

Chapter V

Demographic Profile of Scheduled Caste Population of Koch Bihar District

5.1 Introduction

Demographic attributes of population in an area indicate the physical and biological qualities of human population. An attempt has been made in this chapter to analyse the demographic characteristics of the Scheduled Caste population in the Koch Bihar district, West Bengal, in the context of sex composition, density of population, family size, number of children etc. and their influence on the socio-economic development.

Unlike the developed countries of the world, India as well as the Koch Bihar has higher proportion of children population with high dependency ratio and high vital rates, like birth and death rates (Nargund, 2009). In India, society is stratified on the basis of caste hierarchy, occupation, and religion and language. The caste factor has the strongest historical roots and the Hindu society is divided into various categories of castes and communities, which reflect their socio-cultural, economic and educational inequalities. Presently there are three major categories in India such as Forward Castes (FCs), Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST), and Other Backward Castes (OBCs) (Chauhan, 2008). Scheduled castes population in India is a socio culturally backward class of Hindu community and therefore, the people have comparatively higher dependency rates with more fertility and mortality rates than the general Hindu population. In the Koch Bihar also same pattern is observed. Majority of them lives below poverty line with no significant improvement in the demographic situation in the post-independence period.

5.2 Distribution of Rural Population

The table 5.1 shows the block wise distribution of rural population of Koch Bihar district. As per the 2011 census 68.80 percent of the people lived in rural area and the in the study area 89.73 percent of the people lived in the rural area which is more than the national average as the district's economy is fully depend on the agricultural activity. From the table it is observed that Cooch Behar II (13.04 percent) has the highest percentage of rural population out of the total district population followed by Cooch Behar I (12.39 percent), Dinhata I (10.86 percent) and Dinhata II (9.26 percent). Job opportunity, reputed school, good health facility, good connectivity and nearer to district main town these are the

reasons for high population in these blocks. Lowest percentage of rural population is observed in Haldibari block (3.94 percent) followed by Sitai (4.18 percent) Mekhliganj (5.89 percent) and Sitalkuchi (7.03 percent). These blocks are backwards among the 12 blocks of Koch Bihar district. The main reasons of low population in these blocks are bad condition of roads, poor health services, no industry, less number of school.

Out of the total district rural population 51.56 percent is male and 48.44 percent female. In case of block wise percentage share of male and female population here is also highest position is taken by Cooch Behar II block i.e. 6.81 and 6.23 respectively whereas the lowest percentage share of population by Haldibari block i.e. 2 and 1.94 percent respectively.

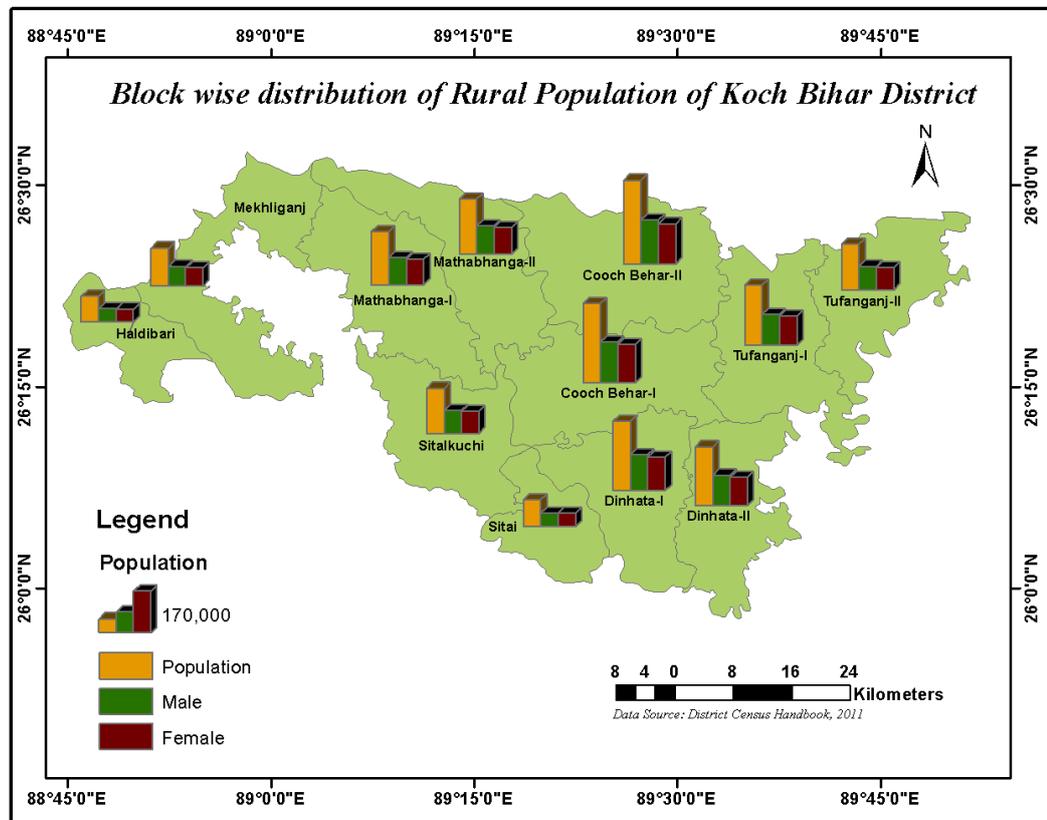
Table 5.1 Block Wise Distribution of Rural Population of Koch Bihar District.

Sl. No.	Blocks	Total Population	% of Total Population	% of Male Population	% of Female Population
1	Haldibari	103969	3.94	2.00	1.94
2	Mekhliganj	155250	5.89	3.04	2.85
3	Mathabhanga - I	218191	8.28	4.27	4.01
4	Mathabhanga - II	227397	8.62	4.44	4.18
5	Cooch Behar - I	326558	12.39	6.38	6.01
6	Cooch Behar - II	343901	13.04	6.81	6.23
7	Tufanganj - I	248595	9.43	4.87	4.56
8	Tufanganj - II	186726	7.08	3.65	3.43
9	Dinhata - I	286269	10.86	5.60	5.26
10	Dinhata - II	244066	9.26	4.80	4.45
11	Sitai	110333	4.18	2.12	2.06
12	Sitalkuchi	185353	7.03	3.58	3.45
Total Rural Population		2636608	100	51.56	48.44

Source: District Census Hand Book of Koch Bihar, 2011

The map 5.1 shows the Block wise distribution of population of Koch Bihar District. From the map it is clearly observed that maximum population are living in Cooch Behar II followed by Cooch Behar I, Dinhata I and Tufanganj I block. In every block male population is little higher than the female population. The main reasons behind the population concentration are mainly because of job opportunity, reputed educational institution, better health care facility, better infrastructure, trade and commerce, situation of various head offices of Government Department, Bank and Private companies and industrial development. The district capital is situated in between the Cooch Behar I and Cooch Behar II blocks, so always a pull factor work for increasing population in these two blocks. On the other hand Dinhata town is situated in between Dinhata I and Dinhata II block, it pull the population towards this block for employment as Dinhata is one of the

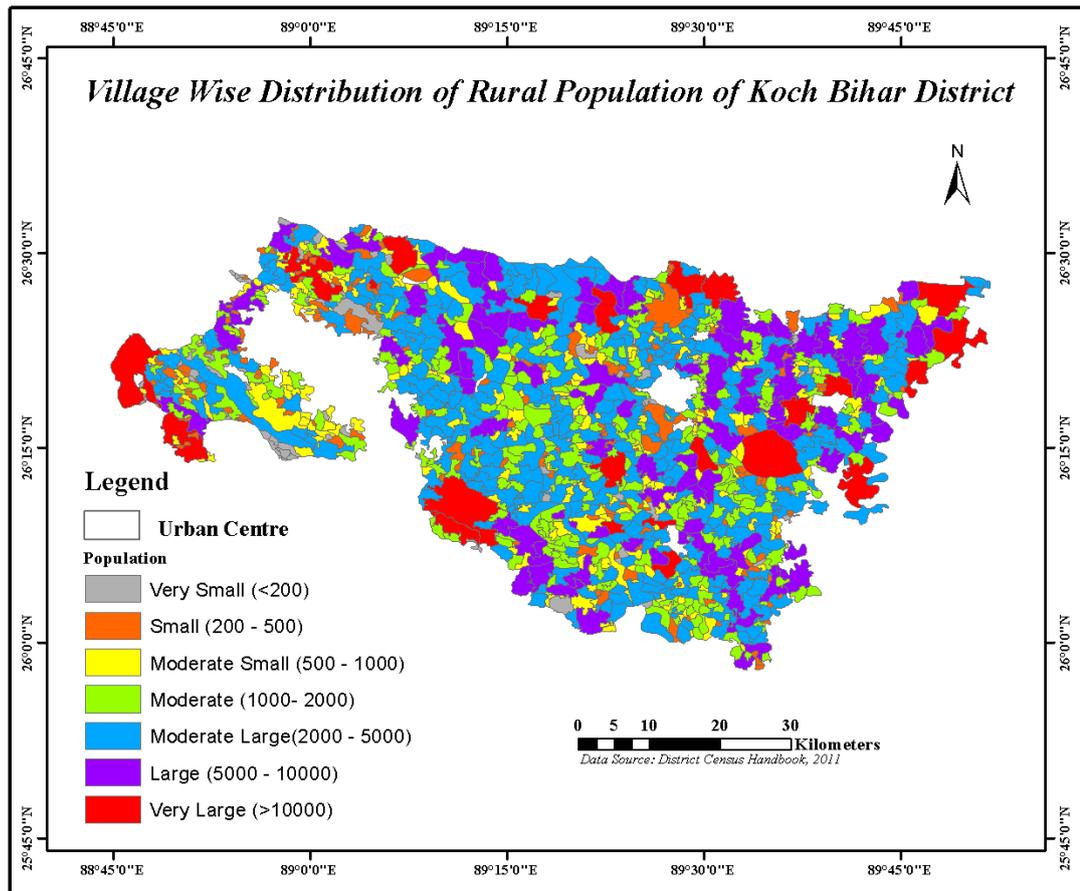
oldest trade point of the District between India and Bangladesh since before Independence of India (District Census Handbook, 2011).



Map 5.1 Block wise Distribution of Rural Population of Koch Bihar district.

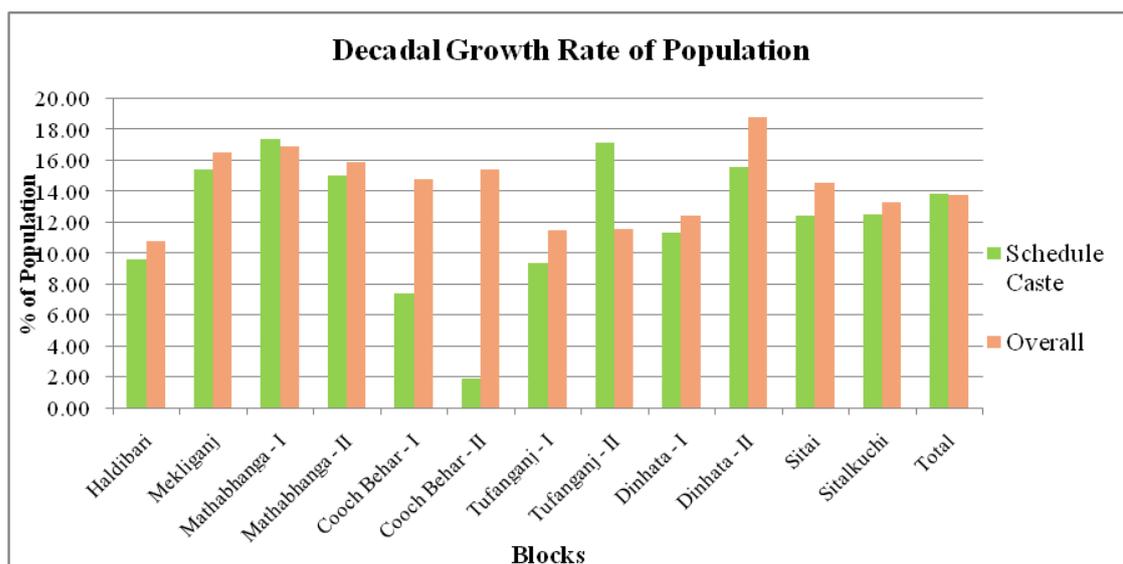
Haldibari has the lowest population followed by the Sitai, Mekhliganj and Sitalkuchi. The main reasons behind the low population concentration of the blocks are less employment opportunity, infrastructure is less developed, poor health facility etc. Although Haldibari is one of the oldest lands port and oldest railway station of the district (Hunter, 1877) but it is far from the district capital and less accessible, so the peoples of this block have migrated outwards.

The map 5.2 shows the size of village of Koch Bihar District on the basis of Population. The map is prepared on the basis of census village classification to observe the concentration of population. Here seven categories of villages have been observed, these are very small village of less than 200 people. Out of 1132 inhabited villages, only 72 are falling in this category i.e. 6.36 percent of the entire village of the district.



Map 5.2 Village wise distribution of Rural Population of Koch Bihar district

174 small villages with the population 200 to 500 have been found which covers 15.36 percent of the total village. Out of the total village 206 moderate small villages (500 to 1000 people) have been found which cover 18.20 percent village of the district. 263 Moderate villages with the population 1000 to 2000 are found which consists 23.23 percent of the total village. 26.94 percent villages are moderate large village (2000 to 5000 population) which is maximum in number i.e. 305 villages. Number of the Large villages with 5000 to 10000 population are 89, its share is only 7.86 percent and rest are the Very large village, these villages are few in number its only 23 villages out of the total villages of the district. Maradanga, Sitalkuchi and Baro Haldibari are the example of very large village of more than 10000 populations. From the map we clearly observed that the size wise distribution is not concentrated in one block rather it's evenly distributed in the entire district. Although the Cooch Behar I and Cooch Behar II has the maximum concentration of rural population but the number of the very large villages are few in these two blocks.



Data Source: District Census Hand Book of Koch Bihar, 2011

Figure 5.1 shows that the block wise decadal growth rate of overall (General) population and Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar district.

From the figure it is observed that the decadal growth rate of overall population and Scheduled Caste population is almost same but the block wise growth rate is different in different blocks, except the Tufanganj II block in every blocks Scheduled Caste growth is lower than the overall population growth. Very low growth rate is observed in Cooch Behar II block followed by Cooch Behar I and Tufanganj I. The main reason behind the low growth rate of Scheduled Caste population in these blocks is migration as the district capital is nearer to these three blocks so most of the people comes from outside they are residing within these blocks. So the growth rate of Scheduled Caste population has decline in these blocks.

5.3 Distribution of Rural Scheduled Caste Population

The table 5.2 shows the percentage share of the Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar district block wise along with its male and female share. In India the overall share of Scheduled Caste population is 16.65 percent as per 2011 census out of that 76.4 percent of the Scheduled Caste lived in the rural area as they are mainly engaged in the primary activity. In West Bengal the share of Scheduled Caste population is 16.5 percent which is similar to the national average but in the district the percentage share of the Scheduled Caste population is much more higher than the state and national average, it is 50.17 percent which is the height in terms of district wise concentration of Scheduled Caste population in the entire country. The table shows gender wise percentage share of

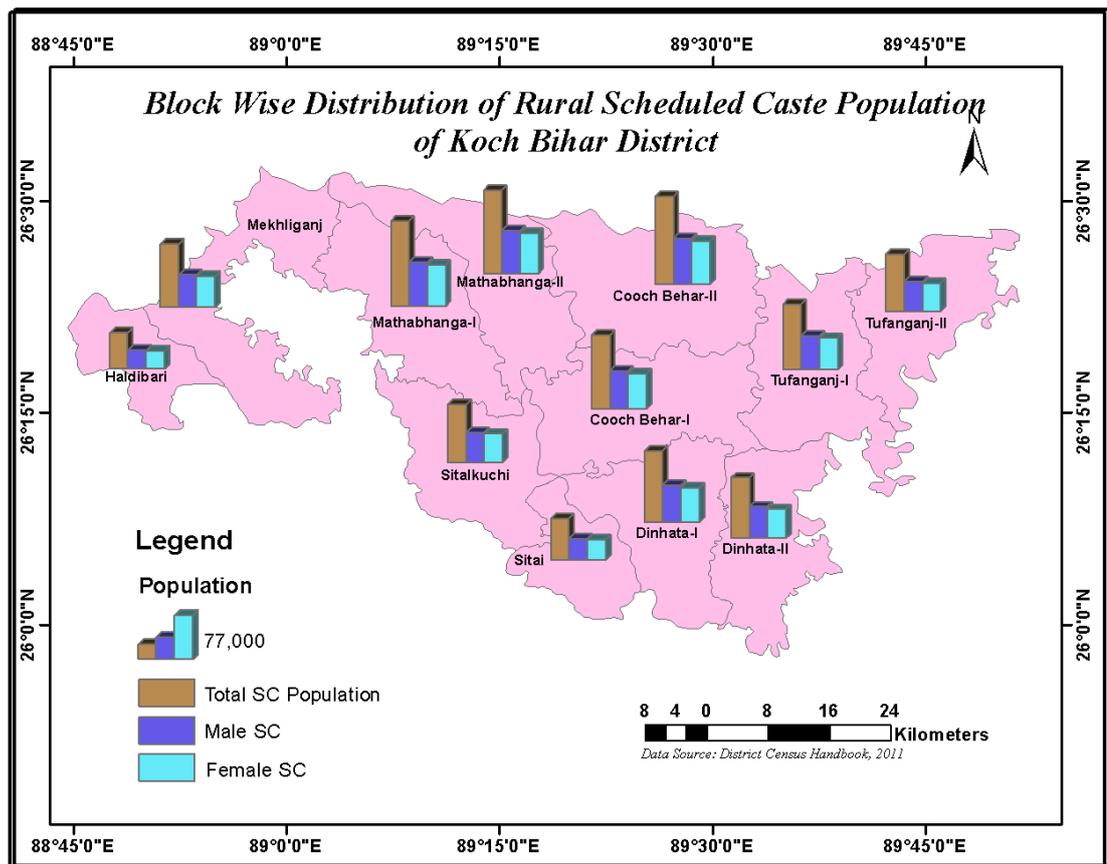
Scheduled Caste population in the blocks of Koch Bihar district. According to the data, highest Scheduled Caste population is found in Cooch Behar II block i.e. 11.22 percent followed by Mathabhanga I (10.89 percent), Mathabhanga II (10.71 percent) and Cooch Behar I (9.42 percent) in respect to total district Scheduled Caste population. The lowest Scheduled Caste population is observed in Haldibari block (4.61 percent) followed by Sitai (5.29 percent) and Tufanganj II (7.28 percent) blocks.

Table 5.2 Block wise distribution of Rural Scheduled Caste Population to total District Rural Scheduled Caste (SC) Population (pop.) of Koch Bihar District.

Sl. No.	Blocks	SC Population	% share of SC population	Male SC population	% of male SC to total SC pop.	Female SC population	% of female SC to total SC pop.
1	Haldibari	63609	4.61	32515	2.36	31094	2.26
2	Mekhliganj	110595	8.02	57113	4.14	53482	3.88
3	Mathabhanga - I	150056	10.89	77333	5.61	72723	5.28
4	Mathabhanga - II	147623	10.71	75928	5.51	71695	5.20
5	Cooch Behar - I	129873	9.42	67239	4.88	62634	4.54
6	Cooch Behar - II	154656	11.22	80176	5.82	74480	5.40
7	Tufanganj - I	115000	8.34	59290	4.30	55710	4.04
8	Tufanganj - II	100378	7.28	51659	3.75	48719	3.53
9	Dinhata - I	125873	9.13	64992	4.71	60881	4.42
10	Dinhata - II	106859	7.75	55811	4.05	51048	3.70
11	Sitai	72924	5.29	37026	2.69	35898	2.60
12	Sitalkuchi	101009	7.33	51318	3.72	49691	3.60
Total Dist. Rural SC Population		1378455	100.00	710400	51.54	668055	48.46

Source: District Census Hand Book of Koch Bihar, 2011

The percentage share of Scheduled Caste male (51.54 percent) is higher than the Scheduled Caste female i.e. 48.46 percent. The situation is almost similar in case of block wise percentage share of Scheduled Caste male and female. Highest male and female Scheduled Caste is found in Cooch Behar II block i.e. 5.82 percent and 5.40 percent respectively and lowest male and female Scheduled Caste population is observed in Haldibari block 2.36 and 2.36 percent respectively.



Map 5.3: Block wise distribution of Rural Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar district

The map 5.3 shows the distribution of Rural Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar District. From the map it is clearly observed that maximum population lives in Cooch Behar II block followed by Mathabhanga I and Mathabhanga II. In each blocks male population is little higher than the female population. By knowing the fact that the population concentrated in a region mainly because of job opportunity, better education, better health care facility, better infrastructure, and industrial development the same reason goes for the Cooch Behar II block. This block is in better condition among other 12 block of the Koch Bihar District. But Mathabhanga I and Mathabhanga II are backward blocks of the district although the Scheduled Caste population is high in these two blocks. The reason behind this fact is the occupation of Scheduled Caste population. Their main occupations are agriculture and fishing so the people are mainly living in the rural areas. Similar to the total population Scheduled Caste population is also the lowest in Haldibari block followed by the Sitai, Mekhliganj and Sitalkuchi. As the total population of these blocks is less in numbers. The main reasons behind the low population concentration of the

blocks are less employment opportunity, infrastructure is less developed, poor health facility etc.

Table 5.3 Decadal Growth Rate of the Scheduled Caste population.

Sl.No.	Scheduled Castes	SC Pop. in 2001	SC Pop. in 2011	% of SC Pop.2001	% SC Pop.2011	Decadal Change Percentage	Decadal Growth Rate
1	Rajbanshi	972803	10,63,369	78.3	75.19	-3.12	9.31
2	Namasudra	165514	1,78,393	13.32	12.61	-0.71	7.78
3	Jaliakaibartta	45330	67,818	3.65	4.8	1.15	49.61
4	Jhalo Malo, Malo	15830	18,892	1.27	1.34	0.06	19.34
5	Dhoba, Dhobi.	9764	9,802	0.79	0.69	-0.09	0.39
6	Chamar, Charmakar, Rabidas	7615	7,344	0.61	0.52	-0.09	-3.56
7	Bhuimali	5368	5,670	0.43	0.4	-0.03	5.63
8	Rajwar	3098	3,598	0.25	0.25	0.01	16.14
9	Bagdi, Duley	2836	2,231	0.23	0.16	-0.07	-21.33
10	Hari, Mehtor, Balmiki, Bhangsi	1898	2,150	0.15	0.15	0	13.28
11	Patni	1336	861	0.11	0.06	-0.05	-35.55
12	Koch	1251	1,044	0.1	0.07	-0.03	-16.55
13	Nuniya	1239	1,840	0.1	0.13	0.03	48.51
14	Others	8492	51324	0.69	3.63	2.94	504.38
	Koch Bihar	1242374	14,14,336	100	100	0	13.84

Source: District Census Hand Book of Koch Bihar, 2001 & 2011

The table 5.3 shows that the decadal growth rate and percentage change among the scheduled castes population of Kochi Bihar district. The table shows the major 13 scheduled castes of the district which comprise more than 97 percent of the total Scheduled Caste population. But only four Scheduled Caste communities like Rajbanshi, Namasudra, Jaliakaibartta and Jhalomalo have more than 1.00 percent share in terms of overall Scheduled Caste population and these four communities comprise 94 percent of the Scheduled Caste population. Although in West Bengal total 60 communities are listed in the Scheduled Caste category and at present in India the total Scheduled Caste community is 1284. The decadal growth rate is highest among Jaliakaibartta community 49.61 percent followed by Nuniya (48.51 percent), Jhalo Malo (19.34 percent). The lowest decadal growth rate has been observed in Patni (-35.55) followed by Bagdi (-21.33 percent) and Chamar (-3.56 percent). Within the decade the Rajbanshi community has decreased 3.12 percent followed by Namasudra (-0.71 percent) and Dhoba and Chamar. The one of the main reason of the decreasing the population of the Rajbanshi and Namasudra community

are increasing literacy, increasing awareness which leads them to population control by family planning methods.

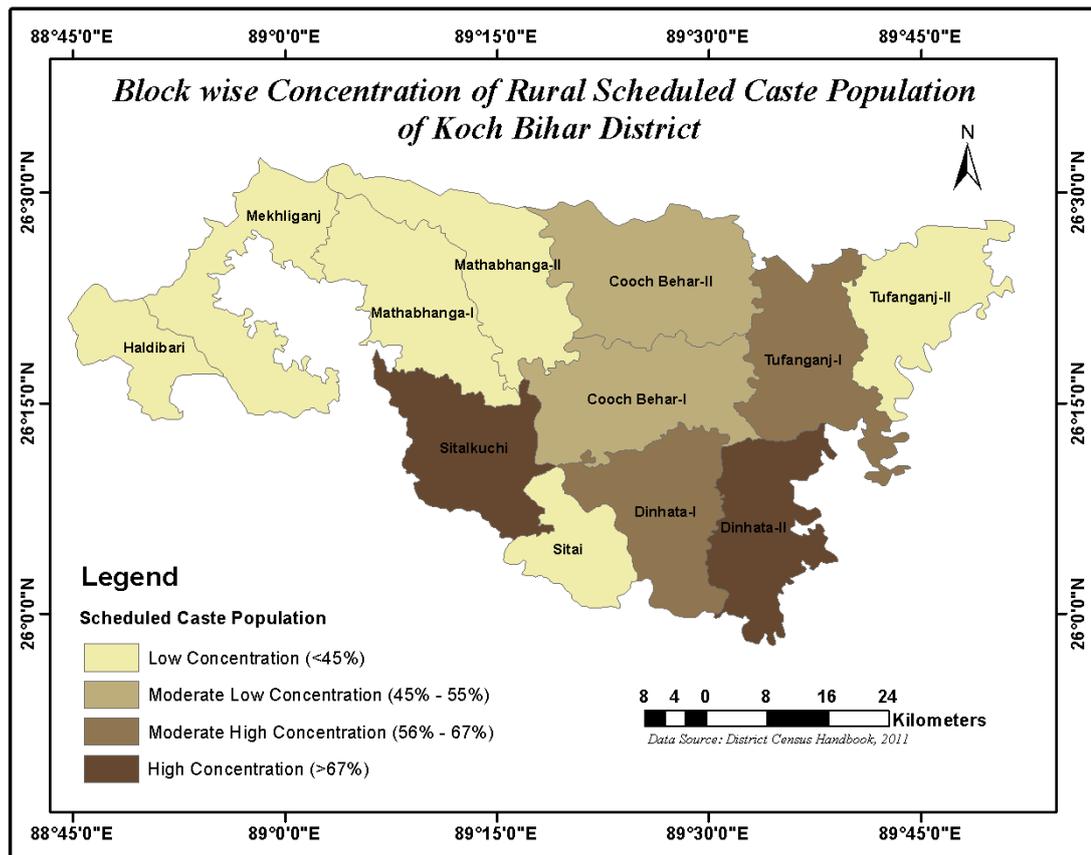
Table 5.4 Block wise distribution of Rural Scheduled Caste (SC) Population to total Block Population.

Ranks	Blocks	Total Pop.	Total SC Pop.	% of SC to total Pop.	Total Male Pop.	Male SC Population	% of SC male to total male	Total Female Population	SC Female Population	% of SC female to total female
1	Mekhliganj	155250	110595	71.24	80052	57113	71.34	75198	53482	71.12
2	Mathabhanga - I	218191	150056	68.77	112497	77333	68.74	105694	72723	68.81
3	Sitai	110333	72924	66.09	56016	37026	66.1	54317	35898	66.09
4	Mathabhanga - II	227397	147623	64.92	117100	75928	64.84	110297	71695	65.00
5	Haldibari	103969	63609	61.18	52851	32515	61.52	51118	31094	60.83
6	Sitalkuchi	185353	101009	54.50	94277	51318	54.43	91076	49691	54.56
7	Tufanganj - II	186726	100378	53.76	96222	51659	53.69	90504	48719	53.83
8	Tufanganj - I	248595	115000	46.26	128415	59290	46.17	120180	55710	46.36
9	Cooch Behar - II	343901	154656	44.97	179591	80176	44.64	164310	74480	45.33
10	Dinhata - I	286269	125873	43.97	147602	64992	44.03	138667	60881	43.9
11	Dinhata - II	244066	106859	43.78	126663	55811	44.06	117403	51048	43.48
12	Cooch Behar - I	326558	129873	39.77	168185	67239	39.98	158373	62634	39.55
Total Rural Population		2636608	1378455	52.28	1359471	710400	52.26	1277137	668055	52.31

Source: District Census Hand Book of Koch Bihar, 2011

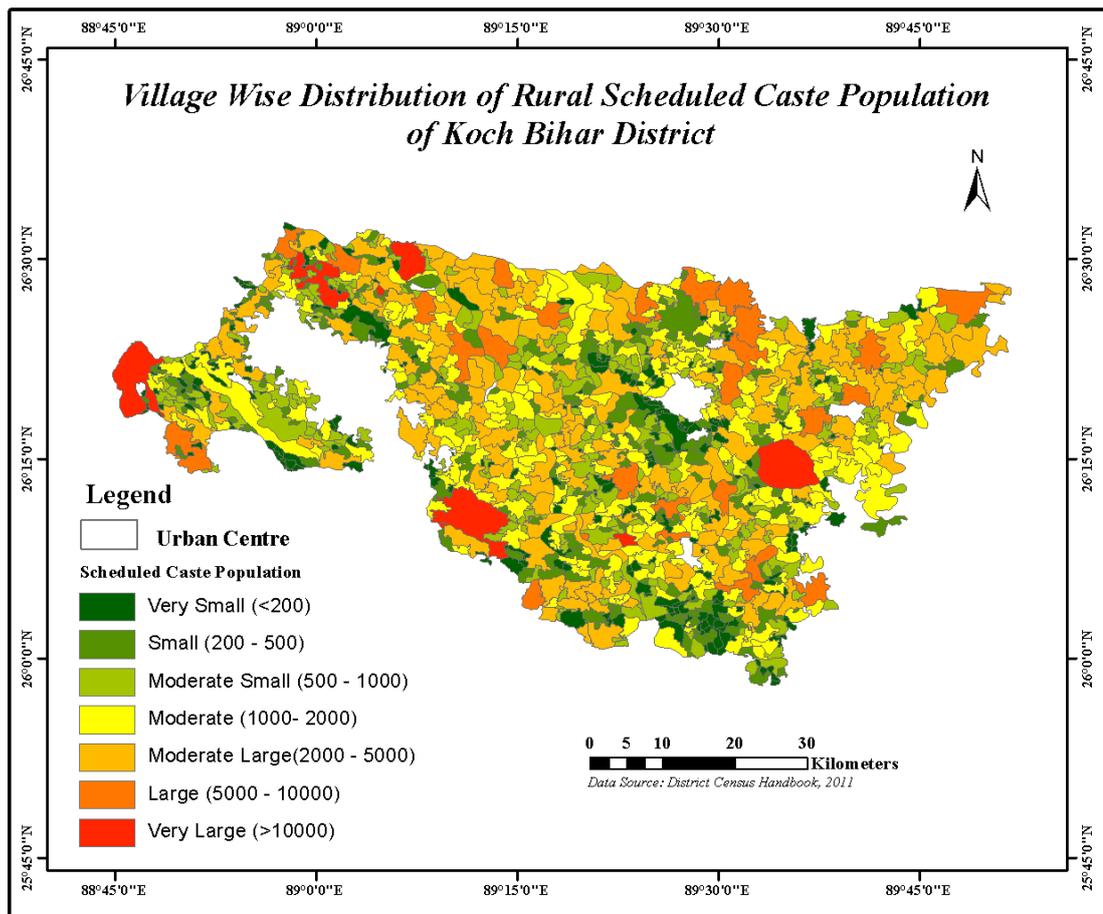
The above table 5.4 shows the block wise distribution of Scheduled Caste population to total block population and the distribution of male and female percentage of Scheduled Caste population. From the table it is observed that the highest Scheduled Caste population is found in Mekhliganj i.e. 71.24 percent out of total block population followed by Mathabhanga I (68.77 percent), Sitai (66.09 percent) and Mathabhanga II (64.92). The lowest Scheduled Caste population is observed in Cooch Behar I block i.e. 39.77 out of total block population followed by Dinhata II (43.78 percent), Dinhata II (43.97 percent) and Cooch Behar II (44.97 percent).

The percentage shares of Scheduled Caste male and female are almost similar to the total and Scheduled Caste population block wise. Highest Scheduled Caste male and female population is found in Mekhliganj block in respect of total male and female population of the block and the lowest Scheduled Caste male and female population is found in Cooch Behar I. 52.28 percent of the rural population out of total rural population of the district is Scheduled Caste.



Map 5.4: Concentration of Rural Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar district

The map 5.4 shows the concentration of Rural Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar District. The map is prepared on the basis of percentage share of Scheduled Caste population to total population and based on quartile method. The entire district divided in to 4 quartile classes. These are high concentration zone of more than 67 per cent Scheduled Caste population. Dinhata II, Sitalkuchi blocks fall under this zone. Dinhata I and Tufanganj I blocks fall under the moderate high concentration (56 to 67 percent) zone of Scheduled Caste population and the lowest concentration of Scheduled Caste (<45 percent) of population is shown in Mathabhanga I, Mathabhanga II, Haldibari and Sitai block. The most of the Scheduled Caste population of the district belong to Rajbanshi community, nearly 70 percent as per the census of 2011. The Rajbanshi's are called "Deshi" in local language means they are the aboriginal resident of this region (Hunter, 1877). Their main occupations are agriculture and fishing and these people are mainly lived in the rural areas. So this is the reason behind the huge concentration of Scheduled Caste population in these blocks. These are the backward blocks and far from the district capital.



Map 5.5: Village wise distribution of Rural Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar district

The map 5.5 shows the size of village of Koch Bihar District on the basis of Rural Scheduled Caste Population. The map is prepared on the basis of census village classification to observe the size wise distribution of the villages of Scheduled Caste population. Here seven categories of villages have been observed, these are very small village of less than 200 people. Out of 1132 inhabited villages 35 have no Scheduled Caste population. 219 villages have been found in the very small category which is 19.34 percent of the entire villages of the district. 243 Small villages with the population 200 to 500 have been found which covers 21.47 percent of the total villages. Out of the total villages, 247 moderate small villages (500 to 1000 people) have been found which cover 21.82 percent village of the district. 222 Moderate villages with the population 1000 to 2000 are found which is 19.61 percent of the total villages. 14.66 percent villages goes to moderate large village (2000 to 5000 populations). Number of the Large villages with 5000 to 10000 population are 30, its share is only 2.65 percent and rest are the Very large village, these village are few in number which is only 5 villages out of the total village of the district. Maradanga, Sitalkuchi and Baro Haldibari, Upanchalguri and phulbari are the

examples of very large village of more than 10000 Scheduled Caste populations. From the map it is clear that the size of the Scheduled Caste villages are not concentrated in one block rather its evenly distributed all over the district.

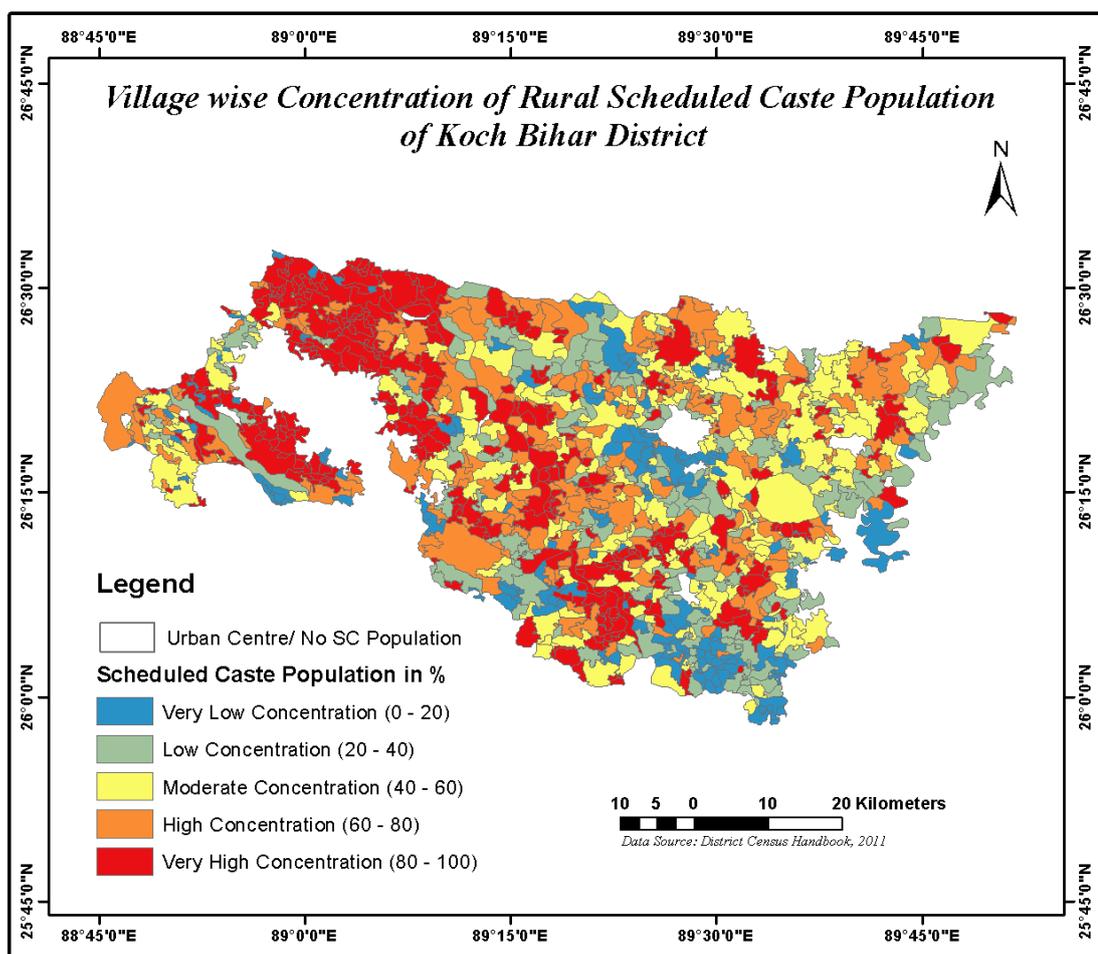
Table 5.5 Village wise distribution of Rural Scheduled Caste Population of Koch Bihar District

Blocks	Class (% of SC Pop.)	0-20	20-40	40-60	60-80	80-100	Total
Haldibari	No. Village	7	4	15	16	15	57
	Percentage	12.28	7.02	26.32	28.07	26.32	100.00
Mekhliganj	No. Village	11	12	9	24	81	137
	Percentage	8.03	8.76	6.57	17.52	59.12	100.00
Mathabhanga I	No. Village	6	12	13	17	53	101
	Percentage	5.94	11.88	12.87	16.83	52.48	100.00
Mathabhanga II	No. Village	3	12	15	25	37	92
	Percentage	3.26	13.04	16.30	27.17	40.22	100.00
Cooch Behar I	No. Village	31	27	30	32	22	142
	Percentage	21.83	19.01	21.13	22.54	15.49	100.00
Cooch Behar II	No. Village	14	25	28	34	10	111
	Percentage	12.61	22.52	25.23	30.63	9.01	100.00
Tufanganj I	No. Village	5	14	27	13	13	72
	Percentage	6.94	19.44	37.50	18.06	18.06	100.00
Tufanganj II	No. Village	4	11	12	12	14	53
	Percentage	7.55	20.75	22.64	22.64	26.42	100.00
Dinhata I	No. Village	32	26	27	16	27	128
	Percentage	25.00	20.31	21.09	12.50	21.09	100.00
Dinhata II	No. Village	33	27	23	15	21	119
	Percentage	27.73	22.69	19.33	12.61	17.65	100.00
Sitai	No. Village	6	2	11	7	27	53
	Percentage	11.32	3.77	20.75	13.21	50.94	100.00
Sitalkuchi	No. Village	15	11	10	20	11	67
	Percentage	22.39	16.42	14.93	29.85	16.42	100.00
Total District	No. Village	167	183	220	231	331	1132
	percentage	14.75	16.17	19.43	20.41	29.24	100.00

Source: District Census Hand Book of Koch Bihar, 2011

The table 5.5 shows the village and block wise distribution of percentage of Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar district. From the table it is clear that Mekhliganj block has the highest percentage villages i.e. 59.12 having 80-100 percent class of Scheduled Caste people which is found in the 81 village out of the 137 village of the block followed by Mathabhanga I (52.48 percent) and Sitai block (50.94 percent). Cooch Behar II block has the lowest percentage share i.e.9.01 of this class group of Scheduled Caste population

on the other hand it is the highest in the 60-80 percent class group and Dinhata I (12.50 percent) has the lowest percentage of population at this group. 40-60 class group Tufanganj I has the highest number of village i.e. 37.50 percent and Mekhliganj has the lowest percentage of village which is only 6.57 percent. In 20-40 class groups Dinhata II (22.69 percent) is highest and Sitai (3.77 percent) is lowest. In less than 20 percent class group of Scheduled Caste population Dinhata II block has the highest number of village which is 33 (27.73 percent) out of 119 villages and Mathabhanga II has the lowest number of villages i.e. 3 (3.26 percent) out of 92 villages of the block.



Map 5.6: Village wise concentration of Rural Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar District.

The map 5.6 shows the villages with concentration of Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar district. All the village of the district are classified in five categories. These are very low concentration of population with less than 20 percent Scheduled Caste population. Total 167 villages fall under this category out of the 1132 villages, comprising 14.75 percent. Villages with 20 to 40 percent Scheduled Caste population fall in low

concentration zone. Total 183 villages are under this category which consists of 16.17 percent. Moderate concentration zone means where the Scheduled Caste population is in between 40 to 60 percent. 220 villages belong to this category which consists of 19.43 percent. Total 231 villages are found under the high concentration zone with 60 to 80 percent Scheduled Caste population, consists 20.41 percent of the total district and rest 29.24 percent of the villages fall in very high concentration zone which is the maximum out of the five categories. It means the numbers of the villages with 80 to 100 percent Scheduled Caste population is highest in the district, the total number is 331. Most of the villages are concentrated in Mathabhanga I, Mekhliganj and Sitai blocks and the study shows the Rajbanshi community is predominated in this block as they are mostly depend on agriculture and this region is suitable for cultivation throughout the year.

5.4 Density distribution of Rural Population

From the table 5.6, it is observed that the block wise density of population. The rural population density of the district is 775 persons per sq. km. The table reveals that the highest density of population is observed in Dinhata I block (1024 persons per sq.km.) followed by Dinhata II (988 persons per sq.km.), Cooch Behar I (904 persons per sq.km.) and Cooch Behar II (892 persons per sq.km.). The lowest population density is observed in Mekhliganj (514 persons per sq.km.) followed by Haldibari (682 persons per sq.km.), Mathabhanga I (683 persons per sq.km.), and Sitai (686 persons per sq.km.).

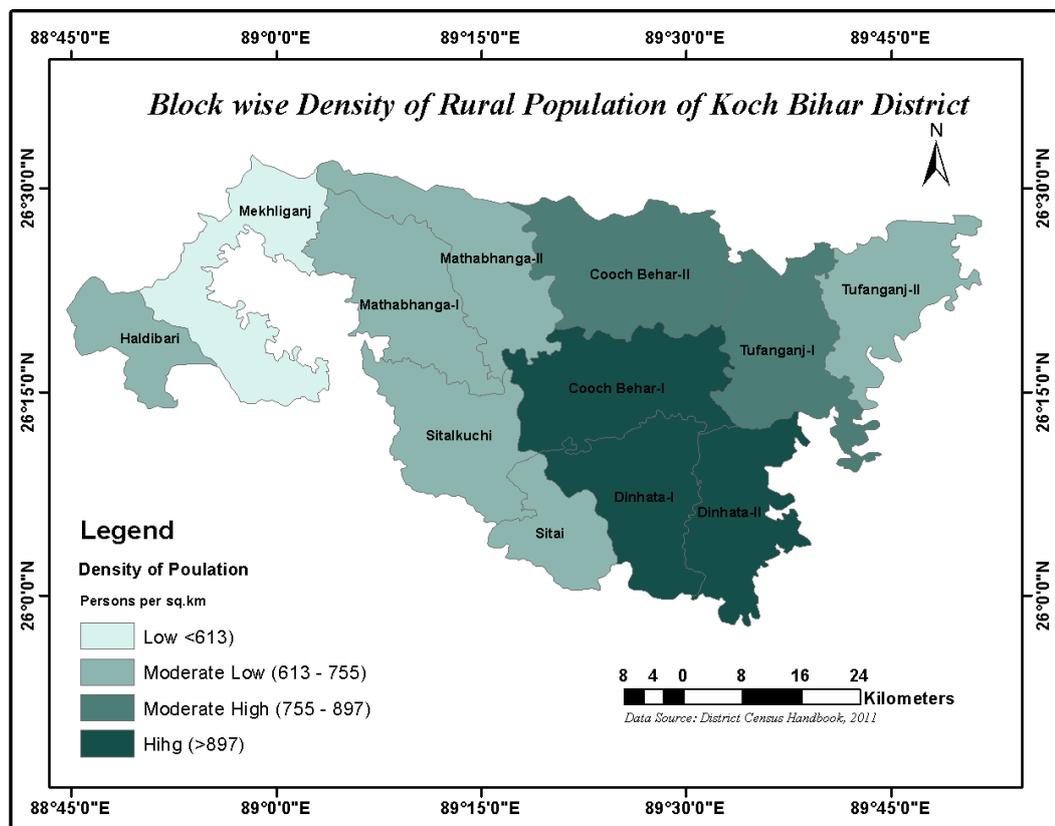
Table 5.6 Block wise distribution of density of Rural Population of Koch Bihar District

Sl. No.	Blocks	Population Density (Person/sq.km.)
1	Haldibari	682
2	Mekhliganj	514
3	Mathabhanga - I	683
4	Mathabhanga - II	734
5	Cooch Behar - I	904
6	Cooch Behar - II	892
7	Tufanganj - I	784
8	Tufanganj - II	703
9	Dinhata - I	1024
10	Dinhata - II	988
11	Sitai	686
12	Sitalkuchi	706
	Koch Bihar	832

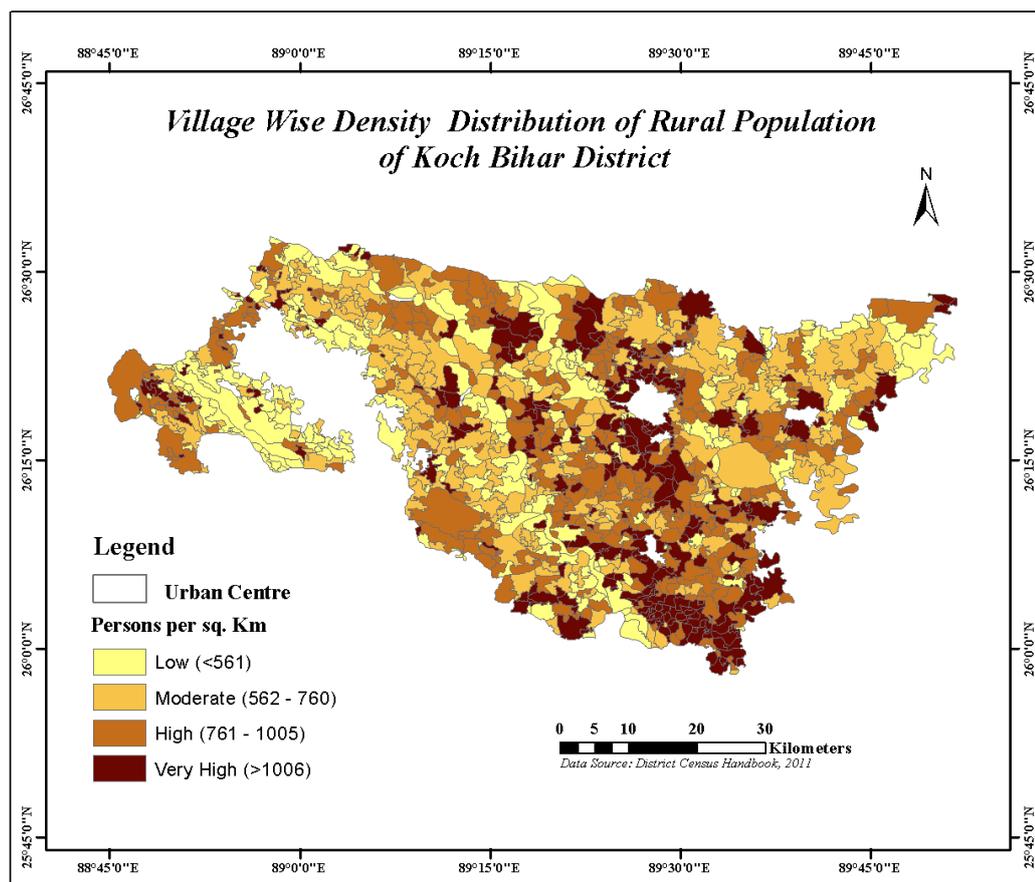
Source: District Census Hand Book of Koch Bihar, 2011

The map 5.7 is prepared on the basis of the mean and standard deviation method. The average rural population density of the district is 755 persons per sq. km. which higher

than the national population density (382 persons per sq. km.) but lower than the state average population density i.e. 1104 persons per sq. km. The population density of all the blocks of the district is below the state average. But on the basis of the district average the district is divides in four density zone. The density of population below 613 persons per sq. km. is considered as the low density zone. Mekhliganj block is under this category. Moderate low (613-755 persons per sq. km.) density is observed in 6 blocks, these are Haldibari, Mathabhanga-I, Mathabhanga-II, Sitalkuchi, Sitai and Tufanganj-II. It comprises 34.04 percent of the total population and 43.74 percent of the total area of the district. Cooch Behar-II and Tufanganj-I blocks fall under the moderate high (755-897 persons per sq.km.) population density. High population density (897 person per sq.km) has been observed in the three blocks namely Cooch Behar-I, Dinhata-I and Dinhata-II which covers 26.40 percent of the total area and 30.39 percent of the total population of the district. These are nearer to the two most important and large town of the district. Because of job opportunities and better education and health facilities the population and density of population both are high in these blocks.



Map 5.7: Block wise density distribution of Rural Population of Koch Bihar district



Map 5.8: Village wise density distribution of Rural Population of Koch Bihar district

The map 5.8 is prepared on the basis of the quartile class of the village wise density of population. Low population density zone comprises less than 561 persons per sq. km. Total 266 villages are under this category which is the 23.49 percent village of the entire district. Moderate density zone is considered if the density of population varies in between 562 to 760 persons per sq.km. 286 villages are under this category and it comprises 25.27 percent of the villages. The population density in between 761 to 1005 persons per sq. km. is considered as the high density zone. Under this zone 286 village's fall, this is 25.27 percent of the total villages. The very high density means the density is more than 1006 persons per sq.km. Total 294 villages fall under this category. It comprises 25.97 percent of the total villages of the districts.

5.5 Sex Ratio

Sex Ratio is one of the most important demographic character which helps to know the survival relative female population per number of male. If the proportion is same then it is normal otherwise it create imbalance in the society. The table 5.7 shows the block wise comparison of sex ratio (overall), Scheduled Caste population and Scheduled Tribe sex

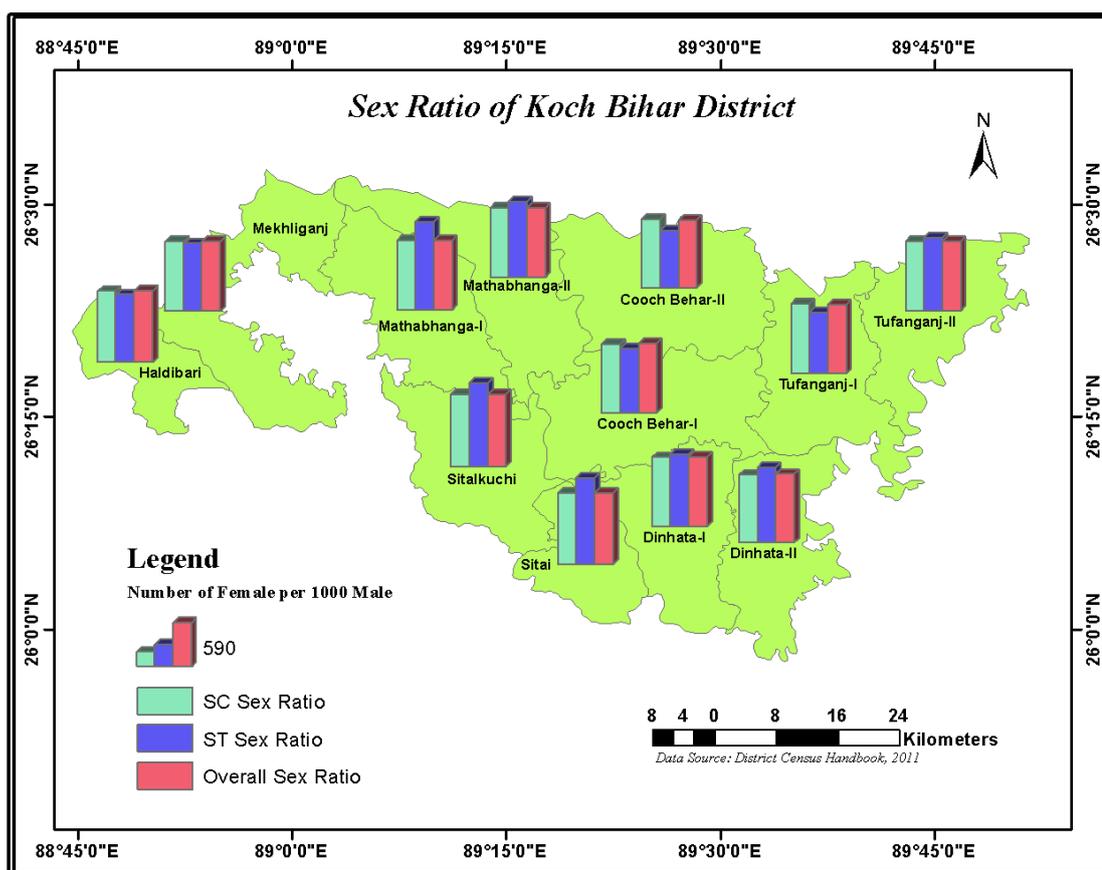
ratio of Koch Bihar district. From the table it is observed that Sitai block has the highest sex ratio i.e. 970 of the district which is higher than the National (940), State (947) and District (942) average sex ratio and followed by Haldibari and Sitalkuchi i.e. 967 and 966 respectively.

Table 5.7 Block wise distribution of Sex Ratio Koch Bihar district

Sl. No.	Blocks	Sex Ratio of total population	Sex Ratio of SC population	Sex Ratio of ST population
1	Haldibari	967	956	909
2	Mekhliganj	939	936	908
3	Mathabhanga - I	940	940	1188
4	Mathabhanga - II	942	944	1022
5	Cooch Behar - I	942	932	868
6	Cooch Behar - II	915	929	767
7	Tufanganj - I	936	940	824
8	Tufanganj - II	941	943	989
9	Dinhata - I	939	937	975
10	Dinhata - II	927	915	1015
11	Sitai	970	970	1172
12	Sitalkuchi	966	968	1123

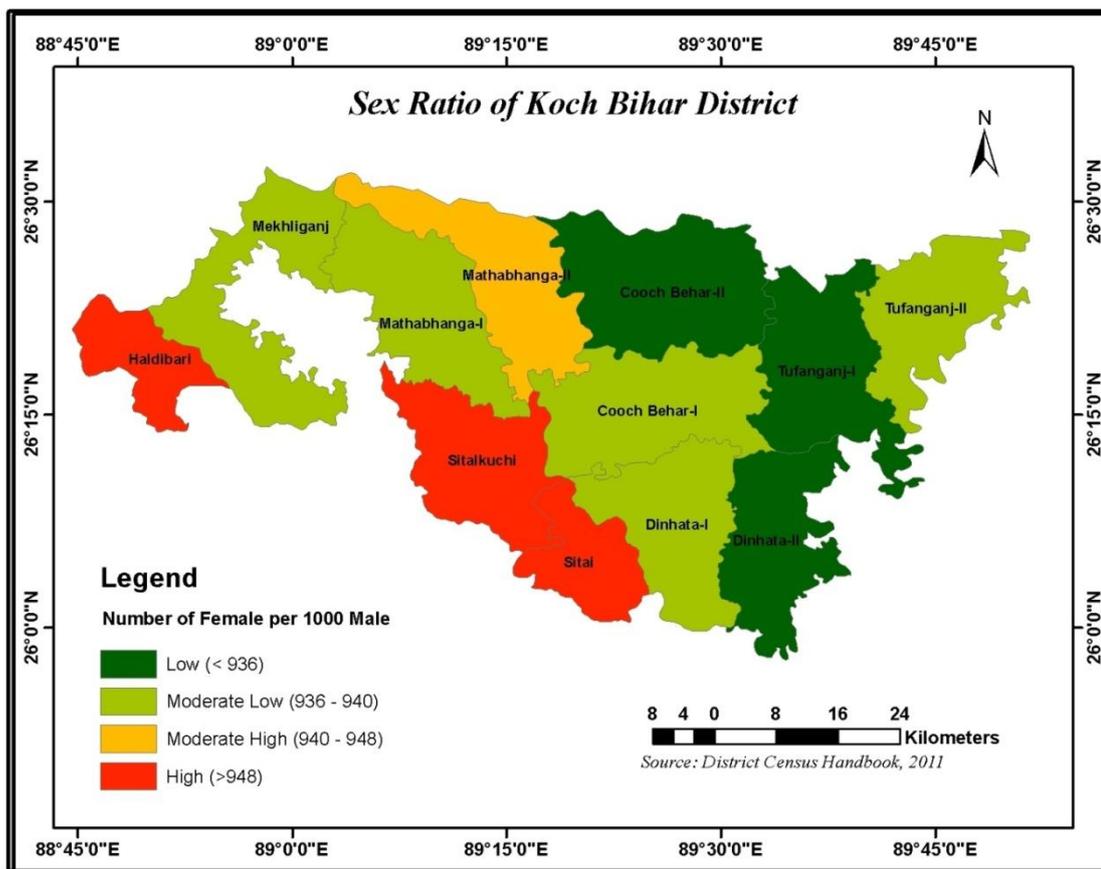
Source: District Census Hand Book of Koch Bihar, 2011

The lowest sex ratio is observed in Cooch Behar II block i.e. 915 although this block has the high literacy rate and high work participation but sex ratio is so less. The main reason behind this is the migration, only three blocks Haldibari, Sitalkuchi and Sitai block have more than national and state average and five blocks have sex ratio above district average. This block is nearer to the district capital so a huge number of male migrate to this block, hence it changes the demographic composition, mostly it change the sex ratio of the block. Because of the same reason sex ratio is high in the backward blocks. The highest Scheduled Caste sex ratio is 970 female per 1000 male observed in Sitai block followed by Sitalkuchi and Haldibari 968 and 956 respectively and lowest Scheduled Caste sex ratio is 915 observed in Dinhata II followed by Cooch Behar II and Cooch Behar I i.e. 929 and 932 respectively. In case of Scheduled Caste population five blocks have sex ratio above the national and district average which is similar to the overall population but in case of Scheduled Tribe seven blocks have more sex ratio than the national, state and district average, the highest sex ratio is found in Mathabhanga-I block which is 1188 female per 1000 male followed by Sitai (1172), Sitalkuchi (1123) and Mathabhanga-II (1022). The lowest Scheduled Tribe sex ratio is found in Cooch Behar-I which is 767 female per 1000 male followed by Tufanganj-I and Cooch Behar-I 824 and 864 respectively. The block wise variation of Scheduled Tribe sex ratio is very high.



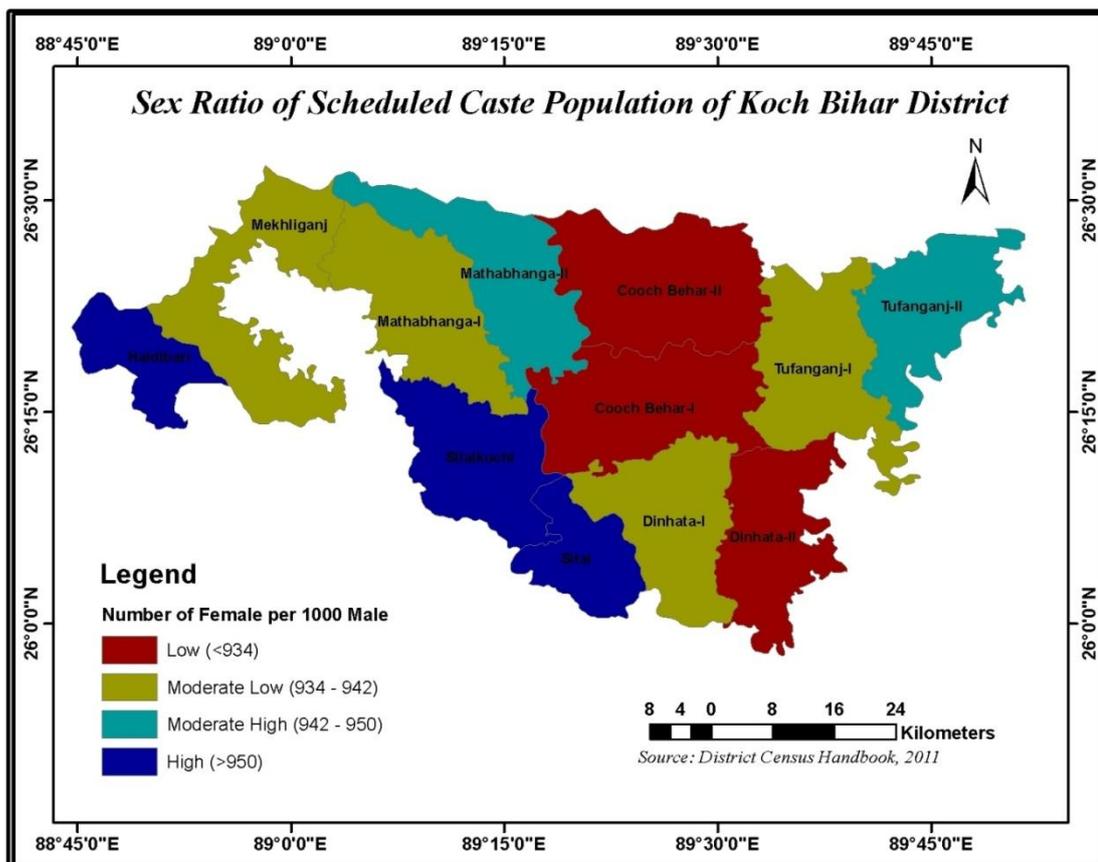
Map 5.9: Category wise sex ratio of Koch Bihar district

The map 5.9 is the graphical representation of the block wise sex ratio of three different categories. These are overall sex ratio means it includes every category and sex ratio of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. It is observed from the map that sex ratio of Scheduled Tribe is higher than the Scheduled Caste and overall sex ratio among the seven blocks out of the twelve blocks. These are Mathabhanga-I, Sitai, Sitalkuchi, Mathabhanga-II, and Dinhata-II. The Scheduled Caste sex ratio is higher than the Scheduled Tribe and overall sex ratio only in two blocks namely Tufanganj-I and Cooch Behar-II. Haldibari, Cooch Behar-I and Mekhliganj blocks have the higher overall sex ratio than the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. Overall and Scheduled Caste sex ratio is almost similar in every block but there is a huge variation of the Scheduled Tribe sex ratio with these two categories.



Map 5.10: Block wise Distribution of Sex ratio of Koch Bihar district

The map 5.10 shows the spatial distribution of sex ratio of Koch Bihar district. The map is drawn based on the quartile classes and national average of sex ratio. The national average of sex ratio is 940 female per 1000 male and state average is 947 female per 1000 male. The entire district is divided in four sex ratio zone. These are low sex ratio zone with sex ratio less than 936, Cooch Behar II, Tufanganj I and Dinhata II is fall under this category. This zone covers 28.23 percent area and 29.68 percent population of the district. The five blocks namely Mekhliganj, Mathabhanga I, Cooch Behar II, Dinhata I and Tufanganj II fall under moderate sex ratio zone (936-940). It covers 46.16 percent area and 42.22 percent population of the district. These two zones are below the national average. The zone with the sex ratio of 940-948 is considered as moderate high zone. Only Mathabhanga II block is under this zone. Other there blocks, Haldibari, Sitalkuchi and Sitai fall under high sex ratio zone (>948). It covers 17.12 percent area and 14.17 percent population of the district. These two zones are above the national average and high sex ratio zone is also above the state average.



Map 5.11: Block wise distribution of Sex ratio of Scheduled Caste population in Koch Bihar district

The map 5.11 reveals the spatial distribution of sex ratio of Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar district. The map is drawn based on the quartile classes and national average of sex ratio. The district average of Scheduled Caste sex ratio is 942 female per 1000 male. The entire district is divided in four Scheduled Caste sex ratio zones. These are low sex ratio zone with sex ratio less than 934, Cooch Behar I, Cooch Behar II, and Dinhat II fall under this category. This zone covers 29.54 percent of the area and 32.44 percent of the population of the district. The four blocks namely Mekhliganj, Mathabhanga I, Dinhat I and Tufanganj I fall under moderate sex ratio zone (934-942). It covers 36.23 percent area and 32.22 percent population of the district. These two zones are below the national average and other two zones are above the national average and district average. The zone with the sex ratio of 942-950 is considered as moderate high zone. Mathabhanga II and Tufanganj II blocks are under this zone. Other there blocks, Haldibari, Sitalkuchi and Sitai fall under high sex ratio zone (>950). This zone is also above the state average of sex ratio. It covers 17.12 percent area and 14.17 percent population of the district.

5.5.1 Child Sex Ratio

Table 5.8 Block wise distribution of Sex ratio in the age group 0-6, 2011

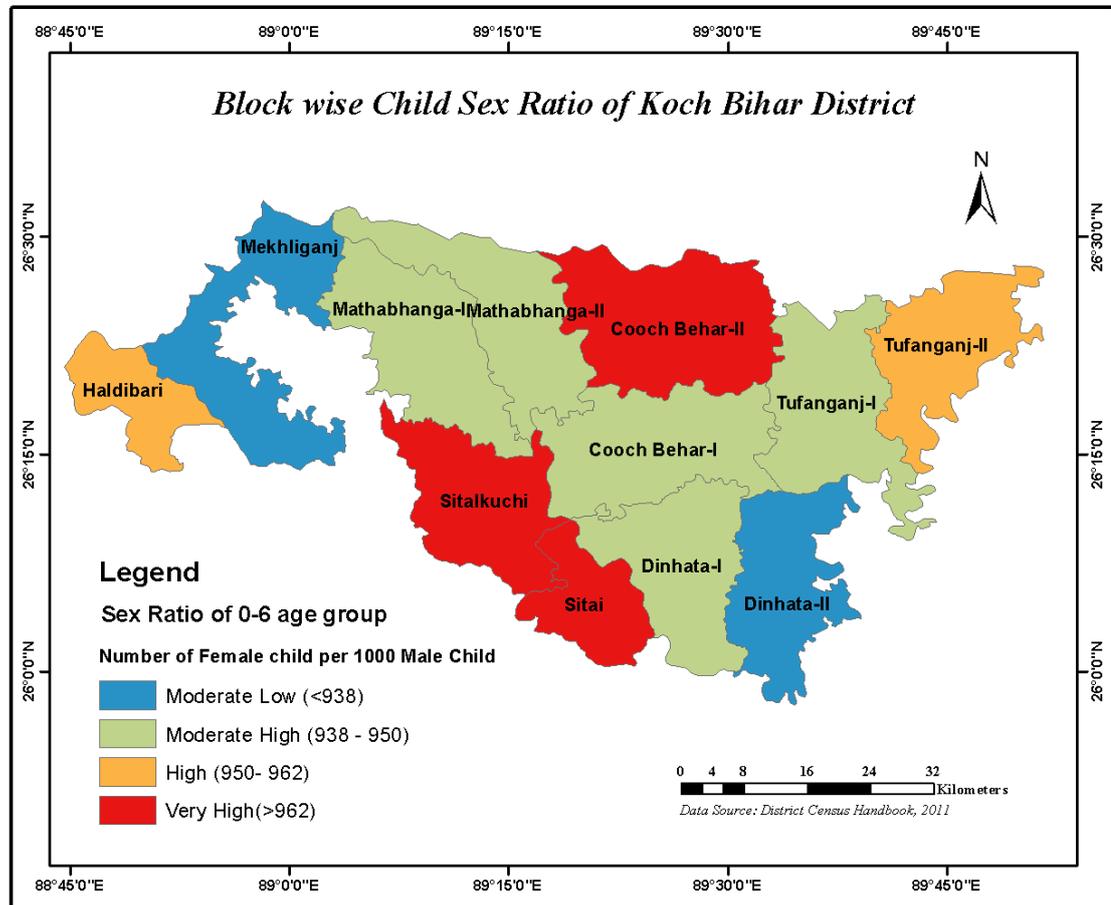
Sl.No.	Name of CD Block	Sex ratio for 0-6 age group
1	Haldibari	961
2	Mekhliganj	930
3	Mathabhanga - I	946
4	Mathabhanga - II	939
5	Cooch Behar - I	942
6	Cooch Behar - II	966
7	Tufanganj - I	940
8	Tufanganj - II	960
9	Dinhata - I	949
10	Dinhata - II	936
11	Sitai	967
12	Sitalkuchi	964
	Koch Bihar	949

Source: District Census Hand Book of Koch Bihar, 2011

The child sex ratio is similar to the adult sex ratio but here a specific age group (0-6) has been observed. As per 2011 census the child sex ratio of India is 914 per 1000 male and in 2001 it was 927. So it shows that the child sex ratio has decline which means in future there will be male female imbalance in the society. Although the sex is a biological matter but in some part of the country the child sex ratio has declined due to gender biased sex selection with the help of modern technology which is the main concern (Parikh & Mehta, 2018). The table 5.8 shows the block wise child sex ratio of 0-6 year age group population of Koch Bihar district. From the table it is observed that the highest child sex ratio is 967 female per 1000 male found in Sitai block which is higher than the National average (914) and State average (950) followed by Cooch Behar II (966), Sitalkuchi (964) and Haldibari (961). The Child sex ratio of these three blocks also higher than the National and State average even in all the blocks the child sex ratio is higher than the National average but only five block out of twelve block's child sex ratio is higher than the state average. The lowest child sex ratio is observed in Mekhliganj (930) block followed by Dinhata II (936), Mathabhanga II (939) and Tufanganj I (940).

The map 5.12 shows that the very high child sex ratio has been found in three blocks namely, Cooch Behar II, Sitalkuchi and Sitai block and high child sex ration has

been shown in the blocks Haldibari and Tufanganj II. The moderate high child sex ratio is observed in the five blocks. Dinhata II and Mekhliganj block has the moderate low child sex ratio.



Map 5.12: Block wise distribution of Child sex ratio of Koch Bihar district

5.6 Respondents details

The table 5.9 shows the block wise distribution of the respondents of Koch Bihar district. The total number of the respondent in the study is 540 which have been selected randomly from the 12 blocks of the district based on stratified sampling method. Out of the 12 blocks Cooch Behar-I has the highest number of respondents i.e. 62 which is the 11.5 percent of the total respondents followed by Mekhliganj block 60 i.e. 11.10 percent and Dinhata-I block 10.40 percent. The lowest number of respondents have been selected from Sitai block i.e. 29 which is 5.4 percent of the total respondents followed by Haldibari and Sitalkuchi block 30 and 33 household respectively. The respondents have been selected based on the percentage of the total Scheduled Caste household of the district.

Table 5.9 Block wise distribution of the respondents.

Blocks	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Haldibari	30	5.6	5.6
Mekhliganj	60	11.1	16.7
Mathabhanga-I	42	7.8	24.4
Mathabhanga-II	50	9.3	33.7
Cooch Behar-I	62	11.5	45.2
Cooch Behar-II	50	9.3	54.4
Tufanganj-I	41	7.6	62.0
Tufanganj-II	36	6.7	68.7
Dinhata-I	56	10.4	79.1
Dinhata-II	51	9.4	88.5
Sitai	29	5.4	93.9
Sitalkuchi	33	6.1	100.0
Total	540	100.0	

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

Table 5.10 Block wise distribution of the total surveyed population of the respondent's family.

Blocks		Sex		Total
		Male	Female	
Haldibari	Count	64	81	145
	%	44.1%	55.9%	100.0%
Mekhliganj	Count	131	142	273
	%	48.0%	52.0%	100.0%
Mathabhanga I	Count	94	104	198
	%	47.5%	52.5%	100.0%
Mathabhanga II	Count	93	115	208
	%	44.7%	55.3%	100.0%
Cooch Behar I	Count	131	143	274
	%	47.8%	52.2%	100.0%
Cooch Behar II	Count	112	111	223
	%	50.2%	49.8%	100.0%
Tufanganj I	Count	100	99	199
	%	50.3%	49.7%	100.0%
Tufanganj II	Count	80	82	162
	%	49.4%	50.6%	100.0%
Dinhata I	Count	120	146	266
	%	45.1%	54.9%	100.0%
Dinhata II	Count	115	118	233
	%	49.4%	50.6%	100.0%
Sitai	Count	64	70	134
	%	47.8%	52.2%	100.0%
Sitalkuchi	Count	68	89	157
	%	43.3%	56.7%	100.0%
Total	Count	1172	1300	2472
	%	47.4%	52.6%	100.0%

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The table 5.10 shows the block wise distribution of the total population out of the 540 respondents' household. The total population is 2472 which shows the average family size of the respondents is more than 4 members in a family. Out of the total 2472 people 1172 (47.40 percent) are male and 1300 are female which is 52.60 percent of the total population of the district.. It indicate the female population of the respondents' household is higher than male and the overall sex ratio of the population is 1109 which is very high than the state and national average. Except Cooch Behar I and Cooch Behar II blocks all the other blocks have high female population than the male among them highest Sitalkuchi has the highest percentage of female population (56.70 percent) followed by Haldibari (55.90 percent) and Mathabhanga II (55.30 percent).

Table 5.11 Sub caste wise distribution of the total surveyed Scheduled Caste population of the district.

Sub Caste		Sex		Total
		Male	Female	
Rajbanshi	Count	781	860	1641
	%	47.6%	52.4%	100.0%
Namasudra	Count	249	286	535
	%	46.5%	53.5%	100.0%
Jaliakaibartta	Count	105	112	217
	%	48.4%	51.6%	100.0%
Dhopa	Count	13	16	29
	%	44.8%	55.2%	100.0%
Rabidas	Count	10	14	24
	%	41.7%	58.3%	100.0%
Jhalomalo	Count	14	12	26
	%	53.8%	46.2%	100.0%
Total	Count	1172	1300	2472
	%	47.4%	52.6%	100.0%

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The table 5.11 shows the sub caste wise distribution of the total Scheduled Caste surveyed population of the district. From the table it is observed that 66.38 percent (1641 persons) of the people are Rajbanshi out of the total population among them 47.6 percent male and 52.40 percent female. 21.64 percent of the people out of the total population are from Namasudra community among them 46.50 percent male and 53.50 percent are female. Jaliakaibartta is the third largest Scheduled Caste community of the district with the 8.78 percent population share. Other three Scheduled Caste communities like Dhopa, Rabidas and Jhalomalo are less as compare to the other three communities. Except in the Jhalomalo community among all the other community the females ate more than the male.

The table 5.12 shows the sub caste distribution of the respondents of the twelve blocks of Koch Bihar district. During the field study it has been found that there are six Scheduled Caste communities. These six communities are the major Scheduled Caste community of the district. Among them most of them are **Rajbanshi**. It is very difficult to differentiate between Rajbanshi and Koch Rajbanshi. Earlier they are called Koch or Koch Kshatriyas (Census, 1951) but presently they are called Koch Rajbanshi or claimed as Rajbanshi. So with the passes of time the Koch population has decreased and Rajbanshi Population has increased. The Koch, Rajbanshi and Paliyas are actually from the same ethnic group (Census, 1951). The Rajbanshi's are mainly found in North Bengal, western Assam, Eastern Nepal and Northern part of East Pakistan presently Bangladesh (Census, 1951). Rajbanshi is the most predominated Scheduled Caste community of West Bengal as well as in Koch Bihar district.

Table 5.12 Sub Case wise distribution of the respondents.

Block	Rajbanshi	Namasudr ^a	Jaliakaiba rtta	Dhopa	Rabidas	Jhalomalo
Haldibari	6.60	3.50	2.10	0.00	0.00	20.00
Mekhliganj	12.20	9.60	8.30	0.00	20.00	0.00
Mathabhanga-I	8.60	6.10	6.20	16.70	0.00	0.00
Mathabhanga-II	10.50	6.10	6.20	16.70	20.00	0.00
Cooch Behar-I	11.60	9.60	16.70	16.70	0.00	0.00
Cooch Behar-II	8.90	5.20	20.80	16.70	20.00	0.00
Tufanganj-I	5.00	10.40	18.80	16.70	0.00	20.00
Tufanganj-II	5.00	13.00	4.20	0.00	0.00	20.00
Dinhata-I	10.50	13.90	0.00	0.00	40.00	0.00
Dinhata-II	9.40	8.70	10.40	0.00	0.00	40.00
Sitai	5.80	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sitalkuchi	5.80	7.00	6.20	16.70	0.00	0.00
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

They comprise more than 75 percent of the entire Scheduled Caste community of the district as per 2011 census. Similarly in the field study most of the respondents are Rajbanshi i.e. 66.85 percent. In case of block wise distribution the proportion of Rajbanshi are high in every block. The main occupation of the Rajbanshi's is cultivation. As the district is suitable for cultivation so the Rajbanshi people are found in entire district. **Namasudra** is the second largest Scheduled Caste community in West Bengal and as well as in Koch Bihar district. Namasudra are basically lower grade Sudra. Even they are bound to show respect to the Sudras. Earlier they are called as Chandala or Dome. The main occupation of the Chandala is burning the death body as per Hindu religion (Mandal, 2017). But presently Namasudra's are engaged in agricultural activities such as cultivator

or agricultural labour. As per 2011 census 12.61 percent of the Scheduled Caste people belong to Namasudra community in the District and from the field survey it is observed 21.30 percent of the respondents are Namasudra. The Namasudra are mainly found in West Bengal, lower part of Assam and Bangladesh (Mandal, 2017). **Jaliakaibartta** is one of the dominated Scheduled Caste communities in the District. These people are mainly live in North Eastern India and East Pakistan (Bangladesh). The main occupations of these people are fishing. They mainly depend on the fresh water fishing (Census, 1950). But presently the Jaliakaibartta people are also engaged in the agricultural activities, as a cultivator or agricultural labour which is observed during the field survey too. The main reason behind the change of their occupation is reduction in the wet land and water body. The present study shows that 8.89 percent of the respondents belong to Jaliakaibartta community. **Dhopa**, Dhoba or Dhobi are the same community called in different name among the different linguistic group people in India. This community is observed in all over the country and some South Asian Countries like, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, and Vietnam etc. In West Bengal, Assam and Bangladesh this community is called as Dhopa. Dhopa community are the 5th largest Scheduled Caste community in Koch Bihar district with 0.69 percentages as per 2011 census. In the study area 1.11 percent of the respondents are found of this community. The main occupation of this community is cloths washing and presently most of them are doing their traditional work although few of them are engaged in other work like Government Job and Business etc which has been observed during field survey. **Rabidas**, Chamar, and Muchi are the most common Scheduled Caste communities in the District. It is very difficult of identify the difference between these communities. So the census of India merges these castes together. The Muchi community are generally belongs to West Bengal but Chamar community are migrated from Bihar (Census, 1951). In the study area the Chamar use their sub caste as Rabidas. The main occupation of these community people are leather work. In Koch Bihar district the percentage of this community are low as per 2011 census it is only 0.52 percent in the district. 0.93 percent of the respondents is found during the field survey and is found in 5 blocks out of 12 blocks of the District. **Jhalomalo** and Malo is the 4th largest Scheduled Caste community in Koch Bihar district as per 2011 census with 1.34 percent share of Scheduled Caste population of the district. The main occupation of the Jhalomalo is fishing but earlier mainly the malo community were engaged in the gardening work in the Kings, Jamindar's Palace or in the Governor's house and some were engaged in selling the

flowers (census, 1951). Even today this community follow the same occupation. In the study 0.93 percent of the respondents are found of this community.

In the block wise distribution of the scheduled castes it is observed that the Rajbanshi community in every blocks out of them maximum percentage of Rajbanshi respondent in Mekhliganj block (12.20 percent) followed by Cooch Behar I (11.60 percent) and Mathabhanga II (10.50 percent) as these blocks are suitable for the cultivation and the main occupation of the Rajbanshi and Namasudra is cultivation and this region is slightly higher than the other blocks so they can easily cultivate throughout the year. The lowest is found in Tufanganj I and Tufanganj II block with 5.00 percent of share as these block elevation is lower and most of the time the land is water logged and there is a lot of bill or jhilis which give the opportunity of fishing so mainly Jaliakaibartta and Jhalomalo community people live in these block. Namasudra the second dominated Scheduled Caste in the district among them highest percentage has been observed in Dinhata II (13.90 percent) followed by the Tufanganj II (13.00 percent) and Tufanganj I (10.40 percent). Maximum percentage of Jaliakaibartta respondents have been found in Cooch Behar II (20.80 percent) and other three Scheduled Caste community are equally distributed among the blocks but these communities did not found in every block.

5.7 Age Structure and age sex composition

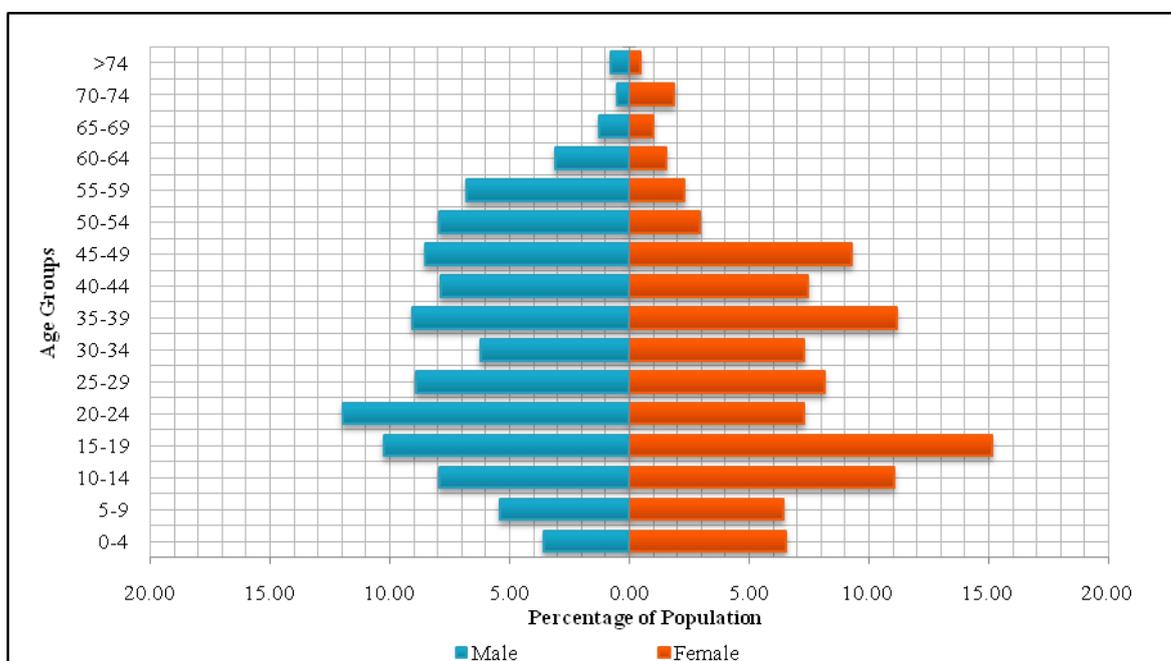
Table 5.13 Age structure of the total surveyed Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar District

Age Groups	Total	Male	Female
0-4	127	42	85
5-9	147	63	84
10-14	237	93	144
15-19	317	120	197
20-24	235	140	95
25-29	210	104	106
30-34	168	73	95
35-39	251	106	145
40-44	189	92	97
45-49	221	100	121
50-54	131	93	38
55-59	110	80	30
60-64	56	36	20
65-69	28	15	13
70-74	30	6	24
75-79	10	4	6
80-84	3	3	0
85-89	2	2	0
Total	2472	1172	1300

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The table 5.13 shows about the age structure of the surveyed population of the rural Scheduled Caste people of Koch Bihar district. The age structure pyramid helps to understand the demography of the region. In the district 20.67 percent of the population is in between 0-14 years of age groups which is called as child population. 37.62 percent of the people belong to young age group i.e. 15-34 years and 36.51 percent of the people are belongs to middle age group (35-59 years). Rest 5.22 percent of the people are in old age (>60 years). After combining the young and middle age people, it is 74.13 percent with the age group of 15-59 years which is also known as the working population. And rest 25.67 percent of the people are dependent population which is the combination of the child and old age people. As the district has more number of young and middle age population it means the district has huge potentiality in the work force which helps to the economic growth of the district.

The figure 5.2 shows the age sex pyramid of the surveyed Scheduled Caste population of the district. From the figure it is observed that the pyramid is almost parallel in the both side from top to bottom except the 80 above population which indicates that the Scheduled Caste population is stagnant in the district or it could be said that the population growth is very low.



Data Source: District Census Hand Book of Koch Bihar, 2011

Figure 5.2: Age sex composition of the total surveyed Scheduled Caste population.

But in case sex composition it is shown that up to 0-49 years age groups female is high than the male except 20-24 age groups. Above 50 years the male number is high than

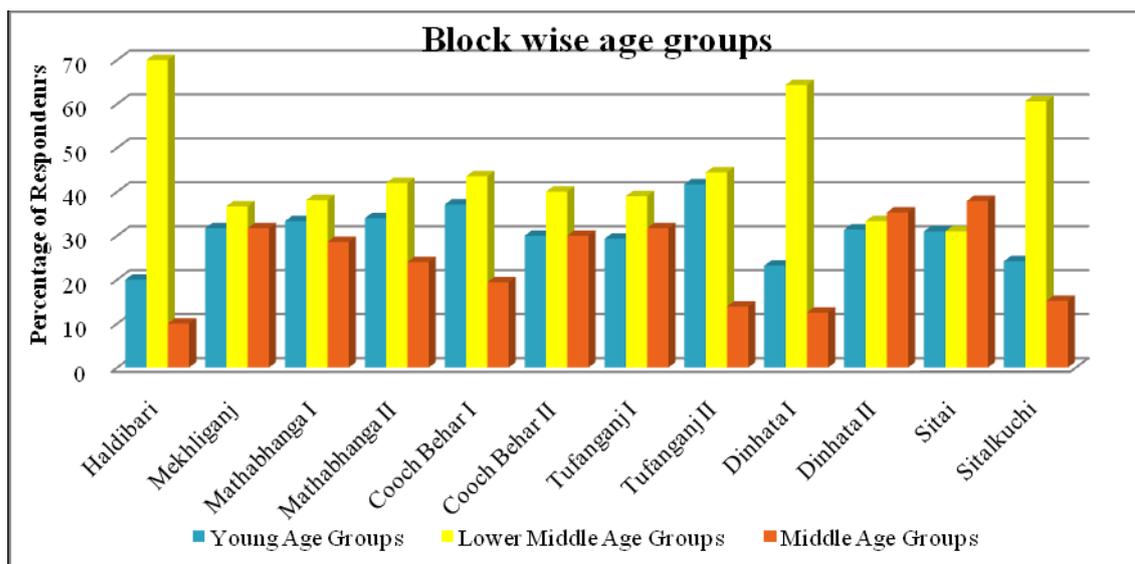
female till 64-69 years age. Again in above 70 years age groups female is high. So it shows a very complex age sex composition of the Scheduled Caste people of the district.

Table 5.14 Age groups and frequency of the Respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women).

Broad Age Groups	Age Groups (In Years)	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Young	<19	1	0.2	0.2
	20-24	11	2	2.2
	25-29	62	11.5	13.7
	30-34	93	17.2	30.9
Lower Middle	35-39	142	26.3	57.2
	40-44	99	18.3	75.6
Middle	45-49	107	19.8	95.4
	50-54	22	4.1	99.4
	55-59	3	0.6	100
	Total	540	100	

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The above table indicates the age groups of the respondent. From the table it reveals that the age of the respondents ranges from 19 to 59 years age group. Among the total respondents 26.30 percent belongs to the age group of 35-39 years which is highest followed by 45-49 years age groups and 40-44 years age groups i.e. 19.80 percent and 18.30 percent respectively. The entire age groups of the respondents are further divided into three broad age group categories as per the National Youth Policy, 2014 these are Young Age Groups (<34 years), Lower Middle Age Groups (35-44 years) and Middle Age Groups (45-59 years). In the study area there is no respondents found more than 60 years so there is no old age category. Out of the 540 respondents 167 which is 30.90 percent of the total responders belongs to young age groups and 44.60 percent of the respondents belongs to the lower middle age which is the maximum. In total of these two age groups it is 75.60 percent which also identified as the reproductive age groups. Rest 24.40 percent of the respondents belongs to the middle age groups as most of the respondents are young and lower middle age groups so most of them are actively participated in economic activities.



Data Source: District Census Hand Book of Koch Bihar, 2011

Figure 5.3: Block wise age groups of the respondents.

The figure represents the block wise age structure of the respondents. The figure shows that the out of the three categories lower middle age groups are maximum i.e. 44.60 percent among them highest percentage of the lower middle age group respondents belongs to Haldibari (70.00 percent) block followed by Dinhata I (64.30 percent) and Sitalkuchi block (60.60 percent) and lowest lower middle age group respondents has been found in Sitai block (31.00 percent). The highest young age group (<34 years) respondents have observed in Tufanganj II block (37.10 percent) followed by Cooch Behar I and Mathabhanga II block i.e. 34.00 percent and 33.3 percent respectively. The lowest percentage of the young age group respondents have been observed in Haldibari block. The middle age (45-59 years) group respondents are high in Sitai block i.e. 37.90 percent and Dinhata II block has 35.30 percent of the middle age respondents holding the 2nd position and Haldibari block has occupied the last position with 10.00 percent of the middle age respondents but it does not mean that Haldibari is the younger block in terms of population as the sample has not statistically significant.

In the study area most of the respondents (66.85 percent) belong to Rajbanshi community followed by the Namasudra (21.30 percent) and Jaliakaibartta (8.89 percent). The other communities of schedule caste people like Dhopa, Rabidas, and Jhalomalo are also found in the study area although the proportion is negligible (Table 5.15). Within the Rajbanshi community 46.50 percent belongs to lower middle age group which is maximum and 29.60 percent belongs to young age group. Rest 23.80 percent is the middle age. Among Namasudra most of the respondents are young i.e. 40.00 percent which is

highest in the young age category among all the six scheduled castes and 36.5 percent of the respondents are lower middle age category. In the Jaliakaibartta community most of respondents (47.90 percent) are in middle age group. 50.00 percent of the respondents of Dhopa community belong to middle age group which is highest among all the scheduled castes.

Table 5.15 Distribution of the respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women) based on Sub castes.

Sub Castes		Broad Age Group			Total
		Young Age	Lower Middle Age	Middle Age	
Rajbanshi	Count	107	168	86	361
	%	29.6	46.5	23.8	100.0
Namasudra	Count	46	42	27	115
	%	40.0	36.5	23.5	100.0
Jaliakaibartta	Count	10	23	15	48
	%	20.8	47.9	31.3	100.0
Dhopa	Count	2	1	3	6
	%	33.3	16.7	50.0	100.0
Rabidas	Count	1	4	0	5
	%	20.0	80.0	0.0	100.0
Jhalomalo	Count	1	3	1	5
	%	20.0	60.0	20.0	100.0
Total	Count	167	241	132	540
	%	30.9	44.6	24.4	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

5.8 Age at Marriage of the Respondents

Table 5.16 Age at marriage of the respondents.

Blocks	Age at Marriage in Percentage	
	Minor Age	Legal Age
Haldibari	23.30	76.70
Mekhliganj	15.00	85.00
Mathabhanga I	33.30	66.70
Mathabhanga II	20.00	80.00
Cooch Behar I	29.00	71.00
Cooch Behar II	24.00	76.00
Tufanganj I	22.00	78.00
Tufanganj II	36.10	63.90
Dinhata I	35.70	64.30
Dinhata II	19.60	80.40
Sitai	31.00	69.00
Sitalkuchi	27.30	72.70
Total	25.90	74.10

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

Child marriage is a crime and marriage of a girl below 18 year is illegal in our country since last three decades but although it has happened frequently in every part of our country mainly in the rural area (Vandana, 2017). The same scenario is found in Koch Bihar district also. It was observed that, 41.80 percent of the women in Koch Bihar district were married before the age of 18 years (NFHS, 2016). The National Family and Health Survey (NFHS-4) revealed that in Koch Bihar district about 23.60 percent of women of 15-19 years age, were already mothers or pregnant at the time of survey (NFHS, 2016). Here the age at marriage of the respondents has been divided in two categories. One is the minor age means if the respondents got married before the legal age which is 18 years for girls and other is the legal age if the respondent got married after the 18 years of age. From the primary survey it is observed that 25.90 percent of the respondents got married at Minor age and 74.10 percent of the respondents got married at Legal age which shows that the trend of child marriage is declining day by day and the reasons behind this is increasing the literacy rate, awareness among the people and some newly implemented government schemes towards the girl child. The data also indicates that the block wise distributions the age at marriage of the respondents are not same. Tufanganj II block has the highest (36.10 percent) percentage of respondents who got married before their legal age and on the other hand Mekhliganj block has the highest percentage (85.00 percent) of respondents who got married after the legal age (Table 5.16)

Table 5.17 Sub-caste wise distribution of age at marriage of the respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women).

Sub Caste	Age at Marriage in Percentage	
	Minor Age	Legal Age
Rajbanshi	26.30	73.70
Namasudra	30.40	69.60
Jaliakaibarta	12.50	87.50
Dhopa	16.70	83.30
Rabidas	40.00	60.00
Jhalomalo	20.00	80.00
Total	25.90	74.10

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The table shows that how the marriageable age of the rural Scheduled Caste women has changed within their community. The table reveals that most of the respondents (40.00 percent) of the Rabidas community got married before the legal age. This trend is also high in the Namasudra (30.40 percent) and Rajbanshi (26.30 percent) community and it is very low among the Jaliakaibarta (12.50 percent) community followed by Dhopa community

(16.70 percent). From the data it could be said that the child marriage is less among the Jaliakaibartta community and it is in better position than other in this respect.

The table 5.18 represents the level of Education and age at marriage of the respondents. The table helps to understand the relation between the education and the marriageable age of the respondents, whether the marriageable age depends on the educational qualification of the respondents or not. From the data it is observed that most of the illiterate (55.90 percent) respondents got married before the legal age i.e. before the age of 18 years but in case of literate respondent most of them got married after the legal age. The respondents who have studied up to primary level most of them (57.90 percent) married after the legal age. After taking a close look on the data it is observed that there is a clear decreasing trend of minor age marriage as their level of education increases which clearly show that there is strong association (chi-square 83.270, p value 0.000 at 5 degree of freedom) between level of education and age at marriage. If the respondents increase one level of education it will decrease the illegal marriages by 39.30 percent (Cramer's V 0.393) which indicates the strength of the relationship between education and marriageable age. The knowledge and awareness comes from education is the reason that 100.00 percent of the respondents got married after the legal age who have acquired the higher education.

Table 5.18 Age at marriage and level of education of the respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women).

Level of Education	Age at Marriage in Percentage	
	Minor Age	Legal Age
Illiterate	55.90	44.10
Primary	42.10	57.90
Upper Primary	24.00	76.00
Secondary	10.00	90.00
Higher Secondary	0	100
Graduation and Above	0	100
Total	25.90	74.10%

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The table 5.19 shows the Economic status of the respondents of the Koch Bihar district and their age at marriage. From the table it is observed that most of the respondents (31.10 percent) who got married before the legal age they belongs to the low economic status followed by Very low economic status (29.50 percent) and on the other hand 91.60 percent of the respondents, got married after the legal age who belongs to the high economic status. It also indicates there is a strong association among the Economic status

and the age at marriage which is statistically significant (chi-square 21.558, p value 0.00 at 3 degree of freedom) and the economic status can change the age at marriage by 20.00 percent (Cramer's V 0.20).

Table 5.19 Economic Status of the respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women) and age at marriage.

Economic Status	Age at marriage in Percentage	
	Minor Age	Legal Age
Very Low	29.50	70.50
Low	31.10	68.90
Moderate	28.80	71.20
High	8.40	91.60
Total	25.90	74.10

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

5.9 Family size of the respondents

Table 5.20 Block wise distribution of the Family size of the respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women).

Blocks	Family Size in Percentage		
	Small	Middle	Large
Haldibari	50.00	43.30	6.70
Mekhliganj	55.00	38.30	6.70
Mathabhanga I	54.80	38.10	7.10
Mathabhanga II	90.00	10.00	0.00
Cooch Behar I	62.90	33.90	3.20
Cooch Behar II	62.00	36.00	2.00
Tufanganj I	48.80	51.20	0.00
Tufanganj II	55.60	44.40	0.00
Dinhata I	48.20	41.10	10.70
Dinhata II	60.80	29.40	9.80
Sitai	62.10	27.60	10.30
Sitalkuchi	42.40	54.50	3.00
Total	58.50	36.50	5.00

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The size of the family is also a matter of great importance not only for the country as a whole but also for the welfare, economic condition, education and health of the individual, the family and the community (Arthur , 2005). The table 5.20 shows the family size of the respondents. The family size has been divided into three categories, these are small family with the 4 and less than 4 family member. Middle size family means the number of family member between 5 to 7 and the large family size means the family having more than 7 members. From the table it is observed that most of the respondents of the study area have small (58.50) family size. As they are more literate and concern about family planning, so

they don't have more children and earlier most of the family are join in nature but now most of the family are nuclear this is the another reason of small family. 36.50 percent of the respondents having middle size family and only 5.00 percent of the respondents have large family size. In case of block wise family size most of the small size family observed in Mathabhanga II block (90.00 percent) followed by Cooch Behar I (62.90 percent), Sitai (62.10 percent) and Cooch Behar II (62.00 percent) and lowest small size family observed in Sitalkuchi block (42.40 percent). Highest number of middle size family has been found in Sitalkuchi block (54.50 percent) followed by Tufanganj I block (51.20 percent) Tufanganj II(44.40 percent) and Haldibari (43.30 percent). The number of large family is highest in Dinhata I block (10.70 percent) ,and Sitai block (10.30 percent) is in the second position in terms of large family size and there is no large size family observed in Mathabhanga II, Tufanganj I and Tufanganj II.

Table 5.21 Sub caste wise distribution of the family size of the respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women).

Sub Caste	Family Size in Percentage		
	Small	Middle	Large
Rajbanshi	60.90	34.10	5.00
Namasudra	53.90	39.10	7.00
Jaliakaibarta	50.00	50.00	0.00
Dhopa	83.30	16.70	0.00
Rabidas	40.00	60.00	0.00
Jhalomalo	60.00	20.00	20.00
Total	58.50	36.50	5.00

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The table 5.21 shows different family size among the various scheduled castes community of the district. The study reveals that the small family is high among the Dhopa (83.30 percent) community than the others and far away from the average small family size (58.50 percent). Rabidas community has the lowest (40.00 percent) number of small size family. Jhalomalo community has the highest number of large size of family (20.00 percent) among the six Scheduled Caste communities as per the data. Jaliakaibartta, Dhopa and Rabidas have no large size family. The family size also depends on the educational level and the economic status of the respondents.

Table 5.22 Level of education and Family size of the respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women).

Level of Education	Family Size in Percentage		
	Small	Middle	Large
Illiterate	44.10	41.20	14.70
Primary	59.00	33.30	7.70
Upper Primary	58.20	39.00	2.70
Secondary	56.70	38.90	4.40
Higher Secondary	67.30	32.70	0.00
Graduation and Above	63.20	36.80	0.00
Total	58.50	36.50	5.00

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The table 5.22 represents the level of education and family size of the respondents. From the table it is observed that illiterate respondents have the highest percentage of large family size i.e. 14.70 percent and it has lowest small family size i.e. 44.10 percent. From the study it is clearly observed that the percentage of small size family has increased with the increasing level of the educational of the respondents and the large size family is reducing with the increasing level of the educational. So, significantly there is a strong association among the level of education and family size (chi-square 18.240, p value 0.039 with 10 degree of freedom).

The table 5.23 shows the relation between the economic status and family size of the Scheduled Caste women of Koch Bihar district. From the table it is observed that most of the respondents who have large family size (6.60 percent) their economic status are low on the other hand those respondents have high economic status they have small size family (59.80 percent).

Table 5.23 Economic Status of the respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women) and family size.

Economic Status	Family Size in Percentage		
	Small	Medium	Large
Very Low	65.40	33.30	1.30
Low	60.20	33.20	6.60
Moderate	48.60	43.20	8.10
High	59.80	39.30	0.90
Total	58.50	36.50	5.00

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

It is because the poor believes that more family member means more hand to be earned for their family which help to increase their economic status. So there is a significant association between economic status and family size (chi-square 14.203, p value 0.00 with 6 degree of freedom) and family size of the respondents is explained by 11.50 percent (Cramer's V).

5.10 Details about the number of Children of the respondents.

5.24 Block wise distribution of number of child of the respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women).

Sub caste	Number of Children in Percentage				
	0	1	2	3	4 and more
Rajbanshi	1.90	11.40	54.60	28.80	3.30
Namasudra	0.90	20.00	44.30	28.70	6.10
Jaliakaibartta	0.00	20.80	58.30	18.80	2.10
Dhopa	0.00	16.70	33.30	50.00	0.00
Rabidas	0.00	0.00	40.00	60.00	0.00
Jhalomalo	0.00	0.00	80.00	0.00	20.00
Total	1.50	13.90	52.60	28.10	3.90

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The surveyed scheduled castes community and the number of child of the respondents is represented in the table. The data shows that the most of the respondents i.e. 52.60 percent have 2 children which is a perfect or ideal as our government also promote the two child policy by saying the slogan "Hum do, hamare do" it means we two ours two. It indicates the respondents are aware about family planning. 80.00 percent of the Jhalomalo have 2 children which is the highest among all the categories and 13.90 percent of the respondents have only one child. In combination of who have 1 Child and 2 children it is 66.50 percent out of the total respondents. 28.10 percent of the respondents have 3 children and 3.90 percent of the respondents have 4 and more number of children which is mostly found among the Namasudra community and 1.50 percent of the respondents do not have any child.

The table 5.25 shows the level of education and number of child of the rural Scheduled Caste women of the Koch Bihar district. The data reveals that 20.60 percent of the illiterate respondents have 4 and more than 4 number of children which is highest in terms of number of children followed by the respondents who have primary level of education (6.60 percent) have 4 and more than 4 number of child. There is no respondents

It is because the poor believes that more family member means more hand to be earned for their family which help to increase their economic status. So there is a significant association between economic status and family size (chi-square 14.203, p value 0.00 with 6 degree of freedom) and family size of the respondents is explained by 11.50 percent (Cramer's V).

5.10 Details about the number of Children of the respondents.

5.24 Block wise distribution of number of child of the respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women).

Sub caste	Number of Children in Percentage				
	0	1	2	3	4 and more
Rajbanshi	1.90	11.40	54.60	28.80	3.30
Namasudra	0.90	20.00	44.30	28.70	6.10
Jaliakaibartta	0.00	20.80	58.30	18.80	2.10
Dhopa	0.00	16.70	33.30	50.00	0.00
Rabidas	0.00	0.00	40.00	60.00	0.00
Jhalomalo	0.00	0.00	80.00	0.00	20.00
Total	1.50	13.90	52.60	28.10	3.90

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The surveyed scheduled castes community and the number of child of the respondents is represented in the table. The data shows that the most of the respondents i.e. 52.60 percent have 2 children which is a perfect or ideal as our government also promote the two child policy by saying the slogan "Hum do, hamare do" it means we two ours two. It indicates the respondents are aware about family planning. 80.00 percent of the Jhalomalo have 2 children which is the highest among all the categories and 13.90 percent of the respondents have only one child. In combination of who have 1 Child and 2 children it is 66.50 percent out of the total respondents. 28.10 percent of the respondents have 3 children and 3.90 percent of the respondents have 4 and more number of children which is mostly found among the Namasudra community and 1.50 percent of the respondents do not have any child.

The table 5.25 shows the level of education and number of child of the rural Scheduled Caste women of the Koch Bihar district. The data reveals that 20.60 percent of the illiterate respondents have 4 and more than 4 number of children which is highest in terms of number of children followed by the respondents who have primary level of education (6.60 percent) have 4 and more than 4 number of child. There is no respondents

have been found with the qualification of secondary and above have 4 and more than 4 number of children. Again the 44.10 percent of the illiterate respondents have 3 children which is highest in terms of 3 children and there is no respondents have found with the educational level graduation and above have 3 children. Most of the Graduate respondents (60.50 percent) have 2 children and 13.20 percent of the graduate respondents have no child. So it clearly shows that the number of child is also depending on the educational level.

5.25. Sub caste wise distribution of number of child of the respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women).

Level of Education	Number of Children in Percentage				
	0	1	2	3	4 and more
Illiterate	0.00	2.90	32.40	44.10	20.60
Primary	0.00	10.90	45.90	36.60	6.60
Upper Primary	1.40	11.00	55.50	30.80	1.40
Secondary	0.00	18.90	58.90	22.20	0.00
Higher Secondary	2.00	22.40	65.30	10.20	0.00
Graduation and Above	13.20	26.30	60.50	0.00	0.00
Total	1.50	13.90	52.60	28.10	3.90

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

Table 5.26 Economic status and number of child of the respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women).

Economic Status	Number of Children in Percentage				
	0	1	2	3	4 and more
Very Low	0.00	17.90	56.40	20.50	5.10
Low	0.40	12.30	52.90	29.10	5.30
Moderate	0.00	7.20	45.00	45.00	2.70
High	6.50	21.50	57.00	14.00	0.90
Total	1.50	13.90	52.60	28.10	3.90

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The table 5.26 represents the number of children and the Economic status of the respondents of the study area. From the study it is observed that most of the respondents (57.00) who have high economic status have two children and 21.50 percent respondents have only one child. The respondents with low and very low economic status having three and more than three children which shows that number of child is depending on the economic status although it is not statistically significant.

5.11 Respondents perception about caste discrimination.

The table 5.27 shows the respondent's perception about the casteism in the district. Koch Bihar is the highest Scheduled Caste populated district in the country with 50.57 percent Scheduled Caste population. The tables consists few question which helps to understand the situation of the Scheduled Caste people in the district and try to find out whether the discrimination still exists among the different communities in the district or not. The first seven questions asked to understand the discrimination. After study it is observed that discrimination is not exists in the district on the basis of caste. There is not a single respondents reported about discrimination. 100.00 respondents said that they follow upper caste festival, participated in every festival and occasion with the upper caste, they dine together, take water from same pond and tube well they take bath or wash cloths at same tube well or same river ghat or pond with other upper caste people, and they build their houses near to the upper caste people and lived happily. Even upper caste people visit in the house of scheduled caste in their community festival. There is no restriction for entering in any temple. When they are asked is caste is hurdle for your progress all of them said no. All of them think these days compare to the earlier days their status has improved. But when asked that whether caste solidarity is same which exists today and what was 20 years back in your village and whether they like to live within their community people only, some have different opinion (Table 5.27)

The high literacy rate, improving economic status, majority of the population are belongs to Scheduled Caste community, and more over in the district the 75.00 of the Scheduled Caste are belongs to Rajbanshi community.

Table 5.27 Respondent's (Rural Scheduled Caste Women) perception about caste discrimination.

Question	Yes	No
Is caste solidarity same which exists today and what was 20 years back in your village?	95.74	4.26
Do you like to live within your community people only?	82.96	17.04

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The Rajbanshi means the people belongs to Royal race as the district was the capital of Koch Kingdom or Kamta Kingdom and they are the aboriginal ethnic people in the district. These are the reasons that there is no discrimination in the district. On the other hand they said the situation is improved from the earlier days as in earlier days only in case of inter

caste marriage the discrimination observed but now it does not exist. The respondents said they have no problem with their caste identity and it is not a hurdle in the way of the progress in their life.

5.12 Respondent's perception about reservation policy.

Table 5.28 Respondent's (Rural Scheduled Caste Women) perception about reservation policy

Question	Yes	No
Are you aware of reservation policy for scheduled castes?	76.30	23.70
Do you avail benefits of reservation policy?	59.44	40.56

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The table 5.28 highlights about the perception of the Scheduled Caste people on reservation policy. About 76.30 percent respondents are aware about the reservation policy and rest 23.70 percent are not aware about the reservation policy. Out of the total respondents only 59.44 percent of the respondents avail benefit of reservation and during the field survey when the rural Scheduled Caste women are asked that whether they want to continue the reservation policy for their children all of them said yes they want to continue the policy for their child and all of them also said that they think this reservation policy helps to improve their status economically. The most interesting thing is that all of the Scheduled Caste don't want to leave their reservation facility after upliftment of their family they want it to be continued which shows that 100 percent of the respondents are in the favour of reservation policy and they want the facility for their children and all of them are not in favour of give up the reservation even after their improvement.

5.13 Major Findings

- Highest decadal growth rate of overall or general population is found in Dinhata II (18.75 percent) block and lowest growth rate is observed in Haldibari block (10.76 percent). The decadal growth rate of Scheduled Caste population is highest in Tufanganj II (17.07 percent) and lowest in Cooch Behar II block (1.87 percent)
- Percentage share of Scheduled Caste population is high in Cooch Behar II block (11.22 percent) and lowest in Haldibari block (4.61 percent) of the total district population.

- The highest male Scheduled Caste (57.50 percent) and lowest female Scheduled Caste (42.50 percent) population is found in Cooch Behar II block and Lowest Male Scheduled Caste (50.77 percent) and highest female Scheduled Caste (49.23 percent) population is found in Sitai block.
- In case of decadal change of Scheduled Caste population the Jaliakaibartta community has increased by 1.15 percent and the Rajbanshi community has decreased by 3.12 percent.
- Decadal growth rate of Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar district is highest among Jaliakaibartta community (49.61 percent) followed by Nuniya (48.51 percent), Jhalomalo (19.34 percent) and lowest growth rate has been found in Patani (-35.55 percent).
- High concentration of Scheduled Caste population has been found in three blocks namely Sitalkuchi, Mekhliganj and Mathabhanga I more than 67.00 percent of Scheduled Caste population.
- In case of village wise distribution of Scheduled Caste population it is observed that out of the 1132 village 35 village has no Scheduled Caste population and 5 villages are found with more than 10000 Scheduled Caste population. These are Sitalkuchi, Maradanga, Baro Haldibari, Pulbari and UchalPukhari.
- Out of the 1132 villages 331 village have more than 80.00 percent of Scheduled Caste population and 40.00 percent of the villages are concentrated in Mekhliganj block.
- In the sample Scheduled Caste women 66.85 percent are from Rajbanshi community, 21.30 percent from Namasudra, 8.89 percent Jaliakaibartta and rest 3 caste combined 2.96 percent of the respondents.
- About 64.5 percent of the respondents are belongs to the lower middle age groups (35-44 years) and 30.90 percent are belong to the young age group (19-34years).
- 74.10 percent of the respondents married after legal age (>18 years) and rest 35.90 percent of the respondents married before legal age (<18 years). Marriage below legal age is maximum among Rabidas (40.00 percent) community and minimum among Jaliakaibartta (12.50 percent) community.
- The marriage before legal age is maximum among those who studied upto primary level (55.90 percent) and among the higher educated respondents there is not a single respondents found who married before legal age.

- Family size of the respondents is decreasing with the increasing of the level of education and with their economic status. About 52.60 percent of the respondents have two children and the number of children also varies with the economic status and level of education of the respondents.
- There is no discrimination found in the district on the basis of caste. 76.30 percent of the respondents aware about the reservation policy and 59.44 percent of the respondents avail the reservation.

5.14 Conclusion

Demography is one of the most important indicators for study which shows the overall population and population composition of a region at a glance. In this chapter the researcher discussed about the demographic profile of the Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar district. The chapter highlights about the district overall population and Scheduled Caste population along with the block wise distribution of the population from the study it is observed that the Scheduled Caste population are mainly concentrated in those area where availability of farmland and number of river and water body is high as in the district the main occupation of the Scheduled Castes are cultivation and fishing. It has also been highlighted about the total surveyed population and their age sex composition along with the respondent's age structure, family size, age at marriage and the number of child and varying with their educational and economic status. After analysis the data, it is found that the family size and age at marriage has a close association with their economic and educational status and it is fully dependent on the education and economic status of the respondents, but the number of child is not significantly related to the economic and educational status of the Scheduled Caste women of the district. The study also highlights that there is no discrimination among the caste and all the upper and lower caste people live together happily.

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have been found with the qualification of secondary and above have 4 and more than 4 number of children. Again the 44.10 percent of the illiterate respondents have 3 children which is highest in terms of 3 children and there is no respondents have found with the educational level graduation and above have 3 children. Most of the Graduate respondents (60.50 percent) have 2 children and 13.20 percent of the graduate respondents have no child. So it clearly shows that the number of child is also depending on the educational level.

5.25. Sub caste wise distribution of number of child of the respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women).

Level of Education	Number of Children in Percentage				
	0	1	2	3	4 and more
Illiterate	0.00	2.90	32.40	44.10	20.60
Primary	0.00	10.90	45.90	36.60	6.60
Upper Primary	1.40	11.00	55.50	30.80	1.40
Secondary	0.00	18.90	58.90	22.20	0.00
Higher Secondary	2.00	22.40	65.30	10.20	0.00
Graduation and Above	13.20	26.30	60.50	0.00	0.00
Total	1.50	13.90	52.60	28.10	3.90

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

Table 5.26 Economic status and number of child of the respondents (Rural Scheduled Caste Women).

Economic Status	Number of Children in Percentage				
	0	1	2	3	4 and more
Very Low	0.00	17.90	56.40	20.50	5.10
Low	0.40	12.30	52.90	29.10	5.30
Moderate	0.00	7.20	45.00	45.00	2.70
High	6.50	21.50	57.00	14.00	0.90
Total	1.50	13.90	52.60	28.10	3.90

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The table 5.26 represents the number of children and the Economic status of the respondents of the study area. From the study it is observed that most of the respondents (57.00) who have high economic status have two children and 21.50 percent respondents have only one child. The respondents with low and very low economic status having three and more than three children which shows that number of child is depending on the economic status although it is not statistically significant.

5.11 Respondents perception about caste discrimination.

The table 5.27 shows the respondent's perception about the casteism in the district. Koch Bihar is the highest Scheduled Caste populated district in the country with 50.57 percent Scheduled Caste population. The tables consists few question which helps to understand the situation of the Scheduled Caste people in the district and try to find out whether the discrimination still exists among the different communities in the district or not. The first seven questions asked to understand the discrimination. After study it is observed that discrimination is not exists in the district on the basis of caste. There is not a single respondents reported about discrimination. 100.00 respondents said that they follow upper caste festival, participated in every festival and occasion with the upper caste, they dine together, take water from same pond and tube well they take bath or wash cloths at same tube well or same river ghat or pond with other upper caste people, and they build their houses near to the upper caste people and lived happily. Even upper caste people visit in the house of scheduled caste in their community festival. There is no restriction for entering in any temple. When they are asked is caste is hurdle for your progress all of them said no. All of them think these days compare to the earlier days their status has improved. But when asked that whether caste solidarity is same which exists today and what was 20 years back in your village and whether they like to live within their community people only, some have different opinion (Table 5.27)

The high literacy rate, improving economic status, majority of the population are belongs to Scheduled Caste community, and more over in the district the 75.00 of the Scheduled Caste are belongs to Rajbanshi community.

Table 5.27 Respondent's (Rural Scheduled Caste Women) perception about caste discrimination.

Question	Yes	No
Is caste solidarity same which exists today and what was 20 years back in your village?	95.74	4.26
Do you like to live within your community people only?	82.96	17.04

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The Rajbanshi means the people belongs to Royal race as the district was the capital of Koch Kingdom or Kamta Kingdom and they are the aboriginal ethnic people in the district. These are the reasons that there is no discrimination in the district. On the other hand they said the situation is improved from the earlier days as in earlier days only in case of inter

caste marriage the discrimination observed but now it does not exist. The respondents said they have no problem with their caste identity and it is not a hurdle in the way of the progress in their life.

5.12 Respondent's perception about reservation policy.

Table 5.28 Respondent's (Rural Scheduled Caste Women) perception about reservation policy

Question	Yes	No
Are you aware of reservation policy for scheduled castes?	76.30	23.70
Do you avail benefits of reservation policy?	59.44	40.56

Source: Field survey, 2018-19

The table 5.28 highlights about the perception of the Scheduled Caste people on reservation policy. About 76.30 percent respondents are aware about the reservation policy and rest 23.70 percent are not aware about the reservation policy. Out of the total respondents only 59.44 percent of the respondents avail benefit of reservation and during the field survey when the rural Scheduled Caste women are asked that whether they want to continue the reservation policy for their children all of them said yes they want to continue the policy for their child and all of them also said that they think this reservation policy helps to improve their status economically. The most interesting thing is that all of the Scheduled Caste don't want to leave their reservation facility after upliftment of their family they want it to be continued which shows that 100 percent of the respondents are in the favour of reservation policy and they want the facility for their children and all of them are not in favour of give up the reservation even after their improvement.

5.13 Major Findings

- Highest decadal growth rate of overall or general population is found in Dinhata II (18.75 percent) block and lowest growth rate is observed in Haldibari block (10.76 percent). The decadal growth rate of Scheduled Caste population is highest in Tufanganj II (17.07 percent) and lowest in Cooch Behar II block (1.87 percent)
- Percentage share of Scheduled Caste population is high in Cooch Behar II block (11.22 percent) and lowest in Haldibari block (4.61 percent) of the total district population.

- The highest male Scheduled Caste (57.50 percent) and lowest female Scheduled Caste (42.50 percent) population is found in Cooch Behar II block and Lowest Male Scheduled Caste (50.77 percent) and highest female Scheduled Caste (49.23 percent) population is found in Sitai block.
- In case of decadal change of Scheduled Caste population the Jaliakaibartta community has increased by 1.15 percent and the Rajbanshi community has decreased by 3.12 percent.
- Decadal growth rate of Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar district is highest among Jaliakaibartta community (49.61 percent) followed by Nuniya (48.51 percent), Jhalomalo (19.34 percent) and lowest growth rate has been found in Patani (-35.55 percent).
- High concentration of Scheduled Caste population has been found in three blocks namely Sitalkuchi, Mekhliganj and Mathabhanga I more than 67.00 percent of Scheduled Caste population.
- In case of village wise distribution of Scheduled Caste population it is observed that out of the 1132 village 35 village has no Scheduled Caste population and 5 villages are found with more than 10000 Scheduled Caste population. These are Sitalkuchi, Maradanga, Baro Haldibari, Pulbari and UchalPukhari.
- Out of the 1132 villages 331 village have more than 80.00 percent of Scheduled Caste population and 40.00 percent of the villages are concentrated in Mekhliganj block.
- In the sample Scheduled Caste women 66.85 percent are from Rajbanshi community, 21.30 percent from Namasudra, 8.89 percent Jaliakaibartta and rest 3 caste combined 2.96 percent of the respondents.
- About 64.5 percent of the respondents are belongs to the lower middle age groups (35-44 years) and 30.90 percent are belong to the young age group (19-34years).
- 74.10 percent of the respondents married after legal age (>18 years) and rest 35.90 percent of the respondents married before legal age (<18 years). Marriage below legal age is maximum among Rabidas (40.00 percent) community and minimum among Jaliakaibartta (12.50 percent) community.
- The marriage before legal age is maximum among those who studied upto primary level (55.90 percent) and among the higher educated respondents there is not a single respondents found who married before legal age.

- Family size of the respondents is decreasing with the increasing of the level of education and with their economic status. About 52.60 percent of the respondents have two children and the number of children also varies with the economic status and level of education of the respondents.
- There is no discrimination found in the district on the basis of caste. 76.30 percent of the respondents aware about the reservation policy and 59.44 percent of the respondents avail the reservation.

5.14 Conclusion

Demography is one of the most important indicators for study which shows the overall population and population composition of a region at a glance. In this chapter the researcher discussed about the demographic profile of the Scheduled Caste population of Koch Bihar district. The chapter highlights about the district overall population and Scheduled Caste population along with the block wise distribution of the population from the study it is observed that the Scheduled Caste population are mainly concentrated in those area where availability of farmland and number of river and water body is high as in the district the main occupation of the Scheduled Castes are cultivation and fishing. It has also been highlighted about the total surveyed population and their age sex composition along with the respondent's age structure, family size, age at marriage and the number of child and varying with their educational and economic status. After analysis the data, it is found that the family size and age at marriage has a close association with their economic and educational status and it is fully dependent on the education and economic status of the respondents, but the number of child is not significantly related to the economic and educational status of the Scheduled Caste women of the district. The study also highlights that there is no discrimination among the caste and all the upper and lower caste people live together happily.

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