

Persistent Traditional Practices Among the Tribals of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT This paper deals with the persistent traditional practices associated with puberty, pregnancy and child birth among the tribal populations of the three north coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh viz. Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam. Observation of pollution associated with some vital events among the tribal populations is also related to health. The traditional practices of tribals associated with puberty, pregnancy and child birth have some similarity with the practices of the non-tribals especially in rural areas. All these practices signify their deep rooted beliefs in the supernatural spirits. In this context, the role of traditional medicine-man (Guravagadu) is also prominent. These observations point out the need for educating these groups about health and hygiene and make them avail health care services.