



GOND TRIBES OF INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

Gonds is essentially a primitive tribal community that is involved in hunting and food gathering, pastoral occupations, agriculture, martial assignments, basic trade and commerce, herbal medicine, etc. At the same time, they have perpetuated a unique tribal culture and language affiliation depending on the geographical regions. This unique speciality merits a better exposure and analysis to effect satisfactory assimilation into the social mainstream.

The first kingdom of Kerala, which is known in the history of kerala as the Chera Empire, was constituted as a confederation of seven branches of the Chera race. In the 3rd century BC, it was founded by the predecessors of the Kurumar/Kurumbar tribe of Wayanadu region. They represent the food gatherers of the pre-agriculture stage. Dr B R Ambedkar is of the

view that the founders of the Chera kingdom were a sub-division of the Nagas, who traveled southwards from the North-West region of Asia and in a later stage were called Gonds, the founders of Gondwana Empire in the Deccan region. It should be remembered that the Deccan region was very much habitable for both the food gatherers and the settled agriculturists. Later, a branch of them moved to peninsular India and a group of them settled in the hill ranges and valleys of the Western Ghats in the Arabian seashore (Dr R Gopinathan: Vanyajati: July 2011:11).

According to the 2001 census, Gonds, the major tribe of the country, has been notified as a scheduled tribe in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West

Bengal having a total population of 1,13,44,629 as per the 2001 census. They are concentrated in the central region, popularly known as Gondwana, which includes the Satpuda Plateau, a portion of the Nagpur plain area and the Narmada Valley and are believed to belong to the Dravidian stock. This tribe has a share of 13.45 per cent of the total scheduled tribe population of India. Madhya Pradesh has reported the highest population of Gonds (43,57,918) constituting 38.41 per cent of the total Gonds population, followed by Chattisgarh (36,96,021) showing 32.58%, Maharashtra (15,54,894) depicting 13.7%, Odisha (7,82,347) revealing 6.89%, Uttar Pradesh (4,43,457) having 3.9%, Andhra Pradesh (2,54,856) revealing 2.25%, Karnataka (1,36,700) showing 1.2%, Jharkhand (52,614) having 0.46%, Bihar (51,792) with 0.45%, West Bengal (9,826) having 0.08%, Gujarat (2,152) showing 0.01% and Uttaranchal (2,052) having 0.01%. So far considering the percentage of the Gonds population to the total scheduled tribes population of the state, Madhya Pradesh shows the highest percentage (43.69%), followed by Maharashtra (19.47%), Odisha (9.97%), Karnataka (6.47%), Andhra Pradesh (5.04%) and Bihar (1.57%). However, as per the 2001 census, when the percentage of Gonds population to the population of total scheduled tribes of a state is concerned, Uttar Pradesh shows the highest

percentage (80.42%), followed by Chhattisgarh (55.85%), Madhya Pradesh (35.62%), Maharashtra (18.12%), Odisha (9.6%), Bihar (6.82%), Andhra Pradesh (5.07%), Karnataka (3.95%), Uttarakhand (0.79%), Jharkhand (0.74%), West Bengal (0.22%) and Gujarat (0.02%).

The Gonds generally speak the Gondi dialect. Gondi is referred to both the mother tongue and a member of the Dravidian family (Central and Southern Dravidian Group). According to the 1991 census, Gondi language speakers were 21,24,852. This census figure includes Dorli, Ganda, Maria and Muria in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa. Gondi is one of the non-scheduled languages spoken in India mainly in its central part, that is, in Madhya Pradesh and in the adjoining states of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra (Jayant Kumar Banthia:2004:76).

In Bidar, Davanagere and Bangalore districts of Karnataka, India, Gondi (commonly referred to as *Koitor*) is spoken by approximately 1262 nomadic Rajgonds or *Koitor* as they call themselves. The dialect of the Gonds settled in Bidar and Uttara Kannada districts is the local Kannada dialect. Although it is here written in the Kannada script, one can clearly see that the Gondi language is very distinct from Kannada. An interesting feature of this variety of Gondi is

the high level of borrowing from the neighbouring Indo-Aryan languages, particularly from Hindi and Marathi.

Early studies

So far, in India, the studies undertaken regarding the Rajgonds are innumerable. Among them are *Bhoomia Gonds of Eastern Mandla* (1960) by Puch, *Gonds of Central Indian Highlands* (1984) by B H Mehta, *Customary Laws among Gonds of MP* (1985) by M L Patel, *Among the Gonds of Adilabad* by Sethu Madhav Rao Pagadi, *The Rajgonds of Adilabad* (1948) by Furer Haimendorf Von, *Castes and Tribes of H E H Nizam's Dominions* (1989) by Siraj Ul Hassan, *Gond Samskriti* by Jamir Ulla Sharif, *Gond Tribes in Bidar District: A Sociological Study* (1994) by K M Metry, *The Scheduled Tribes* (1994) by K S Singh, *Rajgond* (2008) by K M Metry and Sudarshan Sedmaki, *The Scheduled Tribes in Transition: A Sociological Study of Gonds* (2008) by Dr B B Kalgi, and so on. These studies give valuable information about these tribes. Along with these, Man in India, Anthropological Study of India, and Census records also carry important results of studies on Gonds. Gondavana Darshan, a monthly magazine about the Gonds, is being published from Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.

Gonds are a major Scheduled Tribe in India spread over 15 states. In Karnataka, the Gond tribal community with synonymous names

like Naikpod and Rajgond inhabit predominantly in Bidar, Gulbarga and Uttara Kannada districts. In Karnataka, Naikpod, a synonymous name for Gond, is not prevalent. The distribution of Gonds with different synonymous names is very interesting to know, which reveals their spatial distribution. Initially, they were nomads and settled in Karnataka by involving in multiple economic activities. Gonds speak the "Gondi" dialect belonging to the Dravidian family. Now, they speak other Indian languages like Hindi, Kannada, Marathi and Telugu. They are non-vegetarians and their staple food is jowar and ragi. They believe that they are the descendents of the cultural hero Pahandi Kupar Lingo and Jangubai. The legends trace their identity to the Hindu epic story of "Mahabharatha". Gonds have a well-developed social structure in Karnataka. To avoid incest in relationships, they have four septs known as Chardev, Panchdev, Sadev and Satadev. Their family structure is both nuclear and extended type of family structure. Gonds are endogamous and they follow maternal cross-cousin marriages and uncle-niece marriages. They are rigid followers of lifecycle rituals such as purity and pollution from birth to death.

Name: The name Gond, as mentioned by Hislop, 'seems to be a form of Gund, Kond or Kund.' These three meanings most probably link to the

Telugu equivalent for a ‘mountain’, originated from *kondawallu* or hill people. They must have borne this name for many ages, for it was mentioned by Ptolemy, the popular geographer (A.D.150), under the name ‘Gondaloi’. As aptly pointed out by an earlier ethnographer, Cunningham, ‘the term “Gond” is derived from Goud and it later became Gond’. Recently, V S Dhurve mentioned that the term Gond is composed of two words: *Go* and *And*. *Go* means earth and *And* means child, which together mean ‘earth child’ or the ‘children of the soil’. Regarding the social link between the Gonds and other synonymous names prevailing in other states of India, S S Shashi has aptly remarked that “In Rajasthan, at places the Shepherds are also called Gujar; some include the Gonds among the Shepherd society. The Gonds are Rajputs but of Scheduled Tribes. They generally reside in Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur districts. In fact, those found in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka is a wing of Kurubasociety. It is said Bamgonda, a Kuruba (Gond) assisted in building the historic fort of Bidar. Even today names like Khand Gonda, Bir Gonda, Jat Gonda, Hul Gonda, Mal Gonda, Chan Gonda, Rai Gonda, Tulaj Gonda, Shiv Gonda, Shan Gonda and other Gondas are found. Many of their habits and customs are similar to Kurubas.” (Shashi, S S: 1978:60-61)

The Gonds have lent their name to Gondwana, a historical region which gained prominence during the medieval period. The Gondwanaland contains five continents of the world, which are shown in the map.



In India, the Gonds are concentrated in the Central Region, popularly known as Gondwana, which includes the Satpuda Plateau, a portion of the Nagpur plains area and the Narmada valley, and are believed to belong to the Dravidian stock. In Karnataka, the Gonds are the second largest Scheduled Tribe, found in majority in Bidar, Gulbarga, Uttara Kannada and Bangalore urban districts. Territorially, the Uttara Kannada and Bangalore, the housing pattern of Gonds shows varying degrees of acculturation when compared with the Gonds houses of Bidar and Gulbarga districts. They prefer constructing huge farm houses surrounded by their own land with a classic touch of a royal kingdom. The

royal emblem of Gondwana is shown in the picture.



SYNONYMS, TITLES, SURNAMES AND SEGMENTS OF GOND TRIBE

The Gonds includes more than 60 groups, their synonyms, titles, surnames and segments as follows:

Gond/Gondaru: List of Synonyms, Titles, Surnames and Segments

Synonyms: Gond, Kuruba, Dhangar (Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur Districts) [Karnataka]; Gond, Gamokkalu (Uttara Kannada District) [Karnataka]

Names: Khandgond, Beergond, Tulajagond, Shivgond, Shangond, Bomgond, etc. [Karnataka] (Shashi, SS: 1978:61); Basagond, Birgond, Bomagond, Bhimgond, Chandragond, Chengond, Irgond, Ghalgond, Hulgond, Heggagond, Honnagond, Jatgond, Jyotgond, Kalgond, Kaalgond, Kotgond, Khandgond, Lalgond, Malgond, Madhagond, Nagagond, Parasagond, Prabhugond, Sangagond, Sidhagond,

Shivagond, Tamagond, Tippagond etc. [Karnataka] (RTC).

Surnames: Irkar, Varu, Vagya, Kargar, Phulekar, Biradar, Sergar, Metri, Vadde, etc. [Karnataka] (Metry K M: 2002:66)

Exogamous units/ clans (bali): Ane Bali (elephant), Dyevana Bali, Hala Bali (banyan tree), Huli Bali (Tiger), Kayi (fruit), Shete Bali, Sithin Bali, Tholar (Wolf), [Karnataka] (Singh K S: 1996:1300)

Gond:

Synonyms: Koitur, Koya [Andhra Pradesh]

Gonr [Bihar]

Gondas, Majhi [Orissa]

Gonrh [Uttar Pradesh]

Groups/subgroups: Dhurwa Gond, Maria Gond, Muria Gond, Raj Gond [Andhra Pradesh]

Oriya Gond [Assam]

Dhruwa Gond, Raj Gond [Orissa]

Dev Gond, Dholi Gond, Kaila Bhet, Kolam, Kolbhuta, Mudipal, Padol, Raj Gond [Uttar Pradesh]

Sub-divisions: Bhuri [E Thurston]

Agarias, Ahirs, Baigas, Barhasi, Basors, Bhatras, Bhunjias, Darwe or Naik, Durla or Durlasattam, Gaita, Gattu, Gowari, Jhadi, Khairwars, Khatolas, Koilabhuti, Kolams, Koya Gonds Lanjiha, Larhia, Lohars, Mandlaha, Mannewars, Maria, Muria, Ojhas, Pardhans, Raj Gonds, Solahas [Russell and Hiralal]

Dadve, Gowari, Kolam, Pardhan, Raj Gond, Thoti [S S Hassan]

Dadave, Dhobi, Katulya, Koikopal, Koilabotal, Kolam, Madyal, Ojhyal, Padal, Paelal, Raghuwal, Raj Gond, Thotyal [W Crooke]

Sub-tribes: Dhokar Gond, Jhora, Raj Gond [H H Risley]

Titles: Raj [Andhra Pradesh]

Besra [H H Risley]

Surnames: Gond [Assam]

Besra, Manjhi [Bihar]

Dehury, Majhi, Pradhan, Pujari [Orissa]

Singh [Uttar Pradesh]

Phratries (saga): Nalwen Saga, Sarwen Saga, Siven Saga, Yedu Saga, Wen [Andhra Pradesh]

Exogamous septs: Behainsa, Bhaiband or Dadabhai, Bura Deo, Chamchidai, Dhurwa, Eti, Garde, Irpachi, Karanga, Karrami, Kawachi, Kunjami, Mamabhai or Akomama, Maravi, Nabalia, Nagvans or Cobra, Netam, Netami, Nurethi, Potari, Sodi, Tekami, Tumrachi, Usendi, Vadde, Warkara [Russell and Hiralal]

Exogamous units/clans: Markam, Mori, Nitam, Sori, Veti [Orissa]

Chardeo, Pachdeo, Sahadeo, Satdeo [S S Hassan]

Exogamous units/clans(gotras): Besra, Chardia, Dhooleshwarigi, Fuleswari(buffalo), Gohi, Kanagonrh (fish), Morai (snake), Netigonrh (tiger), Pahelagat (otter), Pradhan [Bihar]

Exogamous units/clans(goti): Aeom, Markam, Marpachi, Netam, Poiya [Uttar Pradesh]

Clans: Chagaba, Dewar, Koram, Markam, Posam, Soham [W Crooke]

Septs/sections: Bhuri [E Thurston]

Bagh, Baghel (tiger), Besra (hawk), Bhainsa (buffalo), Bod (a big river fish), Gaek (a kind of fish), Ganga (sea), Ghora (horse), Goh, Hansa (Geese), Honti (a kind of fish), Jagaha (buffalo), Jagat, Jaipuria (name of city), Kachchua (tortoise), Kana Machhari (fish), Karma (a tree), Koput, Kusro, Loha (iron), Mahanadia, Marai, Moti (a bead), Nag (snake), Naitam, Pachia, Phaguahi, Poia, Poiti, Porri (a kind of hawk), Sawani, Sribakaria [H H Risley] (Singh K S: 1996:1300-2)

Gond, Abuj Maria:

Synonyms: Hill Maria [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Korami, Usendi [Madhya Pradesh]

Phratries (dadabhai/bhaiband/bans): Kawasi, Marai, Sodi [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous units/clans (katta): Bote, Dhurwa, Dodi, Dodir, Dol, Gohal (snake),Gottaku (pig), Korami (tortoise), Netam (pig), Oyami, Potei (tortoise), Usendi, Wadde [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous units/lineages (saga): [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1302)

Gond, Amat:

Synonyms: Gond Thakur [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Kapil, Nagesh [Madhya Pradesh]

Phratries (bans): Jagat, Kailash, Markam, Netam, Surri [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous units/clans: Karti Maria, Ooti, Suri [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous units/lineages (deo):[Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1302)

Gond, Arakh/Naikgond:

Synonyms: Arakh, Arrakh, Dorve [Maharashtra]

Surnames: Atram, Gedam, Ghodam, Kandore, Kodape, Madavi, Matte, Soyom, Tekam, Thumrom, Uike, Yette [Maharashtra] *Phratries (dev):* Five Dev, Four Dev, One Dev, SevenDev, Six Dev, Three Dev, Twelve Dev [Maharashtra]

Exogamous units/clans: Alam, Gedam, Ghodom, Kandore, Kodape, Madavi, Matte, Soyom, Tekam, Thumrom, Uike, Yette, Atrom [Maharashtra]

Exogamous units/lineages (dev): [Maharashtra] (Singh K S: 1996:1302)

Gond, Bada Maria:

Synonyms: Gaita Maria, Maria [Maharashtra]

Phratries (saga): Ayyam Pengu, Erum Pengu, Harun Pengu, Nalgu Pengu, Neltum Pengu, Parsa, Phugati [Maharashtra]

Exogamous units/clans: Alami, Birni, Gadiva, Gadwa, Gumma, Hiram, Karanja, Majji, Pallo, Podari, Pussalil, Tando, Telma, Vadde [Maharashtra]

Exogamous units/lineages (saga): [Maharashtra] (Singh K S: 1996:1302-3)

Gond, Bison Horn Maria:

Synonyms: Danaoni, Dandami Maria, Maria [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Karti, Mandabi [Madhya Pradesh]

Phratries (bans, saga): Kawasi, Kuharami, Markami (tortoise), Marvi (goat), Sodi (tiger) [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous units/clans: Atami, Bagami, Bali, Basra, Biry, Bote, Dodi, Hemla, Markami, Oika, Sodi, Tamo, Telami [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous units/lineages (saga): [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1303)

Gond, Chota Maria:

Synonyms: Kamaria Maria, Maria [Maharashtra]

Phratries (saga): Ayyam Pengu, Erum Pengu, Harun Pengu, Nalgum Pengu, Neltum Pengu, [Maharashtra]

Exogamous units/clans: Alami, Birpi, Gadwa, Gumma, Hiram, Karanja, Majji, Pallo, Podani, Pussalil, Tando, Telma, Vadde [Maharashtra]

Exogamous units/lineages (saga): [Maharashtra] (Singh K S: 1996:1303)

Gond, Dheria:

Synonyms: Gond Thakur [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Maba, Marhai, Netam, Singh [Madhya Pradesh]

Phratries (saga): Markam, Netam [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous units/clans: Khusru, Marhai, Markam, Netam (pig), Netti, Sorri, Soyam, Tekam [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous units/lineages (deo): [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1303)

Gond, Dhulia: List of Synonyms, Titles, Surnames and Segments

Synonyms: Dholi, Dhulia [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Lala (new) [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous units/clans: Gadwal, Kalash, Madel, Mahtale, Mandgorh, Naikwal [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1303)

Gond, Dhur:

Synonyms: Dhru, Kapil, Markam, Netam, Poyan [Madhya Pradesh]

Phratries (saga): Chandra (moon), Garg (saint), Jagat, Nag (snake), Netam, Sori, Surya (sun) [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Marai, Markham, Netam, Poyam [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/lineages (deo): [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1304)

Gond, Dorla:

Synonyms: Dora, Dora Koitur, Ma Koitur [Madhya Pradesh]

Groups/subgroups: Gomo, Guminor, Mannam, Parmitor, Tagutor [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Kattam, Soyam [Madhya Pradesh]

Phratries (ghatta): Aido, Ero, Markami, Muro, Paremboi, Paren, Sodi [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans (lot peder): Baddam, Gat Belli, Kattam, Kunjan, Markam, Oyaan, Torra, Wetti [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1304)

Gond, Gowari:

Groups/subgroups: Dudh Govari, Gai Govari, Injwar Govasi, Jatadhari, Ladse, Lanjewar, Maladhari [Maharashtra]

Surnames: Bagade, Neware, Sahare, Thakre [Maharashtra] (Singh K S: 1996:1304)

Gond, Gowari/Gawaria:

Exogamous Units/clans: Chedahai, Karram, Marai, Markam, Nag, Netam, Sori [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1304)

Gond, Jhare:

Synonyms: Jhareya [Maharashtra]

Phratries (ghatta): Atram, Madavi, Phungati, Sarmekh [Maharashtra]

Exogamous Units/lineages (ghote): [Maharashtra] (Singh K S: 1996:1304)

Gond, Kandra:

Synonyms: Burra, Kadra [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Bod, Burra, Wicke [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Chatti, Netam, Sori, Wicke [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1304)

Gond, Khatola:

Surnames: Singh, Thakur [Madhya Pradesh]

Phratries (saga): Chhah Deva, Ek Deva, Sat Deva, Teen Deva [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Dhurwe, Diwar, Jagait, Khushru, Marawi, Marwari, Maskola, Masram,

Netam, Pandru, Purte, Tekam, Uike [Madhya Pradesh]

Gotra: Durvasa [Madhya Pradesh](Singh K S: 1996:1304-5)

Gond, Kolbhuta:

Synonyms: Kaupa, Ahirwadi, Rajbhat [Madhya Pradesh]

Titles: Lal, Singh [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Lal, Singh [Madhya Pradesh]

*Exogamous Units/clans:*Maravi, Uaika [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1305)

Gond, Mana:

Exogamous Units/clans (kur): Chodhury, Dhamu, Dorka, Gajba, Nanawar, Phara, Sanwana, Serkura, Srinama, Zambora [Maharashtra] (Singh K S: 1996:1305)

Gond, Mannewar:

Surnames: Hanuman (monkey god), Hatia Nanga, Surya [Madhya Pradesh]

Indurkar, Lagalwar, Murty [Maharashtra]

Exogamous Units/clans: Aru Velpolu, Ayidu Velpolu (five deities), Nalngu Velpolu (four deities) [Maharashtra] (Singh K S: 1996:1305)

Gond, Maria:

Groups/subgroups: Bada Madia, Chota Madia, Hill Madia [Maharashtra]

Surnames: Atram, Hichami [Maharashtra]

Phratries: Jungven (twelve God), Saiven (five God), Sarven (six God), Yelven (seven God), Nalven (four God) [Maharashtra]

Exogamous Units/clans (padi): [Maharashtra] (Singh K S: 1996:1305)

Gond, Muria:

Surnames: Mandavi, Netam [Madhya Pradesh]

Phratries: Kawasi, Marvi, Sodi [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Bagh, Katlami, Mandavi, Tamo, Usendi, Wickea [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1305)

Gond, Nagwanshi:

Groups/subgroups: Telenga, Nag [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Nag, Nagraj, Sararaj, Singh [Madhya Pradesh]

Phratries: Batuwa Bhai, Bhaihari [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans (gotore): Bensaria, Chalki, Chindkata, Dehari, Dudh Karwa, Korwa, Lohara Kumhar, Nag, Negi, Powar, Pradhan, Somrath [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1306)

Gond, Naikpod:

Synonyms: Naikda, Naikdi, Naipollu [Maharashtra]

Surnames(odnam): Dukraswad (wild boar), Kannuwad (animal horn), Landgoowad (wild animal), Punjarwad (worshipper), Tamamaad (lever used for lifting water) [Maharashtra] (Singh K S: 1996:1306)

Gond, Ojha:

Synonyms: Mukasi [Madhya Pradesh]

Groups/subgroups: Gond Ojha, Manas Ojha, Pradhan Ojha [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Lal Ojha (old), Prasad, Singh (new) [Madhya Pradesh]

Phratries(saga): Seven Dev, Six Dev [Madhya Pradesh]

Clans: Bhalavi, Karkam, Kukera, Kuropa, Oreva, Saiyam, Uike [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1306)

Gond, Paharia:

Synonyms: Ravanpidi [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Singh, Thakur [Madhya Pradesh]

Phratries (saga): Netam, Sori [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Hichami, Hitami, Itta, Katle, Kumarra, Kunarra, Maddasi, Markam, Pudo [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1306)

Gond, Raj Gond:

Synonyms: Deo, Deothakur, Thakur [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Thakur [Madhya Pradesh]

Atram, Madhavi, Masram [Maharashtra]

Phratries (saga): Bagh (tiger), Keshar, Kurum, Nag (cobra), Netam, Pekha, Sori [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Duga, Korotti, Mandavi, Maria, Netam, Oali, Poram, Porchapi, Solgan, Tekam [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/lineages (deo): [Maharashtra] (Singh K S: 1996:1306-7)

Gond, Raja Muria:

Surnames: Baghel [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Bagh (tiger), Bakra (goat), Kachim (tortoise), Kachuwa [Madhya Pradesh]

Gotra: Kashyap [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/lineages (deo): [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1307)

Gond, Sabaria:

Surnames: Singh [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Dondollu, Dororru, Errollu, Mosorru, Nagrally, Nakkallu, Pettolu [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1307)

Gond, Sargujhia:

Synonyms: Thakur [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Netam, Singh [Madhya Pradesh]

Phratries(saga): Markam, Netam, Sidar [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Jagat, Kuram, Marhai, Maria, Markam, Netam [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1307)

Gond, Singhrolia:

Synonyms: Thakur [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Singh [Madhya Pradesh]

Phratries (saga): Netam, Sodi [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Bhawdey, Hitko, Katlam, Marai, Netam, Porcha, Soya, Tekam, Telei [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/lineages (deo): [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1307)

Gond, Sonjhari:

Synonyms: Sonjhara [Maharashtra]

Groups/subgroups: Nalung Pen, Saram Pen, Savyung Pen, Yadung Pen [Maharashtra]

Subgroups: Bherinhar, Laria, Uriya [Russell & Hiralal]

Surnames: Bhimare, Katle, Madavi [Maharashtra] (Singh K S: 1996:1307)

Gond, Thatia:

Synonyms: Gaiki, Gali, Thati [Madhya Pradesh]

Surnames: Ahke, Dhurve, Kumra, Sairam, Tumrisar, Uike, Yune [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Akhe, Dhurva, Kurma, Sairam, Tumrisar, Uike, Yuna [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1308)

Gond, Thoti /Thotia:

Exogamous Units: Sarompen (four gods division), Sayungpen (five gods division) [Maharashtra] (Singh K S: 1996:1308)

Gond, Muslim:

Titles: Shah [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1308)

Gonr:

Synonyms: Gond [Bihar]

Dhibar, Gond, Gonrhi, Gund, Machhuar, Mallah [West Bengal]

Groups/subgroups: Balamtica, Banpar, Bantaria, Chab, Chabi, Dhoar, Dhuria, Jethvanshi, Kanaujia, Keranchi, Khulaut, Khunaut, Kolh, Kurin, Madesia, Madhaiya, Parbattikurin, Rawani, Semari, Thatera [Bihar]

Chabi, Chotaha, Kurin, Manjhi [West Bengal]

Titles: Dhibar [West Bengal]

Chowdhuri, Jethman, Mandar, Mukhiar, Nakhuda, Sahni [H H Risley]

Surnames: Bania, Gonrhi, Haladar, Mandal, Mukhia, Prasad, Shaw, Singh [Bihar]

Exogamous Units/clans: Aladashi, Kashyap, Shakhharashi [West Bengal]

Gotra: Kashyap [Bihar]

Kashyap [West Bengal] (Singh K S: 1996:1309)

Gour:

Synonyms: Ahir, Gond Gowala, Goud, Gounr Gowala, Gowala [Bihar]

Gur [Tripura]

Gond Gowala, Nanda Gowala [West Bengal]

Groups/subgroups: Girichasa, Jharua Gour, Krishna Gour, Magadha Gour, Nanda Gour [Bihar]

Dhuriya, Jetho, Kahar, Kankar, Kanugh, Rajbhar [Tripura]

Jharua Gour, Krishna Gour, Magdha Gour, Nanda Gour [West Bengal]

Titles: Bisoi, Dangua, Mahakur, Majhi, Paramanik, Patra [Bihar]

Bisoi, Mahakur [West Bengal]

Surnames: Bahara, Barik, Bera, Dandapat, Ghos, Giri, Gop, Gope, Gour, Mahakur, Majhi, Patra, Pradhan Saw [Bihar]

Gour, Kahar, Kanugh, Singh [Tripura]

Barik, Behara, Bera, Dandapat, Ghose, Giri, Gope, Gour, Majhi, Patra [West Bengal]

Exogamous Units/clans: Chala, Jam, Jodia, Kachchim, Nag (serpent), Nages, Sal (a fish) [West Bengal]

Exogamous Units/clans(killi): Banki Guntar, Bar Behara, Bhaisa (buffalo), Chata (a bird), Hanumat (monkey god), Hathi (elephant), Jamjodia, Kachim (tortoise), Kudramosa, Kutae (dear), Nag (serpent), Nagesh (king cobra), Palai, Rout, Sal (a fish), Subarna Kutar (golden dear) [Bihar]

Gotra: Kashi, Kashyap [Tripura]

Exogamous Units/lineages (gusthi): [West Bengal] *Exogamous Units/lineages*

(bansa/gusthi/jhar/killi): [Bihar] (Singh K S: 1996:1314-5)

Kolam:

Synonyms: Mannewar, Mannevarlu [Andhra Pradesh]

Kolavar, Pujari [Maharashtra]

Surnames: Naikowar, Nekwaraka, Parsinekul, Ravikul, Shutkar, Tekam, Watulkar [Maharashtra]

Phratries: Aru Dayal Kher (six deities), Idu Dayal Kher (five deities), Nali Dayal Kher (four deities), Yedu Dayal Kher (seven deities) [Andhra Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Atram Kodapa Duv (tiger), Kavve, Kumra, Madavi Ched

(porcupine), Suiker, Tekam Mosali (crocodile) [Andhra Pradesh]

Ghotkar, Nekwaraka, Parsinekul, Ravikul, Tekam, Watulkar [Maharashtra] (Singh K S: 1996:1455-6).

Pardhan:

Synonyms: Pradhan (chieftain) [Andhra Pradesh]

Deshandi, Mokhashi, Pataria [Madhya Pradesh]

Desai, Parganiha, Pathari [Maharashtra]

Endogamous divisions: Arakhs, Chanda, Chor, Deogarhias, Gaitas, Ganda, Pardhans, Gond Patharis, Kanres, Khalotias, Mades, Raj Pardhans, Thothia Pardhans [Russell & Hiralal]

Surnames: Atram, Kanake, Madai, Neitam, Soyam [Maharashtra]

Phratries: Chow Devi (four deities group), Pacha Devi (five deities group), Saha Devi, Satha Devi [Andhra Pradesh]

Chardev or four gods, Chhaadev or six gods, Panchdev or five gods, Sattahdev or seven gods [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Amalla, Atnam, Kotnak, Kusanger, Madallam, Malasi, Marpachi, Pusari, Soyam [Andhra Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans(gote,kur): Alam, Atram, Chhkati, Durve, Godam, Jumna, Karpet, Kedyami, Kiringa, Kodapa, Kumeta, Kusram, Madavi, Meshram, Narota, Parteti, Pendam, Sadam, Sedmak, Velode, Wike [Madhya Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/lineages (deo): [Madhya Pradesh] (Singh K S: 1996:1671).

Patari:

Synonyms: Pathari, Pardhan [Uttar Pradesh]

Surnames: Mushhar, Patari, Pathari, Pardhan, Pattawale, Singh [Uttar Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Aeom, Dhurayan, Sasni, Kusum, Markan, Marpachi, Netam, Neti, Tekam [Uttar Pradesh](Singh K S: 1996:1679).

Naikpod:

Synonyms: Naikda, Naikpollu[Maharashtra]

Exogamous Units/clans: Kommuwad (animal horn), Langewad (wild animal), Punjarwad (worshipper), Talamvad (lever used for lifting water) [Maharashtra](Singh K S: 1996:1622).

Nayak:

Synonyms: Naikapu, Naikpod, Nayakapodu, Padama Nayak, Pandava Nayak [Andhra Pradesh]

Thori [Rajasthan]

Naik [Delhi]

Groups /subgroups: Bhuiyana, Chorgujja, Guluar, Hadi, Mehediar, Nagpuia, Tamria [Assam]

Surnames: Nayak [Assam]

Bisht, Nayak, Negi, Rawat [Uttar Pradesh]

Nayak [Delhi]

Surnames(intiperulu): [Andhra Pradesh]

Exogamous Units/clans: Diplanga, Dolibaha, Koa, Nag, Panda, [Assam]

Bhand, Bokra, Dagla, Dhulkia, Karoa, Kayat, Lava, Malkhot, Potwana, Siroa, Sirsia, Sudia [Rajasthan]

Angan, Athwal, Bagela, Barbasa, Bhatti, Bogia, Chalukya, Chauhan, Chowhan, Dhinkya, Dubka, Joiya, Khinchi, Lauhara, Lugariya, Padhihar, Panwar, Parang, Rathode, Sankhala, Solanki, Tabla Tanwar [Delhi]

Exogamous Units/lineages(dudh): [Rajasthan] (Singh K S: 1996:1633-4).

EXOAMOUS UNIT/LINEAGES, CLANS, PHRATRIES OF GOND TRIBE

The different Gonds are easily identified in different states by Exogamous unit/lineages, Clans, Phratries. They call them as Bans, Bati, Dadabhai, Deo, Dev, Ghatta, Ghote, Gotar, Gote, Goti, Gotore, Katta, Kita, Kur, Lot Odnam, Peder, Padi, Saga etc in the following states.

Bans: Phratries (Gond, Amat - Madhya Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:47)

Bans, Saga: Phratries (Gond, Bison Horn Maria - Madhya Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:48)

Bati: Exogamous unit/clans (Gond, Gondaru - Karnataka) (Singh K S: 1996:51)

Dadabhai/ Bhaiband/ Bans: Phratries (Gond, Abuj Maria - Madhya Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:52)

Deo: Exogamous unit/lineages (Gond, Amat - Madhya Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:57)

- Deo: Exogamous unit/lineages (Gond, Dheria - Madhya Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:57)
- Deo: Exogamous unit/lineages (Gond, Dhur - Madhya Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:57)
- Deo: Exogamous unit/lineages (Gond, Raj Gond - Maharashtra) (Singh K S: 1996:58)
- Deo: Exogamous unit/lineages (Gond, Raja Muria - Madhya Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:58)
- Deo: Exogamous unit/lineages (Gond, Singhrolia - Madhya Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:58)
- Deo: Exogamous unit/lineages (Pardhan - Madhya Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:58)
- Dev: Phratries (Gond, Arakh / Naikgond - Maharashtra) (Singh K S: 1996:58)
- Ghatta: Phratries (Gond, Dorla - Madhya Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:59)
- Ghatta: Phratries (Gond, Jhare - Maharashtra) (Singh K S: 1996:59)
- Ghote: Exogamous unit/lineages (Gond, Jhare - Maharashtra) (Singh K S: 1996:59)
- Gotar: Exogamous unit/clans (Gond - Bihar) (Singh K S: 1996:63)
- Gote, Kur: Exogamous unit/clans (Pardhan - Madhya Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:63)
- Goti: Exogamous unit/clans (Gond - Uttar Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:63)
- Gotore: Exogamous unit/clans (Gond, Nagwanshi - Madhya Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:63)
- Katta: Exogamous unit/clans (Gond, Abuj Maria - Madhya Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:83)
- Kita: Exogamous unit/clans (Gond, - Andhra Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:87)
- Kur: Exogamous unit/clans (Gond, Mana - Maharashtra) (Singh K S: 1996:93)
- Lot Peder: Exogamous unit/clans (Gond, Dorla - MP) (Singh K S: 1996:95)
- Odnam: Surnames (Gond, Naikpod - Maharashtra) (Singh K S: 1996:97)
- Padi: Exogamous unit/clans (Gond, Maria - Maharashtra) (Singh K S: 1996:98)
- Saga: Phratries (Gond - Andhra Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:103)
- Saga: Exogamous unit/lineages (Gond, Abuj Maria,- MP) (Singh K S: 1996:103)
- Saga: Phratries (Gond, Bada Maria - Maharashtra) (Singh K S: 1996:103)
- Saga: Exogamous unit/lineages (Gond, Bison Horn Maria - MP) (Singh K S: 1996:103)
- Saga: Phratries (Gond, Chota Maria - Maharashtra) (Singh K S: 1996:103)
- Saga: Phratries (Gond, Bison Horn Maria, Dheria, Dhur, Khatola, Ojha, Paharia, Raj Gond, Sargujhia, Singhrolia - Madhya Pradesh) (Singh K S: 1996:103)

DISTRIBUTION OF GONDS AND THEIR EQUIVALENT NAMES IN INDIA

A Consolidated list of Gond Community from the Censuses and other Sources and their Distribution is given below:

Gond - POI Equivalent: Gond

Census years:

1881,1891,1911,1921,1931,1941,1981; earlier distribution: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam,Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Bombay Presidency, Calcutta, Central India Agency,

Central Provinces and Berar, Gwalior State, H E H Nizam's Dominion ; present distribution:**Andhra Pradesh:** Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, **Assam:** Sibsagar, Bihar: Gumla, Ranchi, Singhbhum, **Karnataka:** Bidar, Gulbarga,Uttara Kannada , **Madhya Pradesh:** Balghat, Bastar, Betul, Bhopal, Bilaspur, Chindwara, Damoh, Durg, Hoshangabad, Jabalpur, Mandla, Narsingpur, Raigarh, Raipur, Raisen, Raj Nandgaon, Rewa, Sagar, Sarguja, Seoni, Shahdol, Sidgi,**Maharashtra:** Amaravati, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Nanded, Wardha, Yavatmal, **Orissa:** More than three - fourth districtsof the state, **Uttar Pradesh:** Azamgarh, Ballia, Banda, Deoria, Gorakhpur, Jalaun, Jhansi, Mainpuri, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Varanashi (Singh K S: 1996:394).

Gond (Ghond), Census years: 1901; earlier distribution: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam,Bengal, Bombay Presidency, Central

India Agency, Central Provinces and Berar, H E H Nizam's Dominion, Madras, United Provinces (Singh K S: 1996:394).

Gonda - Census years: 1881; earlier distribution: Madras, Tamil caste names (Singh K S: 1996:394).

Gonda - Gangadi - reported as Tamil caste name in 1881 census (Singh K S: 1996:394).

Rajgond - POI Equivalent: Gond, Rajgond

Census years: 1931; earlier distribution: Central India Agency; present distribution: **Madhya Pradesh:** Bhind, Bilaspur, Mandasaur, Shahjahanpur, Shivpuri, Ujjain,**Maharashtra:** Beed(Singh K S: 1996:826).

Gowari - POI Equivalent: Gond, Govari

Census years: 1881,1911,1921,1931; earlier distribution: Central Provinces and Berar, H E H Nizam's Dominion; present distribution: **Madhya Pradesh:** Balghat, Betul, Chindwara, Seoni, **Maharashtra:** Akola, Amaravati, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Wardha, Yavatmal (Singh K S: 1996:400).

Mana - POI Equivalent: Gond, Mana

Census years: 1881,1911,1921,1931; earlier distribution: Central Provinces and Berar, Madras, Telugu caste names; present distribution: **Madhya Pradesh:** Balghat, **Maharashtra:** Amaravati, Bhandara, Buldana, Chandrapur,Gadchiroli, Nagpur, Wardha, Yavatmal (Singh K S: 1996:656).

Manjhi - subgroup of Gond, Census years: 1881,1891,1911,1931; earlier distribution:

Assam, Bengal, Sikkim, North West Provinces

Manjhi (Maji) - Census year: 1901; earlier distribution: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam, Bengal, Central India Agency, United Provinces (Singh K S: 1996:661).

Mannewar - POI Equivalent: Gond, Mannewar

Census years: 1901,1911; earlier distribution: Central Provinces and Berar; present distribution: *Maharashtra*: Amaravati, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Nagpur (Singh K S: 1996:662).

Maria - POI Equivalent: Gond, Maria

Census years: 1931,1941,1981; earlier distribution: Bihar and Orissa, Central Provinces and Berar; present distribution: *Madhya Pradesh*: Bastar, *Maharashtra*: Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Orissa: More than three - fourth districts of the state (Singh K S: 1996:671).

Mudhpal - subgroup of Gond, census year: 1901; earlier distribution: Central India Agency (Singh K S: 1996:695).

Muria - POI Equivalent: Gond, Muria

Census year: 1931; earlier distribution: Central Provinces and Berar; present distribution: *Madhya Pradesh*: Bastar, Narsingapur (Singh K S: 1996:701).

Ojha - POI Equivalent: Gond, Ojha

Census years: 1881,1931; earlier distribution: Central Provinces and Berar; present distribution: *Madhya Pradesh*: Balghat, Bastar, Betul, Bilaspur, Chhindwara, East Nimar, Hoshangabad,

Mandla, Narsingapur, Raipur, Seoni, West Nimar, *Maharashtra*: Bhandara, Nagpur, Wardha (Singh K S: 1996:745).

Ojigala - reported as Canarese caste name in 1881 census

Ojigalinda Jati Ketta - Outcaste of Achari, reported as Canarese caste name in 1881 census

Ojulu - reported as Telugu caste name in 1881 census (Singh K S: 1996:745).

Pandra - Clan of Gond, Khatola, census years:

1881,1911; earlier distribution: Bihar and Orissa, Central Provinces and Berar (Singh K S: 1996:773).

Pardhan - POI Equivalent: Pardhan

Census years: 1911,1921,1931,1941,1981; earlier distribution: Assam, Bihar and Orissa, Central Provinces and Berar, H E H Nizam's Dominion, Chattisgarh; present distribution: *Andhra Pradesh*: Adilabad, Hyderabad, *Madhya Pradesh*: Balghat, Bastar, Betul, Bilaspur, Chhindwara, Durg, East Nimar, Hoshangabad, Jabalpur, Mandla, Narsingapur, Raipur, Rajgarh, Seoni *Maharashtra*: Bhandara, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Nanded, Wardha, Yavatmal

Pardhan (Perdan), Census year: 1901; earlier distribution: Assam, Central Provinces and Berar, H E H Nizam's Dominion

Prardhan, Census years: 1881, 1931; earlier distribution: Bengal, Central India Agency (Singh K S: 1996:787).

Parsai - Phratry of Gond, Bada Maria, Census year: 1881; earlier distribution: Bombay Presidency (Singh K S: 1996:790).

Pusari - clan of Pardhan, Census year: 1881; earlier distribution: Malayalam caste names, Tamil caste names (Singh K S: 1996:820).

Sonjhara - POI Equivalent: Sonjhari

Census years: 1881, 1901, 1911; earlier distribution: Central Provinces and Berar; present distribution: **Maharashtra**: Chandrapur (Singh K S: 1996:922).

DISTRIBUTION OF GONDS IN INDIA

India is basically a land of tribes. Kol, Gond and Mund are the aboriginal tribes. Gonds are the largest in number among the Indian tribes. Gonds and its synonyms are returned in 1881 census as follows;

S.N	Tribes Name	Location	Population
	GOND	India	27,54,972
01	Bharia	C P	29,820
02	Bhatra	C P	13,869
03	Bhima	C P	28
04	Debgunia	C P	430
05	Dogarhia	C P	3
06	Dharwe or Naik	C P	4,017

07	Dhur	C P	34,288
08	Gond, Thote	C P	4,703
09	Halba	C P	62,451
10	Thoria	C P	3,204
11	Khatulwar	C P	1,047
12	Koilabhute	Ber, C P	1,271
13	Koitur	C P	21,738
14	Kolam	Ber, C P, Hyd	14,997
15	Manne, Gond	C P	1,098
16	Marai Gond	C P	2,269
17	Maria	C P	48,715
18	Mooria	C P	31,573
19	Nagbansi, Gond	C P	202
20	Ojha, Gond	C P	2,794
21	Pardhan	Ber, C P, Hyd	64,150
22	Parja, Gond	C P	7,920
23	Pathara	C P	11,207
24	Raj Gond	C P	67,325
25	Rawanbansi	C P	5,852
26	Thakur, Gond	C P	62

Source: Eustace J Kitts, *A Compendium of the Castes and Tribes found in India: Census of India 1881* (Byculla: Education Society Press, 1885; rpt. 1982, Gurgaon: The Academic Press, Gurgaon).

Ber=Berar; CP=Central Province; Hyd=Hyderabad

A few Gonds like Rajgonds prefix 'Raj' which signifies their association with the Gond kingdom. Region-wise, many synonymous names exist for the 'Gonds' in India. State-wise list of the synonymous names are mentioned below:

Gonds and its synonyms are listed in the scheduled tribes list in India as follows:

ANDHRA PRADESH

- 6 Gond, Naikpod, Rajgond, Koitur (4)
- 12 Kolam, Kolawar (2)
- 18 Koya, Doli Koya, Gutta Koya, Kammara Koya, Musara Koya, Oddi Koya, Pattidi Koya, Rajah, Rasha Koya, Lingadharai Koya (Ordinary), Kottu Koya, Bhine Koya, Raj Koya (13)
- 24 Pardhan
- 30 Thoti

ASSAM

- 32 Ganda (OBC)
- 33 Gonda (OBC)
- 34 Gond (OBC)

BIHAR

- 11 Gond

CHHATTISGARH

- 6 Bhatra
- 16 Gond; Arakh, Arrakh, Agaria, Asur, Badi Maria, Bada Maria, Bhatola, Bhimma, Bhuta, Koliabhuta, Koliabhuti, Bhar, Bisonhorn Maria, Chota Maria, Dandami

Maria, Dhuru, Dhurwa, Dhoba, Dhulia, Dorla, Gaiki, Gatta, Gatti, Gaita, Gond Gowari, Hill Maria, Kandra, Kalanga, Khatola, Koitar, Koya, Khirwar, Khirwara, Kucha Maria, Kuchaki Maria, Madia, Maria, Mana, Mannewar, Moghya, Mogia, Monghya, Mudia, Muria, Nagarchi, Nagwanshi, Ojha, Raj Gond, Sonjhari, Jhareka, Thatia, Thotya, Wade Maria, Vade Maria, Daroi (58)

- 17 Halba, Halbi (2)
- 25 Kolam
- 28 Majhi
- 29 Majhwar
- 35 Pardhan, Pathari, Saroti (3)
- 37 Parja

GUJARAT

- 12 Gond, Rajgond (2)

JHARKHAND

- 11 Gond

KARNATAKA

- 9 Gond, Naikpod, Rajgond (3)
- 15 Jenu Kuruba (PVTG)
- 16 Kadu Kuruba
- 20 Kattunayakan
- 28 Kuruba (in Kodagu District)
- 29 Kurumans

MADHYA PRADESH

- 6 Bhattra

16 Gond; Arakh, Arrakh, Agaria, Asur, Badi Maria, Bada Maria, Bhatola, Bhimma, Bhuta, Koliabhuta, Koliabhuti, Bhar, Bisonhorn Maria, Chota Maria, Dandami Maria, Dhuru, Dhurwa, Dhoba, Dhulia, Dorla, Gaiki, Gatta, Gatti, Gaita, Gond Gowari, Hill Maria, Kandra, Kalanga, Khatola, Koitar, Koya, Khirwar, Khirwara, Kucha Maria, Kuchaki Maria, Madia, Maria, Mana, Mannewar, Moghya, Mogia, Monghya, Mudia, Muria, Nagarchi, Nagwanshi, Ojha, Raj Gond, Sonjhari, Jhareka, Thatia, Thotya, Wade Maria, Vade Maria, Daroi (58)

17 Halba, Halbi (2)

26 Kolam

29 Majhi

30 Majhwar

38 Pardhan, Pathari, Saroti (3)

MAHARASHTRA

6 Bhattra

18 Gond, Rajgond; Arakh, Arrakh, Agaria, Asur, Badi Maria, Bada Maria, Bhatola, Bhimma, Bhuta, Koilabhuta, Koilabhuti, Bhar, Bisonhorn Maria, Chota Maria, Dandami Maria, Dhuru, Dhurwa, Dhoba, Dhulia, Dorla, Gaiki, Gatta, Gatti, Gaita, Gond Gowari, Hill Maria, Kandra, Kalanga, Khatola, Koitar, Koya, Khirwar, Khirwara, Kucha Maria,

Kuchaki Maria, Madia, Maria, Mana, Mannewar, Moghya, Mogia, Monghya, Mudia, Muria, Nagarchi, Naikpod, Nagwanshi, Ojha, Sonjhari, Jhareka, Thatia, Thotya, Wade Maria, Vade Maria (57)

27 Kolam, Mannervarlu (2)

37 Pardhan, Pathari, Saroti (3)

ORISSA

22 Gond, Gondo, Rajgond, Maria Gond, Dhur Gond (5)

41 Koya, Gumba Koya, Koitur Koya, Kamar Koya, Musara Koya (5)

UTTARANCHAL

36 Gond (sc)

UTTAR PRADESH

6 Gond, Dhuria, Nayak, Ojha, Pathari, Raj Gond (In the Dist. of Mehrajganj, Sidharth Nagar, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Mau, Azamgarh, Jonpur, Balia, Gazipur, Varanasi, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra) (6)

WEST BENGAL

12 Gond

PONDICHERY

63 Gondi, Modya Gond and Rajo Gondo (OBC)

Gonds and its synonyms are listed in Scheduled tribes, Scheduled Castes and OBC in India. According to 2011 Census State wise Gonds and its synonyms population was as follows.

Gond Tribes Population in India (2011)

S.N	State	ST Name	T/R/U	Population		
				Total	Male	Female
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	All Schedule Tribes	Total	59,18,073	29,69,362	29,48,711
			Rural	52,32,129	26,20,892	26,11,237
			Urban	6,85,944	3,48,470	3,37,474
		Gond, Naikpod, Rajgond, Koitur	Total	3,04,537	1,50,193	1,54,344
			Rural	2,88,339	1,42,393	1,45,946
			Urban	16,198	7,800	8,398
		Kolam, Kolawar	Total	44,912	22,534	22,378
			Rural	44,005	21,984	22,021
			Urban	907	550	357
		Koya, Doli Koya, Gutta Koya, Kammara Koya, Musara Koya, Oddi Koya, Pattidi Koya, Rajah, Rasha Koya, Lingadhari Koya (ordinary), Kottu Koya, Bhine Koya, Rajkoya	Total	5,90,739	2,89,025	3,01,714
			Rural	5,58,826	2,73,280	2,85,546
			Urban	31,913	15,745	16,168
		Pardhan	Total	24,823	12,477	12,346
			Rural	17,106	8,684	8,422
			Urban	7,717	3,793	3,924
		Thoti (in Adilabad, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Mahbubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nizamabad and Warangal districts)	Total	4,811	2,308	2,503
			Rural	3,490	1,675	1,815
			Urban	1,321	633	688

2	BIHAR	All Schedule Tribes	Total	13,36,573	6,82,516	6,54,057
			Rural	12,70,851	6,48,535	6,22,316
			Urban	65,722	33,981	31,741
		Gond	Total	2,56,738	1,29,927	1,26,811
			Rural	2,40,433	1,21,345	1,19,088
			Urban	16,305	8,582	7,723
3	CHHATTIS GARH	All Schedule Tribes	Total	78,22,902	38,73,191	39,49,711
			Rural	72,31,082	35,77,134	36,53,948
			Urban	5,91,820	2,96,057	2,95,763
		Gond, Arakh, Arrakh, Agaria, Asur, Badi Maria, Bada Maria, Bhatola, Bhimma, Bhuta, Koilabhuta, Koliabhuti, Bhar, Bisonhorn Maria, Chota Maria, Dandami Maria, Dhuru, Dhurwa, Dhoba, Dhulia, Dorla, Gaiki, Gatta, Gatti, Gaita, Gond Gowari, Hill Maria, Kandra, Kalanga, Khatola, Koitar, Koya, Khirwar, Khirwara, Kucha Maria, Kuchaki Maria, Madia, Maria, Mana, Mannewar, Moghya, Mogia, Monghya, Mudia, Muria, Nagarchi, Nagwanshi, Ojha, Raj, Sonjhari, Jhareka, Thatia, Thotyia, Wade Maria, Vade Maria, Daroi	Total	42,98,404	21,20,974	21,77,430
			Rural	39,87,170	19,64,718	20,22,452
			Urban	3,11,234	1,56,256	1,54,978
		Kolam	Total	402	210	192
			Rural	324	163	161
			Urban	78	47	31
		Majhi	Total	65,027	32,739	32,288
			Rural	60,620	30,462	30,158
			Urban	4,407	2,277	2,130
		Majhwar	Total	55,320	27,613	27,707
			Rural	53,468	26,685	26,783
			Urban	1,852	928	924
		Pardhan, Pathari, Saroti	Total	11,111	5,479	5,632
			Rural	8,731	4,322	4,409
			Urban	2,380	1,157	1,223

4	GUJARAT	All Schedule Tribes	Total	89,17,174	45,01,389	44,15,785
			Rural	80,21,848	40,42,691	39,79,157
			Urban	8,95,326	4,58,698	4,36,628
		Gond, Rajgond	Total	2,965	1,593	1,372
			Rural	1,121	599	522
			Urban	1,844	994	850
5	JHAR KHAND	All Schedule Tribes	Total	86,45,042	43,15,407	43,29,635
			Rural	78,68,150	39,28,323	39,39,827
			Urban	7,76,892	3,87,084	3,89,808
		Gond	Total	53,676	26,925	26,751
			Rural	43,640	21,706	21,934
			Urban	10,036	5,219	4,817
6	KARNA TAKA	All Schedule Tribes	Total	42,48,987	21,34,754	21,14,233
			Rural	34,29,791	17,23,762	17,06,029
			Urban	8,19,196	4,10,992	4,08,204
		Gond, Naikpod, Rajgond	Total	1,58,243	80,691	77,552
			Rural	1,41,678	72,208	69,470
			Urban	16,565	8,483	8,082
8	MADHYA PRADESH	All Schedule Tribes	Total	1,53,16,784	77,19,404	75,97,380
			Rural	1,42,76,874	71,87,769	70,89,105
			Urban	10,39,910	5,31,635	5,08,275
		Gond, Arakh, Arrakh, Agaria, Asur, Badi Maria, Bada Maria, Bhatola, Bhimma, Bhuta, Koilabhuta, Koliabhuti, Bhar, Bisonhorn Maria, Chota Maria, Dandami Maria, Dhuru, Dhurwa, Dhoba, Dhulia, Dorla, Gaiki, Gatta, Gatti, Gaita, Gond Gowari, Hill Maria, Kandra, Kalanga, Khatola, Koitar, Koya, Khirwar, Khirwara, Kucha Maria, Kuchaki Maria, Madia, Maria, Mana, Mannewar, Moghya, Mogia, Monghya, Mudia, Muria, Nagarchi, Nagwanshi, Ojha, Raj, Sonjhari, Jhareka, Thatia, Thotyia, Wade Maria, Vade Maria, Daroi	Total	50,93,124	25,49,973	25,43,151
			Rural	47,71,717	23,86,602	23,85,115
			Urban	3,21,407	1,63,371	1,58,036
		Kolam	Total	224	112	112
			Rural	163	85	78
			Urban	61	27	34
		Majhi	Total	50,655	26,513	24,142
			Rural	17,270	9,142	8,128
			Urban	33,385	17,371	16,014
		Majhwar	Total	443	226	217

			Rural	95	55	40
			Urban	348	171	177
		Pardhan, Pathari, Saroti	Total	1,23,742	62,189	61,553
			Rural	1,04,609	52,594	52,015
			Urban	19,133	9,595	9,538
7	MAHA RASHTRA	All Schedule Tribes	Total	1,05,10,213	53,15,025	51,95,188
			Rural	90,06,077	45,40,456	44,65,621
			Urban	15,04,136	7,74,569	7,29,567
		Gond, Rajgond, Arakh, Arrakh, Agaria, Asur, Badi Maria , Bada Maria, Bhatola, Bhimma, Bhuta, Koilabhuta, Koilabhuti, Bhar, Bisonhorn Maria, Chota Maria, Dandami Maria, Dhuru, Dhurwa, Dhoba, Dhulia, Dorla, Gaiki, Gatta, Gatti, Gaita, Gond Gowari, Hill Maria, Kandra, Kalanga, Khatola, Koitar, Koya, Khirwar, Khirwara, Kucha Maria, Kuchaki Maria, Madia, Maria, Mana, Mannewar, Moghya, Mogia, Monghya, Mudia, Muria, Nagarchi, Naikpod, Nagwanshi, Ojha, Raj, Sonjhari Jhareka, Thatia, Thotya, Wade Maria, Vade Maria	Total	16,18,090	8,18,955	7,99,135
			Rural	13,69,960	6,91,076	6,78,884
			Urban	2,48,130	1,27,879	1,20,251
		Kolam, Mannervaru	Total	1,94,671	98,319	96,352
			Rural	1,62,825	82,164	80,661
			Urban	31,846	16,155	15,691
		Koya, Bhine Koya, Rajkoya	Total	388	209	179
			Rural	58	36	22
			Urban	330	173	157
		Pardhan, Pathari, Saroti	Total	1,45,131	73,575	71,556
			Rural	1,09,731	55,686	54,045
			Urban	35,400	17,889	17,511
9	ODISHA	All Schedule Tribes	Total	95,90,756	47,27,732	48,63,024
			Rural	89,94,967	44,28,522	45,66,445
			Urban	5,95,789	2,99,210	2,96,579
		Gond, Gondo, Rajgond, Maria Gond, Dhur Gond	Total	8,88,581	4,38,624	4,49,957
			Rural	8,65,248	4,26,578	4,38,670
			Urban	23,333	12,046	11,287
		Koya, Gumba Koya, Koitur Koya, Kamar Koya, Musara Koya	Total	1,47,137	71,014	76,123
			Rural	1,45,878	70,281	75,597
			Urban	1,259	733	526

10	UTTARA KHAND	All Schedule Castes	Total	18,92,516	9,68,586	9,23,930
			Rural	14,96,665	7,61,103	7,35,562
			Urban	3,95,851	2,07,483	1,88,368
		Gond (SC)	Total	3,143	1,718	1,425
			Rural	1,935	1,035	900
			Urban	1,208	683	525
11	UTTAR PRADESH	All Schedule Tribes	Total	11,34,273	5,81,083	5,53,190
			Rural	10,31,076	5,26,315	5,04,761
			Urban	1,03,197	54,768	48,429
		Gond, Dhuria, Nayak, Ojha, Pathari, Raj Gond (in the districts of Mehrajganj, Sidharth Nagar, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Mau, Azamgarh, Jonpur, Balia, Gazipur, Varanasi, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra)	Total	5,69,035	2,89,499	2,79,536
			Rural	5,31,006	2,69,554	2,61,452
			Urban	38,029	19,945	18,084
		Gond (excluding Mehrajganj, Sidharth Nagar, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Mau, Azamgarh, Jonpur, Balia, Gazipur, Varanasi, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts) (SC)	Total	21,992	11,862	10,130
			Rural	13,048	6,898	6,150
			Urban	8,944	4,964	3,980
12	WEST BENGAL	All Schedule Tribes	Total	52,96,953	26,49,974	26,46,979
			Rural	48,55,115	24,28,057	24,27,058
			Urban	4,41,838	2,21,917	2,19,921
		Gond	Total	13,535	7,122	6,413
			Rural	7,353	3,778	3,575
			Urban	6,182	3,344	2,838

According to Dr K M Metry's Survey report (1992), the village-wise population of the Gonds in Bidar district is spread over in five taluks and 30 revenue circles. The details are given as follows:

Name of the location	Families	Male	Female	Total
Bidar District	14835	51407	46133	97540
Aurad(B) Taluk	2275	7833	6849	14682
Aurad(B) Circle	253	837	745	1582
Aurad (B) Urban	64	194	199	393
Badalgaon	4	21	14	35
Boral	23	57	51	108
Duduknal	10	40	20	60
Ekamba	2	4	4	8
Eklar	60	214	198	412
Hassikeri	6	21	13	34
Hulyal	8	30	25	55
Jonnikeri	2	11	6	17
Kappikeri	2	5	3	8
Kollur	34	102	90	192
Mamdapur	1	1	6	7
Mungnal	13	44	36	80
Narayanapur	4	17	14	31
Wanmarpalli	20	76	66	142
Chintaki Circle	330	1186	964	2150
Bardapur	23	81	62	143
Beldhal	8	21	26	47
Chikali Janwada	32	102	88	190

Chintaki	10	21	19	40
Gudpalli	13	60	50	110
Jakanal	17	71	56	127
Jojana	24	80	66	146
Karanji (B)	18	75	64	139
Karanji (K)	10	49	40	89
Lingdalli - Karamungi	3	9	8	17
Mannur (K)	13	45	45	90
Medpalli	6	17	23	40
Nagmarpalli	6	13	20	33
Naganpalli	18	56	41	97
Nagoor Muzafar	5	14	10	24
Nandyal	26	93	60	153
Nandi Nagoor	18	58	48	106
Raipalli	21	82	63	145
Sundhal	10	37	26	63
Sunknal	2	12	5	17
Ujani	4	8	9	17
Yengunda	43	182	135	317
Dabaka Circle	301	1120	984	2104
Aknapur	3	11	6	17
Bhandar Kumta	11	37	38	75
Chimegaon	2	5	2	7
Chikli Udgir	6	16	14	30
Dabaka	1	3	2	5
Doparwadi	22	67	66	133
Dongargaon	3	12	9	21
Ganeshpur Udgir	18	65	56	121
Ganganbeed	8	36	26	62
Handikhera	11	44	36	80
Hokrana	23	98	93	191
Kherada	11	43	33	76
Kurbarwadi-(Maegaon)	17	56	57	113
Murki	75	275	250	525
Murki Wadi	57	207	196	403
Nandi Bijalgaon	2	11	9	20

Sawargaon	9	43	31	74
Sanganal	22	91	60	151
Kamalnagar Circle	419	1532	1408	2940
Basnal	6	38	44	82
Balur	32	108	81	189
Beklkuni – Bhopalgad	33	150	133	283
Bhawani Bijalgaon	2	4	5	9
Chandeshwar	17	42	50	92
Diggi	5	17	12	29
Dongaon Math	28	81	79	160
Hakyal	27	80	66	146
Holsamudra	47	166	150	316
Horandi	14	47	48	95
Hulsoor	20	62	61	123
Kalgapur	13	70	70	140
Kamalnagar	8	38	38	76
Khatgaon	6	31	25	56
Khed	11	46	64	110
Koryal	5	21	16	37
Kotgyal	10	30	22	52
Madnoor	3	11	6	17
Murg (K)	4	11	12	23
Randyal	6	22	20	42
Sawali	12	34	39	73
Sonal	25	104	91	195
Sonal Wadi	5	15	14	29
Tapshyal	8	30	27	57
Torna	54	219	184	403
Torna Wadi	18	55	51	106
Kushnoor – Thana Circle	549	1771	1559	3330
Bachipalli	4	14	11	25
Babli (Bambalgi)	1	5	3	8
Balat (B)	41	127	106	233
Balat (K)	97	408	368	776
Bedkunda	41	113	95	208
Bembra	1	7	3	10
Bedkuni Chowdhari	9	31	26	57
Chandori	60	185	165	350

Dhupat Mahagaon	63	171	148	319
Halhalli	13	44	33	77
Hedgapur	26	62	53	115
Hippalgaon	11	34	27	61
Korekal	20	73	69	142
Kushnoor Thana	22	74	68	142
Ladha	7	22	20	42
Managyanpur	2	5	6	11
Mudhol (B)	37	111	107	218
Mudhol (K)	5	11	12	23
Maskal	5	14	14	28
Nagur Babji	3	8	10	18
Nidoda	20	55	57	112
Ittur (K)	2	4	6	10
Rakshal (B)	31	89	73	162
Rakshal (K)	20	70	53	123
Sangam	8	34	26	60
Santhpur Circle	423	1387	1189	2576
Alur (B)	20	70	65	135
Alur (K)	21	79	55	134
Ballur	9	29	27	56
Belur Narayankhed	30	75	84	159
Borgi Janwada	7	21	18	39
Chatnal	3	8	11	19
Jambigi	23	100	75	175
Jeerga (K)	1	4	2	6
Kandgol	33	110	92	202
Kautha (B)	48	171	158	329
Kautha (K)	8	24	19	43
Kaudgaon	19	83	53	136
Khanapur	7	23	20	43
Kushnoor Gadi	48	139	118	257
Maharaj Wadi	18	58	54	112
Mustapur	19	65	42	107
Pashapur	21	60	46	106
Santpur	5	17	13	30
Shamblli	29	80	86	166
Sorhalli	17	52	43	95

Wadgaon – Deshmukh	22	74	68	142
Wallepur	15	45	40	85
B.Kalyan Taluk	2423	8680	7841	16521
B.Kalyan Circle	656	2365	2190	4555
B Kalyan Urban	30	77	68	145
Bet Balakunda	18	91	67	158
Dhannura (K)	18	75	68	143
Dhannura Wadi	4	16	9	25
Gokul	42	229	245	474
Gour	33	132	145	277
Gunatirtha Wadi	7	28	19	47
Hulagutti	101	301	305	606
Janapur	10	42	27	69
Khanapur	11	29	30	59
Khanapur Wadi (K)	72	260	226	486
Khandal	8	36	27	63
Khandikeri Wadi	31	95	100	195
Kitta	66	219	196	415
Morakhandi	59	165	160	325
Narayanapur	53	187	145	332
Neelakanth	4	11	9	20
Pratapur	23	93	76	169
Shivapur	12	46	40	86
Talabhog	21	68	70	138
Tripuranth	1	2	2	4
Yadalapur	32	163	156	319
Hulsoor Circle	374	1401	1157	2558
Belura	73	217	175	392
Devnal	22	93	71	164
Gadi Gondgaon	40	122	88	210
Gadi Gondgaon Wadi	6	24	9	33
Gadi Raipalli	45	173	149	322
Gorta (B)	26	108	94	202

Gutti	6	17	14	31
Halhalli	22	103	91	194
Hulsoor	49	180	142	322
Kotmal	10	53	45	98
Machanal	2	3	6	9
Mirkhal	40	151	140	291
Muchalamba	14	102	71	173
Togalur	19	55	62	117
Kohinoor Circle	239	820	765	1585
Betgera	33	125	113	238
Bhosaga	19	54	52	106
Chitkota (B)	17	59	70	129
Ekamba	26	96	88	184
Gilgili	1	3	2	5
Hattarga Sarhad	43	160	151	311
Kohinoor	49	151	130	281
Kohinoor Wadi	5	17	18	35
Ladwanti	19	46	59	105
Ujalamb	27	109	82	191
Matala Circle	470	1719	1501	3220
Algood	22	100	90	190
Atlapur	33	141	129	270
Chandkapur	12	44	41	85
Ghotala	13	53	41	94
Gundoor	27	93	101	194
Hiparga Ghat	24	77	63	140
Honnali	2	4	7	11
Ilhal	45	155	150	305
Jajanmugli	2	10	8	18
Japar Wadi	15	49	58	107
Maddin Wadi	10	44	29	73
Manhalli	23	73	60	133
Matala	127	467	371	838
Mirzapur	36	142	110	252
Ramtirth	5	14	13	27

Sastapur	68	232	210	442
Umapur	6	21	20	41
Mudbi Circle	86	306	303	609
Bagduri	5	15	16	31
Chiknagaon Wadi	3	14	11	25
Gadlegaon (B)	11	43	41	84
Harkud	14	51	51	102
Hipparga (B)	3	13	10	23
Hirnagaon	3	10	5	15
Kherda (K)	5	25	19	44
Mudbi	17	61	69	130
Kinni - (Sharannagar)	10	32	28	60
Sungthana	8	19	21	40
Yeladgundi	7	23	32	55
Rajeshwar Circle	598	2063	1922	3985
Dhangar Wadi	19	105	102	207
Dhannura (Raj)	36	134	108	242
Ghogy	49	158	143	301
Hanmanth - Wadi (Raj)	51	184	172	356
Hanmanth - Wadi (Yerandi)	22	63	55	118
Handriyal (Kalyan)	6	24	31	55
Islampur	53	230	239	469
Kherda (B)	11	37	29	66
Koudiyal (R)	41	108	103	211
Koudiyal (S)	1	4	2	6
Lingdalli	3	10	7	17
Mangaloor	1	4	2	6
Nirgudi	63	213	192	405
Pandargera	12	28	24	52
Rajeshwar	69	183	160	343
Rajola	40	139	145	284
Rampur	26	98	108	206
Rampur Wadi	33	110	96	206

Rolla	7	31	24	55
Sadalapur	7	17	12	29
Tadola	23	88	63	151
Yerandi	19	81	86	167
Yerbagh	6	14	19	33
Bhalki Taluk	2613	9631	8692	18323
Bhalki Circle	507	1958	3561	3549
Bhalki (Urban)	85	328	287	615
Anand Wadi	30	118	117	235
Bajawalga	30	155	129	284
Chikalchanda	18	50	62	112
Dadagi	26	112	110	22
Ekhaspur	3	10	8	18
Gor Chincholli	34	165	162	327
Harnal	17	62	56	118
Joldabaka	12	53	36	89
Kadlabad	20	55	54	109
Kalwadi	45	205	1962	397
Kardyal	18	48	53	101
Korur	7	28	24	52
Kotgira	16	69	54	123
Kotgiyal Wadi	5	20	24	44
Kunte Sirsi	10	26	18	44
Madakatti	72	226	205	431
Marur	28	91	67	158
Nideban	2	9	9	18
Siddeshawar	21	99	92	191
Talwad (K)	8	29	32	61
Halbarga Circle	559	1793	1654	3447
Aliabad	4	13	12	25
Byal Halli	55	183	159	342
Dhannur	40	123	128	251
Godhi Hiparga	18	50	50	100

Murambi	13	45	42	87
Nawadgi	1	5	5	10
Nelwad	4	18	17	35
Secondrabad Wadi	16	61	49	110
Ucha	20	78	79	157
Umadapur Wadi	13	45	38	83
Warwatti	36	119	101	220
Yenkura	9	37	26	63
Lakhangaon Circle	477	1610	1483	3093
Alandi	24	61	58	119
Beeeri (B)	38	113	110	223
Bhatambra	51	189	179	368
Bhatsangvi	16	55	43	98
Donagapur	40	121	102	223
Hunji Alandi	40	131	127	258
Jaigaon	8	20	20	40
Kakanal	17	61	70	131
Kalasdai	15	61	47	108
Kalsar Tugaon	12	45	37	82
Lakhangaon	50	160	140	300
Lanjwad	28	100	101	201
Methi Melkunda	47	158	142	300
Methi Melkunda-Wadi	20	68	60	128
Shamshirpur	5	12	14	26
Shivani	26	102	91	193
Talwad Maratha	10	50	51	101
Telgaon	10	32	27	59
Thamgyal	20	71	64	135
Nittur (B) Circle	244	836	746	1582
Ambesangvi	35	116	99	215
Balur	38	142	121	263
Beeeri (K)	12	61	53	114
Chandapur	29	79	68	147
Hajnal	8	40	39	79

Halu Hiparga	30	88	96	184
Halabarga	66	201	194	395
Halahalli	41	159	128	287
Hunaji (K)	37	98	88	186
Janti	32	104	107	211
Kamalpur	1	4	1	5
Kanaji	28	91	82	173
Khanapur	5	20	20	40
Kon Melakunda	29	117	94	211
Kosam	33	92	75	167
Malasapur	42	140	129	269
Naganur	2	5	4	9
Nelagi	20	68	76	144
Nirammana Halli	25	80	56	136
Rudanoor	22	63	65	128
Taranalli	14	46	47	93
Tengampur	15	48	43	91
Khatak-Chincholi Circle	458	1796	1569	3365
Bardapur	1	3	2	5
Bhagyanagar	39	153	134	287
Bylahalli	3	13	10	23
Chalkapur	48	167	172	339
Chalkapur Wadi	8	54	54	108
Dawargaon	18	71	48	119
Halgorta	2	6	7	13
Honnalli	17	67	63	130
Kapalapur	19	76	70	146
Khatak Chincholi	67	232	185	417
Kurubkhelgi	99	435	365	800
Masimad	15	58	61	119
Mavin Halli	10	53	41	94

Hupla	27	73	70	143
Jainapur	6	14	14	28
Khasimpur	10	31	23	54
Kotgiyal	2	8	8	16
Kudli	3	21	13	34
Mural	13	52	48	100
Nagarl	15	50	59	109
Nittur (B)	15	59	42	101
14 Walsang	31	90	89	179
Saigaon Circle	368	1638	1449	3087
Alwai	24	116	104	220
Attarga	5	17	15	32
Bolegaon	15	87	64	151
Gunjraga	6	16	15	31
Halasi (L)	7	33	28	61
Inchur	24	111	95	206
Jamakhandi	7	26	29	55
Kesar Jawalag	26	152	152	304
Kudhanapur	15	60	47	107
Kongali	20	80	83	163
Kutegaon	3	13	14	27
Ladha	23	104	96	200
Manikeswar	3	17	9	26
Mekhar	46	234	200	434
Pandari Wadi	3	9	7	16
Rachap Gondgaon	3	7	5	12
Saigaon	32	143	126	269
Srimali	11	54	45	99
Tugaon Halasi	23	76	79	155
Wagalgaon	47	175	151	326
Wanjaraheda	25	108	85	193
Bidar Taluk	4057	13667	12301	25968
Bidar Circle	779	2537	2378	4915

Aurad (S)	60	224	208	432
Bagdal	83	262	282	544
Bahirnalli	14	57	43	100
Baridabad	61	219	202	421
Baugi	29	128	114	242
Chatnalli	9	25	26	51
Honnadi	24	90	86	176
Kadwad	55	154	141	295
Kangankot	21	61	55	116
Kasimpur (Pan)	79	236	229	465
Kasimpur- (Chitgappa)	33	94	96	90
Mandaknalli	28	93	85	178
Mallik - Marzapur	30	60	45	05
Nelwad	14	30	34	64
Nidwancha	4	16	17	33
Patarapalli	62	229	188	417
Ranjol Kheni	29	102	87	189
Sangolgi	40	137	124	261
Shamshir Nagar	9	21	23	44
Shekapur	32	95	95	190
Sirsi	57	193	184	377
Sirkatnalli	6	11	14	25
Bidar North Circle	754	2424	215	4579
Aliabad	1	1	2	3
Amdalpad	9	38	32	70
Basanthpur	22	67	66	133
Chikpet	2	11	9	20
Chillargi	40	128	120	248
Chimkod	92	284	264	548
Fathepur	46	180	164	344
Gadagi	65	199	161	360
Ghuma	6	22	19	41

Hamilapur	16	49	41	90
Imambad	25	76	76	152
Jampad	8	26	23	49
Kangathi	15	50	45	95
Kaplapur	48	156	140	296
Khajapur	14	46	23	69
Malegaon	153	433	371	804
Mirzapur	20	84	68	152
Nandgaon	48	148	150	298
Nawadgeri	14	54	48	102
Odwada	2	5	10	15
Rasoolabad	1	2	4	6
Shamrajapur	5	22	16	38
Solpur	88	293	259	552
Talghat	14	50	44	94
Bidar South Circle	636	2196	1944	4140
Bidar Urban	88	324	276	600
Rajgond Colony, Halladkeri	86	289	293	582
Amlapur	3	7	15	22
Astoor	44	165	141	06
Chitta	38	128	126	254
Chitta Wadi	51	162	137	299
Goonalli	32	117	108	225
Gornalli	72	206	180	386
Halladkeri (K)	7	27	23	50
Kumbarwada	4	12	13	25
Malkapur	98	323	259	582
Mirzapur	4	22	23	45

Shahapur	74	282	243	525
Sultanpur (J)	35	132	107	239
Janwada Circle	489	1738	1506	3244
Aliamber	95	303	302	605
Allapur	20	96	71	167
Benaknalli	20	66	53	119
Chambol	53	195	153	348
Daddapur	4	20	19	39
Hippalgaon	18	74	68	142
Islampur	32	99	80	179
Janwada	40	140	108	248
Kannalli	19	65	71	136
Markhal	37	149	121	270
Nawlaspur	21	72	58	130
Nemtabad	2	11	10	21
Rajnal	9	37	24	61
Sanganalli	21	56	51	107
Sirimandal	21	65	56	121
Vilaspur	24	96	82	178
Yernalli	53	194	179	373
Kamthana Circle	635	2282	2043	4325
Andur	10	29	38	67
Andur Wadi	40	108	100	208
Atiwal	48	186	164	350
Bakchowdi	26	84	81	165
Bellura	8	39	33	72
Chidri	69	230	173	403
Chondi	11	32	39	71
Honnikeri	8	22	26	48
Kamthana	172	625	561	1186
Kaplapur	43	202	175	377
Kolhar (B)	14	59	40	99
Kolhar (K)	50	174	167	341
Kutubabad	58	219	174	393

Nizampur	17	55	58	113
Noubad	7	29	34	63
Secondrapur	49	175	167	342
Zamistapur	5	14	13	27
Manhalli Circle	764	2490	2275	4765
Bapur	3	14	15	29
Barur	28	89	80	169
Budera	34	137	122	259
Bhangur	12	42	45	87
Bombalgi	29	99	94	193
Chintalgera	62	194	171	365
Dharmapur	8	27	24	51
Ghodepalli	89	265	249	514
Hokrana (B)	42	157	142	299
Hokrana (K)	15	49	49	98
Magdal	25	87	65	152
Manhalli	35	119	112	231
Markunda	58	175	178	353
Nagura	34	97	82	179
Rajgira	68	221	219	440
Rekulgi	31	103	79	182
Satoli	38	127	114	241
Sindol	72	237	211	448
Tadpalli	10	34	29	63
Telag Mirzapur	14	44	54	98
Yakatpur	57	173	141	314
Humnabad Taluk	3467	1159	10450	2204
		6		6
Bhimalkhed Circle	377	1248	1059	2307
Bhimalkhed	90	285	240	525
Boral	14	46	33	79
Changalera	15	56	43	99
Karaknalli	49	162	124	286
Karpakpalli	26	104	88	192
Manna Ekhehli	72	224	220	444
Meenkeri	70	221	201	422

Polakpalli	18	69	56	125
Udumnalli	23	81	54	135
Chitguppa Circle	662	2129	1899	4028
Chitguppa Urban	32	111	100	211
Belkera	77	267	220	487
Hippargaon	37	121	107	228
Itaga	17	57	48	105
Kandgul	30	116	102	218
Kodambal	98	314	290	604
Madgul	30	79	82	161
Mudnal	8	25	24	49
Mustari	35	115	101	216
Mustari Wadi	51	148	125	273
Phatampur	9	30	24	54
Rampur	2	16	10	26
Shamtabad	56	194	153	347
Talwadgi	105	304	311	615
Wadankhera	33	104	95	199
Walkhindi	42	128	107	235
Dubulgundi Circle	810	2813	2460	5273
Chandanhalli	21	53	63	116
Chinkera	53	156	133	289
Dubulgundi	83	276	225	501
Ghat Boral	55	202	193	395
Ghorwadi	10	23	29	52
Handikhera	87	299	259	558
Hunsgera	80	316	264	580
Hunsnal	8	28	27	55
Jalsangi	49	170	151	321

Kankatta	67	221	202	423
Kumar - Chincholli	94	312	244	56
Mugnur	1	3	2	5
Othagi	32	115	108	223
Sedol	53	169	169	338
Sonkera	26	92	97	189
Sultanbad	66	271	205	476
Handikhhera Wadi	12	45	36	81
Jamnagar	13	62	53	115
Hallikhed (B) Circle	53	1816	1708	3527
Allura	18	56	38	94
Ameerabad	40	110	99	209
Benchincholli	23	81	76	157
Dakulgi	8	22	24	46
Hallikhed (B)	15	53	41	94
Hilalpur	14	53	55	108
Kabeerabad Wadi	62	333	301	634
Madargon	10	48	38	86
Malkapur	43	144	127	271
Markhal	33	73	68	141
Namdapur	12	36	34	70
Nimbur	99	292	284	579
Shakkar Gunj-Wadi	97	307	317	624
Sindbandgi	14	54	55	109
Sitalgera	45	154	151	305
Humnabad Circle	71	2355	2207	4562
Humnabad - Urban	10	362	303	65
Basanthapur	2	3	3	6
Chitkota	7	19	15	34
Dhumansur	39	123	123	246
Gadwanti	41	136	130	266
Hallikhed (K)	36	96	95	191

Hankuni	31	96	87	183
Hudgi	57	177	190	367
Kallur	72	261	235	496
Kappargaon	36	99	106	205
Kathalli	24	71	79	150
Maniknagar	36	105	82	187
Molkhera	47	199	148	347
Mustapur	7	20	11	31
Nandgaon	121	407	410	817
Sindhankera	54	181	190	371
Nirna Circle	375	1235	1114	2349
Banhalli	62	222	183	405
Basirapur	41	138	121	259
Jamalpur	11	41	35	76
Madargi	16	75	61	136
Mangalgi	17	68	53	121
Muttangi	11	38	33	71
Nagankera	28	77	71	148
Nirna	45	141	134	275
Nirna Wadi	78	228	223	451
Udbal	66	207	200	407

Dr K M Metry in his survey, conducted in the year 2006, mentioned that the Gond population in the districts of Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Shimoga is 8,831. The details are given in the below table.

UTTARA KANNADA, UDUPI AND SHIMOGA DISTRICT GOND POPULATION (2006)

Location, Gram Panchayat	Villages	Families	Male	Female	Total
Uttara Kannada, Udupi, Shivamogga District	61	1469	4529	4302	8831
Bhatkal Taluk, UK Dist	57	1371	4189	3985	8174
Koppa	10	202	712	627	1339
Kaykini	2	28	64	59	123
Bengre	1	34	85	89	174
Mavalli	3	39	134	134	268
Sirali	3	46	166	170	336
Muthalli	3	76	201	220	421
Hebbale	6	6	128	355	351
Hadvalli	6	137	420	371	791
Belke	3	85	255	249	504
Mavinakurve	1	19	52	62	114
Kokti,Bhatkal	1	44	129	106	235
Elvadi	3	36	120	104	224
Jali	5	87	244	249	493
Konar	6	181	566	534	1100
Marukeri	4	229	686	660	1346
Kundapur Taluk, Udupi Dist Total	2	55	201	173	374
Baindur	1	21	69	58	127
Yedtere	1	34	132	115	247
Sagar Taluk, Shivamogga Dist Total	2	43	139	144	283
Channagond	1	18	51	54	105
Bankuli	1	25	88	90	178

After going through the list of the villages published by the department of Kannada and Culture, Government of Karnataka, Dr Metry traced the following villages which might have occupied by the Gonds in Karnataka. So we may conclude that the Gonds might have resided all over Karnataka.

**List of the Names of the places of Gond,
Rajgond, Kurubagond, Lalagond in Karnataka**

A

01. Adagondanahalli 02. Adigondanahalli,
03. Ajagondanahalli, 04. Ajagondanahalli,
05. Alagondanahalli, 06. Alagondanahalli,
07. Ammagondanahalli, 08. Anegondi,
09. Anegondikavalu, 10. Anegondi,
11. Angodahalli, 12. Annagondanahalli,
13. Angondanakoppa, 14. Anugondanahalli,
15. Ankanagondi, 16. Appagondanahalli,
17. Arabagonda.

B

01. Bachigondanahalli, 02. Banjagondanahalli,
03. Bettagondanahalli, 04. Beechagondanahalli,
05. Beechagondanahalli, 06. Beedugondanahalli,
07. Byragondanahalli, 08. Byragondanahalli,
09. Banavigondanahalli, 10. Beeragondanahalli,
11. Beeragondanahalli, 12. Bhaktagondanahalli,
13. Bhemagondanahalli, 14. Beeramagonda,
15. Bhoppagondanakoppa, 16. Bhoragondanahalli,
17. Bhoragondanahalli, 18. Bhommagondanahalli,
19. Bhommagondanakere,
20. Bhommagondanakere,
21. Bhommagondanahalli.

C

01. Chanagonda, 02. Chinnagondahalli,
03. Chikkagondahalli,
04. Chikkaveeragondahalli,
05. Chikkoagondahalli, 06. Cheelagondahalli,
07. Chirthagonda, 08. Chowdagondahalli,
09. Choragondahalli.

D

01. Daadagondahalli, 02. Daasagondahalli,
03. Devagondahalli, 04. Devagondahalli,
05. Devagondahalli, 06. Devagondakatti,
07. Dyavagondanahalli, 08. Dyavagondanahalli,
9. Doddaveeragondanahalli.

G

01. Gadigondagava, 02. Gangondanahalli,
03. Gangondanahalli, 04. Gangondanahalli,
05. Gowragondanahalli, 06. Gowdahalli,
07. Gowdagondanahalli, 08. Gejjigondanahalli,
09. Girigondanahalli, 10. Girigondanahalli,
11. Godichikonda, 12. Golagonde,
13. Gondabaala, 14. Gondavaana, 15. Gondadagi,
16. Gondaganva, 17. Gondemahalli,
18. Gondemahalli, 19. Gondihalli, 20. Gondihalli,
21. Gondihalli, 22. Gondihosahalli,
23. Gondimallenahalli, 24. Gopagondihalli,
25. Gopagondihalli, 26. Gopagondihalli,
27. Gopagondihalli, 28. Gopagondihalli,
29. Gopagondihalli, 30. Goragondinahalli,
31. Goravigondanahalli, 32. Goragundi,
33. Gudigondanahalli, 34. Gudigondanahalli.

H

01. Haalugowdanakatte, 02. Haalugondanahalli,
03. Haalugondanahalli,
04. Hanumagondanahalli, 05. Haragondanahalli,
06. Harapanagondanahalli,
07. Haravigondanahalli, 08. Harigondanahalli,
09. Haarogondanahalli, 10. Haasagondanahalli,
11. Heggagondanahalli, 12. Hediggonda,
13. Henjagondanahalli, 14. Haaregondanahalli,
15. Honnagondanahalli, 16. Hotragondanahalli,
17. Huchhagondanahalli, 18. Hulugondanahalli,
19. Huligondanahalli, 20. Hulugondanahalli.

I

01. Ingalagondi, 02. Ingalagondi.

J

01. Jadegondanahalli, 02. Jnthagondanahalli,
03. Javaanagondanahalli, 04. Javagondanahalli,
05. Jeevagondanahalli.

K

01.Kaachagondanahalli, 02.Kaadagondanahalli,
 03.Kaalagonda, 04.Kaalakonda,
 05.Kaalagonda, 06.Kaamagondanahalli,
 07.Kaamagondanahalli, 08.Kaamagondanahalli,
 09.Kanagondanahalli, 10.Kanagondanahalli,
 11.Karigondanahalli, 12.Karigondanahalli,
 13.Kasavigondanahalli, 14.Kaatagondanahalli,
 15.Kenpugondanahalli,
 16.Kenchagondanahalli,
 17.Kenchagondanakoppa, 18.Kengonda,
 19.Kengondahalli, 20.Keresoragondanahalli,
 21.Khajaagondanahatti,
 22.Kodachagondanahalli, 23.Kolagondanahalli,
 24.Konthagondanahalli,
 25.Koppagondanakoppa, 26.Koragondanahalli,
 27.Kotagondahunasi, 28.Kotthagondahulli,
 29.Kudaragonda, 30.Kothugondanahalli,
 31.Koragunda, 32.Kurabagonda,
 33.Kyalakonda, 34.Kyatagondanahalli

L

01.Laalaghat, 02.Laalavnti, 03.Laalaguli,
 04.Laadchinhalli, 05.Laadamugooli,
 06.Laadlapura, 07.Lakhamagondanahalli,
 08.Lakshigondanahalli, 09.Laalaghatti,
 10.Lalavnti, 11.Lolasuoru, 12.Laalakhatta,
 13.aalagondanahalli, 14.Laalabaga,
 15.Laalabaaga, 16.Laalanahalli,
 17.Laalndevanahalli, 18.Laalankere,
 19.Laalankere, 20.Laalankere, 21.Laalankere,
 22.Laalankere, 23.Loolasnga, 24.Loolasara,
 25.Laalagondanahalli, 26.Lingondanahalli.

M

01.Machagondanahalli, 02.Machagondanahalli,
 03.Machagondanahalli, 04.Machagondanahalli,
 05.Madagondanahalli, 06.Madagondanahalli,
 07.Madigondanahalli, 08.Madigondanahalli,
 09.Malagondanahalli, 10.Malagondanahalli,
 11.Malagondanahalli, 12.Maalagondanahalli,
 13.Maalagondanahalli, 14.Maalagondanahalli,

15.Malagondankoppa, 16.Malagunda,
 17.Maanagondanahalli, 18.Maarlagondda,
 19.Maangondanahalli, 20.Maaragondanahalli,
 21.Maaragondanahalli, 22.Maaragondanahalli,
 23.Maagondahalli, 24.Maaragondanahalli,
 25.Maaragondanahalli, 26.Maaragondanahalli,
 27.Maaragondanahalli, 28.Maaragondalli,
 29.Maaragondanahalli,
 30.Maaragondana
 halli, 31.Maaragondanahalli,
 32.Maarnagondanahalli, 33.Masthigondanahalli,
 34.Maayagondana Hosoahalli,
 35.Mayagondanahalli, 36.Mayagondanahalli,
 37.Mayagondanahalli, 38.Mayagondanahalli,
 39.Meedugondanahalli, 40.Motugondanahalli,
 41.Motugondanahalli, 42.Mudigondvaaban.

N

01.Nagagondanahalli, 02.Naagondahalli,
 03.Nagondanahalli, 04.Nagondanahalli,
 05.Namagondlu, 06.Narasagondanahalli,
 07.Naarasagondanahalli, 08.Narrugondanahalli,
 9.Naaranyanangondanahalli,
 10.Nelagondanahalli, 11.Neeligondanahalli,

P

01.Parubagondanahalli, 02.Paayagondanahalli,
 03.Pillagondanahalli.

R

01.Raachagondgaanva, 02.Rajagondanahalli,
 03.Ramagondanakoppa, 04.Ramagondanahalli,
 05.Raamagondanahalli B.H., 06.Raamagon
 dahalli, S..H, 07.Raamagondanahalli,
 08.Raamagondanahalli, 09.Raamagondanahalli,
 10.Raamagondanahalli, 11.Raamagondanahalli,
 12.Raamagondanahalli.

S

01.Sngondanahalli, 02.Sngondanahalli,
 03.Songondi, 04.Saalagonda,
 05.Savagondanakoppa, 06.Seettigondanahalli,
 07.Seettigondanahalli, 08.Seettigondanahalli,
 09.Seettigondanahalli, 10.Siddagondanahalli,

11.Singanagandanahalli, 12.Singangonadahalli,
13.Sinkondanahalli, 14.Sirakagondanahalli,
15.Siragondanahalli, 16.Shiramagondanahalli,
17.Siettkenda, 18.Sondemaragondanahalli,
19.Suggondanahalli, 20.Souragondanahalli,
21.Souragondanahalli, 22.Souragondanahalli,
23.Souragondanahalli, 24.Souragaondanahalli,
25.Souragondanakoppa, 26.Sousagondanahatti.

T

01.Thngonnnda, 02.Tharargoopagondanahalli,
03.Thavargondanakoppa,
04.Thouragondanakoppa,
05.Thotlagondanakoppa,
06.Thippogondanahalli,
07.Thippogondanahalli,
08.Thippogondanahalli,
09.Thippogondanahalli,
10.Thippogondanahalli,
11.Thappagondanahalli,
12.Thippagondanamaradi,
13.Thirumagondanahalli,
14.Thirumagondanahalli.

U

01.Uyigondanahalli K C, 02.Uyigondanahalli B
03.Uyyagondanahalli.

V

01.Veeralagondi, 02.Vitagondanappa.

Y

01.Yaachagondanahalli, 02.Yadagondanahalli,
03.Yalagondanahalli, 04.Yalagondanahalli,
05.Yalagondahalli.

RELIGION AND BELIEF SYSTEM

At the all India level, according to Gond belief system, regarding their origin, Furer-Haimendorf(1979) states that “they had divine ancestors who were nurtured by the goddess

Parvathi, but her consort Sri Shambhu Mahadeo had imprisoned them in a cave. These principal Gonds were ultimately liberated by the Gond cultural hero Pahandi Pari Kupar Lingo with the assistance of Jango Bai, a goddess well disposed to the Gonds and still regularly worshipped. When the primeval Gonds, referred to as the Parendakhara koya wasi pen, literally meaning the twelve threshing floors of the Gond gods, emerged from the cave, they appeared in four batches, and this division into four groups laid the foundation of the basic structure of the Gond society”.

In Karnataka, the popular Gond folklore legend traces their origin to the Hindu epic Mahabharatha. This legend with religious beliefs cites the mythical link between the Gonds and the Pandav prince Bhimsen and the demon damsel Hidimba. It is said that Hidimba gave birth to five sons simultaneously and she was so disgusted at this unnatural event, she deserted infants to their fate. In this helpless condition, they were found by Mahadev, who took compassion on them and consigned them to the care of Parvati. She took charge of the infants, but nourished them on her left breast only. Even the divine nursing could not subdue their inborn tendencies towards cannibalism, for these monstrous infants began to imbibe, along with the milk the very life blood of Parvati’s body which, in consequence, wasted day by day.

Mahadev alarmed her emancipation and divined its cause and confined the wretches in a mountain cave. From this they were rescued by Pedlingu, a renowned sage, who, henceforth, became their preceptor, related to them their past history and initiated them into the worship of their forefathers. The four elder brothers became the founders of the four important sections of Gonds as follows:

- a) Satdeo (worshipping of seven minor deities i.e., five Pandavas, their mother Kunti and their wife Draupadi)
- b) Sahadeo (worshipping of six minor deities i.e., five Pandavas and their wife Draupadi)
- c) Pachdeo (worshipping of five minor deities i.e., five Pandavas)
- d) Chardeo (worshipping of four Pandavas, the youngest being dropped).

In Halumatha Purana, the origin of Gond is as follows:

Muddugond and Muddamma were the founders of the



Gond community. Adigond was the son of Muddugond. Adamma was the wife of Adigond and their sons were called as Amaragond, Shivagond, and Bettada Beerugond.

Gonds, Rajgonds worship the clan and family deities, as also Persa Pen, Jungubai and Lingodeo. According to 'Gondi Dharma Darshana,' the Gonds in Karnataka worship 12 deities, 750 clans and 2250 totems as their deities, Now-a-days their new goddesses like Mahakali, Mariamma, and so on are included. The Gonds observe the festival of Dussehra with great pomp. The Gond priests who officiate at the rituals command respect by all Gonds people. The Pardhan or Patadis' participation in Gond religious ceremonies is essential. Drinking and dancing are important aspects of their festivities. On the occasions of festivals like Deepavali, Holi and during Gond Jatras or fairs, all Gond members of the region interact with the neighboring communities. A few nomadic Rajgonds in Belludi have embraced Christianity. We have also found socio-religious movements among the Gonds Rajgond in Bidar district for their synonymous names. A few intellectuals and social activists who belong to the Gond community lead these movements successfully.

TRANSITION: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

Regarding the Gonds of India, Haimendorf (1982:14) has aptly remarked that "Among the tribal populations of India the Gonds stand out by their numbers, the vast expanse of their habitat, and their historical importance. The Gonds' main concentrations are the Satpura Plateau. Majority of Gonds have traditionally been described as Raj

Gonds. The term Raj Gonds, which in the 1940s was still widely used, has now become almost obsolete, probably because of the political eclipse of the Gond rajas. There exists little accurate information on the early history of the Gonds, and it was not until Mughal times that the Gond states figured in contemporary chronicles. But the ruins of forts ascribed to Gond rajas suggest that in the past centuries the Raj Gonds did not live in isolation, typical of many other tribal communities but entertained manifold relations with other populations.” M. Satyanarayana (1989:21) mentioned that, “The Gonds are amongst the most civilized and advanced aboriginal tribes of India. The prime habitat is confined in the Satpura plateau, Bastar, a portion of Nagpur plateau and the valley of river Narmada in Southern India. This part is the original habitat of the Gonds, although by now these have settled in other parts of Southern India. The land of Gonds is known as Gondwana. Historically speaking, they at one time formed a ruling class of the local parts of the country”. C.S. Venkatachar states that “The Gonds may be pre-Dravidians of the South on whom the Dravidians have imposed their languages and due to some causes in the regions of South East Madras, there must have been a large scale displacement of the tribes into the interior of the Central regions.”

The above statements regarding the historical transition of the Gonds of India narrate the differences between the Gonds and other tribal populations of Central and Southern regions of India. In Karnataka, the Government of India notified Gond tribal community as a Scheduled Tribe with

synonyms like Naikpod and Rajgond. As mentioned earlier, the Gonds total population in Karnataka as per 2001 census is 1,36,700. The data collected by K.M. Metry (2008) among the Gonds of Karnataka reveals very interesting and curious related synonyms of the Gonds which are different from region to region with their unique spatial distribution. In Hyderabad-Karnataka region, particularly in Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur Districts, the Gonds are referred to as Kuruba Gonds and Dhangar Gonds. In Uttara Kannada districts, the Gonds are referred to as Pattagara Gonds. Whereas in some parts of Bidar district, in Harihara taluk of Davangere district and in Bangalore (Urban) district, the Gonds are referred to as Rajgonds, who are nomads and experts in preparing and selling native medicines to cure chronic diseases. These Rajgonds, being nomads, migrated as disease healers from the central provinces of India to Southern India by following train routes.

In Karnataka, a tremendous transition took place among the Gonds while joining the faiths of dominant Hindu community movements during the 16th century. Most of the Gonds in North Karnataka region joined the Lingayat movement and converted as Lingayats, but as a community they maintained social distance with other Lingayats. During this period, many synonymous names were used by others to refer to the Gonds. These synonymous names are Lalagondaru, Koodu Vokkaliga, Panchamasali, Nonabaru, Helavaru, Kurubaru and Odeyaru. The Gonds accepted these names as they belong to their own group of people.

The Gonds speaking “Gondi” as their own dialect belong to the Dravidian family. Because of their migration and exposure to so many states in India, they also speak Hindi, Marathi and Telugu. The Gonds living in Karnataka adapted Kannada as their contact language and use Kannada script for writing and reading. The dressing pattern of the Gonds and Rajgonds differs. The Rajgonds being nomads are scantily dressed while Gonds being farmers and labourers wear and dress like other rural people. The headgear is the identity of the Gonds. The elder women usually avoid wearing a blouse. They wear only the saree but now-a-days changes have occurred in their dressing pattern among the younger people. The women wear many ornaments around the neck and to their fingers. Now, the women prefer wearing chains made of colourful beads. The Gonds are non-vegetarians and recently a few Gonds in Bidar and Uttara Kannada districts have become pure vegetarians. Their staple food was only jowar but now-a-days they have included ragi besides jowar. Recently, changes in their food habits such as increase in use of mutton by non-vegetarians and vegetables by vegetarians are observed. Their belief system is around the divine powers of Pahandi Pari Kubar Lingo and Jangobai. Now-a-days the Rajgonds of Bidar, Davangere and Bangalore worship Lord Bomagondeshwar as their cultural legendary hero. The younger generation of the Gonds, still believe in their tradition of oral literature and the adventurous deeds of their four folk brothers Satdeo, Sahadeo, Panchdeo and Chardeo. Recently the study observed that among the Gonds Rajgonds, there existed 750 clans and 2250 totemic symbols which

guide their belief system. A few nomadic Rajgonds have embraced Buddhism and Christianity. Recently they, at the national level, participated in socio-religious movements in India. To develop their Gondi literature (Gondi sahitya), the Gonds successfully organised national workshops, seminar and at Kannada University campus, Hampi and another one at Muttooru in Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh in March 2009.

Family, among the Gonds society, is a social unit with division of labour among the members of the family. It is true that the Gonds had many joint families, but now there is an increase in the nuclear type of families, because the boys wanted to establish separate house after marriage; however, to continue their occupation, the adult brothers with parents jointly participate in economic activities. The points of conflict and confrontation between the family members form a check on the negative freedom of youngsters in rural areas and also due to direct challenge to the authority of Gond tribal council decisions. The parental property is inherited equally by all sons, whereas the position of authority in the family goes to the eldest son. The women in Gond society take part in social, cultural and economic activities and have the authority to make decisions. Of late maternal cross-cousin marriages and uncle-niece marriages are the preferential type of marriages among the Gonds. Now-a-days, child marriages are not practised by them and age of marriage for girls is between 18 and 21 years and for boys, it ranges from 25 to 27 years. The mode of acquiring mates among them is transiting from elopement to negotiation.

Now-a-days, the main form of marriage is monogamy and polyandrous system is not prevalent among them. Their lifecycle rituals have social link with clan and family deities. Rajgonds, being nomads, strictly observe the rigidity cult of purity and pollution while practicing life cycle rituals. Many changes have occurred in their traditional occupation that is, from selling of medicines to crafts and other plastic goods. Now-a-days, they have the knowledge of marketing skills and modernity in selling their goods. The educated Gonds who are living in urban areas are not practising 'social distance' with other Hindu communities. The Gond Panchayat still has the authority to maintain law and order in the community.

Nomadic Rajgond Tribes of India

Background

Long ago, the Gonds of central India organised themselves into small kingdoms. They have a glorious history of having built 52 forts and reigned over this land. Gond kings are called Rajgonds. As the heritage of the kings continued, those associated with the kith and kin of the rulers were identified as Rajgonds. Earlier, they used to live by hunting, animal rearing and farming. They did not forget their earlier occupations, even after they established kingdoms. They continued to practise their old tasks. These people were very intimate with the secrets of nature. They worshipped nature.

They had deep knowledge about the medicinal values of herbs in nature. Later they

emerged as native doctors or Ayurvedic curers. They became Ayurvedic doctors to the kings and royal families of Gonds and were called Raj-Vaidyas (Vaidya-Doctor). When the kings lost their kingdom by the invasion of Muslims, these Raj-Vaidyas

became obsolete. So they turned to common people for medicinal services. In the course of time these people were called Rajgonds.

Nomadic Rajgonds

The Rajgonds, who lost the patronage of their kings, were forced to migrate to different parts of India for livelihood. Later, they came and settled in the following areas: Phulenagar in Takkar Maidan in Maharashtra, Hivarkhed, Kajaleshwar, Mrithujapur at Akola taluk in Amaravathi district, Malegaon and Upanagar of Dhuliya district, Shrirampur of Ahmednagar district, Vadala (Dadar) in Mumbai, Pachora Railway station of Jalagaon district, Vaishalinagar of Latur district, Shivajinagar in Pune, Kakandi of Vijayawada district, Kukatpalli and Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh, Sudhampuri, Bhopal and Ujjain of Khandva district in Madhya Pradesh, Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, Ajmir in Rajasthan, Adipur of Kutch district, Kayan Mill and Ghodasa of Ahmedabad town, Katwad of Sabakantha district, Keshod of Junagadh district, Rajkot and Vadodara town in Gujarat, Bevas in UP and Delhi. In Karnataka, Halladakeri on the outskirts of Bidar, Belludi in Harihar taluk and Maruthi Sevanagar in Bangalore have given shelter to them. In India there are about 2000 families and a 10,000 population of nomadic Rajgonds.

In June-July 2011, a survey was conducted in Gujarat, Karnataka, and in partial Maharashtra. The survey details are as follows:

RAJGOND TRIBES OF GUJARAT					
Survey:June-July 2011					
Sl.No.	Name and Place	Families	Male	Female	Total
1	Adipur , Gopalnagar, Antanjar, Gandhidham - 370 205, Kutch District	146	299	288	587
2	Davavalani Chali, Kalyan Mill, Naroda Road, Opp. Forjen Flore, Ahmedabad - 380 025	113	155	169	324
3	Ghodasar , Ramgadh, Kedila Road, Ahmedabad 380 050	143	266	256	522
4	Katwad, Motipura, Sutar Samaj Vadi, Bhilvas, Himmatnagar , Sabarkantha District	48	81	84	165
5	Indiranagarar, T B Hospital Road, Keshod - 362 220, Junagadh Dist	164	284	258	542
6	Morbi Road, Octorio Naka, Near Indraprast, Rajkot	57	76	84	160
7	Ektanagar, Sayaji Park, Ajawa Road, Vadodara -9	30	60	52	112
	Total	701	1221	1191	2412

RAJGOND TRIBES OF MAHARASHTRA					
Survey:June, July 2011					
Sl.No.	Name and Place	Families	Male	Female	Total
1	Rajgond Colony, Tandulwadi, Railway Station, Rahuri - 413 705, Ahmednagar District	76	103	107	210
2	Ward No. 3, Centre Godown, Srirampur - 413 709 , Ahmednagar District	115	206	221	427
3	Rajgond Colony, Maliwada , Ward No. 3, Vaijapur Road, Aurangabad - 431 002	96	167	190	357
4	Rajgond Colony, Bhadalgaon , Vaishalinagar, Latur - 413 531	79	134	159	293
5	Gond Wadi, Ward No. 3, Peth Road, Panchavati, Nashik - 422 001	45	96	82	178
6	Rajgond Colony, Ramlingnagara, Yedshi - 413 405 , Osmanabad District	95	192	196	388
	Total	430	795	848	1643

Nomadic Rajgonds of Karnataka migrated from Central India. They are spread all over India after the downfall of the Gonds kingship. After the introduction of trains, they started their movement on railway line. Upto the 19th century their movement depended on horses. After 1940 they moved towards Southern India and temporary settlements began nearby railway stations in urban areas. In Karnataka, writers and government officials have wrongly interpreted these people as Hakki Pikki tribe, but they do not belong to Hakki Pikki. They are settled at Maruti Seva Nagar in Bangalore, Rajgond Colony in Bidar and Belludi Village of Harihar taluk. The details of their settlements and population are as follows:

RAJGOND TRIBES OF KARNATAKA					
Survey: June, July 2011					
Sl.No.	Name of the location	Families	Male	Female	Total
1	Rajgond Colony, Maruthiseva Nagara, Janakiram Layout, Bangalore	130	502	505	1007
2	Rajgond Colony, Halladkeri, Bidar – 585 402	120	500	500	1000
3	Rajgond Colony, Belludi Po Harihar Tq, Davanagere Dist	117	490	480	970
	Total	367	1492	1485	2977

Those families that have settled on the outskirts of Bidar keep moving between Bidar and Hyderabad, Nizambad, Bongir, Adilabad, Udgir, Nanded, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Latur, Pune, Parali, Parabhani, Gulburga and so on for their business of Ayurvedic medicines. Rajgonds of Belludi in Harihar migrate to Chitradurga, Hoskote, Gangavati, Harapanahalli, Bellary, Davanagere, Chikkamagalore, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Dharwad, Mangalore, Hassan, Goa and so on and those of Maruthi Sevanagar in Bangalore migrate towards Kerala and Tamilnadu.

Generally the Rajgonds migrate along the paths of railway tracks. The reason is that they can easily transport their belongings along with the tents by railways and also it is convenient to use the water in the stations. It suits their economic conditions. They migrate along with

their families and stay for months in villages for their business of Ayurvedic medicine.

Social structure of Rajgonds

The social structure of Rajgonds consists of septs or clans. The whole population of Rajgonds can be divided into four groups. They call these groups ‘Devas’. They are ‘Chardev’ (those worshipping four deities), ‘Panchadev’ (those worshipping five deities), ‘Sadev’ (those worshipping six deities) and ‘Satadev’ (those worshipping seven deities). Devas have been identified as the original link for their population. At first there were twelve such

Devas. Later, they were reduced to only four according to the book 'Gondi Dharma Darshana'.

Thus, there were four men in 'Chardev', five men in 'Pachadev', six men in 'Sadev' and seven in 'Satadev'. They were the aboriginal men perpetuated as deities. The men of this race are the Rajgonds, because even today they identify themselves, their relatives and kith and kin with their Devas and septs.

Kinship

Blood relations among them are very strong. In fact they forbid weddings among the families of same Devas. They marry only the members of different Devas. It is difficult to find the members of differing Devas in the same region. Sometimes they allow marriages among the members of same or different Devas provided the septs are different. Not all Rajgonds allow this because they strongly believe that members of the same Devas are brothers and sisters and only other different Devas are relatives. Hence they identify themselves with the sept name along with their name; for example, Shama Raiseedam, Vasant Jamakar, Shama Pusnake and so on. Here, Raiseedam, Jamakar and Pusnake are the names of their sept or clan.

Worshipping deities and rituals

The Rajgonds have their own rituals and cultural practices. According to 'Gondi Dharma

Darshana', Rajgonds worshipped 12 deities, 750 clans and 2250 totems as their deities. Today, there is no worshipping of their totems on that large scale. They believe in animism. Nowadays they worship Gods such as Pherasapen (Mahadev), Baradev (Beerdev), Bheemalpen, Mahakali, Mariyamma and so on. Besides, Rajgonds celebrate festivals such as Shivarathri, Dasera, Holi and so on. The Rajgonds of Bidar observe fast for Shivarathri, spending the whole night in singing devotional songs and Gondi dance. The next day they break the fast with a community lunch. They have great reverence for Shiva and worship him as Pherasapen.

Rajgonds of Harihar celebrate Dasera with great pomp. They spend the night in dancing. Both men and women participate in Gondi dance.

Economic organisation

The Rajgond nomadic tribes in Karnataka are economically very poor. They are not engaged in agriculture and rearing animals. So they do not have even an inch of land of their own. They are very innocent and do not know any kind of cheating. Thus they are forced to wander in search of their livelihood. Unless they bring transformation among their traditional Ayurvedic practice, rules in caste panchayat and their beliefs, it is hard for them to improve economically.

Ayurvedic medicinal herbs are the support for their life. They call the herbs 'Jadi-Booti'. It means the leaves, roots and stems of herbs that are used as medicine. They get the herbs (Jadi-Booti) from Vindhya, Satpuda, Narmada, Godavari river belts where the forest grows thickly. When they are not available, they buy Jadi-Booti from the local Ayurvedic shops, prepare medicines and sell them. Women and old people sell medicines in the locality in which they camp. As they sell on roadside they do not get the right price for it.

Nowadays Government Ayurvedic hospitals have been opened and hence the families depending on Ayurvedic business are dwindling. The new generations among them have taken to cleaning ears on road sides and winding wires to steering wheels of vehicles. The children have taken to collecting of plastic bags that are used and thrown. If this condition continues, in a few years the Ayurvedic knowledge among this tribe will be completely lost. It is necessary to think and make plans to retain their invaluable Ayurvedic knowledge.

Overview

After a continuous struggle, a semblance of establishment and identity has been found by the Rajgonds through their bases at Bidar, Bangalore and Harihar in Karnataka. But they are yet to stabilise at these bases, as they are still

moving around distant places in search of their livelihood and green pastures. Being a nomadic tribe, they sustain their culture wherever they live.

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