

**Religious Taxonomy of States and Districts in India:  
(An analysis using a standardized index of diversity (SID) of religion)**

By  
Krishna Murthy PONNAPALLI and Ram FAUJDAR  
IIPS, Mumbai-88

**1. Introduction**

Based on the religious composition, India's population is sub-divided into Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jains, Muslims, Sikhs and Other Religious groups that includes the Tribal religions, Pasis and Jewish populations, etc. Further, Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India customarily presents in every census another group called 'Religion not stated'. Many of the Historians, Demographers and Social Scientists generally show their interest in studying only the first six groups of religions as stated above, because almost 99 percent of the total population of India falls into one of these six categories. As such, these six religions are recognized as "Major Religious Groups" of India. Among the six religions, in numerical strength while Hindus occupy the first position, Muslims occupy the second, Christians occupy the third, and then Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains take the fourth, fifth and sixth positions respectively, according to the 2001 census (Banthia, 2004). Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist and Jain communities are considered to be "Minority Religious Group" as their numerical strength when compared to Hindus in India as a whole is observed to be less than 20 percent or so. It is however realized that, Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 of India recognizes the following as "minority communities": Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and also Zoroastrians (Pasis).

It is of the opinion in some circles that 'one day', all Hindus in India will be overtaken by Muslims as the dominant community as it is noted from the census figures that while the proportion of Hindus are declining over the years on one side, the proportion of Muslims in the other side is seen to be increasing continuously from 1901 to the present (For instance see: Joshi et al., 2003, 2005).

A vital report on 'social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community of India' published by the Prime Minister's High Level Committee in November 2006 (Prime Minister's High Level Committee, 2006) in its Chapter three, highlights the following interesting points about Muslims in India:

- (i) "India's Muslim population is amongst the largest in the world, exceeded only by Indonesia's and close to the Muslim populations of Pakistan and Bangladesh. Moreover, it is larger than the total populations of most countries of the world"
- (ii) The Muslim population of India enumerated as 138 million in the year 2001 by the 2001 census of India would have crossed 150 million mark by the year 2006, the time by which the report is prepared.
- (iii) However Muslim population has increased in India from 47 million in 1961 to 138 million in 2001, it has risen by less than one point a decade during the above four decades. Further, the growth rate of Muslims during 1991-2001 is seen to decline in most of the states of India.

- (iv) As a consequence of a continuous decline in fertility with an improvement in the mortality conditions over the decades, the population growth of Muslims in India has slowed down and as a result Muslims are also well into the demographic transition. On the other hand the role of migration in the overall growth of the Muslim population in India is observed to be small.
- (v) To the question on whether "Muslim population become the largest group" in India the report states, "one could say that the Muslim population share is expected to rise from the current level but not expected to be much above 20 percent by the end of the century." (Prime Minister's High Level Committee, 2006:46).

Thus it is of interest to study the convergence/divergence-taking place in the major religions in India, especially using the latest census figures on religion reported by the 2001 Indian census. In this paper an attempt has been made to understand the religious convergence/divergence taking place in India, its States and Districts by means of analyzing levels and trends in an index called "standardized index of diversity (SID) of religion" constructed by us using the religious distribution of population observed in six major religions namely: Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains that consists more than 90 percent of the population of India, as stated already, elsewhere.

## 2. Data and Methods

The main sources of data for the present study are the censuses of various years conducted by the Registrar General of India over time starting from 1901. This study however, extensively uses the data on religion given in the 2001 census. Diversity in the religious composition of the population is studied by means of simple indicators like absolute figures, percentages and especially the 'the standardized index of diversity (SID) of religion'. Wherever it is appropriate the results of the analysis are also presented diagrammatically by means of bar charts, line graphs, etc.

'The standardized index of diversity (SID) of religion' was developed here using the formula earlier suggested by Lieberman (1969). This index was calculated as:

$$\text{Standardized index of diversity (SID)} = [1 - ((P_H)^2 + (P_M)^2 + (P_C)^2 + (P_S)^2 + (P_B)^2 + (P_J)^2)] / [1 - (1/6)]$$

Where:

- $P_H$  = Proportion of Hindus in the total population
- $P_M$  = Proportion of Muslims in the total population
- $P_C$  = Proportion of Christians in the total population
- $P_S$  = Proportion of Sikhs in the total population
- $P_B$  = Proportion of Buddhists in the total population
- $P_J$  = Proportion of Jains in the total population

$$P_H + P_M + P_C + P_S + P_B + P_J = 1.0$$

According Lieberman (1969: 860; also see: Rowland, 2003) the above standardized index "describes the actual level of diversity as a proportion of the maximum level possible with the specified number of categories".

In the present case as we have six categories of religions, and further the index is standardized, it varies between 1.0 and 0.0. For instance, if everyone in the population is a Hindu (i.e. if  $P_H = 1.0$  and  $P_M = P_C = P_S = P_B = P_J = 0$ ) then the index will be equal to '0'. The index will be equal to '1' if

the total population is evenly distributed between Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains (i.e. when  $P_H = P_M = P_C = P_S = P_B = P_J = .167$ )

[Note: Firstly, the index of diversity within a population is calculated as  $ID = [1 - ((P_H)^2 + (P_M)^2 + (P_C)^2 + (P_S)^2 + (P_B)^2 + (P_J)^2)]$ . Secondly, the potential maximum value of the index of Diversity (ID) is calculated as:  $1 - (1/6)$ . Finally, the SID is obtained simply by taking the ratio as:  $ID / (\text{Maximum ID})$ . Standardizing the Index thus facilitate the comparison, even if the number of categories are different from one population to the other. In the present study we fixed permanently the categories as 6 religions, thus as a matter of fact even without standardization we may achieve the goal of comparison, but in that case the index may not vary between '0' and '1'. Thus standardizing allows us to keep the index value between '0' and '1'. A disadvantage with the standardized index is that 'it can disguise real differences between populations when the categories change from one population to the other that are in comparison. (See Rowland, 2003)]

The results of the analysis that follow are presented in three different sections. In section one an attempt is made to discuss about the composition, distribution and growth of India's Population in terms of the division of population by various major religious groups during 1901–2001. In section two, diversity in the religious distribution of population is studied by means of discussing the trends in the standardized index of diversity of religion at the state level over the forty years from 1961 to 2001. In section three, diversity in the religious distribution of the population is presented at the district level using the results of the diversity index constructed for the year 2001 using the 2001 census distribution of the population by religion.

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Religious composition, distribution and growth of India's Population: 1901 - 2001

Figure 1 below shows graphically the numerical strength of each of the major religion in India as a whole over from 1901 to 2001.

←----- Figure 1 at about here ---->

An observation of Figure 1 may reveal the following facts:

- (i) In the census year 1901, while Hindus accounted for 194 millions, Muslims accounted for only 29.86 millions. Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains on the other hand accounted for only 2.64 millions, 1.67 millions, 1.31 million and 0.12 million respectively. When compared to the Hindus, Muslims and Christians, the numerical strength displayed by other religions may be seen to be very negligible in the census year 1901, when India is considered as a whole.
- (ii) In the census year 2001, while Hindus accounted for 827.6 millions, Muslims accounted for 138.19 millions. Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains on the other hand accounted for 24.08 millions, 19.22 millions, 7.96 million and 4.23 million respectively.

- (iii) All the religious groups, thus, have shown a continuous increase in their population over the census years from 1901 to 2001.
- (iv) In absolute terms over the past 100 years period, while Hindus enhanced by 633.6 millions, Muslims increased by 108.33 millions Christians, Sikhs showed an increase of 21.44 millions, 17.55 million respectively. Buddhists and Jains who comes next to the above religions in numerical strength gained by 7.84 million and 2.92 million.
- (v) Figure 1 further reveals that during 1941-51 decade while Hindus have increased by about 65.2 millions, during the same period Muslims have declined by about 6.99 millions. Evidence shows that this increase and a decrease in the respective populations is mainly due to the partition of the then erstwhile India into Pakistan and India during the year 1947. This historical event made many a number of Muslims and Hindus move into the East Pakistan (present Pakistan) and West Pakistan (presently the Bangladesh). Similarly a considerable number of Hindus and Muslims opted to move into the India during 1947 from both East and West Pakistan areas. (See Roy, 1989:383-385).
- (vi) It is also seen from Figure 1 that the ranking of Buddhists and Jains has been interchanged during the year 1961. That means Buddhists population is seen increased abruptly to a higher level than the Jains during 1951-61time period. Research studies made earlier shows that Migration of Buddhists from Tibet to India during the time 1950-61 period, and also an increase in the Neo-Buddhists population in the Maharashtra State due to conversion of low cast Hindus into Neo-Buddhism during the 1951-61 period have made a considerable contribution for a sudden rise of Buddhists in the 1951-61 period. (See Roy, 1989)

The above analysis based on Figure 1 clearly tells that from the beginning Hindus are predominantly more in India when compared to other religious groups.

Figure 2 presents the religious composition of population in percent terms for India for the census years from 1961 to 2001.

←----- Figure2 at about here ---→

From Figure 2 it is seen that, however Hindus are predominant religion in India, their proportional growth over the years seems to be reducing successively, relatively, when compared to other religions indicating a reduction in their numerical strength over the years. On the other hand, the proportional growth of the Muslims seems to be increasing over the years successively, relatively, indicating a raise in their numerical strength when compared to other religions, excepting for Hindus. In proportion Hindus have declined from 83.5 percent in the year 1961 to 80.5 percent by the year 2001, thus shows a decline of 3 per cent points. On the contrary, Muslims increased in proportion from 10.7 in 1961 to 13.4 in the year 2001 However, Muslims are observed to be increased only by one point a decade.

The per cent average annual exponential growth rate calculated considering the entire period of 40 years for each of the major religion is presented by means of bar diagrams in Figure 3 in their descending order of growth rate.

←----- Figure 3 at about here ---->

Figure 3 indicate that while Muslims growth rate is seen to be more than any other religion, the growth rate of Jains is seen to be the lowest. Hindus occupied the fourth position in the descending order.

Thus all the evidence clearly shows that Muslims followed by other minority religions are at an increase in India over the years, however at various levels, when compared to Hindus who are in fact declining over time. Ram Kumar's (1975) study also states that there is diversity (convergence) in the distribution of various religions in India.

### **3.2 Religious taxonomy of states in India**

Figure 4 presents the standardized index of diversity (SID) of religion for India as a whole and for various states and union territories in India for the census years of 1961 to 2001.

←----- Figure 4 at about here ---->

Figure 4 reveals that

- (1) The index has varied for India as a whole from a level of .3421 to .3888 in year 1961 to year 2001. An increase in the index value in the successive census years clearly shows that in India, in general, the diversity in the religious distribution of population is increasing over time.
- (2) An observation of variations in the SID given in Figure 4 for different states over time reveal that: when compared with 1961 the index values of various states seem to be increased to some extent by 2001, however, we may notice some fluctuations in the index value in case of some states. The exceptions to the above are Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. In Andhra Pradesh the index value is seen to be declined slightly from .2532 to .2363 from 1961 to 2001, but, there is an increase in the index value in the year 1971. In case of Gujarat, however we may notice a rise in the index value from .2289 in 1991 to .2351 in 2001, it seem to be declined slightly from .2395 in 1961 to .2351 in 2001. As stated earlier, over all the analysis gives the indication that over the years from 1961 to 2001 different major states in India have experienced an increase in the diversity of their religious distribution of population.
- (3) The above findings strengthen the views of other studies carried out earlier, that in different states of India over the years minority groups are strengthening their hold at a loss of a little proportion of the Hindu community converting themselves into other communities or a little proportion of other minority community people joining the main stream of the population of the different states in India from the neighboring countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan by means of international migration or emigration. (For instance, see Premi, 2004).

### 3.3 Religious Taxonomy of Districts in India

Few preliminary steps that we have followed in order to study the religious taxonomy of districts in India are as follows:

As a first step, we have computed the Standardized Index of Diversity (SID) of Religion for each of the district in India for the year 2001 using the only information on the proportion of population in various major religions namely: Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains.

Secondly, we have prepared a table (table not shown here) that shows the SID value along with the religious proportion of population that ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in that particular district. An SID value 0.006 may tell you that majority of the population of a particular district may be of a particular predominant religion, but it may not specify whether it is a Hindu religion, or a Muslim religion or so and so. So we find it is necessary to state along with the index value the first one or two or three predominant religions of the district also, for a better understanding of the index.

Finally, with the help of the SID value and the religious proportion of population that ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in that particular district, we tried to see whether we can neatly classify and also rank order the districts in India into different religious predominant groups.

Rank ordering of the 593 districts in India by the SID value, considering along with it the first three predominant religious populations in percent terms of each district, made it possible for us to realize at once that we could divide the 593 districts into six different meaningful categories, namely: (i) those 390 districts where the proportion of Hindu population is more than 80 percent, (ii) those 130 districts where the proportion of Hindu population is less than 80 percent but predominantly Hindu, (iii) those 22 districts where the Muslims are predominant, (iv) those 32 districts where the Christians are predominant, (v) those 13 districts where the Sikhs are predominant and (vi) those 6 districts where the Buddhists are predominant, in the total population of a district (See Table 1).

←----- Table 1 at about here ----→

A thorough observation of the SID values of 593 districts we have realized that an SID value of 0.4000 divides the 593 districts neatly into two categories namely those districts where the proportion of the predominant population is above 80 percent and proportion of the predominant population below 80 percent respectively. It is to emphasize here that this can be possible only when the SID value is analyzed along with the percent of predominant religion in the particular district.

Map-A displays distribution of 593 districts in India with respect to their first predominant religion in its first rank, when considered the first three religions of a district, in percent terms, at the same time (See also Table 1). For instance Map-A shows Goalpara district in Assam has predominantly Muslim population when compared to Hindus, Christians or other religious group population, because 53.77 percent of its population is observed to be Muslims followed by Hindus (38.26 percent) and by Christians (7.88). The predominant religion here is observed to be Muslim. Anantnag of Jammu and Kashmir with an SID of religion value of .0356 also comes under predominantly Muslim dominant district and as a matter of fact occupies the first rank

among the Muslim dominant districts as its distribution of population by first three religions is as follows: (98.50, 0.99, and 0.47).

### **The Hindus**

The predominance status of Hindus in India need not be over emphasized but may be realized at once by looking at the district positions of various states shown in Table 1 and Map-A.

It is seen that about 390 districts in India with the proportion of Hindus population more than 80 percent have an index value that lie in the range of .39947 (highest) and .00639 (lowest); Unexpected in the group of 390 districts are two districts, namely Shahjahanpur (UP) and Bardhaman (WB) which have the proportion of Hindu population of about 79.67 percent and 79.47 percent respectively. As a matter of fact we may consider them as equivalent to 80 percent without much difficulty.

It is also observed that about 130 districts in India with the proportion of Hindus population less than 80 percent have an index value that lie in the range of .40191 and .79079. In the 130 districts category three districts namely Thane (MAH), Tirunelveli (TN) and Bangalore (KAR) are observed to have the proportion of Hindus population of 80.13 percent, 79.82 percent and 79.56 percent respectively. We have considered these three districts under the category where the proportion of Hindu population is observed to be less than 80 percent, because their SID value lies above the cut of point of 0.4000.

Among the 390 districts, district that occupies the lowest rank with an index value of .00639 belong to the State of Orissa and is noted to be Baudh. About 99.73 percent of this Baudh's population is seen to be Hindus. While the percentage of Muslims that occupy the second rank is seen to be 0.20. Christians occupy the third rank with a negligible percent of 0.06. And among the 390 districts, the district with the highest index value of .39947 is seen to belong to Uttar Pradesh with the name Shahjahanpur. Hindus in this district is seen to be of 79.67 percent that which we may consider to be approximately 80 percent. Muslims occupy the second position in this district with a percent of 17.87. The third dominant religion in this district is Sikhs. They consists only 2.14 percent of the total population of the district.

Among the 130 districts in India with percent of Hindus less than 80 percent in the total population, the SID of Religion is seen to vary between 0.40191 in Sitamarhi (Bihar) and 0.79079 in Upper Siang (Arunachal Pradesh). While Sitamarahi noticed to have 78.74 percent Hindu population, Upper Siang district is seen to have 45.04 percent of Hindu population in the total population of the district.

Among the 130 districts, with respect to the second most dominant religion, 87 districts seen to have Muslims as the second dominant religion in their population. While in 24 districts Christians seen to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> dominant religion, in 12 districts Buddhists are seen to be second most dominant religion. In the remaining 7 districts Sikhs are seen to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> most dominant religion (See Table 2).

←----- Table 2 at about here ----→

In some of these 130 districts the percent of the 2<sup>nd</sup> dominant religion is seen to be very close to the first dominant religion of Hindus. There are in fact few districts where first and second dominant religions are close in their majority. Perhaps it may not be surprising to see in these few districts the second dominant religion to become the first dominant religion by the next census of

2011. As an example we may point out the districts of: Gurdaspur in Punjab, Gumla in Jharkhand, Kottayam in Kerala, Marigaon in Assam where the second dominant religion is very close in proportional term with that of the first dominant religion.

Thus, out of the 593 districts in India, in only 73 districts did Hindus seem to be occupying 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> rank order, when first three religions of a district are arranged as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> rank order. Out of the 73 districts in 22 districts while Muslims are enjoying 1<sup>st</sup> rank order, in 32 districts Christians are enjoying 1<sup>st</sup> rank order status. Similarly while in 13 of the 73 districts Sikhs are enjoying the 1<sup>st</sup> rank order, in 6 of the remaining 73 districts Buddhists are enjoying the 1<sup>st</sup> rank order status. (See Tables 1, Table 3 and Map-A)

←----- Table 3 at about here ----→

The 73 districts, where Hindus seem to be occupying the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> rank order, are in fact are located to be at the peripheral areas of India (See Map-A). These districts (with the total number of districts given in brackets of each state) may be found in the Bordering states, namely: Assam (6), Jammu and Kashmir (11), Punjab (13), West Bengal (2), Arunachal Pradesh (6), Manipur (5), Mizoram (8), Meghalaya (7), Nagaland (8). You may also find one district each in the following states: Bihar (1), Himachal Pradesh (1), Kerala (1), Uttar Pradesh (1), Sikkim (1), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (1), Lakshdweep (1) (See Table 1)

When the 593 districts in India are looked into for their second dominant religion, we find that in 67 of the 73 districts, Hindus occupied the second majority (2<sup>nd</sup> rank) religious status. Further it is seen that out of 593 districts in only 6 districts they occupied the third majority (or 3<sup>rd</sup> rank) religious status (See Table 3). This clearly gives the evidence to state that in India Hindus are definitely still in majority status and there is no need to worry by saying that one-day Muslims will dominate Hindus.

### **The Muslims**

As stated earlier the Muslims enjoy a majority status in only 22 of the districts that belong to only 7 of the states in India. Out of the 22 districts while 6 districts belong to Assam, 10 districts belong to Jammu and Kashmir. Among the 22 districts Anantnag with an index value of .0356 and with percent Muslim population 98.50 comes to be lowest ranked district when the 22 districts are arranged in the descending order of their SID of Religion value. Golpara in Assam state is seen to have the highest SID value of .6690 and Muslims in this district are seen to be 53.77%. Table 3 indicates that in 423 districts out of total 593 in India as a whole, Muslims occupy the status of the second most dominant minority religion next to that of Hindus. Again, when we consider the 593 districts for the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked religion, Muslims occupied the 3<sup>rd</sup> rank in only about 121 districts. Thus the Muslims seem to be definitely the second largest religious group in India and also the first major minority group.

### **The Christians**

Table 1 and Map-1 present the religious data on 32 districts where the Christians are enjoying a majority status. As per Table 1, 31 of the districts where the Christians are in majority belong to the smaller states namely Arunachal Pradesh (4 districts), Manipur (5 districts), Mizoram (7 districts), Meghalaya (7 districts) and Nagaland (8 districts). The remaining only one district comes from the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Interestingly all the districts where the Christians are out number all other religions (or in predominant position) in that district come from the states that are at the peripheral areas of India (See Map-A). Table 3 indicates that in 213 districts out of total 593 in India as a whole, Christians occupy the status of the 3<sup>rd</sup> most dominant minority religion next to that of Hindus and Muslims. Thus the Christians are seen to be



definitely the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest religious groups in India and the 2<sup>nd</sup> dominant religious minority group coming next to that of Muslims.

### **The Sikhs**

According to the 2001 census there were about 19.2 million Sikhs in India. (See Figure 1). Among the major states, Punjab turns out to be the only state with a majority of Sikh population. Again, out of the 17 districts in Punjab in about 13 districts Sikhs are found to be in majority (See Map-A). When rank ordered the districts according to their index of diversity we found Ferozpur as the district with the highest SID of .6177 indicating that Sikhs are in majority in this state but are the lowest when compared to other 12 districts where Sikhs are found to be in majority. The district of Moga is seen to be the district with the lowest diversity index value of .2949 among the 13 districts indicating that Sikhs are in majority in this state and are the highest in numerical strength when compared to the remaining 12 districts.

### **The Buddhists**

There are six districts in India where Buddhists are seen to be in majority when compared to other religions (See Table 1 and Map-A). Interestingly while two of the districts belong to Arunachal Pradesh, the remaining belongs to one each of the following states, namely: Sikkim, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. All the above states are noticed to be in the peripheral areas of India.

### **The Jains**

Unfortunately we cannot see even a single district in India with predominantly Jain community as the dominant religion.

## **4. Conclusion**

Unlike other studies conducted in the recent past, in the present study we have made an attempt to represent the distribution of population of India by religion, of each state and district by means of an Index called the Standardized Index of Diversity (SID) of Religion. For constructing this index we have considered six of the major religions namely Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains. SID of Religion varies between 0 and 1. This index equals to 1 only when the total population is evenly distributed among all the religions considered in constructing the index. It will be 0 only when the total population is observed to be either a Hindu, or Muslim or Christian, etc.

An analysis of the 1961 to 2001 census data on religious distribution of population at state level by using the diversity index indicates that almost all the states (exceptions being Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat) have experienced a rise in their index value from 1961 to 2001, which further indicates that all the states have experienced diversity (by means of an increase in the proportion of minority group population over the last 40 years or so) in their religious distribution of population. An analysis of the 2001 census data by religion at the district level by means of this SID of Religion indicates that all the 593 districts in India can be neatly divided into few clusters or groups based on the concentration of the religious distribution of population. According to our analysis, there were 390 districts in India in the year 2001 where Hindus are predominant (by 80 percent or more). Out of 593, there were 130 districts where Hindus are predominant but their percent in the total is found to be less than 80 percent. Our analysis shows that there were 22 districts where Muslims are in majority when compared to other religions. Christians are found to be predominant in 32 districts of the 593 districts. Sikhs are found to be in majority in 13 districts out of the 593. Buddhists on the other hand found to be in majority in only 6 out of the 593 districts. Interestingly, all the districts where the minority group populations are observed to be in

majority of the state are seen to be at the peripheral areas of the states in India. There is no single district where Jains are in majority. As has already been pointed by other researchers we also find that among the minority communities Muslims were seen widely spread all over the Indian districts next to Hindus. Christians followed by Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains were found to be concentrated in some pockets of India only.

Unfortunately we cannot draw much policy implications from this limited study but this study brings out the fact that, the majority group of the minority populations, that is, Muslims need to be further studied separately by means of their socio-economic and educational status in order to impart the benefits of development which are limited so far only to the majority community, so that there is an overall development in the situation of various religious groups in India which are becoming slowly convergent over the decades.

### **Acknowledgements**

This paper is an outcome of the project entitled " A Statistical and Geographical Analysis of Changes Overtime in the Religious Composition and Distribution of Population of India: A Study at the District Level" jointly undertaken by us during 2005-2006. Our special thanks are due to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India for providing the necessary funds for the above said project.

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**Table 1: Distribution of districts in various states by Predominant religious status, India-2001**

States and Union Territories in India	Total Districts	Districts with predominantly Hindus (more than 80%)	Districts with predominantly Hindus (but less than 80%)	Districts with predominantly Muslims	Districts with predominantly Christians	Districts with predominantly Sikhs	Districts with predominantly Buddhists
<b>Major States</b>							
Andhra Pradesh	23	22	1				
Assam	23	7	10	6			
Bihar	37	30	6	1			
Gujarat	25	23	2				
Haryana	19	17	2				
Himachal Pradesh	12	10	1				1
Jammu and Kashmir	14	2	1	10			1
Karnataka	27	22	5				
Kerala	14		13	1			
Madhya Pradesh	45	44	1				
Maharashtra	35	22	13				
Orissa	30	28	2				
Punjab	17		4			13	
Rajasthan	32	30	2				
Tamil Nadu	30	25	5				
Uttar Pradesh	70	49	20	1			
West Bengal	18	6	10	2			
Jharkhand	18	11	7				
Chhattisgarh	16	15	1				
Uttaranchal	13	11	2				
<b>Smaller States</b>							
Arunachal Pradesh	13		7		4		2
Goa	2		2				
Tripura	4	3	1				
Manipur	9	2	2		5		
Mizoram	8				7		1
Meghalaya	7				7		
Nagaland	8				8		
Sikkim	4		3				1
<b>Union Territories</b>							
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2		1		1		
Chandigarh	1		1				
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1	1					
Daman and Diu	2	2					
Delhi	9	6	3				
Lakshadweep	1			1			
Pondicherry	4	2	2				
<b>Total Districts</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>

Source: Input data from RGI (2001)

**Table 2: 130 predominantly Hindu districts of India arranged by state and second most dominate religion after Hindus: 2001**

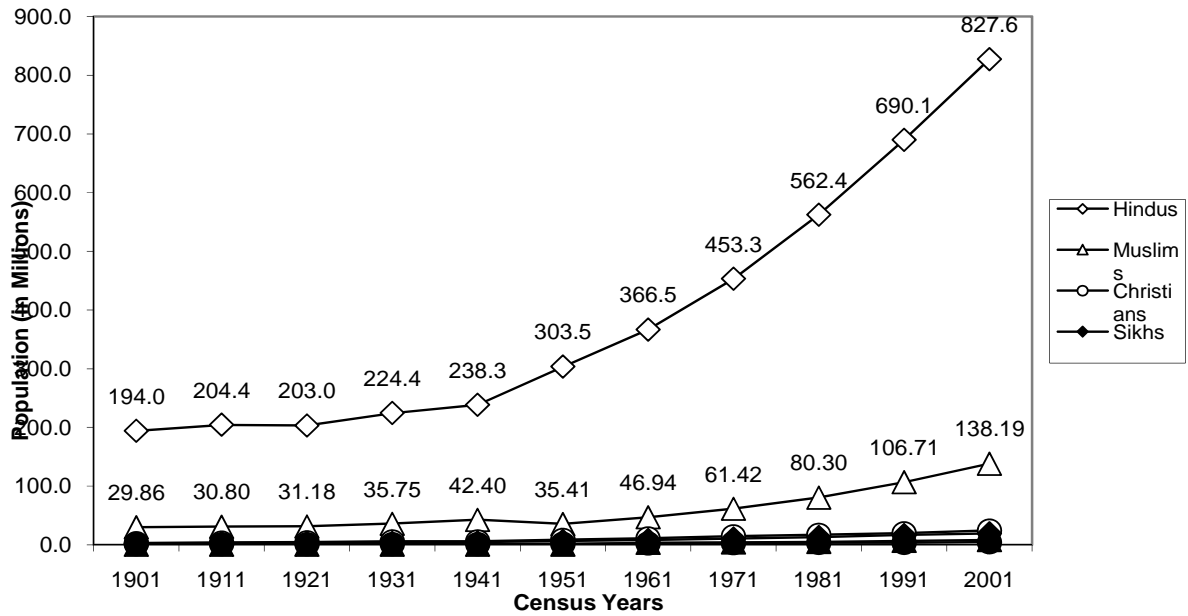
States and Union Territories	Second most dominant religion in the district			
	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Buddhists
<b>Major States</b>				
Andhra Pradesh	1			
Assam	9	1		
Bihar	6			
Gujarat	2			
Haryana	1		1	
Himachal Pradesh				1
Jammu and Kashmir	1			
Karnataka	5			
Kerala	6	7		
Madhya Pradesh	1			
Maharashtra	8			5
Orissa		2		
Punjab			4	
Rajasthan	1		1	
Tamil Nadu	1	4		
Uttar Pradesh	20			
West Bengal	9			1
Jharkhand	6	1		
Chhattisgarh		1		
Uttaranchal	2			
<b>Smaller States</b>				
Arunachal Pradesh		5		2
Goa		2		
Tripura	1			
Manipur	2			
Mizoram				
Meghalaya				
Nagaland				
Sikkim				3
<b>Union Territories</b>				
Andaman and Nicobar Islands		1		
Chandigarh			1	
Dadar and Nagar Haveli				
Daman and Diu				
Delhi	3			
Lakshadweep				
Pondicherry	2			
<b>Total number of districts</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>

Source: Input data from RGI (2001)

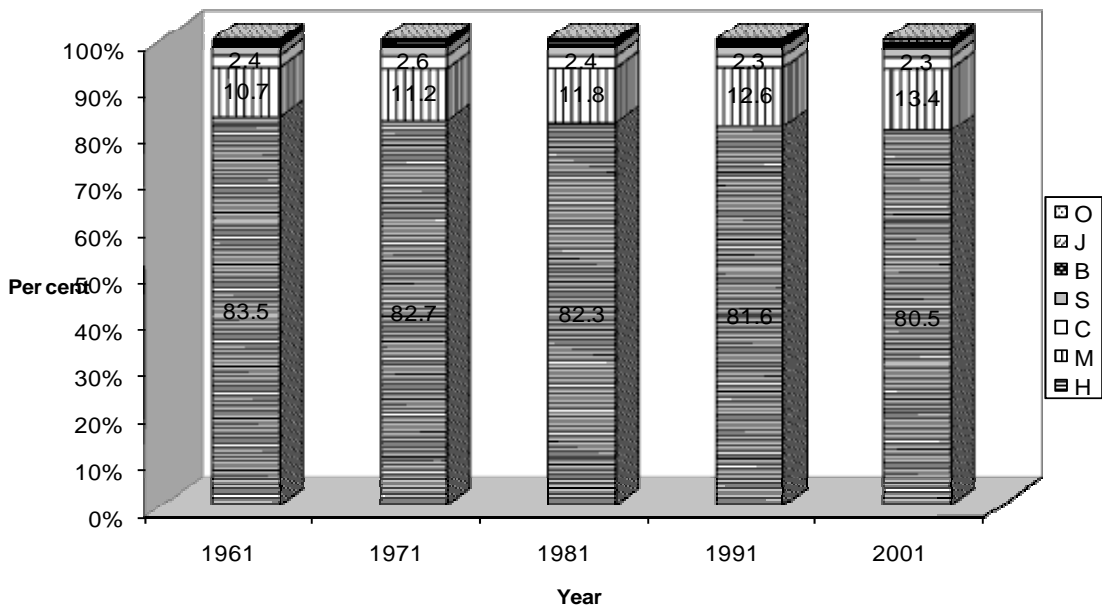
**Table3: Distribution of 593 districts in India by 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> major religious group (When among all the major religions that particular religion was occupying the 1st or 2nd or 3rd order in the particular district)**

Rank Order	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Buddhists	Jains	Total
1st rank	520	22	32	13	6	0	593
2nd Rank	67	423	55	20	28	0	593
3rd Rank	6	121	213	96	62	95	593

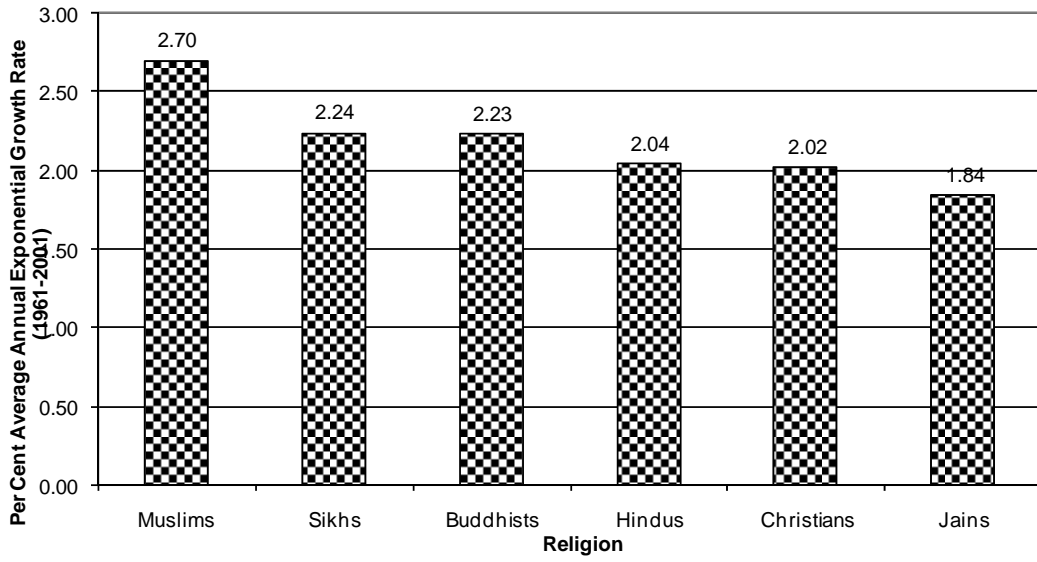
**Fig 1: Religious Distribution of Population, INDIA: 1901 to 2001**  
 (Sources of Data: Roy(1989), Banthia (2004) and Premi (2004))

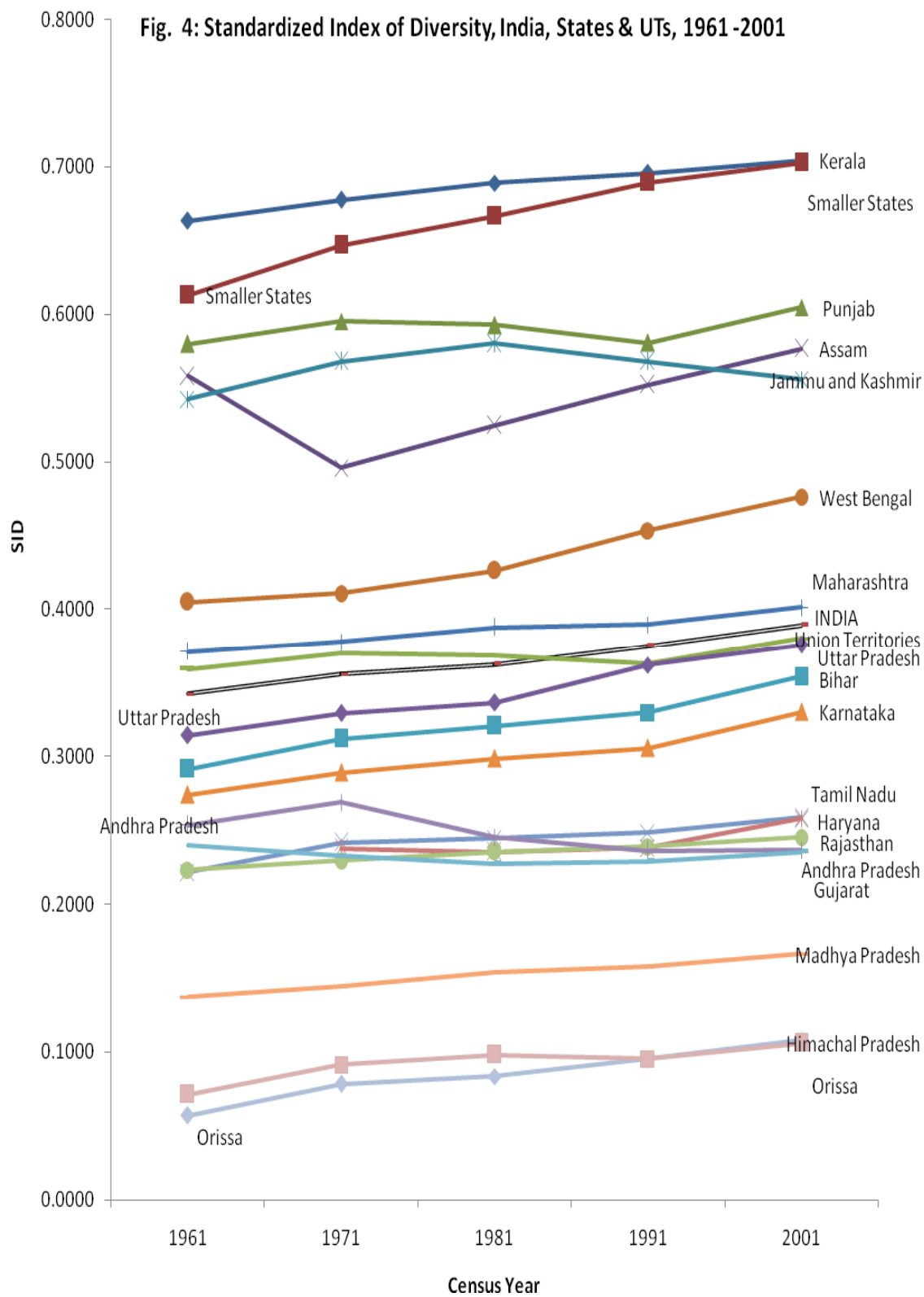


**Fig 2: Religious Composition of Population (Percent)- India- 1961 to 2001**



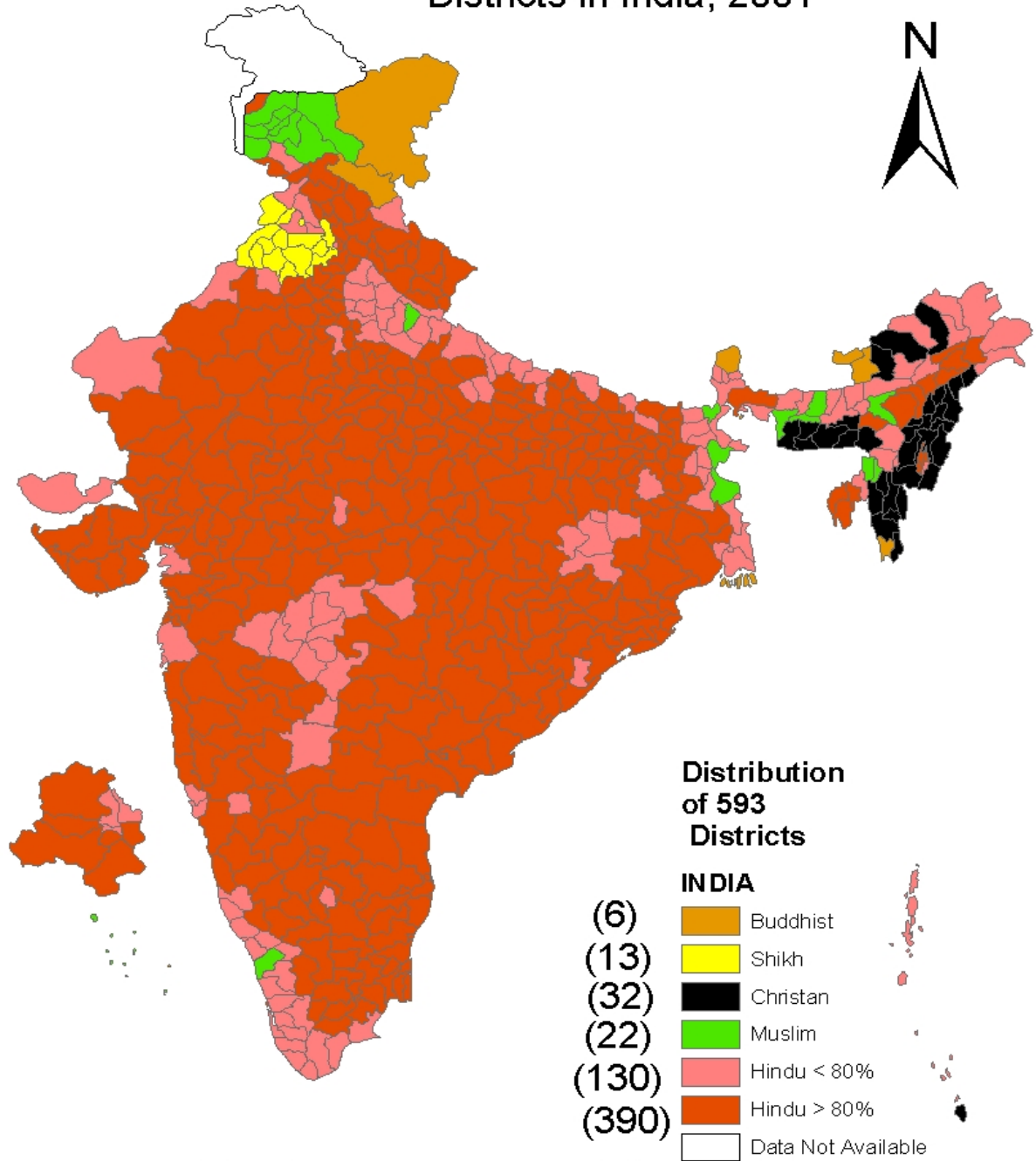
**Fig. 3: Average Annual Exponential Growth Rate of Population by Religion, India, 1961-2001**







Map A Religious Distribution of Population, Districts in India, 2001



Source:- RGI, Census of India, 2001