

## **Environment and Socio-economic Characteristics of the Nolias of Coastal Orissa, India**

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**ABSTRACT** The paper deals with different aspects of the Nolias (Marine fisher-folk) inhabiting the coastal Orissa. For this two sample villages, Raikatturu and Bandar of Ganjam district were considered during 1989-91. The Nolias as mostly illiterate addicted to smoking, snuffing and drinking. They believe in their own cultural practices such as child marriage and sacrifice of animals. Rice, finger millet (ragi) and fish constitute their staple food. In the sample villages, agricultural land constitutes five to six percent of the total area. Per capita land holding (0.03 to 0.06 ha) was very low. The average annual income from fishing was seventy-seven percent of the total annual income of the family. Energy input in different fishing activities was 85.7 percent by men, 11.2 percent by women, and 3.1 percent by children. High population density and resource constraints have affected the socio-economic life of the Nolias. The Nolias are in the danger of losing their livelihood.