

Spatial Patterns of Scheduled Caste Work Participation in Uttar Pradesh, 1971-2001

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Abstract

The present paper aims to study the spatial patterns of work participation of scheduled caste population in last four decades (1971-2001). The entire study is based upon the district level secondary data obtained from Census of India, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001. From the results it is clear that the spatial distribution of scheduled caste work participation before bifurcation of the state was high in the Himalayan region and low in the western part of the state. But after the division it is found that scheduled caste work participation is high in the southern and eastern part of the state and western part of the state is showing low work participation of scheduled caste population.

Keywords

Scheduled Caste Population, Work Participation Rate, Uttar Pradesh

I. INTRODUCTION

It is an unfortunate fact of the history in India that scheduled caste people have suffered deep subjugation in our society (Narayan, 2011: xvii). The subjugation of 'weaker sections' has been prevalent in western societies albeit in different shape and form. Moreover, this subjugation of scheduled caste in Indian society, at times, had been of such intensity that it resulted in complete denial of the status of 'human being' to scheduled caste people in certain parts of India. According to Rig Veda, which is one of the earliest literatures of Hindus, there were four Varna in the society. They were Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vashyas and Shudras. Shudras lied at the lowest rung of the caste system and were described as 'servants of others' (Sachchidananda, 1977 : 17).

This classification of the society was basically functional and occupational in nature and character (Mohammad, 1987: 17). However, it was the feudal character of the society more than religious aspiration which mostly resulted in subjugation of scheduled caste in India.

It was after independence, that development and upliftment of scheduled caste people arose as major concern by the government of India. The Constitution, promulgated in 1950, recognized the SCs and the STs as two of the most under privileged social groups who need special attention. A number

of provisions, therefore, were specifically incorporated for these social groups with a view to abolish all forms of discrimination, untouchability, and social exclusion resulting from the caste system and to alleviate the peripheral position of these social groups (Thorat and Senapati, 2006: 7). By giving reservations in jobs and offering various schemes for socio-economic and educational development of scheduled caste people, the Indian government is trying to improve the status of this neglected group which forms a bulk of population (Tripathi, 1999 : 57).

Work participation is one of the most significant features of a population of a nation as it has multilateral involvement in the economic production and planning. It provides information about the human resources and the nature and extent of their utilization (Agrawal, 1971). Work Participation has great subjective significance with growing emphasis on regional planning and regional approach to the population policy and utilization of human resources (Franklin, 1958). It is an important indicator of the economic composition of a region. The degree of employment or unemployment exerts its influence as one of the chief determinants of several socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the population (Ray, 1978). The socio-economic development of any region is mainly related to degree of work participation and the proportion of workers in different sectors of economy (Chaudhary, 2007). Work participation refers to economic activities in which workers are differentiated (Jaffe and Stewart, 1951).

It is not only studied in geography but also in various other disciplines like demography, sociology and economics. Now with the growing emphasis on the regional planning, the study of work participation is becoming indispensable for the socio economic development of any society or region. Thus in the present study the analysis of the significance of scheduled caste work participation is done by comparing it in the last four decades. Some of the important studies are mentioned here. Scheduled Caste work participation and their occupational structure have been studied by Mohammad, 1987, Gosal, 1991 and Tiwari, 1999. The reasons of scheduled caste backwardness have been analysed by Tripathi, 1999. However, Kapoor, 2006 has worked

upon the work participation of various socially and economically backward groups. But perhaps there is no such study on spatial patterns of work participation of scheduled caste population in the districts of Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, in this study an attempt has been made to visualize the participation of scheduled caste population taking Uttar Pradesh (UP) as a case study and district as a unit of analysis for the last four decades (1971-2001).

II. OBJECTIVE

To show the spatial patterns of scheduled caste work participation in Uttar Pradesh since 1971-2001.

III. DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

The entire study is based upon the secondary sources of data which have been collected from Census of India publications, New Delhi for the decades 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001. Till 1991 Uttarakhand was the part of Uttar Pradesh after that it has become an independent state. For the analysis of the data simple percentage method has been used and maps are made by GIS arc view. The categories of very, high, medium, low and very low work participation of scheduled caste population are made by calculating mean $\pm 1/2$ standard deviation and mean ± 1 standard deviation where central value is mean.

IV. DISCUSSION

Scheduled caste people being the downtrodden segment of the society are generally involved in the least remunerative lowest ranked jobs in which returns are very low (Gosal, 1991 : 8). Though this tradition is still prevalent among them but few of them have migrated to the cities and acquired new technical now how which is becoming helpful to improve their socio-economic status. Thus they are no more involved only in their traditional jobs but are doing some other works also.

Scheduled Caste Total Work Participation Rate, 1971

General Distribution

It is revealed from the table no1 that scheduled caste work participation rate varies from 63.23 per cent in Uttar Kashi district to 25.96 per cent in Aligarh district in 1971. The whole range is divided into five groups. These groups along with their numerical values are as follows: Very High (above 42.95 per cent), High (39.10 per cent to 42.95 per cent), Medium (35.24 per cent to 39.09 per cent), Low (31.93 per cent to 35.23 per cent) and Very Low (below 31.93 per cent). The very high rate of work participation of total scheduled caste population is observed only in the form of a small compact pocket in the Himalayan zone. The districts falling in this index are Uttar Kashi, Chamoli, Tehri Garhwal and

Garhwal. Around fifteen percent districts of the state register high level of total

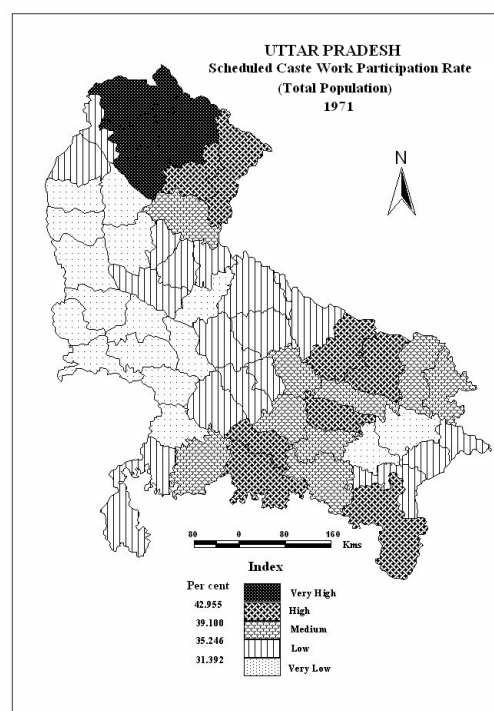


Fig. 1

scheduled caste work participation rate. These districts are distributed in the eastern plains (Balrampur, Basti and Sultanpur), southern plateau and hill region (Mirzapur, Banda and Fatehpur) and also in Himalayan zone (Pithoragarh and Almora). Medium level of work participation rate is observed in around seventeen percent districts of the state. These districts are mostly confined to the eastern half of the state. A distinct identifiable region of this group runs from east to south and covers the districts of Faizabad, Barabanki, Rae Bareilly, Pratapgarh and Allahabad. The other scattered districts of this group are Nainital, Gorakhpur, Deoria and Hamirpur. Low level of work participation rate of total scheduled caste population is noticeable in around thirty percent districts of the state. All the districts in this category are arranged in three groups. One group of two districts namely, Dehradun and Saharanpur in the Himalayan region, second distinct pocket stretches from western plains to the eastern plains covering the districts of Rampur, Badaun, Bareilly, Pilibhit, Kheri, Bahraich, Sitapur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Unnao and Kanpur district. The last group of the same is formed by three eastern districts Ballia, Ghazipur and Varanasi. Very low level of work participation rate of total scheduled caste population is observed in thirty percent districts of the state. Except two paired eastern districts i.e., Azamgarh and Jaunpur all the sixteen districts are arranged in a form of a pocket which runs from west to south. The districts in this group are Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Bijnor,

Moradabad, Bulandshahar, Aligarh, Mathura, Agra, Etah, Mainpuri, Farrukhabad, Shahjahanpur, Etawah and Jalaun.

**Scheduled Caste Total Work Participation, 1981
General Distribution**

The work participation of total scheduled caste population in the decade 1981 has shown an insignificant decrease from the previous decade. Table no. 1 shows that distribution of their total work participation rate varies from 54.93 percent in Uttarkashi to 27.07 percent in the district of Bulandshahar, taking mean as the central value, the whole range of variation is divided into following five grades: Very High (above 37.77 per cent), High (35.16 per cent to 37.77 per cent), Medium (32.56 per cent to 35.15 per cent), Low (29.59 to 32.55 per cent), Very Low (below 29.95 per cent). The very high grade of work participation rate of total scheduled caste people is observed in the Himalayan districts (Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Tehri Garhwal, Garhwal and Pithoragarh) and few southern districts (Banda and Mirzapur). The second grade of high level of work participation rate of total scheduled caste people is observed in only two districts i.e. Barabanki and Sultanpur.

small identifiable regions with three isolated districts. One region of this grade is constituted by the four eastern districts namely, Bahraich, Gonda, Basti and Faizabad. The second region is formed by the southern districts of Hamirpur, Fatehpur, Rae Bareilly, Allahabad and Varanasi.

Low level of scheduled caste total work participation rate is observed in twenty one percent districts of the state which are mostly concentrated centrally in the form of a continuous pocket. The districts of this belt are Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Kheri, Sitapur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Unnao, Kanpur and Jalaun. Very low level of work participation rate of total scheduled caste people is observed mostly in the western part of the state. The districts of big western discontinuous patch of this grade are Saharanpur, Bijnor, Meerut, Moradabad, Rampur, Bareilly, Pilibhit, Ghaziabad, Buland Shahar, Aligarh, Mathura, Agra, Etah, Mainpuri, Etawah and Farrukhabad. One smaller region of this grade at the eastern margin is formed by the districts of Ballia, Azamgarh, Ghazipur and Jaunpur.

**Scheduled Caste Total Work Participation, 1991
General Distribution**

There are 35.29 percent workers in the state during 1991, whereas, in 1981 the percentage of total workers was 33.60 percent.

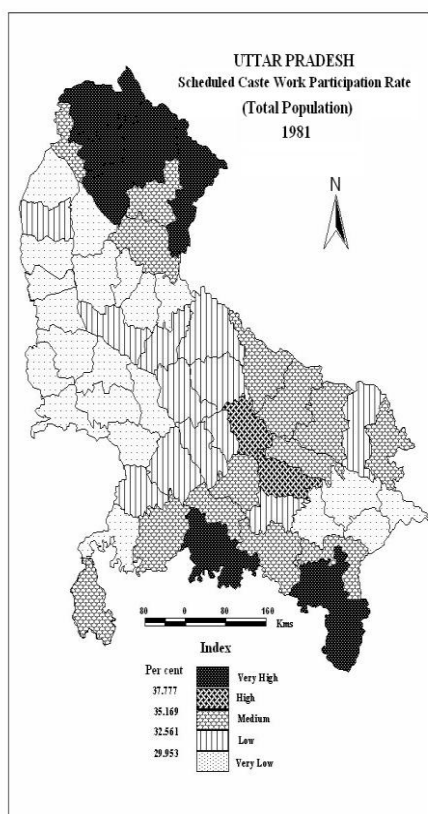


Fig. 2

Twenty five percent districts fall in the category of medium level of total scheduled caste work participation rate. These districts form two

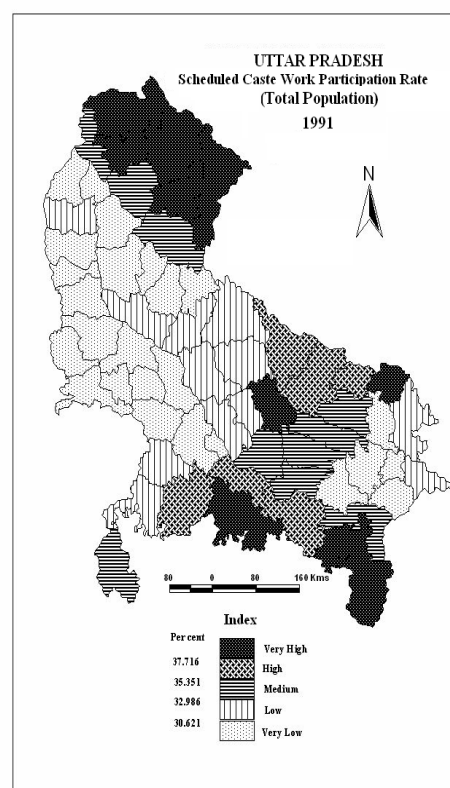


Fig. 3

Thus an increase of more than half percent is observed in the decade 1991. This whole range of distribution of the total work participation rate is

arranged in five grades as shown in fig 3. A continuous region of very high rates of scheduled caste work participation is found in the Himalayan zone. The districts lying in this group against their work participation rate are Uttar Kashi (50.17 per cent), Tehri Garhwal (40.42 per cent), Chamoli (43.04 per cent), Almora (40.84 per cent) and Pithoragarh (38.70 per cent). Remaining five districts namely, Maharajganj Barabanki, Banda, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra of this range are scattered.

Six districts of the state lie in the grade of high work participation rate. These districts are distributed in the form of pockets of three eastern districts (Bahraich, Gonda, Sidharth Nagar) and three southern districts (Hamirpur, Fatehpur and Chitrakoot). The medium level of work participation rate of scheduled caste is identified in around seventeen percent districts of the state except two isolated districts namely, Lalitpur and Varanasi, all the other districts of this grade are distributed in the form of two compact belts. One belt is found in the Himalayan zone constituted by the districts of Dehradun, Garhwal and Nainital. This belt runs adjacent to the pocket of high level of work participation rate. The other belt of this grade is formed by the districts of Basti, Faizabad, Sultanpur Pratapgarh, Rae Bareilly and runs from north east to south east to join the two pockets of high grade of work participation rate.

The belt of low level of total work participation rate of scheduled caste is found in nineteen percent districts of the state. Seven districts namely, Badaun, Sahjahanpur, Kheri, Sitapur, Hardoi, Lucknow and Unnao of this grade form a compact pocket in central plains. The other districts of this grade are Muzzafarnagar, Deoria, Ballia, Jalaun and Jhansi. Very low level of total work participation rate of scheduled caste population is seen in around forty percent districts of the state which are mostly confined in western part of the state. These districts are distributed in the two in the east is constituted by the districts of Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Mau, Jaunpur and Mirzapur and the other big pocket of this slab is formed by around one third districts of the state. This big pocket covers Saharanpur and passes through Hardwar and Bijnor from where it turns into two direction, one eastward with the districts of Moradabad, Rampur, Bareilly and Pilibhit, whereas, the other in southward direction to include the districts of Muzzafarnagar, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahar, Aligarh, Mathura, Agra, Etah, Farrukhabad, Mainpuri, Firozabad, Etawah, Kanpur Dehat and Kanpur Nagar.

**Scheduled Caste Total Work Participation, 2001
General Distribution**

Total work participation rate of scheduled caste has increased from 27.56 percent in 1991 to 34.70 percent in 2001. Last column of table no. 1 reveals that total work participation rate of scheduled

caste population varies from 47.40 per cent in Balrampur to 27.10 per cent in Agra district. In the year 2001, the general work participation rate of scheduled caste population has been divided into five grades of Very high, High, Medium, Low and Very Low.

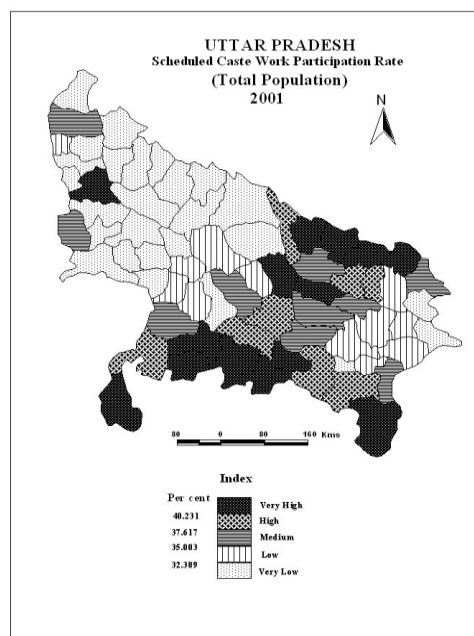


Fig. 4

The total scheduled caste work participation rate of very high grade (above 40.23 per cent) is observed in one-fifth districts of the state. Except Bulandshahar (with 41.90 percent work participation rate), no other district of either very high or high level of total scheduled work participation rate is found in western Uttar Pradesh. The districts of very high total scheduled caste work participation rate are found in the form of two smaller regions, one is eastern Uttar Pradesh with its constituent districts of Shrawasti, Balrampur, Sidharth Nagar and Maharajgang and the other in southern part of the state with the constituent districts of Hamirpur, Mahoba, Banda, Chitrakoot and Kaushambi. The other districts of this grade are Buland Shahar, Barabanki, Faizabad, Sonbhadra and Lalitpur. The high level (37.61 per cent to 40.23 per cent) of total work participation rate of scheduled caste population is observed in fourteen percent districts of the state which don't form any identifiable region. The districts of this grade are Bahraich, Basti, Sant Kabir Nagar, Rae Bareilly, Fatehpur, Jhansi, Allahabad and Mirzapur.

Medium level of total work participation rate of scheduled caste population is found in one-seventh districts of the state. Except a smaller belt of three eastern districts (Ambedkar Nagar, Sultanpur and Pratapgarh) all the other districts of this category are widely spaced. These widely spaced districts are

Kushinagar, Chandauli, Gonda, Unnao, Jalaun, Mathura and Muzaffar Nagar.

Low level of total work participation rate of scheduled caste people is found in sixteen percent districts of the state. Except Baghpat, all the other districts in this grade are arranged in the form of two pockets. One lies eastern part and comprises of the districts of Gorakhpur, Mau, Azamgarh, Jaunpur, Varanasi and Ghazipur, the other central pocket of the same group includes the districts namely, Lucknow, Hardoi, Kannauj, Auraiya and Kanpur Dehat. Very low level of total work participation rate of scheduled caste is found around thirty seven percent districts of the state. A very large pocket of this category is found in western Uttar Pradesh including the districts namely, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budha Nagar, Bijnor, Jyotiba Phule Nagar, Moradabad, Badaun, Rampur, Bareilly, Philibhit, Shahjahanpur from where it turns in the two direction; one in eastern direction which reaches to Sitapur through Kheri, and other in western direction which passes through Farrukhabad, Etah, Aligarh, Hathras Agra, Firozabad, Mainpuri and Etawah districts. Apart from this continuous zone, the other scattered districts of this category are Saharanpur, Kanpur Nagar, Deoria Ballia and Sant Ravi Das Nagar.

V. CONCLUSIONS

From the results it is clear that highest scheduled caste work participation (34.7 Per cent) is observed in the decade 2001 followed by 33.77 percent in 1971, 32.56 per cent in 1981 and 27.56 in 1991 at state level. However, its spatial distribution shows that before bifurcation of the state scheduled caste work participation was high in the Himalayan region and low in the western part of the state. But after the division it is found that scheduled caste work participation is high in the southern and eastern part of the state and western part of the state is showing low work participation of scheduled caste population.

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Table 1 District wise Work Participation Rate of Scheduled Caste Workers, Uttar Pradesh, 1971

District	Total	District	Total	District	Total	District	Total
Uttarkashi	63.23	Uttarkashi	54.93			Saharanpur	29.30
Chamoli	59.26	Chamoli	46.06	Uttarkashi	50.17	Muzaffarnagar	35.20

Tehri Garhwal	56.07	Tehri Garhwal	46.96	Chamoli	43.04	Bijnor	28.90
Garhwal	50.38	Dehradoon	33.67	Tehri Garhwal	40.42	Moradabad	31.90
Pithoragarh	41.49	Garhwal	37.83	Dehradoon	34.52	Rampur	28.20
Almora	42.12	Pithoragarh	38.25	Garhwal	33.11	Jyotiba Phule Nagar	31.00
Nainital	35.73	Almora	32.70	Pithoragarh	38.78	Meerut	30.50
Bijnor	27.91	Nainital	34.43	Almora	40.84	Baghpat	32.80
Moradabad	29.26	Saharanpur	29.54	Nainital	34.92	Ghaziabad	28.60
Budaun	32.70	Muzaffarnagar	30.46	Bijnor	28.13	Gautam Buddha Nagar	28.70
Rampur	32.63	Bijnor	27.82	Moradabad	28.24	Bulandshahar	41.80
Bareilly	31.68	Meerut	27.98	Rampur	29.56	Aligarh	30.90
Pilibhit	32.55	Ghaziabad	28.05	Saharanpur	30.51	Hathras	29.30
Shahjahanpur	30.78	Bulandshahar	27.07	Hardwar	30.02	Mathura	36.70
Dehra Dun	33.86	Muradabad	27.37	Muzaffarnagar	32.77	Agra	27.10
Saharanpur	34.36	Rampur	29.34	Meerut	28.93	Firozabad	27.60
Muzaffarnagar	29.76	Badaun	31.90	Ghaziabad	26.99	Etah	28.40
Meerut	29.93	Bareilly	29.65	Bulandshahar	26.90	Mainpuri	27.30
Bulandshahar	27.02	Pilibhit	29.75	Aligarh	28.20	Budaun	29.90
Aligarh	25.90	Shahjahanpur	31.94	Mathura	28.43	Bareilly	30.50
Mathura	27.02	Aligarh	27.25	Agra	28.33	Pilibhit	28.40
Agra	26.28	Mathura	28.65	Firozabad	27.72	Shahjahanpur	29.50
Etah	25.96	Agra	28.77	Etah	29.09	Kheri	32.40
Mainpuri	28.71	Etah	29.07	Mainpuri	27.48	Sitapur	32.40
Farrukhabad	30.83	Mainpuri	27.95	Badaun	30.96	Hardoi	33.80
Etawah	28.55	Farrukhabad	29.56	Bareilly	29.34	Unnao	36.30
Kanpur	31.60	Etawah	27.09	Pilibhit	29.65	Lucknow	32.40
Fatehpur	40.01	Kanpur	29.99	Shahjahanpur	32.02	Rae Bareli	39.10
Allahabad	38.54	Fatehpur	33.93	Kheri	32.12	Farrukhabad	29.00
Jhansi	32.12	Allahabad	35.16	Sitapur	32.51	Kannauj	33.10
Jalaun	30.52	Jalaun	30.00	Hardoi	32.19	Etawah	27.70
Hamirpur	36.36	Jhansi	29.75	Unnao	32.48	Auraiya	34.10
Banda	39.96	Lalitpur	33.55	Lucknow	31.90	Kanpur Dehat	33.80
Kheri	33.19	Hamirpur	34.06	Rae Bareli	35.30	Kanpur Nagar	32.20
Sitapur	31.86	Banda	37.93	Farrukhabad	29.77	Jalaun	37.40
Hardoi	31.97	Kheri	31.21	Etawah	28.08	Jhansi	38.50
Unnao	32.03	Sitapur	31.50	Kanpur Dehat	29.04	Lalitpur	45.40
Lucknow	33.01	Hardoi	30.96	Kanpur Nagar	27.80	Hamirpur	40.50
Rae Bareli	35.97	Unnao	30.89	Jalaun	31.07	Mahoba	43.60
Bahraich	33.08	Lucknow	31.17	Jhansi	31.94	Banda	43.20
Gonda	39.59	Raebareli	34.52	Lalitpur	35.08	Chitrakoot	44.30
Barabanki	37.69	Bahraich	34.15	Hamirpur	36.19	Fatehpur	39.70
Faizabad	38.35	Gonda	34.93	Banda	40.89	Pratapgarh	36.90
Sultanpur	40.25	Barabanki	36.20	Fatehpur	35.99	Kaushambi	41.70
Pratapgarh	36.40	Faizabad	32.60	Pratapgarh	34.01	Allahabad	37.70
Basti	42.12	Sultanpur	35.48	Allahabad	37.48	Barabanki	40.90
Gorakhpur	38.02	Pratapgarh	31.94	Bahraich	36.12	Faizabad	44.00
Deoria	35.35	Basti	34.24	Gonda	37.07	Ambedkar Nagar	36.30
Azamgarh	31.17	Gorakhpur	31.46	Barabanki	38.19	Sultanpur	37.20

Jaunpur	30.17	Deoria	33.64	Faizabad	33.93	Bahraich	38.20
Ballia	34.09	Azamgarh	29.10	Sultanpur	35.03	Shravasti	44.90
Ghazipur	33.97	Jaunpur	28.85	Siddharthnagar	37.46	Balrampur	47.40
Varanasi	32.15	Ballia	29.14	Maharajgang	38.10	Gonda	37.10
Mirzapur	39.78	Ghazipur	28.67	Basti	33.35	Siddharthnagar	41.60
Uttar Pradesh	33.77	Varanasi	32.60	Gorakhpur	30.15	Basti	38.10
-	-	Mirzapur	41.81	Doria	31.77	Sant Kabir Nagar	38.10
-	-	Uttar Pradesh	32.56	Mau	30.24	Maharajganj	41.30
-	-	-	-	Azamgarh	28.80	Gorakhpur	33.00
-	-	-	-	Jaunpur	28.77	Kushinagar	37.10
-	-	-	-	Ballia	30.67	Deoria	31.50
-	-	-	-	Ghazipur	29.96	Azamgarh	33.40
-	-	-	-	Varanasi	33.88	Mau	33.50
-	-	-	-	Mirzapur	38.77	Ballia	31.00
-	-	-	-	Sonbhadra	42.99	Jaunpur	34.00
-	-	-	-	Uttar Pradesh	27.56	Ghazipur	34.00
-	-	-	-	-	-	Chandauli	35.90
-	-	-	-	-	-	Varanasi	33.00
-	-	-	-	-	-	Sant Ravidas Nagar	31.60
-	-	-	-	-	-	Mirzapur	38.40
-	-	-	-	-	-	Sonbhadra	40.80
-	-	-	-	-	-	Uttar Pradesh	34.7

Source: Census of India, 1971, series 1 Tab C-VIII, Part A&B ,Census of India, 1981, series 4s 22, **Source;** Census of India, 1991, series-25, Part II-B (ii), 2001, Data Product No. 00-73-2001-cn-CD