

Consanguinity and Its Effects on Fertility and Child Survival among Muslims of Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir

M.K. Bhasin and Shampa Nag

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

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ABSTRACT In the present paper, 503 married Muslim women belonging to Balti, Brokpa and Arghun population groups of Ladakh region have been studied. The incidence of consanguinity have been found relatively low at 19.3 percent, when compared with other Muslim population groups of northern India. The mean coefficient of inbreeding has been estimated as 0.0116 for Ladakh Muslims as a whole. The most prevalent type of consanguineous marriage is that between first cousins. The Ladakh Muslims also show increased fertility and decreased proportion of surviving children in consanguineous than in non-consanguineous marriage, as noticed elsewhere as well.