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Subject: Caste data for 2019-21  
Posted by [kb](#) on Mon, 11 Jul 2022 17:37:37 GMT  
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I've just downloaded DHS data for India 2019-21, and there is no raw data on caste / tribe from which the variable on SC / ST / OBC / Other was created. I imagine that individual responses to the exact caste for each household in response to the question "What is the caste or tribe of the head of the household?" (label variable sh48) were recorded and then categorised using responses to sh49 "Is this a scheduled caste, a scheduled tribe, other backward class, or none of the above?"

Please can you tell me how best to access detailed information for each respondent's reported caste (not SC/ST/OBC) in sh48? Or is this information not available?

I have noticed that in the last few weeks two other users have posted a similar question about caste data in the 2019-21 dataset, but there has been no response from DHS.

Thanks!

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Subject: Re: Caste data for 2019-21  
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 13 Jul 2022 17:49:02 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

An individual caste/tribe file is being prepared but is not yet ready for distribution. When the file is available, we hope by October 1, users will have to complete a separate Data Request Form that specifies the research topic.

Please keep in mind that the response to the question on whether the caste/tribe is a scheduled caste, a scheduled tribe, an other backward class, none of them, or don't know is provided by the household respondent, who may or may not be the head of the household. Whatever answer the household respondent gives is accepted, even though the answer may not be based on the official caste/tribe list for a particular state.

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Subject: Re: Caste data for 2019-21  
Posted by [Varsha](#) on Fri, 18 Nov 2022 12:27:46 GMT  
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Can we treat the caste/tribe of the household head as the caste/tribe of the household? I require the caste variable at the household level.

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Subject: Re: Caste data for 2019-21

Posted by [fred.arnold@icf.com](mailto:fred.arnold@icf.com) on Fri, 18 Nov 2022 15:37:04 GMT

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The household questionnaire only asks about the caste/tribe of the household head, not any other member of the household. That does not necessarily mean that every member of the household belongs to that same caste/tribe. The woman's questionnaire asks women age 15-49 for their own caste/tribe. The man's questionnaire asks men age 15-54 for their own caste/tribe.

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Subject: Re: Caste data for 2019-21

Posted by [Varsha](#) on Mon, 21 Nov 2022 14:00:28 GMT

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Thank you, Fred.

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