

Environmental Anthropological Analysis of the Kurichiyan Tribes of Kannavam Forest in Kerala

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ABSTRACT The present paper is an attempt to study the man-environment interaction among the Kurichiyan tribes of Kannavam Reserve Forest of Kannur District in Kerala. The Kurichiyas are living in the forests from the time immemorial. The Kurichiyas are one of the Scheduled Tribes of Kerala. They were living with subsistence economy and finding resources from the forests earlier. They used to collect fruits and tubers from the forest and also collected Non Wood Forest Products (NWFP). At present, they have stopped many of their traditional subsistence activities and are engaged in various new economic activities. Most of them have turned into agricultural labourers and/or wage labourers today. The changes in their economic activities also reflected in the life and culture of the Kurichiyas and it has altered their man-environment interactions. This paper tries to analyse the major changes in their interaction with their surrounding habitat and the environment within the Kannavam Reserve Forest.