

Opportunity for Natural Selection among the Occupationally Different Groups of Gangte Tribe of Manipur, North-East India

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KEYWORDS Tribe. Himalaya. Fertility. Mortality. Socio-economic Variable

ABSTRACT Opportunity for natural selection is studied in the three occupationally different groups of Gangte tribe-shifting cultivators, settled agriculturists, and town dwellers of Manipur in North-East India. Reproductive histories of 184 post-reproductive women from the 11 settlements were utilized to compute the Crow's indices of selection. The results were interpreted in the light of economic and educational backgrounds of the couples and the historical process of Christian missionary influence. The indices in general are found to be lowest among those observed in some 100 Indian populations so far studied. There is slight but a clear trend of decreasing mortality index with urbanization, although fertility index, as often been observed among the populations of developing countries, did not show any clear trend, increasing or decreasing. The reduced differences in the indices between the transitional categories and the overall low values of the indices could be interpreted as due to the long and uniform Christian missionary influence among them.