

Vir Narain

Religious Composition of Population at the State Level—1971

IN this paper we consider the composition of the population according to religion in 1971 for rural and urban areas of different states. The distribution of population by religion is shown below separately for rural and urban segments of the population for the country as a whole.

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY RELIGION IN RURAL AND URBAN
AREAS IN 1971

<i>Religion</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Total</i>
Hindus	84.33	76.25	82.72
Muslims	9.96	16.21	11.21
Christians	2.43	3.26	2.60
Sikhs	1.92	1.81	1.89
Jains	0.24	1.43	0.47
Buddhists	0.65	0.88	0.70
Others	0.47	0.16	0.41
All	100.00	100.00	100.00

The main difference between rural and urban population in their religious composition is that the preponderance of the Hindus is smaller in the urban as

compared to the rural population. Similarly, the share of Sikhs in the urban population is smaller than their relative strength within the rural population. In the case of other religions, the comparative position is the reverse; Muslims, for example, claim 10 per cent of the rural but over 16 per cent of the urban population. The most outstanding is the case of Jains; who account for 1.4 per cent of the urban population but 0.24 per cent of the rural population.

Apparently, the level of urbanisation differs from religion to religion, if we measure it only in quantitative terms. As against the All-India urban proportion of 19.9 per cent, the corresponding proportion for Hindus is 18.4 per cent and for Sikhs 19.0 per cent but for the Christians it is 25 per cent, for Buddhists 25.3 per cent, for Muslims 28.8 per cent and for the Jains 59.8 per cent.

According to State or territory we have 29 aerial units into which the country is divided. The religious composition¹ of the population differs from one to another of these aerial units. Hindus, constituting 82.7 per cent of the total population, account for 96.3 per cent of the total population in Orissa, 96.1 per cent in Himachal Pradesh, 93.7 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and 95.8 per cent in the Union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. At the other end, we have the territory of Lakshadweep showing this proportion to be only 4.9 per cent. Comparatively, very low proportion of Hindus is recorded in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

The next religious group is constituted by Muslims with 11.2 per cent of the total population. They constitute, however, 94.4 per cent of the population in Lakshadweep, 65.8 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir, 24.0 per cent in Assam including Mizoram, 20.5 per cent in West Bengal, 19.5 per cent in Kerala, 15.5 per cent in U.P., 13.5 per cent in Bihar, 10.6 per cent in Mysore and 10.1 per cent in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Their proportion is negligible in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Punjab and Orissa.

The Christians in the third place account for 2.6 per cent of the total population, but as much as 66.8 per cent in Nagaland, 47.0 per cent in Meghalaya, 31.8 per cent in Goa, Daman and Diu, 26.3 per cent in Andaman and Nicobar

1. See Statement I(a) in : Census of India, 1971. Series I—India, Paper No. 2 of 1972, *Religion*.

Islands, 26.0 per cent in Manipur and 21.0 per cent in Kerala. Their proportion in the population is less than 1 per cent in Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat.

Sikhs account for 1.9 per cent of the total population, but for 60.2 per cent of the population in Punjab, 25.5 per cent of the population in Chandigarh, 6.3 per cent in Haryana and 7.2 per cent of the population in Delhi. Their share of the population exceeds 1 per cent also in Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir. Buddhist forming 0.7 per cent of the total population account for 13.1 per cent of the population in Arunachal Pradesh, 6.5 per cent in Maharashtra, 2.7 per cent in Tripura, 1.3 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir and 1 per cent in Himachal Pradesh.

Jains form less than half a per cent of the total population, but they account for more than a per cent in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Delhi. The residual group of other religions claim 0.4 per cent of the total population but in Arunachal Pradesh their share in the population is as high as 63.5 per cent. They form 31.5 per cent of the population in Meghalaya, 20.9 per cent in Nagaland and 7.7 per cent in Manipur.

Alternatively, if we consider the distribution of each religion² as between the states and territories, the pattern of distribution for the preponderant group of Hindus is broadly similar to that of the distribution of total population. The notable exception here relates to Jammu and Kashmir where 0.3 per cent of the total Hindu population of the country lives as compared to the State's share of 0.8 per cent of population. The corresponding distribution of other religions is indicative of pockets of concentration within the country. Of all Muslims, living in India, 22.3 per cent are found in U.P., 14.8 per cent in West Bengal, 12.4 per cent in Bihar. The three States thus, account for nearly half the Muslim population. Likewise, 31.6 per cent of all Indian Christians live in Kerala, 16.7 per cent in Tamil Nadu and 12.8 per cent in Andhra Pradesh, together these three states account for over 60 per cent of all the Christians. The concentration of Sikhs and Buddhists is even more marked; 78.6 per cent of Sikhs live in Punjab, and 85.6 per cent Buddhist live in Maharashtra. The small minority of Jains has a comparatively better spread. Of

2. See statement III in : Census of India, 1971— Paper 2 of 1972, *Religion*.

them 27 per cent live in Maharashtra, 19.7 per cent in Rajasthan, 17.3 per cent in Gujarat and 13.3 per cent in Madhya Pradesh. Of the other religions, we have 44.7 per cent in Bihar, 14.6 per cent in Meghalaya, 13.6 per cent in Arunachal Pradesh and 8.9 per cent in West Bengal.

We give, in Appendix Table 1A, and IB, per cent distribution of population by religion for each State for its rural and urban population respectively. Between the States, the proportion of Hindus for the rural areas has a range from 4.9 per cent in Lakshadweep, 6.6 per cent in Nagaland, 13.4 per cent in Meghalaya, 20.1 per cent in Arunachal Pradesh, 28.6 per cent in Punjab and 29.4 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir to 96.7 per cent in Himachal Pradesh and Orissa and 96.5 per cent in Madhya Pradesh. The range of variation is considerably shorter for urban areas. It is interesting to add further that in States where the Hindus constituted a small proportion of the total population, the urban areas show a higher proportion as compared to the rural. In Punjab, the proportion of Hindus in rural areas is 28.6 per cent as compared to 66.4 per cent in the urban areas; the corresponding figures for Nagaland are 6.6 and 55.1 per cent, for Arunachal Pradesh 20.1 and 70.8 per cent and for Meghalaya 13.4 and 48.4 per cent for rural and urban areas respectively.

In the case of Muslims, the urban proportion is generally higher than the rural in almost all States. There are, however, significant exceptions, particularly in States with sizeable Muslim population. In Jammu and Kashmir, with overall Muslim majority, the rural proportion is 67.1 and the urban 60.5 per cent. For Assam, the corresponding figures are 25.3 and 10.9 and for West Bengal 23.5 and 11.3. A notable exception here arises in the case of Haryana, where Muslims though forming a small proportion in the total population, constitute 4.7 per cent of the rural population, but 0.9 per cent of the urban population.

Similar rural-urban differential is shown by the Christians. Their proportion is sizeable in the total population of Kerala, Goa, Daman and Diu, Manipur, Nagaland, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Meghalaya. In each case, the urban proportion is comparatively smaller. In size the differential is the largest in the case of Nagaland, where Christians account for 70 per cent of the rural population, but only 37.6 per cent of the urban population. In the remaining States, where they form proportionately very small groups, the differential is in favour of the urban areas with exception of Assam, where

the Christians account for 4.5 per cent of the rural but 3.6 percent of the urban population.

Finally, the notable feature of the distribution of Sikhs is in respect of Punjab, where they constitute a majority in the total population. The proportion of Sikhs in the rural population of Punjab is 69.4 per cent, but only 30.8 per cent in the urban population. Similar is the position of Chandigarh, with 41.8 per cent and 23.7 per cent Sikhs in the rural and urban populations respectively. The difference in the case of Rajasthan is similar but here Sikhs constitute a very small fraction of the total population. In all other States and territories, the urban proportion is higher. Among the states size of the differential is very small for Haryana.

A word about the two remaining small groups of Jains and Buddhists may be added. Jains claim a comparatively higher share in the urban population in all states and territories. Buddhists show a lower proportion in the urban population of the states where they form sizeable groups, for example, they claim a share of 13.4 per cent in rural areas of Arunachal Pradesh as compared to 7.3 per cent in its urban areas.

In Appendix Table 2, we use the same data to show urban proportions of different religions separately for each state. In general, we find that the urban proportion is higher for a given religion in states where its comparative strength is smaller. This is true also of the preponderant Hindu group. The urban proportion for the Hindus at the All-India level is 18.3 per cent. But in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland and Meghalaya where Hindus form much less than half the population, their urban proportion is higher than the one at the All-India level. Among the major states, the Hindus are most urban in Punjab and the least in Himachal Pradesh.

The urban proportion for the Muslims for the country as a whole is 28.8 per cent, which ranges, among the major states, from 3.9 percent for Haryana to 59.7 per cent for Tamil Nadu. The Muslims record a smaller urban proportion in States where they constitute a comparatively larger share in the population. Country-wise, their urban proportion is higher in states where they form smaller fractions of the population. There are, however, exceptions to this, for example, Haryana, Manipur, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.

About Christians too, it is notable that their urban proportion is compara-

tively smaller in states like Kerala, Manipur, Nagaland, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Meghalaya where they form sizeable groups in the population.

The urban proportion for the Sikhs is lower in the areas of their concentration, in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. Among the major states they record the largest urban proportion of 90 per cent in Andhra Pradesh and the smallest of 12.1 per cent in Punjab.

Jains record the lowest urban proportion of 34.1 per cent in Mysore and the highest of 99.4 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir. Among the states of their concentration, they record a lower urban proportion only in Rajasthan. The Buddhists are concentrated in Maharashtra, their urban proportion here is smaller than the one for the state as a whole, but higher than for the country as a whole. In all other states having some strength of Buddhists in their population, the urban content is much smaller than the latter figure.

It is to be noted that the urban proportion varies greatly from states to state. This variation in urban proportion between different states has obviously a bearing on the comparative position of different religions represented in the state population. We may take account of this fact by referring to the ratio of the urban proportion for a given religious group to the urban proportion of the state. The ratios so derived indicate the level of urbanisation of a religious group relative to other groups for different states and territories. A ratio of 1,000 for any religion indicates the same level of urbanisation as that for the state ; a ratio of two shows that the urban proportion of the group is twice that of the state.

The preponderant group of Hindus, reveals the smallest range of variation of the ratio from .810 for Uttar Pradesh to 1.766 for Punjab among the major states. For the smaller territories, the ratio extends to 4.838 for Nagaland, indicating almost a five-fold urban proportion for the group as compared to that of the population of the state. The ratio is less than unity in general, and the exceptions are provided by two clusters, one in the north comprising , of Chandigarh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and the other in the East consisting of West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The Muslims show a ratio of 1.446 for the country as a whole. It has a wide range from .182 for Manipur and .221 for Haryana to 3.644 for Orissa and

10.266 for Arunachal Pradesh. Apart from Haryana and Manipur, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura in the East and Jammu and Kashmir and Chandigarh in the North indicate a ratio of less than unity for the group.

The ratio for all the Christians is 1.256, which ranges from .155 for Tripura and .698 for Punjab to 2.816 for Arunachal Pradesh and 7.726 for Himachal Pradesh. In addition to Tripura and Punjab the other states, to indicate a ratio of less than unity are Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam, Goa, Daman and Diu and Kerala.

The Sikhs reveal a ratio of less than unity only for Punjab, Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Orissa and Tripura. Punjab, which accounts for over 60 per cent of their population, the ratio of .511 is the smallest whereas the ratio for the country as a whole is .956.

The Jains show high ratio in all the states with a range from 1.099 for Delhi and 1.403 for Mysore to 8.310 for Himachal Pradesh and 20.846 for Arunachal Pradesh. They show an average ratio of 3.005. The Buddhists reveal a lower ratio in all the states with larger share in the population.

The general observation of inverse relation between relative level of urbanisation of a religious group to its relative strength in the State's population is confirmed by coefficients of rank correlation between the share of a religious group in the state's population and the ratio of its urban proportion to the urban proportion of the state as a whole. For this purpose, we have excluded the two groups of Sikhs and Buddhists, who have their concentrations in a single state each and very small population are left to be distributed in other states.

This exercise reveals a negative correlation between the two variables for all the religious groups, but the value of the coefficient varies considerably. At the highest it is $-.79$ for the Hindus, followed by $-.73$ in the next place for Christians which are significant at 1% level. The coefficients of correlation are $-.44$ for the Jains and $-.31$ for the Muslims; the coefficient for the former is significant at 5 per cent level whereas for the latter it is not.

APPENDIX

TABLE 1(A)-PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY RELIGION IN
RURAL AREAS OF STATES IN INDIA—1971

	<i>Muslims</i>	<i>Christians</i>	<i>Sikhs</i>	<i>Hindus</i>	<i>Jains</i>	<i>Buddhists</i>	<i>Others</i>
India	9.965	2.431	1.915	84.335	0.239	0.649	0.466
Andhra Pradesh	5.279	4.113	0.003	90.574	0.006	0.024	0.001
Kerala	19.004	21.334	0.002	59.645	0.008	—	0.007
Mysore	7.204	1.333	0.011	90.660	0.650	0.052	—
Tamil Nadu	2.950	5.281	0.002	91.706	0.044	—	0.017
Lakshadweep	94.370	0.751	0.013	4.857	—	—	0.009
Pondicherry	4.636	4.752	0.005	90.595	0.001	—	0.011
Gujarat	5.367	0.277	0.019	93.479	0.794	0.013	0.051
Maharashtra	5.002	0.485	0.057	36.776	0.739	6.926	0.015
Goa, Daman & Diu	1.833	32.499	0.060	65.538	0.017	0.014	0.039
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.998	2.586	0.004	95.827	0.409	0.098	0.078
U. P.	13.191	0.075	0.294	86.357	0.050	0.033	—
M. P.	2.313	0.555	0.076	96.510	0.374	0.169	0.003
Orissa	1.128	1.614	0.009	96.738	0.013	0.039	0.459
Bihar	13.029	1.122	0.013	83.971	0.015	0.005	1.845
Assam	25.304	4.546	0.041	69.759	0.034	0.316	—
West Bengal	23.455	0.526	0.021	75.117	0.017	0.283	0.581
Manipur	7.438	28.692	0.044	55.080	0.045	0.048	8.653
Tripura	7.083	1.109	0.021	88.749	0.015	3.023	—
Meghalaya	2.550	48.018	0.014	13.399	0.017	0.152	35.850
Arunachal Pradesh	0.116	0.733	0.221	20.123	0.002	13.357	65.448
Nagaland	0.264	69.981	0.019	6.608	0.6001	0.020	23.107
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.333	31.091	0.601	58.637	0.010	0.069	2.259
Jammu and Kashmir	67.065	0.081	1.976	29.444		1.433	0.001
Himachal Pradesh	1.392	0.051	0.882	96.729	0.008	0.930	0.008
Haryana	4.718	0.056	6.245	88.838	0.116	0.007	0.020
Punjab	0.698	1.309	69.373	28.563	0.017	0.007	0.033
Rajasthan	4.840	0.065	1.403	92.380	1.296	0.010	0.006
Delhi	2.680	0.280	1.169	95.635	0.170	0.063	0.003
Chandigarh	2.727	0.411	41.825	55.037	—	—	—

TABLE (IB)-PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY RELIGION IN
URBAN AREAS OF STATES IN INDIA—1971

	<i>Muslims</i>	<i>Christians</i>	<i>Sikhs</i>	<i>Hindus</i>	<i>Jains</i>	<i>Buddhists</i>	<i>Others</i>
India	16.211	3.260	1.811	76.247	1.428	0.883	0.160
Andhra Pradesh	19.843	4.520	0.136	75.308	0.165	0.018	0.010
Kerala	22.057	19.601	0.027	58.219	0.057	0.015	0.024
Mysore	21.002	4.458	0.062	73.389	1.048	0.036	0.005
Tamil Nadu	10.078	6.821	0.031	82.818	0.228	0.008	0.016
Pondicherry	8.305	14.274	0.019	77.205	0.118	0.010	0.069
Gujarat	16.254	0.749	0.193	78.526	3.991	0.040	0.247
Maharashtra	15.894	3.493	0.522	71.257	2.847	5.479	0.508
Goa, Daman and Diu	9.120	29.739	0.222	60.388	0.199	0.076	0.256
U. P.	29.521	0.601	1.184	67.866	0.703	0.119	0.006
M. P.	14.874	1.362	1.067	79.174	3.168	0.340	0.015
Orissa	5.410	2.956	0.458	90.905	0.208	0.029	0.034
Bihar	17.503	1.590	0.969	78.850	0.312	0.043	0.733
Assam	10.922	3.581	0.514	84.203	0.620	0.160	—
West Bengal	11.336	0.697	0.257	87.207	0.241	0.249	0.013
Manipur	1.204	8.510	0.437	84.569	0.700	0.032	4.548
Tripura	3.219	0.158	0.018	96.417	0.099	0.089	—
Meghalaya	2.925	40.862	0.773	48.448	0.082	0.385	6.525
Arunachal Pradesh	1.845	2.216	1.492	70.772	0.174	7.311	16.190
Nagaland	3.382	37.643	1.167	55.065	1.210	0.171	1.362
Andaman and Nicobar							
Islands	19.586	10.287	1.262	68.644	0.019	0.160	0.042
Jammu and Kashmir	60.538	0.482	3.683	34.685	0.133	0.477	0.002
Himachal Pradesh	2.283	0.788	6.832	87.396	0.149	2.476	0.076
Haryana	0.894	0.289	6.486	91.085	1.216	0.016	0.014
Punjab	1.315	0.837	30.792	66.391	0.612	0.021	0.032
Rajasthan	16.533	0.360	0.955	76.786	5.250	0.032	0.084
Delhi	6.904	1.167	7.848	82.463	1.365	0.232	0.021
Chandigarh	1.312	1.032	23.742	73.416	0.436	0.039	0.023

TABLE 2—URBAN PROPORTION OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS IN 1971

	<i>Hindus</i>	<i>Muslims</i>	<i>Christians</i>	<i>Sikhs</i>	<i>Jains</i>	<i>Buddhists</i>	<i>All</i>
India	18.35	28.79	25.00	19.03	59.83	25.26	19.91
Andhra Pradesh	16.60	47.36	20.82	90.62	86.08	15.09	19.31
Kerala	15.91	18.36	15.11	73.20	59.02	89.26	16.25
Mysore	20.63	48.04	51.79	64.87	34.10	18.18	24.30
Tamil Nadu	28.15	59.70	35.90	88.45	69.32	91.81	30.27
U. P.	11.36	26.74	56.47	39.67	69.83	37.17	14.03
M. P.	13.77	55.58	32.29	73.08	62.26	28.20	16.28
Gujarat	24.70	54.17	51.34	79.39	66.26	44.93	28.09
Maharashtra	27.10	58.99	76.52	80.52	63.56	26.37	31.16
Assam	10.52	4.03	7.12	55.21	63.65	4.69	8.89
Orissa	7.94	30.57	14.39	82.84	58.74	6.26	8.39
Bihar	9.42	12.98	13.59	88.77	69.85	50.50	9.99
West Bengal	27.63	13.71	30.34	80.44	82.00	22.46	24.76
Jammu and Kashmir	21.20	17.08	57.64	29.85	99.39	7.06	18.61
Himachal Pradesh	6.36	10.97	53.62	36.79	57.67	16.67	6.94
Haryana	18.03	3.90	52.22	18.22	69.17	33.25	17.65
Punjab	41.97	36.96	16.58	12.13	91.97	48.11	23.76
Rajasthan	15.11	42.24	54.10	12.71	46.46	40.39	17.62
Manipur	18.92	2.40	4.31	60.11	70.31	9.29	13.18
Tripura	11.28	5.02	1.62	9.43	42.67	0.34	10.43
Nagaland	47.94	58.59	5.61	87.33	99.20	49.16	9.91
Meghalya	38.10	16.33	12.65	90.09	45.15	30.19	14.50
Andaman and Nicobar							
Islands	25.66	44.05	8.88	38.26	35.71	40.78	22.77
Arunachal Pradesh	11.90	37.88	10.39	20.55	76.92	2.06	3.69
Pondicherry	38.20	56.50	68.53	74.50	98.31	0.00	42.03
Goa, Daman and Diu	24.88	64.12	24.74	56.94	81.29	66.54	25.96
Delhi	88.25	95.73	97.31	98.31	98.59	96.96	89.70
Chandigarh	92.74	82.17	96.00	84.96	100.00	100.00	90.54

TABLE 3— RATIO OF URBAN PROPORTION OF EACH RELIGION TO THE URBAN PROPORTION IN THE POPULATION OF THE STATE, 1971

	<i>Hindus</i>	<i>Muslims</i>	<i>Christians</i>	<i>Sikhs</i>	<i>Jains</i>	<i>Buddhists</i>
India	.922	1.446	1.256	.956	3.005	1.269
Andhra Pradesh	.860	2.453	1.078	4.693	4.458	.781
Kerala	.979	1.130	.930	4.506	3.632	5.493
Mysore	.849	1.977	2.131	2.670	1.403	.748
Tamil Nadu	.930	1.972	1.186	2.922	2.290	3.003
Pondicherry	.909	1.344	1.631	1.773	2.339	—
U. P.	.810	1.906	4.025	2.828	4.977	2.649
M. P.	.846	3.414	1.983	4.489	3.824	1.732
Gujarat	.879	1.928	1.828	2.826	2.359	1.600
Maharashtra	.870	1.893	2.456	2.584	2.040	.846
Goa, Daman and Diu	.958	2.470	.953	2.193	3.131	2.563
Assam	1.183	.453	.801	6.210	7.160	.528
Orissa	.946	3.644	1.715	.987	7.001	.746
Bihar	.943	1.299	1.360	8.886	6.992	5.055
West Bengal	1.116	.550	1.225	3.249	3.312	.907
Manipur	1.436	.182	.327	4.561	5.335	.705
Tripura	1.077	.481	.155	.904	4.091	.033
Nagaland	4.838	5.912	.566	8.812	10.010	4.961
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.127	1.935	.390	1.680	1.568	1.791
Arunachal Pradesh	3.225	10.266	2.816	5.569	20.846	.558
Meehalava	2.628	1.126	.872	6.213	3.114	2.082
Jammu and Kashmir	1.139	.918	3.097	1.604	5.341	.379
Himachal Pradesh	.916	1.581	7.726	5.301	8.310	2.402
Haryana	1.022	.221	2.959	1.032	3.919	1.884
Punjab	1.766	1-556	.698	.511	3.871	2.025
Rajasthan	.858	2.397	3.070	.721	2.637	2.292
Delhi	.984	1.067	1.085	1.096	1.099	1.081
Chandigarh	1.024	.908	1.060	.933	1.104	1.104