

Subject: Help with Caste information for NFHS-3  
 Posted by [gopalakr@live.unc.edu](mailto:gopalakr@live.unc.edu) on Fri, 04 Oct 2013 16:57:05 GMT  
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Hello,  
 I am trying to figure out the caste information and categories for India dataset (NFHS-3).

I want to create one variable that includes caste but also acknowledge people with no caste/tribe. How can I ensure all people in Hindus category can belong to either SC, ST, OBC and Other(General caste). I thought the total of non-Hindus should be equal to people with no caste or tribe. From my understanding, only Hindus have caste in India.

Can you clarify the discrepancy in the data?

For example, the table below shows 118040 people who reported their caste or tribe. However, there are only 89,957 Hindus (reported in the survey).

. tab s117

caste or tribe	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
caste	102,300	82.24	82.24
tribe	15,740	12.65	94.90
no caste/tribe	4,594	3.69	98.59
don't know	1,706	1.37	99.96
9	45	0.04	100.00
Total	124,385	100.00	

tab v130

religion	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
hindu	89,957	72.32	72.32
muslim	16,742	13.46	85.78
christian	10,977	8.83	94.61
sikh	2,772	2.23	96.83
buddhist/neo-buddhist	1,765	1.42	98.25
jain	539	0.43	98.69
jewish	11	0.01	98.70
parsi/zoroastrian	3	0.00	98.70
no religion	44	0.04	98.73
donyi polo	385	0.31	99.04
other	1,032	0.83	99.87
99	158	0.13	100.00
Total	124,385	100.00	

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

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Subject: Re: Help with Caste information for NFHS-3  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 30 Oct 2013 16:34:40 GMT  
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Here is a response from one of our DHS experts, Fred Arnold:

Although the caste system in India is most closely associated with Hinduism, the caste system is used by many other religious groups, including Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, and Sikhs. Many Hindus who were formerly "untouchables" converted to other religions, particularly Buddhism. It is important to note that the tribal population is not considered part of the caste system. If you cross-tabulate the religion variable by the caste/tribe variable, you will be able to see the extent to which the caste system has permeated into religious groups other than Hindus.

Hope this helps.

Bridgette-DHS

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