

# Agricultural Land Distribution among Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra State

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**Abstract:** *Maharashtra is considered as one of the most progressive and developed state in India. It is a leading State in agriculture. Agriculture is the largest provider of livelihood in rural India. Land is considered as an important resource as it provides habitation to a wide variety of flora and fauna. Land is not only prime source of income but also a symbol of social status in rural India. The Scheduled Castes (SCs) are poorest of the poor section not only in Maharashtra but also across India. The land distribution pattern for Scheduled castes in Maharashtra in agriculture continues to be skewed. As small number of Scheduled Castes own a large & medium extents of land while large number of Scheduled Castes own marginal and small extents of land. The government of Maharashtra has also implemented Karmveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Self Respect Scheme for landless Scheduled castes. In this context an attempt has been made in this paper to examine Scheduled castes access to land in Maharashtra.*

**Keywords:** Caste, Operational Land Holding, Skewed distribution, Karmveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Self Respect Scheme by Govt of Maharashtra

## 1. Introduction

Maharashtra is considered as one of the most progressive and developed state in India. Although Maharashtra is a highly industrialized state of India, agriculture continues to be the main occupation in the state. Agriculture is the largest provider of livelihood in rural India. Land is considered as an important resource as it provides habitation to a wide variety of flora and fauna. Land is not only prime source of income but also a symbol of social status in rural India. Mostly SCs in Maharashtra are working as manual or casual labourers in the state economy. The Scheduled Castes (SCs) are poorest of the poor section not only in Maharashtra but also across India. Landlessness is the main cause, which keeps them as mere rural poor. At many places, landless labourers work as bondage labour in agricultural farms of other farmers. Those who have marginal farms, work seasonally in their farms, and go out of village for work during off agriculture season. Main objective of this study is to find Agricultural Land Distribution among Scheduled castes.

### **Karmveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Self Respect Scheme by Govt of Maharashtra:**

Due to the provision of educational facilities by the state Government for the scheduled castes & Nav-Buddhists, the level of education among them is increasing. The current policy of liberalization has reduced the availability of jobs. Therefore the proportion of educated unemployment among

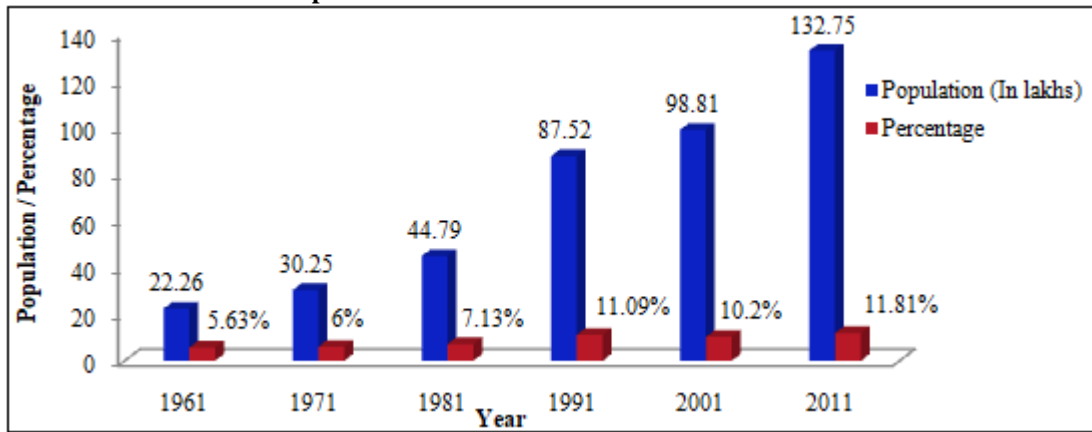
the general population is higher among the Scheduled Castes & Nav- Buddhists.

The Scheduled Castes & Nav- Buddhists families who have land to cultivate have source of income. However landless agricultural families below the poverty lines have no other means of subsistence and have to resort to employment guarantee schemes or hire private individuals. As a result their livelihood is adversely affected. In order to increase their source of income and change their standard of living, they need to reduce their dependence on wages and provide them with a permanent source of income.

For this Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment & Self Respect Scheme was launched in the state to provide source of income to the Scheduled castes & Nav-Buddhists landless agricultural labourers below the poverty line through the social welfare Department. Launched on June 2, 2004. Under this Scheme persons belonging to scheduled castes & Nav-Buddhists below the poverty line & whose age range is between 18 to 60 year are given 4 acres of dry land or 2 acres of irrigated land. In this widow and abandoned are preferred. 50% grant & 50% interest free loan was being given by the government for the purchase of this land but as per the government decision dated 14 th August 2018, Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment & Self Respect Scheme was given 100% grant.

This scheme helps to increase the number of land holders in scheduled caste

Population of Scheduled Caste in Maharashtra



(Source: Maharashtra Development Report, 2007, Census of India 2011)

Table 1: Number and Area of operational holdings for scheduled caste -All over India & Maharashtra

Year	All over India			In Maharashtra		
	Number	Area	Per capita holding area (hectare)	Number	Area	Per capita holding area (hectare)
1995-96	14688474	13406615	0.91	868544	1277285	1.47
2000-01	15140303	13076954	0.86	944099	1240563	1.31
2005-06	16073467	13300400	0.83	1067217	1234507	1.16
2010-11	17099190	13721034	0.80	1028573	1303473	1.27

(Source: Agriculture Census website)

Table 2: Number and Area of operational holdings for All caste & Scheduled Castes in the State of Maharashtra

Year	All caste		Scheduled Caste		Percentage (SC)	
	Number	Area(hectare)	Number	Area(hectare)	Number	Area(hectare)
1995-96	10652839	19879635	868544	1277285	8.15	6.43
2000-01	12137627	20102804	944099	1240563	7.78	6.17
2005-06	13715636	20005006	1067217	1234507	7.78	6.17
2010-11	13698965	19767061	1028573	1303473	7.51	6.59

(Source: Agriculture Census website)

Table 3: District wise Number and Area of operational holdings for Scheduled Castes (According to the agricultural census of the year 2010-11)

Sr No	District	Number	Area (hectare)	Per capita holding (hectare)
1	Ahmednagar	72926	83191	1.14
2	Akola	36359	52663	1.45
3	Amarawati	53338	79192	1.48
4	Aurangabad	23695	27882	1.18
5	Beed	29089	37076	1.27
6	Bhandara	31922	26169	0.82
7	Buldhana	55845	78285	1.40
8	Chandrapur	37042	58377	1.58
9	Dhule	12045	23334	1.94
10	Gadchiroli	14794	19079	1.29
11	Gondiya	25520	18383	0.72
12	Hingoli	18606	28963	1.56
13	Jalgaon	23017	33611	1.46
14	Jalana	30827	39398	1.28
15	Kolhapur	51173	25383	0.50
16	Latur	24961	35378	1.42
17	Nagpur	27199	49006	1.80
18	Nanded	56751	67580	1.19
19	Nandurbar	2108	3360	1.59
20	nashik	41239	54065	1.31
21	Parbhani	12513	17728	1.42
22	Pune	31564	35577	1.13
23	Ratnagiri	31867	36660	1.15
24	Raigad	11241	10425	0.93
25	Sangali	35667	27373	0.77
26	Satara	62332	42914	0.69

27	Sindhudurg	14939	11219	0.75
28	Solapur	51461	88107	1.71
29	Thane	7109	7990	1.12
30	Osamanabad	19440	30014	1.54
31	Washim	23545	37963	1.61
32	Wardha	25630	52487	2.05
33	Yawatmal	32809	64642	1.97
	Total	1028573	1303474	-

(Source: Agriculture Census website)

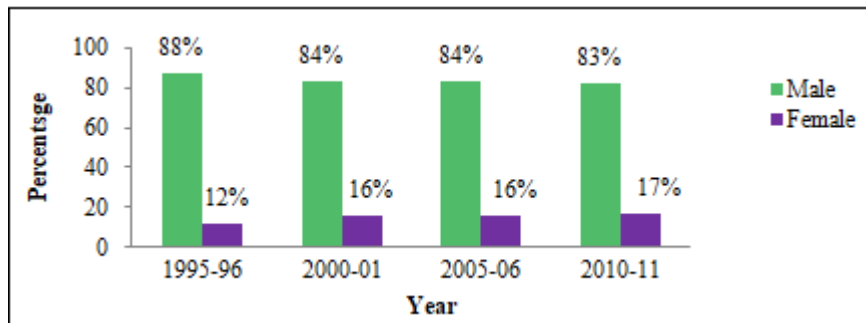


Chart1- Gender wise operational holdings for Scheduled Castes

(Source: Agriculture Census website)

Table 4 - Classification according to the size of holding for scheduled caste

Year	Marginal		Small		Semi-medium		Medium		Large	
	Number	Area (hectare)	Number	Area (hectare)	Number	Area (hectare)	Number	Area (hectare)	Number	Area (hectare)
1995-96	417308	195911	257971	365598	140879	374959	47712	269076	4674	71741
2000-01	481053	231844	283133	395692	139671	366689	37528	206352	2714	39986
2005-06	574695	262209	323367	421954	139805	367388	26680	150362	2670	32593
2010-11	538710	258593	311276	435828	138994	364911	36869	203784	2724	40357
एकूण	2011766	948557	1175747	1619072	559349	1473947	148789	829574	12782	184677

(Source: Agriculture Census website)

[Marginal – below 0.1 ha., Small- 1.0-2.0 ha., Semi- medium – 2.0 -4.0 ha., Medium-4.0-10.0 ha., large- above 100 ha.]  
83% of the Scheduled Caste landholders are marginal and small holders.

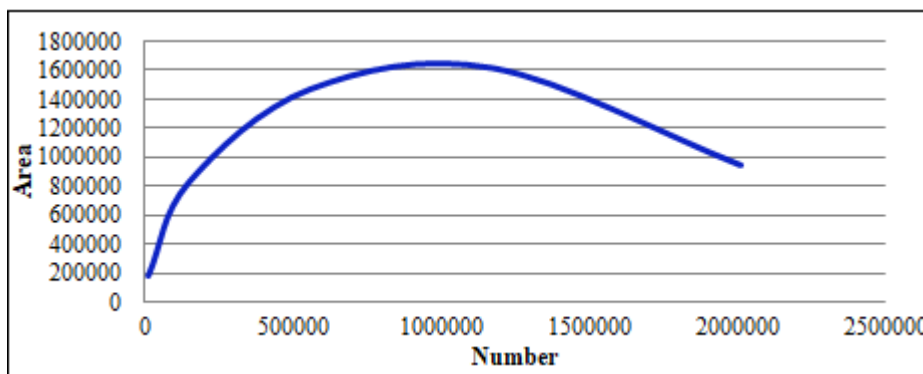


Chart 2: Number & size of holding for scheduled caste

Operational land holding of scheduled caste is positively skewed as large number of scheduled castes holding small & marginal area & Small number scheduled caste holding large & medium area.

**Bowley skewness** - Bowley skewness is a way to figure out if you have a positively-skewed or negatively skewed distribution. Bowley Skewness as an alternative to find out more about the asymmetry of your distribution.  
Skewness = 0 means that the curve is symmetrical.  
Skewness > 0 means the curve is positively skewed.

Skewness < 0 means the curve is negatively skewed.

$$\text{Bowley Skewness} = \frac{Q_3+Q_1-2Q_2}{Q_3-Q_1}$$

Here Q1= 1175747, Q2= 1175747, Q3= 559349

$$\text{Bowley Skewness} = \frac{-616398}{-616398} = 1$$

Bowley Skewness > 0 so it is positively skewed

**Table 5:** Classification according to the Types of holding for scheduled caste

Year	Individual Holdings		Joint Holdings		Total Holdings	
	Number	Area (hectare)	Number	Area (hectare)	Number	Area (hectare)
1995-96	833447	1209614	35097	67671	868544	1277285
2000-01	935223	1225688	8876	14875	944099	1240563
2005-06	1057401	1220367	9816	14140	1067217	1234507
2010-11	953368	1204369	75205	99104	1028573	1303473

(Source: Agriculture Census website)

i) **Individual:** If the holding is being operated either by one person or by a group of persons who are the members of the same household, such holding will be considered as an individual holding.

ii) **Joint:** If two or more persons belonging to different households, share jointly as partners in the economic and technical responsibility for the operation of an agricultural holding, such holding will be considered as joint holding ]

The SC population with individual holding is more than the SC population with joint holding .

**Table 6:** District wise Classification according to the Types of holding for scheduled caste (2010-11)

Sr No	District	Individual Holdings		Joint Holdings		Total	
		Number	Area(hectare)	Number	Area(hectare)	Number	Area(hectare)
1	Ahmednagar	70376	79887	2550	3304	72926	83191
2	Akola	34776	50158	1583	2505	36359	52663
3	Amaravati	48909	72048	4429	7144	53338	79192
4	Aurangabad	23134	27187	561	695	23695	27882
5	Beed	29087	37076	2	Neg	29089	37076
6	Bhandara	26723	21148	5199	5021	31922	26169
7	Buldhana	53702	74845	2143	3440	55845	78285
8	Chandrapur	22012	34403	15030	23974	37042	58377
9	Dhule	11297	21794	748	1540	12045	23334
10	Gadchiroli	10694	13607	4100	5472	14794	19079
11	Gondiya	15580	11095	9940	7288	25520	18383
12	Hingoli	18131	28190	475	773	18606	28963
13	Jalgaon	21270	31204	1747	2406	23017	33611
14	Jalana	30794	39362	33	36	30827	39398
15	Kolhapur	50441	25001	732	382	51173	25383
16	Latur	24298	34423	663	955	24961	35378
17	Nagpur	24772	43956	2427	5049	27199	49006
18	Nanded	56709	67534	42	46	56751	67580
19	Nandurbar	1978	3148	130	212	2108	3360
20	Nashik	39580	51792	1659	2274	41239	54065
21	Parbhani	12096	17138	417	590	12513	17728
22	Pune	31216	35177	348	400	31564	35577
23	Ratnagiri	30522	35124	1345	1536	31867	36660
24	Raigad	11047	10223	194	202	11241	10425
25	Sangli	35454	27169	213	205	35667	27373
26	Satara	53890	37894	8442	5020	62332	42914
27	Sindhudurg	14572	11097	367	121	14939	11219
28	Solapur	46823	79992	4638	8115	51461	88107
29	Thane	6853	7748	256	241	7109	7990
30	Osamanabad	19177	29550	263	464	19440	30014
31	Washim	23007	36957	538	1006	23545	37963
32	Wardha	24300	49649	1330	2837	25630	52487
33	Yawatmal	30148	58793	2661	5849	32809	64642
	Total	953368	1204369	75205	99102	1028573	1303474

(Source: Agriculture Census website)

## 2. Conclusion

The land distribution pattern for Scheduled castes in Maharashtra in agriculture continues to be skewed. As small number of Scheduled Castes own large & medium extents of land while large number of Scheduled Castes own marginal and small extents of land. Land holding by female is less than male in Scheduled castes. but it is slightly increasing. 83% of the Scheduled Caste landholders are marginal and

small holders. The SC population with individual holding is more than the SC population with joint holding.

Karmveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment and Self Respect Scheme for landless Scheduled castes by Govt. of Maharashtra also help to increase the landholders in Scheduled Castes.

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