

Childrearing Practices Among Kurubas and Soliga Tribes From South India

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ABSTRACT Childrearing practices among the four tribes namely Jenu Kuruba, Betta Kuruba, Kadu Kuruba and Soliga settlements in villages of Nanjungud taluk from South India were studied. Fifty percent of the households were randomly selected; information about parental attitude, care of the child, habit formation, health practices and disciplining was obtained from housewives using an interview schedule. The total population of tribal was 728, men and women earned for their livelihood, most of them were food gatherers, few had adopted farming and others worked as peasants. A small percentage of men and women were able to read and write. Mothers took care of the child while fathers were responsible for disciplining; both parents shared the responsibilities. Majority of parents commenced toilet training at 1 – 2 years of age. Most families believed in democratic and permissive methods for training. All fathers spent time playing and talking with children, while mothers narrated stories. Allopathic and herbal medication was commonly used. The tribal seems to have undergone a radical change in their views and practices.