



BASIC AMENITIES OF SCHEDULED CASTE HOUSEHOLDS IN PUNJAB

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Abstract

This is an effort to gauge the level of resources and facilities that indicate a household's socioeconomic standing in a community. The people of scheduled castes is typically identified as having unique socioeconomic circumstances. Therefore, the goal of this essay is to investigate the socioeconomic levels of Punjab's scheduled caste community. To determine the district level status in Punjab for this study, districts-specific census data from 2011 were gathered, collated, processed, and utilised. The district of Jalandhar had the greatest rating (97.40%) whereas Tarn Taran received the lowest rating (86.30%) for the source of illumination as electricity. However, the percentage of indoor latrines is greatest in the Ludhiana district (86.30 percent). In terms of all the metrics considered, Mansa holds the lowest place. It should be noted that the eastern section of the state has a significantly higher socioeconomic class, whilst rural Punjab's southern region exhibits a lower status.

Keywords: Latrine, LPG/PNG, Kitchen, Punjab

Introduction

The distinguishing aspect of the scheduled caste population's distribution in India is that, in comparison to the overall population, they are significantly underrepresented in metropolitan areas. The population is drawn from rural regions to urban areas in industrialised nations as a result of industrialisation, which increases economic possibilities. However, in emerging nations like India, where there is a large strain on resources due to a growing population as well as rising unemployment and poverty, people are being forced out of rural regions and into cities despite the fact that there are insufficient economic prospects there. The scheduled caste people should have been heavily represented in urban areas because they are the most socially and economically disadvantaged groups, but this is not the case (1975, D'Souza).

Although the Indian economy has grown over the past several decades, caste gaps have widened, particularly with regard to households belonging to India's scheduled castes, who require particular care (Sushma, 2016). Due to their economic disadvantage, gender, and membership in a scheduled caste, households from these groups experience prejudice on three separate occasions. Nearly half of the 250 million scheduled caste people live in scheduled caste families,

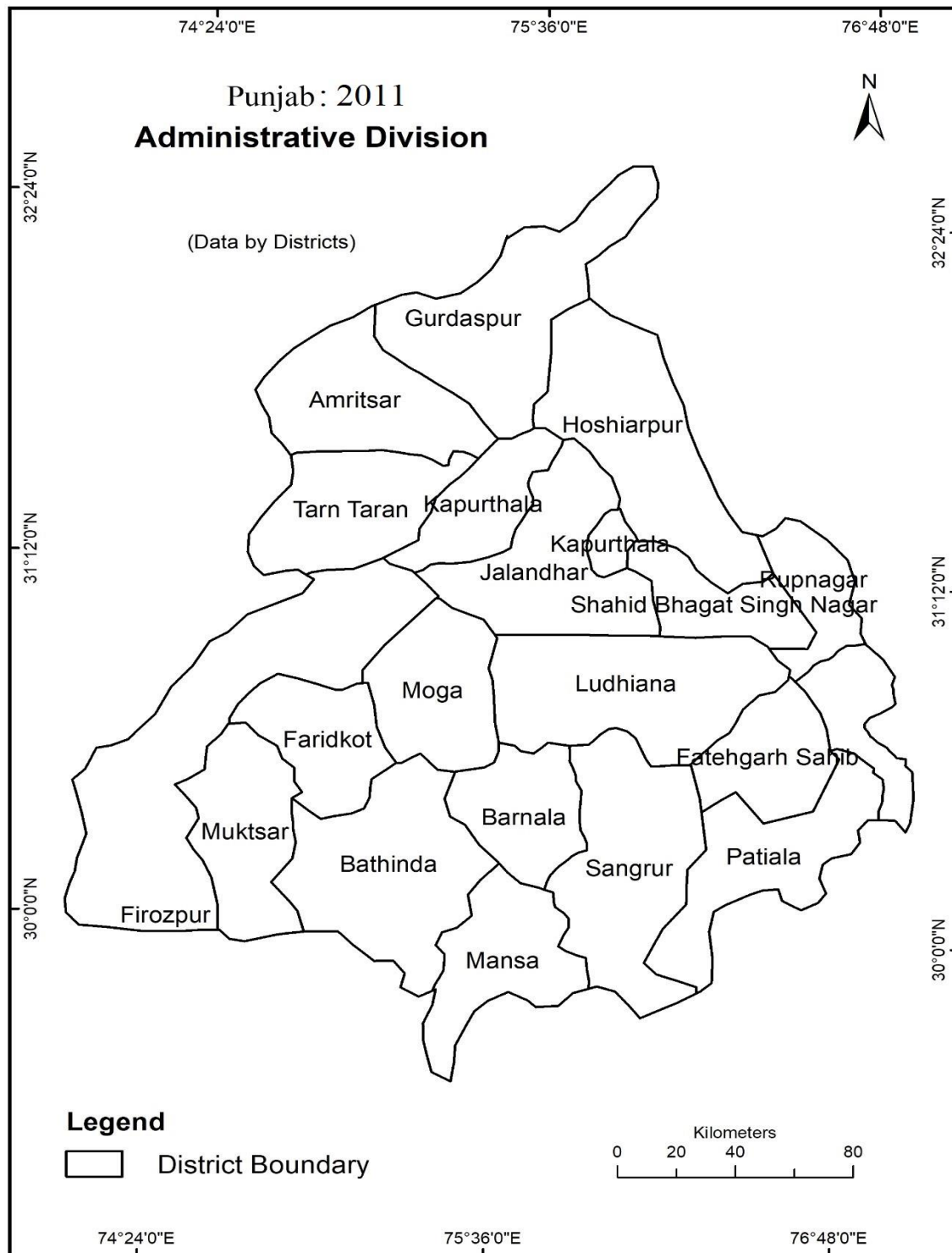


which account for 16.3% of all females in India. Scheduled caste houses, like the majority of the scheduled caste population, are mostly located in rural regions and typically work in the agricultural industry. They mostly serve as scavengers and sweepers for the municipality in metropolitan areas. A rising trend in the scheduled caste households' literacy rate has led to an increase in the number of educated members finding work in both the public and private sectors.

The working workforce today includes a majority of women, and the overall socioeconomic progress of society depends greatly on their proper representation. Due to their poor status and economic exploitation, scheduled caste women frequently have to work for minimal pay and undertake physically demanding activities (Sinha, 1975).

Study Area

Punjab, sometimes known as the crown of India, is a prime example of an economy that is rapidly expanding. The green revolution is credited with starting it in the nation. In the northwest of the nation is the land of five rivers. On the west, Pakistan borders it; to the north, Jammu and Kashmir; to the east, Himachal Pradesh; and to the south, Punjab and Rajasthan. Overall, the state is located in the western portion of India's northern plains. At now, Punjab has a total area of 50,362 km², or 1.54 percent of the country's total land area. Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi are the three main rivers in this mostly alluvial plain region. These rivers are very significant in terms of physiography, economy, and culture. Due to its inner location in the lower mid-latitudes, the research region has a continental monsoonal climate. The overall population of Punjab is 277 million, or 2.4 percent of India's population, according to the most recent census estimate. It consists of 12,673 villages, 146 blocks, 22 districts, and 81 tehsils (pbplanning.govt.in, 2012-13).



Map 1: Location Map of the Study Area



Objective

The study's primary goal is to examine the state of scheduled caste families' access to social services at the district level in Punjab.

Database and Methodology

This study's data came from a secondary source. For the current analysis, district-level census data from 2011 were utilised to examine several elements of housing conditions for households belonging to scheduled castes. Four variables have been used in this study to gauge the socioeconomic situation of households belonging to the scheduled caste in Punjab. They are as follows;

- i. Source of lighting; electricity (X_1),
- ii. Latrine facility; inside the house (X_2),
- iii. Fuel used for cooking; LPG/PNG (X_3),
- iv. Kitchen facility; inside the house (X_4),

Finally, Arc GIS (Arc map 10.2) was used to create maps, and tables were created to understand and evaluate the findings.

Results & Analysis

Facilities Status of Scheduled caste Households in Punjab

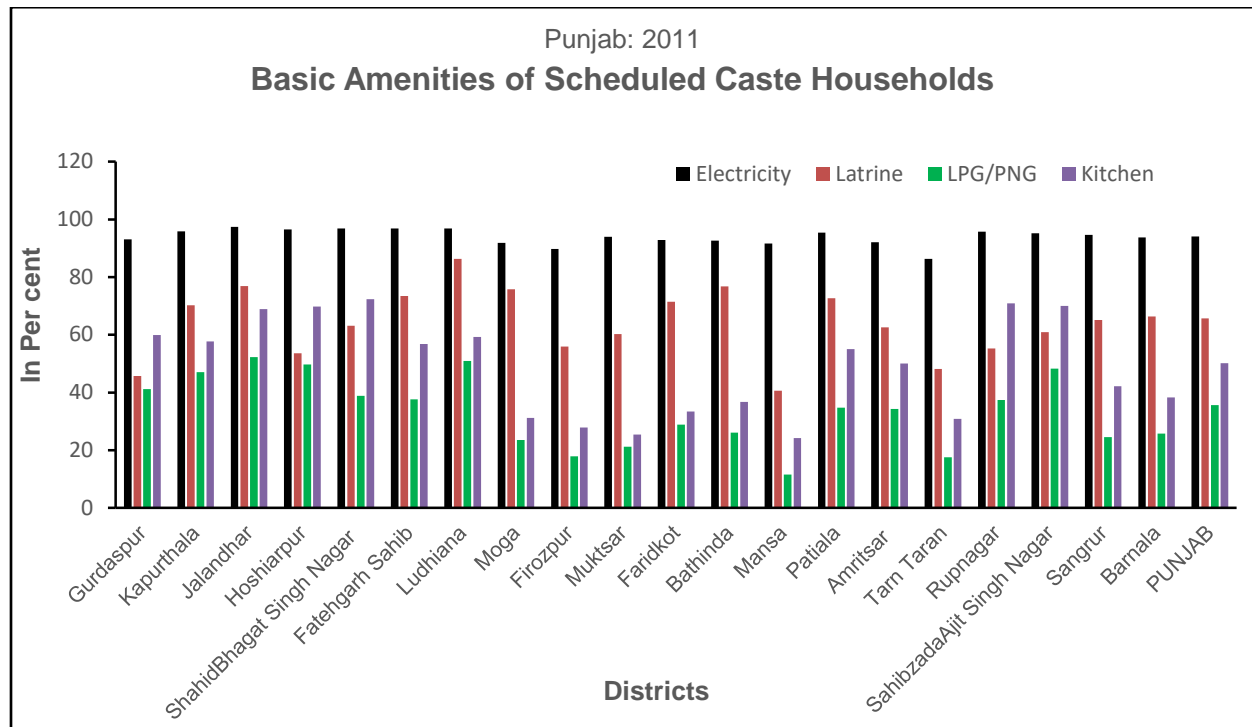
Table 1 shows the general well-being of a home, it is important to have access to basic amenities like running water, power, sanitary facilities, a kitchen, a cooking source like LPG or PNG, and others. Particularly in developing nations like India, having access to these essential utilities is a key factor in determining quality of life. Inadequate access to such necessities is not simply due to a supply-demand imbalance, but it is also a significant sign of institutional inefficiency, a lack of financial support, and political motivations. Particularly in rural regions where there is a significant concentration of scheduled castes, a sizable sector of society, especially from the backward sections like the scheduled castes population, still lacks such fundamental utilities that assure excellent quality of life (Rana, Ghotra and Saluja, 2018).



Table 1: Basic Facilities of Scheduled Caste Households in Punjab, 2011

Districts	Electricity	Latrine	LPG/PNG	Kitchen
Amritsar	92.1	62.6	34.3	50
Barnala	93.8	66.4	25.8	38.3
Bathinda	92.6	76.8	26.1	36.7
Faridkot	92.9	71.5	28.9	33.4
Fatehgarh Sahib	96.9	73.5	37.6	56.8
Firozpur	89.8	55.9	17.9	27.9
Gurdaspur	93.1	45.7	41.2	59.9
Hoshiarpur	96.5	53.6	49.7	69.8
Jalandhar	97.4	76.9	52.3	68.9
Kapurthala	95.9	70.2	47	57.7
Ludhiana	96.9	86.3	50.9	59.3
Mansa	91.6	40.6	11.6	24.2
Moga	91.9	75.8	23.5	31.2
Muktsar	94	60.2	21.2	25.4
Patiala	95.4	72.7	34.7	55
Rupnagar	95.7	55.3	37.4	70.9
SahibzadaAjit Singh Nagar	95.2	60.9	48.3	70
Sangrur	94.6	65.1	24.5	42.2
ShahidBhagat Singh Nagar	96.9	63.1	38.8	72.3
Tarn Taran	86.3	48.2	17.5	30.9
PUNJAB	94.1	65.7	35.6	50.2

Source: Census of India, 2011.



Source: Census of India, 2011.

Fig. 1

According to the 2011 Indian Census, 94.10 percent of households belonging to the scheduled castes in the state of Punjab have access to electricity. The percentage of SC women who have access to electricity in the various districts of Punjab ranges from 86.3 to 97.4 percent. In Jalandhar, where 97.4% of families have power, there are the greatest percentages of SC woman households, and in Tarn Taran, where 86.3 percent of households have electricity, there are the lowest percentages of SC woman households. In 18 of Punjab's twenty districts, there is power in the households of SC women in excess of 90% of the time. The lowest percentage of SC women households in Punjab, at 86.3 percent and 89.8 percent respectively, is found only in the districts of Tarn Taran and Firozpur, which are next to one another (Fig. 1).

Sixty-seven per cent of all SC women families in Punjab have access to latrines. The largest percentage of SC women families are in the Ludhiana district, where 86.3 percent of the households have access to latrines, while the lowest percentage are in the Mansa district, where only 40.6 percent of SC woman households have access to latrines. Less than 50% of SC women



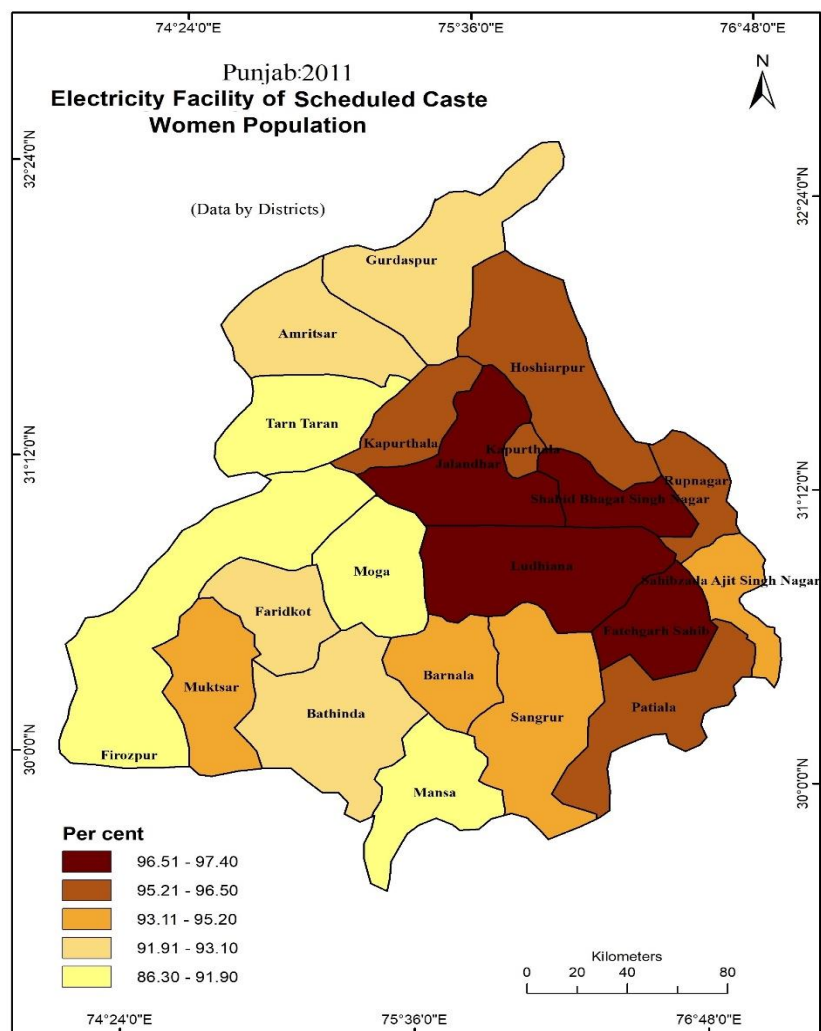
households with access to latrines are in the districts of Gurdaspur, Mansa, and Tarn Taran (Map 3).

In Punjab, there are 35,6% of all families with SC women who have access to LPG or PNG. The district of Jalandhar has the greatest percentage of SC women families having access to LPG/PNG (52.3%), while the district of Mansa has the lowest percentage (11.6%) of SC woman households with LPG/PNG. Only Jalandhar and Ludhiana districts have more SC women households with LPG/PNG services than the national average. Less than 20% of SC women families in the Tarn Taran, Mansa, and Firozpur districts have access to LPG or PNG (Map 4).

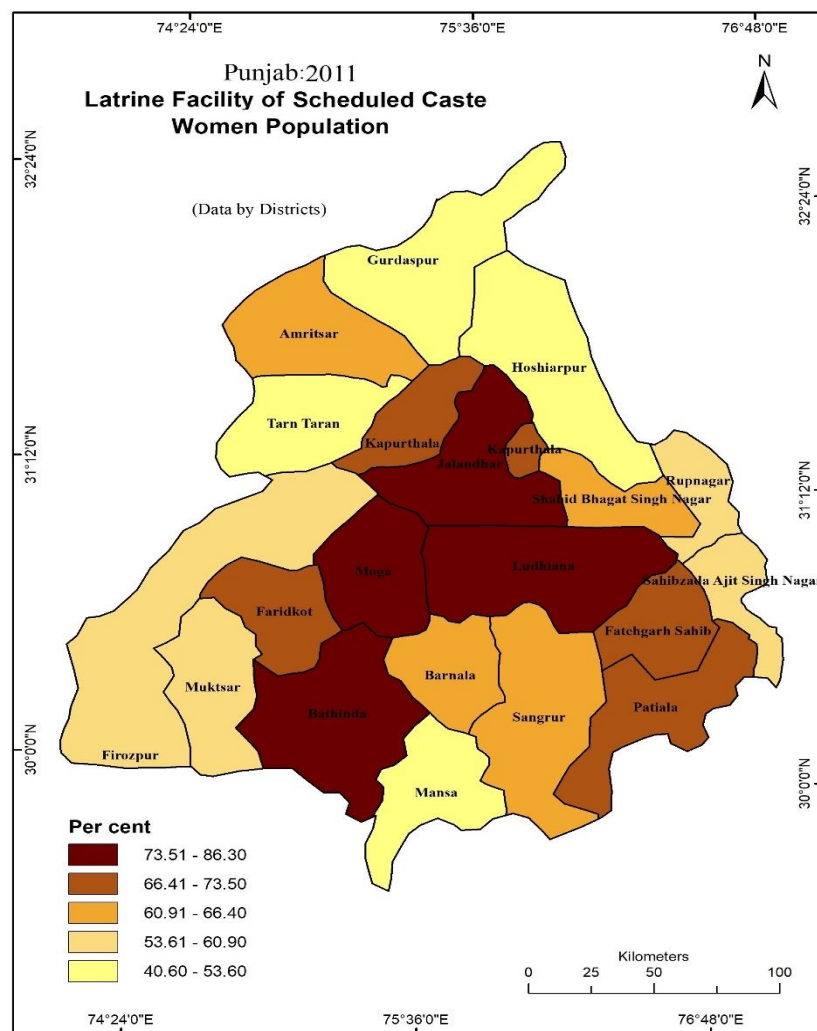
In Punjab, 50,2 percent of households with SC women had a kitchen. Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar district has the largest percentage of SC women households with kitchens (72.3%), and Mansa district has the lowest percentage (24.2%). More than 50% of SC women households in Punjab's eleven districts have access to a kitchen. Less than 30% of SC women households in the districts of Firozpur, Muktsar, and Mansa have kitchens.

Conclusion

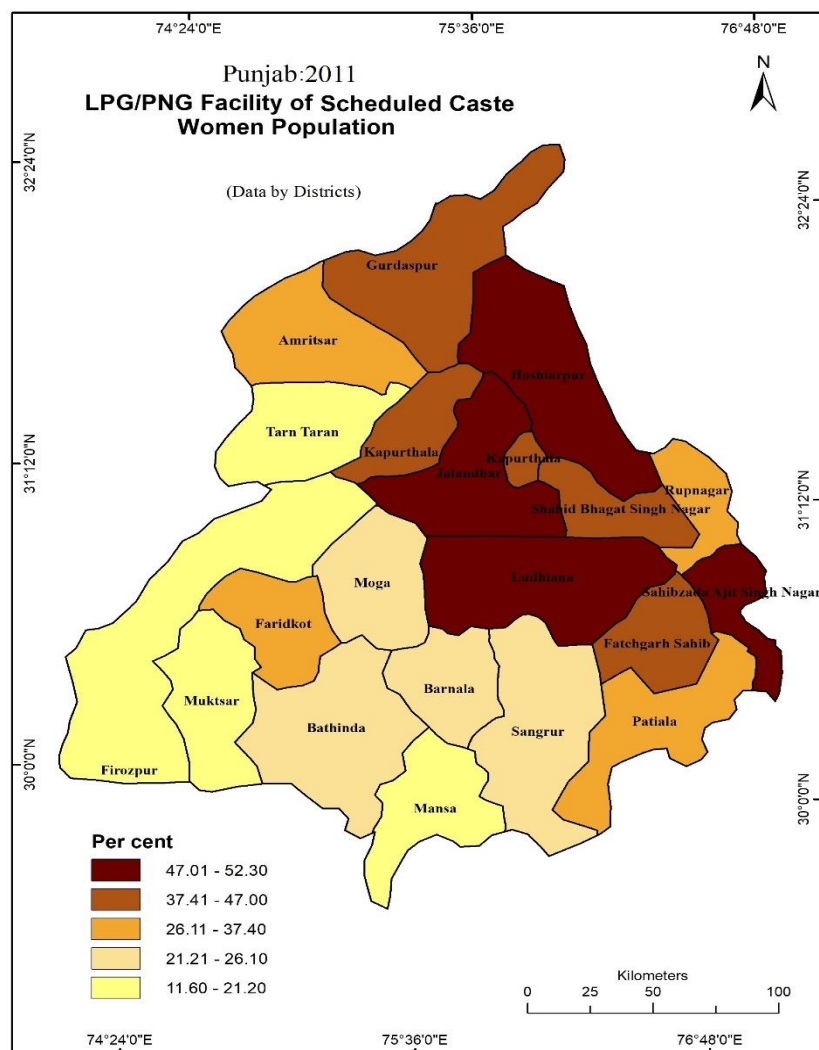
The majority of the scheduled castes in Punjab live in the rural parts of each state. Although the makeup of the female scheduled caste population is mostly comparable in the two states, Punjab has a higher proportion of female scheduled castes overall. Scheduled caste households in the northern Punjab have a higher employment rate than those in the southern Punjab, but the economic standing of female scheduled caste households in Punjab is generally better in the northern districts because the northern Punjab has a higher proportion of electricity users. Households of scheduled castes in the west have superior kitchen facilities than other regions. However, the demographic trends in both states are extremely alarming and require substantial governmental attention in order to fulfil the nation's objectives while guaranteeing balanced population demography and long-term socioeconomic outcomes.



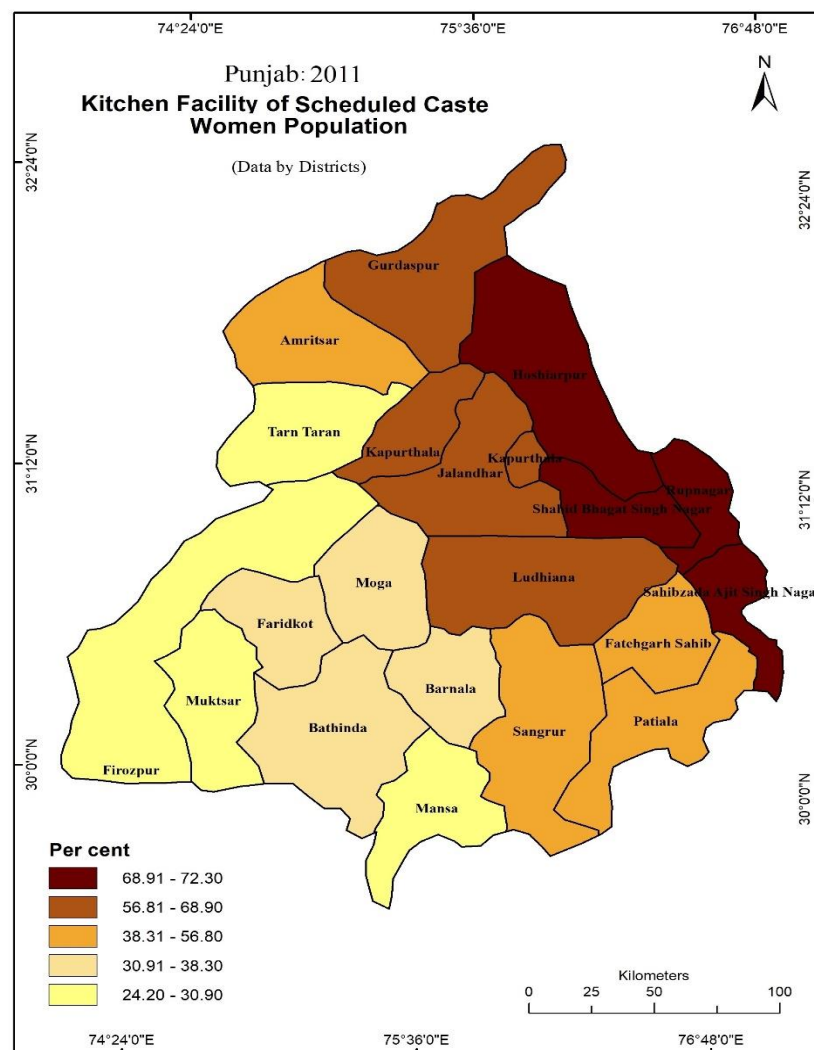
Map: 2



Map: 3



Map 4



Map 5



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