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Marital Distance in Manne Dora Tribe of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT The mean marital distance recorded amongst Manne Dora is 15.33 ± 1.08 km. Manne Dora practise high rate of village endogamy (45.97%) and consanguineous marriages (49.90%). Statistically significant differences are observed between the means of consanguineous unions (10.46± 1.60 km) and affinal matings (20.17 ± 1.76 km). The Manne Dora population shows positively skewed and leptokurtic marital distribution.

The present study reports the distance between the birth place of spouses amongst Manne Dora an endogamous, settled agricultural tribal population from Andhra Pradesh.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Information pertaining to marriage type, village endogamy and marriage distance among 509 Manne Dora couples was collected from 21 villages inhabiting Kothavalasa, Devarapalli, Madugula and Pendurthi Mandals of Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh. Marriage distance was recorded by considering the road distance by shortest route between birth place of spouses.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The distribution of marital distance taking ten kilometer class intervals for consanguineous and affinal matings is presented in table 1. As many as 45.97% of marriages are contracted in the same village, where both the spouses are born. Out of the total marriages, higher frequency of consanguineous unions are reported (26.33%), selecting the mate from the same village, compared to affinal unions (19.65%). Among consanguineous marriages, 52.76% are of village endogamous type, while 39.23% of affinal unions are opting the mate from the same village. Majority of marriages (66.99%) take place within a radius of 10 km. The mean marital distance (MMD) calculated from all the 509 marriages is 15.33 ± 1.08 km. Individually, affinal matings exhibit a MMD (20.17 ± 1.76 km) which is two times higher than the mean value of consanguineous marriages (10.46 ± 1.16 km). The difference is statistically significant (t = 4.59 P < 0.001). This indicates that affinal matings have wider marriage network than consanguineous unions.

Table 1: Distribution of marital distance among Manne Dora

Distance in class intervals (km)	*Consanguineous Matings*		*Affinal Matings*		*Total*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
0	134	26.33	100	19.65	234	45.97
1-10	54	10.61	53	10.41	107	21.02
11-20	24	4.72	21	4.13	45	8.84
21-30	16	3.14	22	4.32	38	7.47
31-40	4	0.79	5	0.98	9	1.77
41-50	2	0.39	16	3.14	18	3.54
51-60	7	1.38	4	0.79	11	2.16
61-70	9	1.77	17	3.34	26	5.11
71-80	3	0.59	6	1.18	9	1.77
81-90	1	0.20	1	0.20	2	0.39
91-100	-	-	7	1.38	7	1.38
101-110	-	-	1	0.20	1	0.20
111-120	-	-	-	-	-	-
121-130	-	-	2	0.39	2	0.39
	254	49.90	255	50.10	509	100.00
MMD	10.46 ± 1.60		20.17 ± 1.76		15.33 ± 1.08	

$\beta_1 = 3.4171$; $\beta_2 = 6.2860$

The symmetry of the distribution was tested by the measures of skewness (β_1) and kurtosis (β_2). The distribution of marital distance is positively skewed and leptokurtic. It is observed that a majority of marriages are contracted at shorter distances rather than marriages negotiated at longer distances among Manne Dora tribe. Usually the practice of high degree of consanguinity and village endogamy tend to reduce the mean marital distance. Similarly, leptokurtic and positively skewed distribution is observed among Raj Gond, Kolam, Pardhan and Andh tribes of Andhra Pradesh (Pingle, 1983), Navabudha, Maratha and Scheduled Castes of Maharastra (Mukherjee et al., 1980), Hindu Siddis and Muslim Siddis of Karnataka (Vijaya Kumar and Malhotra, 1983), and Dhangars, a nomadic population of Maharashtra (Malhotra, 1984). It was opined that the majority of populations of rural or agricultural background conform to the general rule of leptokurtosis (Malhotra, 1980).

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