

The Genesis, Divisions, Movement and Transformation of Okkaligar Community

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ABSTRACT Okkaligar is one of the major communities native to India belongs to Dravidian family and originated from the Himalayan range. They lived in the regions of Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat, Bengal and the regions lying between Ganga and Yamuna rivers and moved down to South through Mazhava, Birar, and Bhamini States due to harassment of the rulers of these regions. The population of Okkaligar is dominant in Karnataka followed in Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh States of India. The community under went several transformations to have ten sub –divisions and several sects. Though their main occupation is farming they posses native skill and expertise in a number of fields that helped to develop the forestry, education, linguistics, arts, culture, health and medicine, sciences including the modern technologies, industries, trades, commerce, charity, social, justice, law and order, state administration, politics and cinematography.