

## **Interaction Pattern and Livelihood Strategies of an Artisan Tribe**

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**ABSTRACT** Uralikurumar, a Scheduled Tribe of Wayanad District, Kerala State India, is the only tribal community, who pursued a variety of artisan occupations such as pottery, basketry and blacksmithy and is unique in their artisan skills. They belong to the three subdivisions of 'Kurumba' and the others being 'Mullu' and 'JenKurumba'. Uralikurumar is distributed in Vythiri, Manathavady and Sulthanbathery taluks of Wayanad district. A separate population figure is not available about these tribes in the census records as they are grouped under the title 'Kurumbar'. Uralikurumar at present can't take up their traditional occupations, due to several factors and are engaged as wage labourers in the nearby estates. They have started migrating to outside states resulting in culture change and change in occupational patterns. In this context, it would be very interesting to highlight their interaction pattern and livelihood strategies.