

Mortality and Opportunity for Selection in Idu and Digaru Mishmis of Arunachal Pradesh

Atul K. Pandey and S.L. Malik

*Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi, Delhi 110 007, India
Fax: 0091-11-7257049*

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ABSTRACT Demographic studies elucidating the impact of socio-ecological factors have not been conducted so far on the people of Arunachal Pradesh, especially the tribal groups. As a part of the ongoing research work in the area, the results of the investigation on the impact of socio-environmental factors on mortality have been reported in the present paper. Data on 120 Idu Mishmi and 146 Digaru Mishmi households, representing two different endogamous groups, were collected. The Idu Mishmi experience relatively higher mortality than the Digaru Mishmi. The Idu mothers, aged 25 years and more, have higher mortality than the Digaru mothers. Index of selection potential is also higher in the Idu Mishmi than in the Digaru Mishmi indicating that selection is operating more on the former than on the latter. An alarmingly high infant mortality rate, especially in the Idu, can be attributed to the compound effect of higher fertility, lower level of education and income, poor health and sanitation facilities.