

Marital Migration and Neighbourhood Knowledge in a Contemporary Kerala Population

M.V. Sudhakaran and B. Vijayavalli

Department of Botany, University of Kerala, Karivattom, Thiruvananthapuram 695581, Kerala, India

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ABSTRACT The Pattern of marital migration among the Ezhavas of Alappuzha district of the state of Kerala has been investigated with reference to the distribution of distance between the birth places of spouses. The distribution of marriage distance was found to be positively skewed and leptokurtic. The mean marriage distance of the population was estimated to be 15.94 ± 0.69 km. Comparison of marital distance between consanguineous and non-consanguineous marriages show that unrelated spouses tend to be more mobile than consanguineous spouses. The observed frequency distribution of matrimonial distance was fitted well by the function $y = ax^{-b}$, is suggestive of an exponential relationship between mating frequency and birthplace distance in this group. The value of b found to be 1.538 for consanguineous marriages and 1.504 for unrelated marriages, suggest that neighbourhood knowledge is determining the distribution of marriage distances among Ezhavas.