

The Kinship System of the Aghria

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ABSTRACT In the following essay the kinship system of the Aghria, a locally dominant peasant caste in northern Orissa, will be analysed on all three levels of a kinship system – categories, rules and practices. On each level possible influences not only from the North Indian, “indo-aryan” and the South Indian, “Dravidian,” but also from the Middle Indian, “mundaic” kinship system will be discussed. A comparison with tribal groups in the region and their Middle Indian kinship system is particularly necessary to fully comprehend all features of the system. Furthermore, it will be demonstrated that the Aghria system forms a unique synthesis of elements of all three Indian kinship systems.