaboinacherla	0.74	0.01	0.75
	Vemuladeevi	0.42	0.01	0.43
	Thurputallu	0.64	0.02	0.65
MOGALTHUR	Seripalem	1.53	0.06	1.60
	Kalipatnam	3.74	0.12	3.86
	Mogalthur	0.50	0.02	0.53
	Mutyalapalle	1.12	0.06	1.17
	Perupalem	0.76	0.05	0.81
	Kummarapurugupalem	0.81	0.55	1.36
Total 8 Mandal population		**94.971**	**5.029**	**100.000**

Source: District handbooks

In the Akiveedu mandal, the distribution of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) populations in 13 coastal villages shows disparities about the total population. For instance, Taratavau stands out with the highest percentages, with SC making up 1.62% and ST 0.37% of its total population, resulting in a combined 1.99%. Akiveedu follows with SC at 1.37% and ST at 0.06%, totaling 1.44%. In contrast, villages like Gummuluru and Kollaparru exhibit minimal SC and ST presence, with 0.16% and 0.15% respectively, indicating a lower proportion of marginalized communities. Other villages such as Ajjamuru and Kuppanapudi show moderate SC and ST percentages, with Ajjamuru having 0.67% SC and 0.01% ST, and Kuppanapudi at 0.34% SC and 0.01% ST. Overall, the percentage of SC and ST populations in these coastal villages varies significantly, reflecting a diverse demographic profile across the mandal (Table 2 and Fig.2).

In Veeravasaram Mandal, Thokalapudi stands out with the highest proportion of both SC and ST populations, comprising 5.92% and 0.32% of the total population, respectively, making up a combined total of 6.23%. In contrast, villages like Veeravasaram and Rayakuduru show much lower percentages, with Veeravasaram having only 0.13% SC and no ST population, while Rayakuduru has 0.31% SC and 0.02% ST populations. Other villages such as Madugupolavaram and Panjavemavaram have moderate percentages, with SC populations of 0.84% and 1.29% and ST populations of 0.06% and 0.07%, respectively. The overall pattern highlights a notable concentration of SC and ST populations in specific villages like Thokalapudi, while other coastal villages exhibit relatively minimal representations of these communities about the total population (Table 2 and Fig.2).

In Palacole Mandal, among 20 Villages, Tillapudi shows a high total population of 6.32%, with SCs contributing 6.05% and STs 0.27%. This contrasts with smaller figures in other villages, such as Gorintada, which has a total population of only 0.11%, with no significant SC or ST presence. In most villages, the SC and ST populations are relatively low, contributing marginally to the overall demographics. For example, Palacole (Rural) and Palacole (Urban) have SC and ST populations of 0.54% and 0.45% respectively, indicating a more balanced distribution with lower percentages. Meanwhile, villages like Kapavaram and Chintaparru, though showing slightly higher percentages, remain within modest ranges compared to the more significant total population of Tillapudi. This diversity highlights the varied demographic landscape of Palacole Mandal, reflecting both high and low concentrations of SC and ST populations across its coastal villages (Table 4 and Fig.3).

In analyzed SC and ST total population percentages among 16 villages in Bheemavaram Mandal, the village of Dirusumarru exhibits the highest proportions, with SC and ST populations constituting 1.31% and 0.09% of the total, respectively, resulting in an overall percentage of 1.40%. In contrast, Narasimhapuram shows minimal representation of both SC and ST communities, with each accounting for only 0.08% of the total population. Kovvada and Anakaderu have relatively higher proportions of SC and ST populations, at 0.58% and 0.59% respectively, with minor ST contributions in Kovvada. Other villages like Chinamiram and Rayalam have lower proportions of these communities, with total percentages around 0.54% and 0.42%, respectively. Gutlapadu and Vempa present moderate figures, with Gutlapadu showing a total of 0.62% and Vempa 0.72%. Overall, the distribution highlights significant variability across villages, reflecting diverse demographic profiles within Bheemavaram Mandal (Table 4 and Fig.3).

In Kalla Mandal, the villages exhibit a diverse distribution of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and total populations. Kolanapalle, with the lowest figures, shows a minimal SC population of 0.29 and an ST population of just 0.02, summing up to a total population of 0.31. Seesali and Jakkaram also reflect modest SC and ST populations, with totals of 0.22 and 0.18 respectively. Kallakuru stands out with a significantly higher SC population of 1.13 and an ST population of 0.16, making its total population 1.30. In contrast, Kalla's SC and ST populations are both at 0.12, totaling 0.24. Kopalle and Vempadu demonstrate more balanced distributions with higher total populations of 0.28 and 0.50 respectively. Bondada and Pathallameraka have total populations of 0.33 and 0.32, driven by moderate SC and ST populations. Elurupadu and Doddanapudi, despite low SC and ST figures, maintain total populations of 0.27. Kalavapudi and Pedamiram have notable SC and ST populations contributing to their total populations of 0.38 and 0.51, respectively. Overall, while some villages have higher total populations due to larger SC and ST proportions, others reflect a more even or lower distribution across these demographic groups (Table 4 and Fig.3).

In Yelamanchili Mandal, across 15 villages reveals notable variation. For instance, Siragalapalle stands out with a high total population percentage of 5.31%, comprising 5.21% SC and 0.10% ST, indicating a significant concentration of both communities. Conversely, villages like Gumparru and Yenuguvanilanka show much lower percentages, with Gumparru having only 0.64% of the total population and Yenuguvanilanka 0.33%, reflecting minimal representation of SC and ST populations. Other villages, such as Medapadu and Doddipatla, also display higher SC and ST population percentages, at 3.64% and 2.16% respectively.

In contrast, villages like Chinchinada and Kalagampudi have relatively lower figures, with Chinchinada at 0.26% and Kalagampudi at 0.78%. This variation highlights the uneven distribution of SC and ST populations within the coastal villages of Yelamanchili Mandal (Table 4 and Fig.3).

In the Narasapuram Mandal, In Narasapuram Mandal, the distribution of the total population among the villages reveals notable variations in the proportions of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). Rustumbada (R) stands out with the highest combined total population of 5.85%, with significant SC and ST populations at 5.52% and 0.33%, respectively. In contrast, villages like Kopparru and Vemuladeevi have the lowest populations, with total populations of 0.37% and 0.43%, respectively. The SC populations are relatively modest across most villages, with the highest being 1.14% in Navarasapuram, while ST populations are generally minimal, with Rustumbada (R) again having the highest proportion at 0.33%. Overall, villages such as Likhithapudi and Saripalle demonstrate moderate total populations and relatively higher SC proportions, while others like Chittavaram and Linganaboinacherla exhibit lower total and SC populations. This distribution highlights the significant variance in demographic compositions within the mandal, particularly in terms of SC and ST presence (Table 4 and Fig.3).

In Mogalthur Mandal, 5 villages present a diverse demographic profile concerning Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) populations. Seripalem has a minimal SC population of 0.06% and an ST population of 1.60%, contributing to a total of 1.53% of the village's population. Kalipatnam shows a slightly higher SC population of 0.12% and an ST population of 3.86%, resulting in a combined percentage of 3.74% for SCs and a total population of 3.86%. Mogalthur has a relatively low representation with 0.50% SC and 0.02% ST, totaling 0.53%. Mutyalapalle's SC and ST populations contribute 1.12% and 0.06%, respectively, amounting to a total of 1.17%. Perupalem reflects a SC population of 0.76% and an ST population of 0.05%, with an overall total of 0.81%. Kummarapurugupalem stands out with a higher SC population of 0.81% and a significant ST population of 0.55%, culminating in a combined total of 1.36%. These variations highlight the differing demographic compositions across the coastal villages within the mandal (Table 4 and Fig.3).

Fig.3 Schedule Cast and Schedule Tribes Population Trends in Villages of Coastal Mandals.

Conclusion

In summary, the distribution of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) populations across various mandals reflects considerable variability. In Akiveedu Mandal, Taratavau has the highest proportions with SC at 1.62% and ST at 0.37%, totaling 1.99%, while Gummuluru and Kollaparru have significantly lower figures. Veeravasaram Mandal displays a high concentration in Thokalapudi, with SC at 5.92% and ST at 0.32%, totaling 6.23%, compared to minimal representations in Veeravasaram and Rayakuduru. In Palacole Mandal, Tillapudi shows a notable total population of 6.32% with SCs at 6.05% and STs at 0.27%, contrasting with much lower figures in villages like Gorintada.

Bheemavaram Mandal features Dirusumarru with the highest SC and ST totals at 1.31% and 0.09%, respectively, while Narasimhapuram shows minimal SC and ST presence. Kalla Mandal displays varied figures, with Kolanapalle having the lowest totals and Kallakuru having a higher SC population of 1.13%. In Yelamanchili Mandal, Siragalapalle stands out with a total of 5.31%, while Gumparru and Yenuguvanilanka show much lower percentages. Finally, in Narasapuram Mandal, Rustumbada (R) exhibits the highest combined total of 5.85%, with significant SC and ST populations. Mogalthur Mandal shows diverse distributions, with Kummarapurugupalem having notable SC and ST populations totaling 1.36%, whereas other villages have lower figures.

The diverse demographic landscape across villages in the coastal mandals highlights significant variations in SC and ST population distributions. Villages in Akiveedu and Bheemavaram Mandals with low SC and ST populations would benefit from targeted development programs to address educational, economic, and social imbalances. Conversely, Veeravasaram and Palacole Mandals, where SC and ST percentages are higher, should be prioritized for resource allocation to improve infrastructure and services. Engaging SC and ST communities in participatory planning can address their specific needs, especially in villages like Ajjamuru and Kuppanapudi. Continuous monitoring and raising awareness about equitable development are crucial for effective interventions and broader support.

Acknowledgment

The Scholar Dr. K Ananda Ratna Kumar is the awardee of the ICSSR Post-Doctoral Fellowship. This paper is largely an outcome of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). However, the responsibility for the facts stated, opinions expressed, and the conclusions drawn is entirely of the author.

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