

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

STATE ADVISORY BOARD FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
PAHARI SPEAKING PEOPLE

Population Survey

of

Pahari Speaking People

J&K

Based on Census 2011

Released on

1st Feb. 2018

State Advisory Board for Development of
Pahari Speaking People J&K

PREFACE

- Pahari language has evolved over many years and enriched our literature and poetry. It is an instrument of conserving culture, a ways to acquire and preserve identity of the pahari speaking people. Since language and culture are interrelated because the language possesses certain homogeneity of culture and is characterized by common traits in history, folklore and literature. Among various cultural symbols-religion, race, language, traditions and customs, etc. that differentiates an ethnic group from the other, language is the most potent cultural marker providing for group identity. It's spatial spread over a fixed territory makes language more important than religion as a basis of ethnic identity formation. Pahari language is just like a living organism, is dynamic. It changes, absorbs, sheds, grows and develops.
- Pahari Speaking People live in the Pahari region, situated along the line of actual control, suffered badly in the three wars with Pakistan in 1947, 1965 and 1971. The state has been facing turmoil and suffering from numerous violations and masses have lost dear ones. Obviously, they could not make their existence felt nor have they been able to get a due share of benefit for their upliftment and betterment during the past seven decades of development activities. The Pahari community has been striving for Scheduled Tribe Status since 1975. Their struggle towards their cause sharpened in 1991 following the conferring of Scheduled Tribe status upon Gujjar-Bakkarwals of the State. This created a definite consciousness among the Pahari community who launched a full flagged movement in order to get the said preferential treatment, fearing the identity concerns. The state of Jammu and Kashmir constituted an independent Board under administrative control of the Social Welfare Department J&K to identify the problems of the Pahari Speaking People (PSP). Up till now, no exclusive Census or Survey has been conducted by the State Government by focusing on the Pahari Speaking People of Jammu and Kashmir.
- In order to ascertain the actual figures of the Pahari Speaking community scattered in the whole State, a Survey has been conducted by using available resources. The Survey of the Pahari Speaking people is based on primary inputs of the intensive field work. An attempt has been made to meticulously unravel the numbers of the Pahari Speaking People (PSP) of Jammu and Kashmir through the identified respondents of the Pahari dominated pockets while making use of the scientifically devised and pre-tested household schedules for conducting this Survey. To realize this objective, various variables of primary and secondary nature like Census 2011 and use of existing infrastructure are taken into consideration. Data base prepared and compiled. Recommendations, suggestions for improvement in future issues of this publication are most welcome. Errors and emissions are accepted.

(Dr Zakir Hussain KAS)

Secretary (PSP)

METHODOLOGY

- Population Survey of the Pahari Speaking people is based on Census 2011;
- Respondents selected from Pahari Speaking Community with the help of Board Members for conducting primary Survey;
- Scientifically devised schedules used;
- Village Amenities Directory- used as secondary source.

PAHARI LANGUAGE

- Language is the most potent cultural marker providing for group identity. It's spatial spread over a fixed territory makes language more important than religion as a basis of ethnic identity formation.
- Jammu and Kashmir is a multi-lingual state. In Ladakh we find Ladakhi in Leh, and Balti in Kargil. In Kashmir valley we have by and large Kashmiri speaking people with strips of Pahari, Gojri, Shina and Punjabi linked together by Urdu.
- Similarly in Jammu there is Dogri , Punjabi and Pahari with strips of Gojri .
- Pahari language has been recognized in the **Sixth Schedule of the constitution of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- It's an offshoot of Indo-Aryan family of languages, comprising various dialects as recognised in the "*Linguistic Survey of India*" by George Grairson.

ORIGIN

- Though it is very hard to exactly know the origin of a language, linguists still try to locate it by going through its evolution to as deep as possible in history at which point they make conclusion about its root. The same can be said about the Pahari language.
- The history of language is rooted in the changing religious faiths and strategic geographic location of the Pir Panjal region. Nestled against the backdrop of the snow-capped 'Pir Panjal' Mountains, the region of Jammu constitutes the southernmost unit of the state of Jammu & Kashmir where majority of the Pahari Speaking People (PSP) reside.
- Budhists adopted Pahari as a language of their preaching and various scripts were introduced to write the language. With the rise of Buddhism the Pahari was developed and preached in major parts of Jammu and Kashmir and also in its adjoining areas.
- It is mentioned that, when King Ashoka took control of Kashmir, he also contributed in the development of language and introduced another script for its writing and preaching. This is considered as climax of the Pahari language and literature.
- In 1947, partition country and also the state of Jammu and Kashmir, it caused a huge blow to the Pahari speaking belt , which was bisected by the most infamous dividing line known as LOC.
- The Pahari speaking community is simple, hospitable and free from any kind of prejudice . This community enjoys a composite culture with a blend of population from all religious faiths, the Muslims ,the Hindus, the Sikhs and the Christians.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF PAHARI SPEAKING PEOPLE

- Pahari Speaking People evolved a culture typical of mountain dwellers as reflected in their distinct life style, dress patterns, food habits, physical features and other social customs and traditions;
- Their cultural compositeness depicts their accommodative character towards the other communities sharing their habitations;
- They are relatively cut off from the mainstream society and confront a definite topographical disadvantage;
- Pahari speaking community is distributed throughout the State. Major pockets are found among the foothills of the Pir- Panchal range with major concentrations in *Poonch, Rajouri, Baramulla and Kupwara. Besides, these four major pockets, their habitations are also found in Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwama, Budgam, Ganderbal and Bandipora districts* as well.

AIM & OBJECTIVE OF SURVEY

- The Pahari community has been striving for Scheduled Tribe Status since 1975;
- Pahari Board under administrative control of the **Social Welfare Department J&K**, to identify the problems of the Pahari Speaking People;
- Up till now, no exclusive Census or Survey has been conducted by focusing on the Pahari Speaking People;

- So in order to ascertain the actual figures of the Pahari Speaking community scattered in the whole State, a Survey has been conducted by this Board;
- Village-Wise, Panchayat-Wise, Tehsil-Wise, Block-Wise, District-Wise, Gender-Wise etc. database of the Pahari Speaking People have been Prepared;
- Compiled in the shape of handbook and presented today.

ABSTRACT DISTRICT-WISE

| S. No | District Name | No. of Villages | Area (Ha) | Total House Holds | Total Population 2011 | Population of Pahari Speaking People | |
|-------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | Persons | %age |
| 1 | Anantnag | 342 | 3574 | 153640 | 1078692 | 84742 | 7.86% |
| 2 | Badgam | 474 | 1361 | 103363 | 753745 | 5283 | 0.70% |
| 3 | Bandipore | 122 | 345 | 58392 | 392232 | 16993 | 4.33% |
| 4 | Baramula | 518 | 4243 | 152635 | 1008039 | 141157 | 14.00% |
| 5 | Doda | 406 | 8912 | 79636 | 409936 | 0 | 0.00% |
| 6 | Ganderbal | 115 | 259 | 45361 | 297446 | 17497 | 5.88% |
| 7 | Jammu | 852 | 2342 | 314199 | 1529958 | 0 | 0.00% |

ABSTRACT DISTRICT-WISE

| S. No | District Name | No. of Villages | Area (Ha) | Total House Holds | Total Population 2011 | Population of Pahari Speaking People | |
|-------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| | | | | | | Persons | %age |
| 8 | Kargil | 127 | 14036 | 18338 | 140802 | 0 | 0.00% |
| 9 | Kathua | 512 | 2502 | 119583 | 616435 | 0 | 0.00% |
| 10 | Kishtwar | 157 | 1644 | 45209 | 230696 | 0 | 0.00% |
| 11 | Kulgam | 231 | 410 | 73728 | 424483 | 3738 | 0.88% |
| 12 | Kupwara | 362 | 2379 | 113929 | 870354 | 103082 | 11.84% |
| 13 | Leh | 112 | 45110 | 21909 | 133487 | 0 | 0.00% |
| 14 | Pulwama | 329 | 1086 | 86241 | 560440 | 8920 | 1.59% |

ABSTRACT DISTRICT-WISE

| S. No | District Name | No. of Villages | Area (Ha) | Total House Holds | Total Population 2011 | Population of Pahari Speaking People | |
|-------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | | Persons | %age |
| 15 | Punch | 178 | 1674 | 90261 | 476835 | 267194 | 56.03% |
| 16 | Rajouri | 385 | 2630 | 130401 | 642415 | 360409 | 56.10% |
| 17 | Ramban | 129 | 1329 | 55490 | 283713 | 0 | 0.00% |
| 18 | Reasi | 255 | 1719 | 56689 | 314667 | 0 | 0.00% |
| 19 | Samba | 376 | 904 | 65385 | 318898 | 0 | 0.00% |
| 20 | Shupiyan | 229 | 312 | 44411 | 266215 | 13427 | 5.04% |
| 21 | Srinagar | 11 | 1979 | 191678 | 1236829 | 540 | 0.04% |
| 22 | Udhampur | 331 | 2637 | 99240 | 554985 | 0 | 0.00% |
| | Total | 6553 | | 2119718 | 12541302 | 1022982 | 8.16% |

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Complete database of this Census Survey Report- 2011 @ 2018 in the shape of booklet is available in the office of the State Advisory Board for the Development of Pahari Speaking People (J&K) Jammu. Your suggestions, recommendations will help us to improve this study for larger benefits.

Regards

Dr Zakir KAS

Secratry

PSP