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The Demographic Behaviour of a Primitive Tribe of Indian Central Himalaya

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ABSTRACT The Indian Central Himalaya spreading over the twelve hill districts of Uttar Pradesh supports more than six million people, out of which about 3.54 percent are tribal people belonging to five tribal communities. The Raji, one of these communities, is the most under-developed, primitive as well as nomadic. Except a very few ethonobotanical and ethnological studies, nothing is known about this numerically small tribe. Further, the nomadic way of the life of the tribe, probably, prevented even a complete and true enumeration of its population, as studies carried out have reported difference in population for the tribe for a single period. It has been claimed that the tribe is facing serious declining growth rate and in near future may face the consequence of depopulation. This study, therefore, focuses on the demographic behavior of the tribe and tries to establish the reality in the generally given statement on its growth rate and other issues. The study assumes importance from the point of view that it covers the entire families and population of the tribe.