



## Populaion Characteristics of Village Thein of Kathua District (Jammu and Kashmir)

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**Abstract:** The present paper seeks to mirror the population feature of a village of Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir. For the purpose a micro-level door-to-door survey was conducted in the year 2016, which included a number of questions pertaining to the theme. The results at village level study have been found to be quite different but are accurate. The figures related to various characteristic of population vary greatly from one religious, community to another

**Key word:** Resource, Migration, Occupational Structure, Physico-Culture

### Introduction

Population studies happen to be an important part of geographical interpretation of an area. Population geography deals with the relation of population to its land in terms of both quality and quantity. In the study of population, the main task is the measurement of population parameters. Modern geographers consider the human population as a resource. In fact, resourcefulness of the physical element depends upon the capacity of inhabitants to utilize them for satisfying their needs (Zimmerman, 1964). Population is the point of reference from which all other elements are observed and from which they all singly or collectively derived significance and meaning (Trewartha, 1953). Man is the geographical agent who modifies the surroundings through his actions and brings changes in it. The man-nature relations have undergone a drastic change overtime as per changing time and conditions.

Geographical conditions have had a direct control on the climate, vegetation, soil, drainage, minerals, etc., thereby affecting the spatial distribution of population on the globe. The growth, density, sex ratio, age- structure, occupational structure, literacy, rural- urban structure and migration- all are variable from one place to another due to a number of physio- cultural factors.

### The study area

For the purpose in hand, village Thein of Jammu & Kashmir has been chosen. This village is situated in Basholi Block of Kathua district along the national Highway between Lakhanpur and Basholi, at 32° 24' N Lat and 75° 41' E Long (Figure 1), with an area of 1585 acres surrounded by the villages Dannor, barrah and Danna. The topography of Kathua district is variable occupying high mountains, valleys, outer plains (S.W.) ranging from 280-500 meter elevation. The village is situated at predominant plain of the Shivalik ranges. The climatic conditions are influenced by physiographic conditions and the plain areas experience very hot during summers where temperature reaches 48°C. The entire district is profusely drained by numerous ephemeral and small perennial streams. Thein village is mainly drained by the river Ravi. The 'Ranjit Sagar' Dam on this river is popularly known as Thein /dam. Thein was also declared as Wildlife Conservation Reserve by the government in 1981.

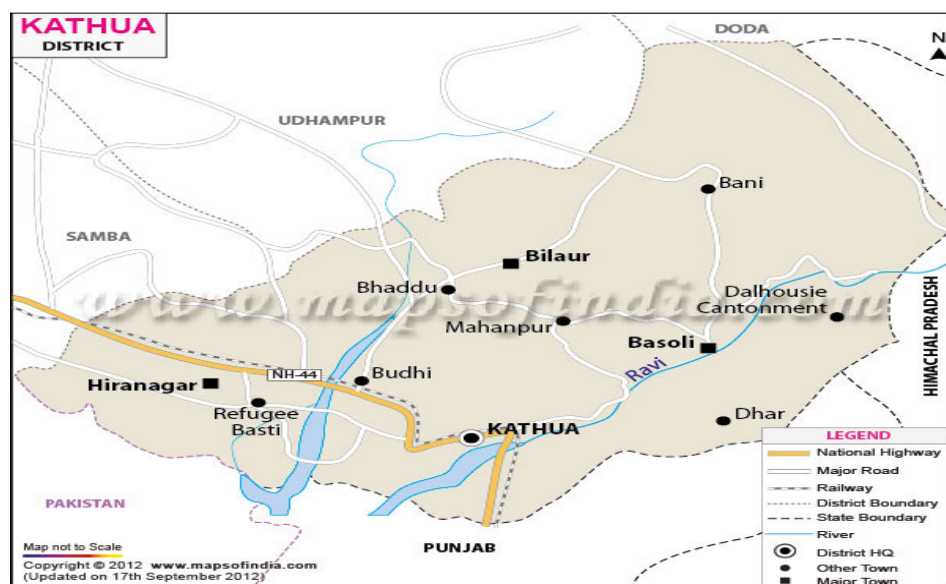


Figure 1 Map of Kathua district in Jammu and Kashmir

## Methodology

The study was carried out with the help of intensive field visit and door to door survey of Their village with the help of a detailed questionnaire covering many demographic aspects.

**Growth of population:** The population of Their village was 343 in 1991 which rose to 420(22.44%) in 2001 and 597 in 2011 and it is 647(8.37%) in 2016(Survey Period). As compared to district Kathua and Jammu & Kashmir state, the growth rates have been higher in Their village as the respective figures for Kathua and Jammu & Kashmir are 21.50 and 23.95% respectively.

**Sex-Ratio:** The sex-ratio in the village is quite satisfactory (1051) as compared to Kathua district(907), Jammu & Kashmir(883) and India(940). There are a number of socio-cultural and economic factors for this sex ratio in the whole state. The sex ratio in the village has been fluctuating as it was 860 in 1991, 792 in 2001, 1051 in 2011 and 902 in 2016. Better developed secondary and tertiary sectors and availability of employment are the factors associated with this state of sex ratio. The sex ratio is high in the age groups 6-15, 51-65 and above 65 years.

**Age Structure:** Age-structure of village Their is as follows:

Table 1 Age-structure of population in village Their (2011)

Age(years)	Males	Females	Total	Sex- Ratio	Percentage (Age)
Below -5	25	20	45	800	6.95
6-15	48	57	105	1188	16.22
16-30	105	85	190	809	29.36
31-50	93	85	178	913	27.51
51-65	11	40	51	3636	7.88
Above 65	9	19	28	2111	4.32
Total	291	306	597	1051	100.00

**Literacy:** The literacy rate 2016 is 67.38%, far better than Kathua district 64.81% and almost equal to the state of Jammu and Kashmir 67.16%. The illiteracy is prevalent amongst the females at all but primary and U.G. levels in the village. About 43% females and 123% males are illiterate, which is clear from the table below:

Table 2 Levels of literacy in Their village (2016)

Level	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Primary	38	16.52	43	24.85	81	20.09
J.H.S.	47	20.43	38	21.96	85	21.09
High School	73	31.73	33	19.07	106	26.30
Intermediate	45	19.56	23	13.29	68	16.89
U.G.	15	06.52	28	16.18	43	10.66
P.G.+ Others	12	05.21	08	04.62	20	04.97
Total	230	79.03	173	56.53	403(67.38)	100.00

**Caste-Structure:** Their village is characterized by a multiple caste- structure. Rajputs and Brahmins are the main castes. Bakkarwal and Mahajans are also found here.

Table3- Caste –Structure of Their village:

Caste	No. of families	%
1. Brahmin	30	30.30
2. Rajput	45	45.45
3. Mahajan	10	10.10
4. Verma	08	08.08
5. Bakkarwal	03	03.03
6. Megh	02	02.02
7. Others	01	01.01
Total	99	100.00

**Religious Structure:** It is interesting to note that in the whole state of Jammu and Kashmir, the majority of population 68.31% belongs to Muslims, followed by Hindus 28.43%. In the Kashmir division, the respective figures are 96.40% and 2.45%, while in Jammu and Laddakh, these are 33.45% and 62.55%; 46.40% and 12.10%. In kathua district, the percentage of Hindus is 87.61% while that of Muslims is 10.42%. In the village, Their 96.00% population is constituted by Hindus and 4.00% by Muslims.

**Occupational Structure:** About half of the population of Their village is engaged in service sector, 18% are labourers or engaged in other activities and only 14% get their livelihood from agriculture, as is evident from the following table –

Table 4 Occupational structure of village Their (2016):

S.No	Particulars	%age of population
1	Service Sector	52.0
2	Agriculture	14.0
3	Labourers	18.0
4	Trade and Commerce	09.0
5	Animal husbandry	05.0
6	Industry	02.0
	Total	100.0

**Nature and Cause of Migration:** Migration is the most common phenomenon found in the Indian villages. There a number of causes of such migration. Mention may be made of employment, business, trade, education and the kind. The village does not have higher educational institutes and better medical facilities.

Table 5 Type of migration from village Their (2016):

Sl. No.	Type	No. of persons
1	Daily	137
2	Monthly	42
3	Yearly	19
4	Permanently	5
	Total	203

The total persons going for daily migration from the village include the service personnel, students and labourers. Monthly migration also embraces the service and trade personnel. Permanently migrated people enfold service and business activities.

Table 6 Causes of Migration from village Thein (2016):

S. No.	Cause	Persons
1	Education	38
2	Employment	98
3	Business	19
4	Others	48
	Total	207

According to the household survey conducted in April, 2016 in village Thein, people were asked to answer a series of questions and share their problems. They did share the social, individual problems/issues and magnitude of migration. The following problems were brought to the fore by the villagers –

- 1) Water scarcity is a big problem, as there is no regular supply of water in the village. The ground water level is also very low.
- 2) Poverty and unemployment are other problems.
- 3) Lack of higher educational institutions is a serious problem. Students are forced to go to Kathua city or migrate to other places.
- 4) There is lack of proper connectivity and health facilities.
- 5) Shortage of power supply.

### Conclusion

It has become a common practice or forced process of migration from rural to urban areas in order to get better amenities, facilities, employment and standard of life. It is, therefore, high time for both Central and State governments to seriously check this migration by making necessary facilities available in the villages, otherwise the village culture and ecology will soon disappear and a serious demographic change and structure will take place.

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