

Habitat and Nutritional Status of a Kandh Village of Eastern Ghats, Orissa

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ABSTRACTKandhs, being the largest tribal group in Orissa, are mostly distributed in the mountain regions of Phulbani, Koraput, Ganjam. Kutia, Dangria and Desia are the three subsections of Kandhs. All the Kandhs of Ganjam belong to the Desia. The study highlights the habitat and nutritional status of the Kandhs of Ganjam. Although these Kandhs stay in the close proximity of a city, the study shows that most of their activities are still connected with the forest ecosystem. They almost retain their traditional way of life and are still in the stage of subsistence economy. The different types of the foods consumed by the Kandhs are much less than the ICMR standards. The average intake of calories of an adult Kandh is 2084 which is also lesser than the ICMR standards. The average adult consumption unit is 4-7 per family. Both weight-for-height and weight-for-age measurements show that Kandhs are under weight and are in the state of malnutrition particularly under nutrition.