

## **Effects of Inbreeding on Health among Dhankut – An Endogamous Group of Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh**

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**ABSTRACT** India is characterised by a number of endogamous castes, tribes and religious communities with different types of marriages. Consanguineous marriages are very much prevalent in South India. But it is considered a taboo in North India. In Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh, a group called Dhankut is practicing consanguineous marriages as their culture for long, which has led to inbreeding. Present paper analyses nature and causes of consanguineous marriages and effects of inbreeding on the health of Dhankut.