



Socio-Demographic profile of scheduled castes in Azamgarh District, Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract

This study examines the Scheduled Caste (SC) population in Azamgarh district (Uttar Pradesh, India) using block-level census data. We present descriptive statistics on SC population share, sex ratio, and literacy, comparing them with state and national averages. Azamgarh's SCs constitute about 26.62% of the district population, notably higher than the proportions in Uttar Pradesh (~20.5%) and India (~16.6%). The SC sex ratio in Azamgarh is above parity (favouring females in most blocks), with blocks like Martinganj exhibiting a ratio of 1087 SC females per 1000 SC males. Literacy among Azamgarh SCs averages roughly 64%, with significant gender gaps: male SC literacy (~76%) far exceeds female SC literacy (~52%). These figures surpass Uttar Pradesh's SC literacy (60.89%) but are slightly below the national SC average (66.07%). We include tables and charts to elucidate block-wise variations and contextualise Azamgarh's SC demographics in the broader state and national setting.

Keywords: Scheduled castes, population structure, sex ratio, literacy rate, rural-urban distribution, socio-economic status, social disparity

Introduction

India's Scheduled Caste (SC) community has historically been subjected to social and economic marginalisation, despite constituting a significant proportion of the country's population. While considerable efforts have been made to integrate this community into the mainstream, many SCs continue to face barriers such as poverty, unemployment, educational deprivation, lack of healthcare access, and persistent social discrimination. These challenges are particularly pronounced in certain regions, making localised studies both necessary and valuable for targeted policy interventions.

Azamgarh, a predominantly rural district in eastern Uttar Pradesh, exemplifies such a context. According to the 2011 Census, Scheduled Castes accounted for 25.4% of Azamgarh's total population, numbering 1,171,378 individuals (579,586 males and 591,792 females). The SC population is unevenly distributed across the district's 19 Community Development (CD) Blocks and a few urban centres, with a clear concentration in rural areas. This spatial and demographic diversity underscores the need for block-level analysis to uncover local disparities that district-level averages may obscure.

Key social development indicators such as sex ratio, literacy rate, and workforce participation reveal important insights into the status of SCs in Azamgarh. The sex ratio (number of females per 1,000 males) is a measure of gender balance and social equity; literacy rates (for SCs aged 7 and above) reflect the reach of education; and work participation rates (WPR) indicate the level of economic engagement and empowerment. Existing data suggest that in Azamgarh, as in much of Uttar Pradesh, the SC community often lags behind

both state and national averages in these domains.

The objective of this report is to provide a comprehensive, block-wise analysis of the SC population in Azamgarh district, focusing on demographic structure, sex ratio and literacy. Furthermore, the report identifies key socio-economic factors and regional disparities, and offers concrete recommendations for inclusive development planning and policy formulation. By organising the analysis into clearly defined sections—including methodology, detailed tables, charts, comparative analysis, and conclusions—this study aims to present an accessible yet in-depth resource for understanding the socio-demographic landscape of Azamgarh's Scheduled Castes and for guiding their holistic development.

Methodology

Data were obtained from the Indian Census 2011 and official sources, specifically the District Census Handbook and related compilations. We compiled the given block-wise data (Table 1) on total population, SC population, SC sex ratio, and SC literacy rates. Where necessary, weighted averages were computed (e.g. overall SC literacy). Comparative figures for Uttar Pradesh and India were drawn from national census publications and reputable sources. For example, state-level SC literacy (60.89%) and sex ratio (908) are reported by census compendia, and national SC literacy (66.07%) and sex ratio (945) likewise. Data analysis involved descriptive statistics (means, gaps) and visualization. We generated charts (bar graphs for SC population share and sex ratio by block, and a line graph for male vs. female SC literacy by block) to highlight variations. All narrative analysis is grounded in cited data.

Data Table

Table 1: Block-wise population and Scheduled Caste (SC) indicators in Azamgarh district (Census 2011). “SC Sex Ratio” is females per 1000 males among SCs; literacy rates are for the SC population

Block (CD)	Total Population	SC Population	% SC Population to Total	SC Sex Ratio	LiteracyRate (Persons)	Literacy Rate (Males)	Literacy Rate (Females)	Male-Female Gap
Atraulia	128,503	29,911	23.28	1,035	68	81	56	25
Koilsa	182,846	40,387	22	1,048	65	78	53	25
Ahiraula	205,398	46,662	23	994	64	77	52	26
Mahrajgan j	187,648	43,625	23	1,022	60	72	50	22
Haraiya	199,665	49,647	25	1,017	61	72	51	21
Bilariyaga nj	252,989	71,578	28	995	65	76	53	24
Azmatgarh	217,374	54,318	25	1,004	66	77	55	22
Palhani	204,970	42,232	21	950	66	78	55	23
Rani Ki Sarai	183,173	51,934	28	1,018	65	77	54	24
Sathiyaon	205,176	55,824	27	956	63	72	53	19
Jahanaganj	166,973	53,206	32	1,005	64	76	52	24
Tahbarpur	176,810	43,013	24	1,048	64	77	52	25
Mirzapur	208,972	51,185	24	1,026	64	76	52	24
Mohamma dpur	193,918	52,255	27	1,057	64	77	53	24
Pawai	212,099	51,165	24	1,018	65	77	54	24
Phulpur	207,205	48,607	23	1,047	64	77	52	25
Martinganj	194,591	41,454	21	1,087	62	75	51	24
Thekma	199,593	80,545	40	1,063	62	75	50	24
Lalganj	204,751	65,898	32	1,074	64	77	52	24
Tarwa	191,727	56,132	29	1,034	64	76	52	24
Mehnagar	183,112	61,794	34	1030	62.47	75.25	50.26	24.99
Palhna	113,019	32,081	28.39	1,056	63	75.2	51.86	23.34

Sources: Data are drawn from the 2011 Census of India and related official summaries

Results

SC Population Distribution

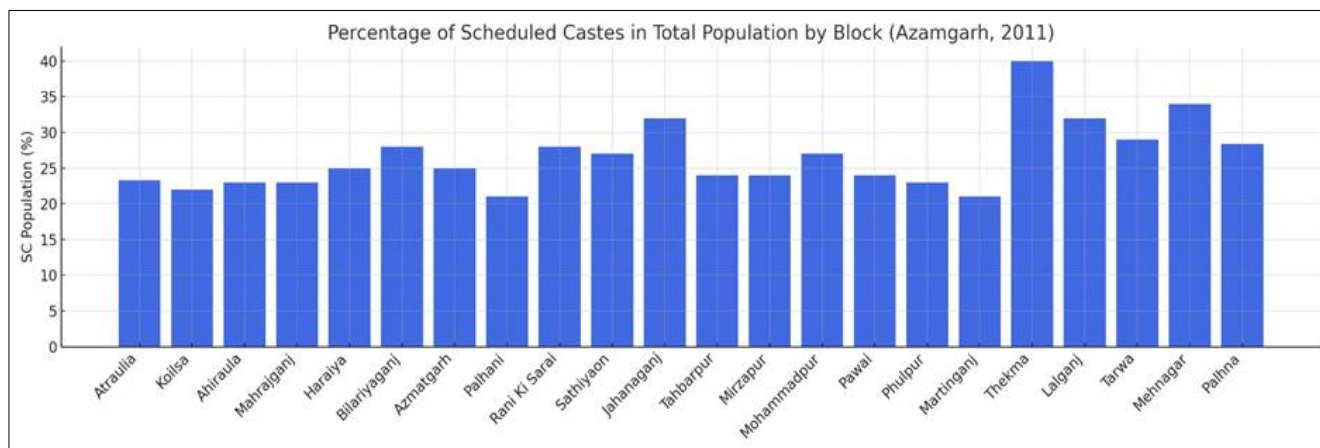


Fig 1: SC population by block in Azamgarh (Census 2011)

Azamgarh’s SC population totals 1,123,453 (across blocks), which is 26.62% of the district population. This share is much higher than the SC proportions in Uttar Pradesh (~20.5%) and India (~16.6%). For example, Thekma block has the highest SC concentration (40.35% of its population), whereas Palhani has the lowest (20.6%). Figure 1 (below) illustrates the SC share by block; four blocks (Thekma, Lalganj, Mehnagar, Jahanaganj) exceed 30%. Higher SC concentrations may reflect historical settlement patterns and socio-economic structures in Azamgarh.

The significant SC proportion suggests that welfare and educational programmes for SC communities are especially pertinent here. Compared to Uttar Pradesh as a whole (where SCs constitute about one-fifth of the population), Azamgarh’s SCs are a larger demographic group. Nationally, SCs formed 16.63% of India’s population in 2011, underscoring that Azamgarh’s SC population share is well above average. (Table 2 summarizes these comparisons.

SC Sex Ratio

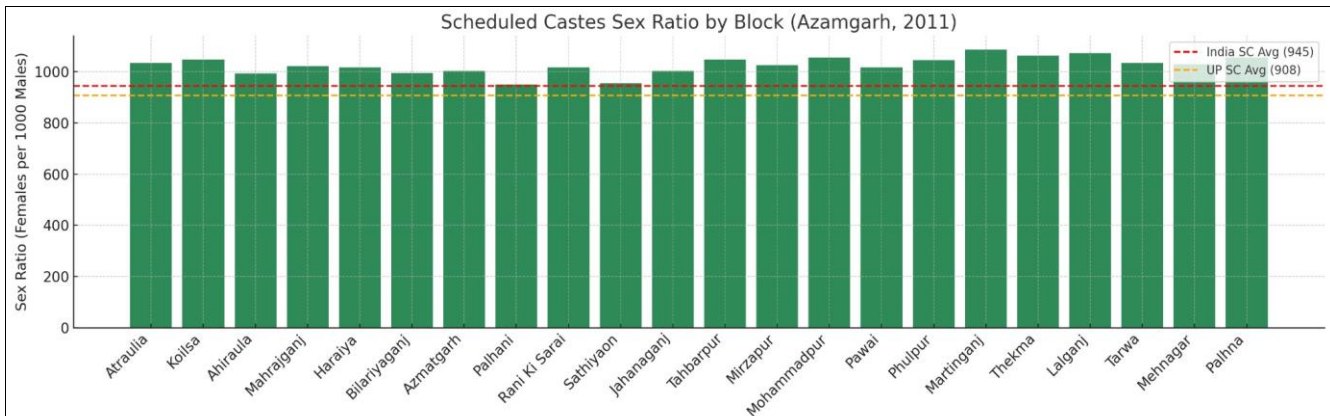


Fig 1: SC sex ratio by block in Azamgarh (Census 2011)

The sex ratio (number of females per 1000 males) among SCs in Azamgarh is generally favourable to females. The district-wide average SC sex ratio (weighted by block population) is about 1027, indicating more SC women than men. Only 4 of the 22 blocks have an SC sex ratio below 1000 (Atraulia: 1035, Koilsa: 1048, etc; lowest is Palhani at 950). Martinganj block has the highest SC sex ratio (1087), reflecting an unusually high number of SC females there. In general, SC sex ratios in Azamgarh exceed parity, in

contrast to the overall state SC sex ratio. Uttar Pradesh’s SC sex ratio was only 908 according to census data. Similarly, India’s SC sex ratio was 945. Thus Azamgarh’s SC population exhibits a markedly better (more female-balanced) sex ratio. Figure 2 (below) shows the block-level SC sex ratios. This female-surplus among SCs in Azamgarh may be partly due to male migration for work; it also contrasts with many regions where males outnumber females.

Literacy Rates

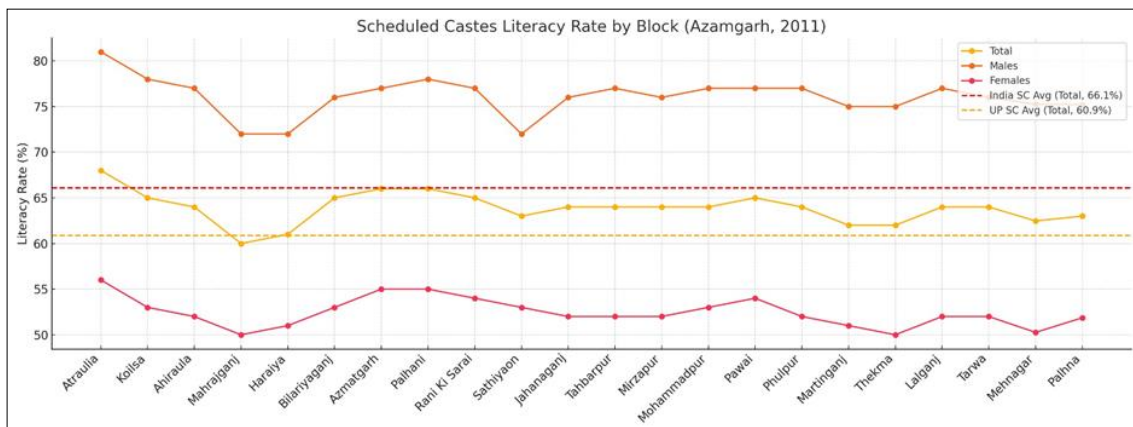


Fig 2: Scheduled Caste literacy rates by blocks 2011

We focus on literacy within the SC population. Block-wise, the SC literacy (overall) ranges roughly from 60% to 68%, with an average around 63.8% for the district. Male SC literacy is consistently higher (around 75–81%) than female SC literacy (50–56%). The largest gender gaps are seen in blocks like Ahiraula, Koilsa, and Tahbarpur (25 percentage points) while the smallest gap (19 points) is in Sathiyaon. Notably, all blocks fall short of universal literacy among SCs. For example, in Thekma the SC literacy is only 62% (75% male, 50% female). Overall, about 716,789 of the 1,123,453 SC persons were literate, yielding a weighted SC literacy rate of ~63.8%. This is above the Uttar Pradesh SC literacy rate of 60.89%. However, it remains slightly below India’s overall SC literacy of 66.07%. The male–female literacy gap (roughly 24 points district-wide) is substantial, reflecting gender disparities in education among SCs. Figure 3 (below) plots the male and female SC literacy rates by block.

Even compared to Azamgarh’s general population, SC literacy lags: the district’s overall literacy was 70.93% (male 81.34%, female 60.91%). This indicates that educational disadvantage is concentrated in the SC community. Nonetheless, Azamgarh SCs are somewhat more literate than their SC peers statewide. Statewide, UP’s SC literacy was 60.89% (far below the state’s general 70.69%), so Azamgarh’s SC literacy (~64%) is a positive outlier. Nationally, SC literacy averaged 66.07%, slightly higher than in Azamgarh.

Discussion

The data reveal that Azamgarh has a notably large SC population share and generally positive SC sex ratio, but relatively low SC literacy. The high SC share (26.6%) suggests that caste-based interventions could impact a significant portion of the local populace. The generally female-biased SC sex ratios (often >1000) contrasts with

Uttar Pradesh's usual male-biased norm. This may reflect out-migration of working-age SC males or better survival/family outcomes for SC girls.

Literacy gaps indicate persistent gender inequality within the SC community: male SCs in Azamgarh achieve literacy rates akin to the district average for males, but female SCs lag far behind. The ~24-point gap (male ~76% vs female ~52%) aligns with broader patterns of female educational disadvantage in rural Uttar Pradesh. It is important to note that Azamgarh's SC literacy surpasses the state SC average, suggesting local programmes or social factors may be relatively effective.

Limitations

The analysis relies on 2011 Census data; more recent surveys would be needed to track current trends. Also, block-level socio-economic factors (e.g. school availability, poverty) are not analysed here but could explain intra-district variations. Future research should incorporate qualitative fieldwork to understand the causes of the observed patterns.

Conclusion

In Azamgarh district, Scheduled Castes form over one-quarter of the population, a higher proportion than in Uttar Pradesh or India. SC sex ratios favour females in most blocks, indicating a relative demographic advantage. However, SC literacy is relatively low, especially for women. The district's SC literacy rate (~64%) is higher than the state SC rate but still below the national SC average and Azamgarh's overall literacy. These findings highlight the need for targeted educational and social interventions for SC communities, particularly girls, in Azamgarh.

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