

Habitat, Resource Utilization, Patterns and Determinants of Behaviour in Rhesus Monkeys

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ABSTRACT Study of ecology and behavior of non-human primates has been of great interest to the naturalists and scientists. No other mammal has been studied as intensely as primates (Bearder 1991). Until recently, non-human primates were studied mainly because of their phylogenetic proximity to man: their use as models for interpreting adaptations of early hominids; for reconstructing earlier phases of evolution and to understand human health and behavioural problems. Of lately, the importance of the study of non-human primates in the ecological context is being greatly emphasized. The researchers were showing more interest in studying the relationships among the animals and their environment. Behaviour studies of primates in the free-ranging conditions provides information not only about their social organization, behavior, and their relationship with each other and their environment but, also provides important information relating to their conservation and management. Adaptability and diverse expressions, complex interaction, ecological distinctiveness and behavioural distinctiveness of non-human primates make them a target of the research on the principles that govern social organization in an ecological system (Sinuts et al. 1987).