

Scheduled Caste and their faith in Hindu religion in Chamoli district: A geographical study

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Abstract

In India religion is life and without it we can't imagine of human existence. India illustrates a framework of religious realm consisting of the Hindus, the Muslims, the Christians, the Sikhs, the Buddhists and the Jains as major religious groups. Among these all religion Hindus in top at present according to population. According to different Hindu's literature, in this have four caste and SC one of them. In Uttarakhand 67 people groups has recognized as SC and in Chamoli district. Agariya, Badhik, Badi, Tamta, Kohli etc peoples groups recognized SC in study area. Chamoli district has nine blokes and them SC population distributed in different figure. India has SC population percentage in total population is 16.2 in 2001 and it increase 2011 16.6 %. Uttarakhand has SC population percentage in 2001 17.9 it increase 2011 18.8 %. In Uttarakhand Bageshwar has 1st rank SC population percentage 27.72 according to 2011 census and Chamoli has 5th rank. In this way Chamoli District percentage of SC population is higher from state and national level, in 2001 SC population was 18.23% which increase 2011 and reach 20.25 %. District Chamoli came into existence on 20th Feb 1960, before as a district it was part of the district Garhwal, as subdivision Chamoli. Present study try to SC people faith in Hindu God/Goddess in Chamoli district.

Keywords: scheduled caste, Hindu religion, Chamoli

Introduction of Study area

The study of distribution and growth of population is much necessary of Indian Himalaya development, district Chamoli come also under it. District Chamoli came into existence on 20th Feb 1960, before as a district it was part of the district Garhwal, as subdivision Chamoli. In 1997 some part of Chamoli district converge in Ruderprayag district. Extension

of Chamoli district 29° 55' 00" to 31° 03' 45" longitude and 79° 02' 39" to 80° 03' 29" latitude, total geographical area has 7820 km². Chamoli district has 9 bloke and 1244 village according to 2011 census. Ruderprayag existence in southern part, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh in eastern part. Geographically most northern part of study area come under Grater Himalaya and lower area come in lesser and outer Himalaya.

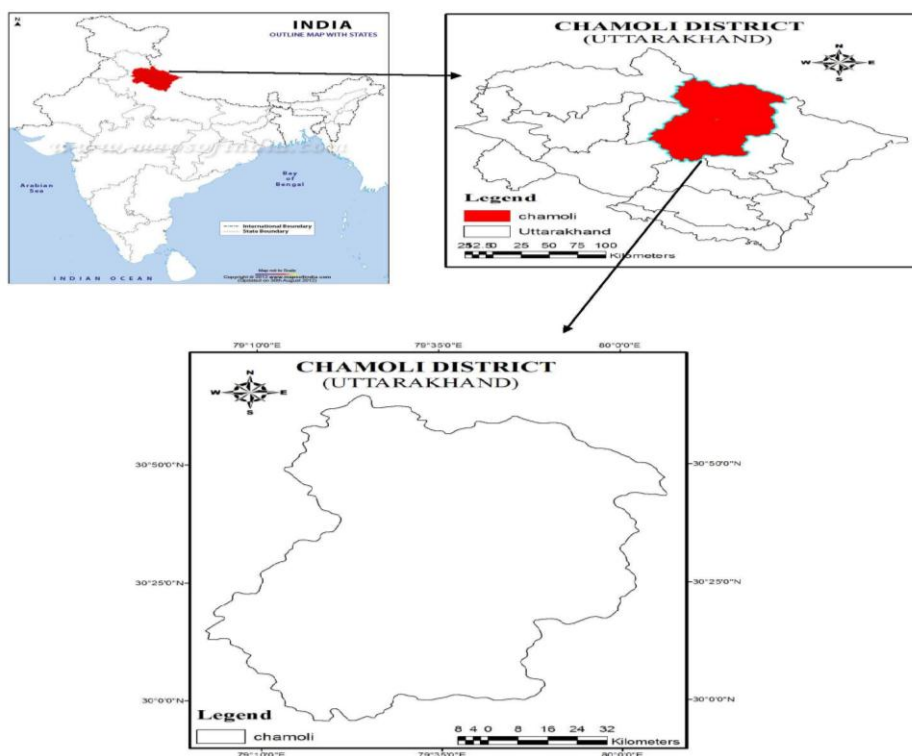


Fig 1

Methodology

Present study based on primary and secondary data of Chamoli district. In Chamoli district for religious study among SC at first select four villages in every block and as well as in nine blocks. I select total 36 village for sampling based on random sampling. We have taken each village 20 sample and 720 sample of whole district to study for religious pattern.

Objects of Study

Religion is the lifeline of common people and source of believes. So that I try to understand what type of faith has in SC people which is situated in Chamoli district and what type of most God and Goddess warship by SC people.

Table 1: God/Goddess worshiper of Scheduled caste people in Chamoli district nine block

S.No.	Name of God/Goddess	Joshimath	Dasholi	Pokhri	Ghat	Karanprayag	Narayanbgur	Tharali	Dewal	Garisain	Chamoli tot
1	Bagwati	19	0	13.75	5	12.5	27.5	21.25	20	16.3	15
2	Bhero devta	33	0	11.25	68.75	17.5	33.75	30	30	26.3	27.78
3	Narsingh	48	96.25	63.75	1.25	62.5	33.75	25	32.5	56.3	46.67
4	rawai devta	0	0	2.5	25	1.25	0	0	0	1.1	3.33
5	Shiv	0	3.75	1.25	0	0	1.25	3.75	0	0	1.11
6	Kul devi	0	0	1.25	0	1.25	3.75	0	0	0	0.69
7	Hnuman	0	0	2.5	0	0	0	1.25	0	0	0.42
8	Golu devta	0	0	1.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.14
9	Isht devta	0	0	1.25	0	0	0	1.25	0	0	0.28
10	Munna devita	0	0	1.25	0	1.25	0	0	0	0	0.27
11	Nanda devi	0	0	0	0	3.75	0	16.25	0	0	2.23
12	Bharadi maa	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.25	17.5	0	2.08
13	Chamoli tot	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Self collected

Human is a social creature which is can't live without society and religion. All SC people follow Hindu religion in district. We can easily see the religious diversity of SC people among Hindu God/Goddess in Chamoli district. In district every SC people and family worship of around four to five God but mainly they follow one dominant God in their life. Here we are studying only one dominant God of every responder which is follower follow. In study region we found twelve major type of God which is Bahgwati, Bhero devta, Narsing, Rawal devta, Shiv, Kuldevi, Hanuman, Kul Devta, Isht devta, Munna devta Nanda devi and Bharadi maa.

The bock wise distribution of the religious groups among Hindu provided a picture of spatial variations. Table 1 and figure 1 represent type of God/Goddess follow by SC. According to percentage Narsing God has highest follow by SC people in Chamoli district which is 46.67%. The worshiper of Narsing God in block according to parentage Dasholi block has highest percentage which is 96.25%. other worshiper of Narsing in block according to percentage in pokhari 63.75%, in Karanprayag 62.5%, in Gairsain 56.3%, in Joshimath 48%, Narayanbgur 33.75%, in Tharali 25%, in Deval 32.5%, in Ghat 1.25%.

According to the worshiper of God Bhero devta has second

rank according to percentage of whole district which is 27.78%. In block level worshiper of Behro devta in percentage Ghat block has highest percentage which is 68.75%. After that in Narayanbgur 33.75%, in joshimath 33%, in Tharali and Deval 30%, In Garisain 26.3%, in Karanprayag 17.5%, in Pokhari 11.25% and last Dasholi block has zero percentage.

Goddess Bagwati worshiper in district has 15%. In Chamoli district blocks worshiper of Bagwati according to percentage is Narayanbgur 27.5%, in Tharali 21.25%, in Deval 20%, in Joshimath 19%, in Gairsain 16.3%, in Pokhri 13.75%, in Karanprayag 12.5% and Dasholi is zero percentage. Gairsain, Tharali, Dewal, Joshimath block has high percentage in district according to district percentage of Bagwati worshiper. Rawal devta also one of the most dominant God among SC. The worshiper of Rawal devta in Chamoli district has 3.33% only. In Chamoli district only four block has found of Rawal devta they are Ghat, Pokhri, karanprayag, and Gairsain in sequence their percentage is 25%, 2.5%, 1.25% and 1.1%.

Nanda devi is famous Goddess among SC population in Chamoli district. Tha total follower of Nanda devi in district has only 2.23%. According to district block the worshiper of Nanda devi found in Tharali and Karanprayag block and their percentage is 16.25% and 3.75%.

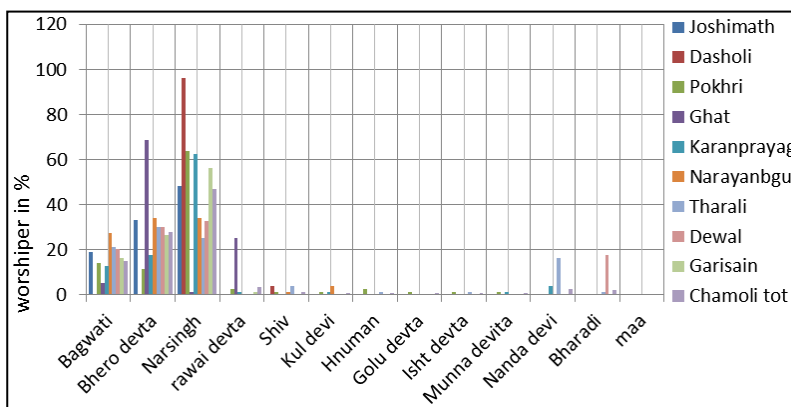


Fig 1: God/Goddess worshiper of Scheduled caste people in Chamoli district nine block

Bharadi maa also another Goddess in district and their follower is 2.08% only. In blocks the worshiper of bharadi maa found in Dewal and tharali block and their percentage is 17.5% and 1.25%.

Shiv is most dominant God in SC people. The total district percentage of shiv God follower is 1.11%. In blocks worshiper of Shiv in Dasholi and Tharali 3.75%, in Pokhari and Narayanbgur 1.25%. Other block of district flower of Shiv has zero percentage.

After that four type of God remaining which is low percentage according the table they are Kul devi, Hanuman, Golu deta, Isht deta and Munna devta. The main reason is they found in only one or two block so the follower are so less. The goddess kuldevi follower has 0.69% only in district. According to blocks worshiper are found of Kuldevi in Narayanbgur, Pokhri and Karanprayag and their percentage in sequence is 3.75%, 1.25% both. Hanuman God worshiper percentage in district has 0.42% and in block level their follower found only in Narayanbgur and Pokhri, block, their percentage is 2.75%, 1.25%. Golu devta total worshiper percentage in district 0.28 and their follower only found in pokhai block which is 1.25%. Isht devta nad Munna devta worshiper in district has in sequence is 0.28% and 0.27% only. Isht devta follower found in Pokhri and Tharali block which is both 1.25% percentage. Munna devta also found in only two block which is Pokhari and Karanprayag and their percentage is 1.25% both.

Conclusion

Chamoli district has holy place of Hindu's literature. In this way we seen that all SC people is Hindu and they have twelve major God/ Goddess in district. God Narshing is dominant in SC faith, its result is has highest percentage of worshiper and after that Behro devta and Bagwati. These three major God capture around ninety percentage of worshiper in district. In Chamoli district worshiper of other nine God/Goddess are around ten percentage which is so less in the compare of Narshing, Bhero devta and Bagwati because other nine God/ Goddess found only one and two block and these particular block worshiper percentage of other three God/Goddess is so high.

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