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Subject: Re: Maratha & Mahar caste codes (NFHS 1, 1992-93, India)

Posted by [fredarnold](#) on Wed, 15 Mar 2017 20:36:45 GMT

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It's very difficult to try to figure out what happened in the coding of castes 25 years ago at the time of NFHS-1. The coding of castes was done in the central office, and all the office coders had the entire list of 1931 Census caste codes that they used to code the caste names. My guess is that because Marathas and Mahars were on List III (which was not used very often), they may have missed those codes since they would have been difficult to find. Many of those cases probably went into the "Other caste" code, which includes 19% of all cases. Another possibility is that many of the Maratha cases were recorded as Kunbis. In NFHS-1, 32% of the cases were coded as Kunbis. Historically, in parts of Maharashtra (particularly in Pune District), Kunbi and Maratha were synonymous, and there was a caste complex known as Maratha-Kunbi. In Pune, Marathas were one class of Kunbis. Mahars mostly followed Dr. Ambedkar in converting to Buddhism, so you may want to look at the Buddhist/neo-Buddhist religious category to see what castes they reported. I don't think we can go any further with this, but you may want to contact Guilhem Cassan at the University of Namur, who has done a lot of work with the NFHS-1 caste data to see if he has any additional thoughts.

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