

Certain Aspects of Population Structure of Coimbatore Irulas: A Case Study in Perumalkoilpathy, Tamil Nadu*

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ABSTRACT The Irual of Coimbatore was selected for the study of various demographic parameters at the level of exogamous units. An intensive study was conducted among the Irula of Perumalkoilpathy settlement (of Coimbatore district) for this purpose. Analysis was carried out at clan level for various parameters. In this settlement only three class (Sambar, Karatiga and Parathara) are represented while there are twelve clans among the Irulas of Coimbatore region. The hamlet consist of 38 households with a total population of 182. The clan level data were analysed for different aspects like population composition, sex ratio, dependency ratio, and breeding size, age at marriage, marital distance, inter-clan marriage, consanguineous marriages, inbreeding coefficient, mortality and fertility. It is found that there are similarities with regards to different demographic aspects between the brotherly clans than their alliance clans.