There is uneven progress across social groups in Odisha. Poverty among the Scheduled Tribes in Odisha is the highest in the country. Open defecation is high and access to drinking water is poor for most households, but Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes are the worst off. These groups also lag behind in schooling and in having salaried jobs.

### Households by Social Group, 2012 (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Group</th>
<th>All India</th>
<th>Odisha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Tribe</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Caste</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Backward Caste</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Poverty of Scheduled Tribes in Odisha is the highest in the country

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, All India.
Stark contrast in educational attainment across social groups in Odisha

**Education attainment, 2012 (% adults)**

- **Scheduled Tribe**
  - Illiterate: 35%
  - Literate or primary school completed: 22%
  - Middle school completed: 24%
  - Secondary school or higher completed: 8%

- **Scheduled Caste**
  - Illiterate: 40%
  - Literate or primary school completed: 25%
  - Middle school completed: 23%
  - Secondary school or higher completed: 13%

- **Other Backward Caste**
  - Illiterate: 28%
  - Literate or primary school completed: 24%
  - Middle school completed: 26%
  - Secondary school or higher completed: 23%

- **General**
  - Illiterate: 15%
  - Literate or primary school completed: 22%
  - Middle school completed: 25%
  - Secondary school or higher completed: 38%

Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in Odisha have more casual wage jobs

**Share of employed, 2012 (%)**

- **Scheduled Tribe**
  - Casual Wage: 35%
  - Salaried: 4%
  - Self-employed: 61%

- **Scheduled Caste**
  - Casual Wage: 39%
  - Salaried: 10%
  - Self-employed: 51%

- **Other Backward Caste**
  - Casual Wage: 25%
  - Salaried: 10%
  - Self-employed: 65%

- **General**
  - Casual Wage: 15%
  - Salaried: 22%
  - Self-employed: 63%
Higher open defecation among all social groups in Odisha compared to rest of country

Households practicing open defecation, 2012 (%)

- **All**
  - Odisha: 73%
  - All India: 44%
- **Scheduled Tribe**
  - Odisha: 86%
  - All India: 69%
- **Scheduled Caste**
  - Odisha: 87%
  - All India: 59%
- **Other Backward Caste**
  - Odisha: 69%
  - All India: 48%
- **General**
  - Odisha: 50%
  - All India: 21%

Poor access to drinking water for most households in Odisha, Scheduled Tribes are the worst off

Households with drinking water on premises, 2012 (%)

- **All**
  - Odisha: 27%
  - All India: 56%
- **Scheduled Tribe**
  - Odisha: 14%
  - All India: 27%
- **Scheduled Caste**
  - Odisha: 20%
  - All India: 44%
- **Other Backward Caste**
  - Odisha: 28%
  - All India: 58%
- **General**
  - Odisha: 48%
  - All India: 69%