

Detection of a Rare Blood Group “Bombay (Oh) Phenotype” Among the Kutia Kondh Primitive Tribe of Orissa, India

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ABSTRACT Tribals constitute a major chunk of the total population of India. Out of a total 475 tribal groups in India, about 75 are primitive tribes. Kutia Kondhs of Orissa state are one of the most primitive tribal people of the country. A total of 2488 children aged 6-15 years belonging to 15 major tribes were screened for ABO and Rhesus (D) blood groups at random from various Ashram schools in eight districts of Orissa. Out of sixty five Kutia Kondh children studied from Belghar area of Tumudibundh block in Phulbani district of Orissa two cases showed a rare ABO blood group, Bombay (Oh) phenotype for the first time, giving an incidence of 1 in 33 among Kutia Kondh tribe, 1 in 127 in Kondh tribe and 1 in 1244 among the tribal populations of Orissa. This is the highest incidence of Bombay phenotype so far reported from India. These findings have been discussed in the light of relevant studies from India.