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Environment, Ecology and Culture Paradigms Case of Ladakhi Tribe

R.S. Mann

Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi, Delhi 110 007, India

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ABSTRACT Acculturative and historical factors apart, many cultural and civilization traits the world over have originated evolved and taken definite shapes for adaptation of human to specific environmental components and niches. In contemporary social-cultural situations this construct is more meaningfully evident in case of inhabitants of isolated, difficult and imposing natural conditions where human adaptation, at the level of culture, with environment sounds remarkable. Ladakh, a district of Jammu and Kashmir state of India represents a valid instance of this kind. The Ladakhi society and its network of cultural patterns speak of high degree of adaptation to specific environmental paradigm. Both culture and environment are taken in their broad meanings. As interpretive dimension, the theoretical baggage in respect of cultural ecology is critically reviewed in the light of substantivism originating from microsettting of Ladakhis.