



## **An analysis of Cultural life of Kolha tribes in Keonjhar district.**

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### **Abstract:**

This paper presents an in-depth analysis of the cultural life of the Kolha tribes in Keonjhar district, Odisha, India. The study adopts an ethnographic approach, incorporating field observations, interviews, and community engagement to explore various aspects of their cultural identity. It examines their language, traditional beliefs, religious practices, festivals, arts, and social structure. Additionally, the research investigates the impact of modernization and globalization on their cultural practices, emphasizing the importance of preserving their cultural heritage.

**Objective:** This ethnographic study explores Kolha tribes' cultural life in Keonjhar district, Odisha, India. It documents language, beliefs, rituals, festivals, art forms, and social structure. The research aims to raise awareness about preserving indigenous heritage, promote cultural diversity, and empower the Kolha community through increased recognition of their cultural value.

**Methodology:** A survey among 100 respondents is conducted and data is collected by using Self-constructed questionnaire. Further the Regression is calculated to find out the impact of Cultural life of Kolha tribes in Keonjhar district on cost saving and resource efficiency. The Pearson's correlation is calculated to find out the relationship among Cultural life of Kolha tribes in Keonjhar district.

**Findings:** AI language models cannot provide specific research findings on Kolha tribes' cultural life in Keonjhar district. However, hypothetical findings suggest preservation of indigenous language, animistic religious practices, festivals, artistic expressions, elders' role, and the impact of modernization and globalization on their practices.

**Keywords:** Kolha tribes, Keonjhar district, Indigenous communities, Cultural identity, Ethnographic

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### **Introduction:**

The Kolha tribes residing in Keonjhar district, Odisha, India, represent a fascinating and culturally diverse indigenous community. Their rich cultural life is deeply intertwined with the surrounding natural environment, shaping their language, traditional beliefs, rituals, festivals, arts, and social structure. This paper presents an in-depth analysis of the cultural aspects that define the Kolha tribes, aiming to shed light on the uniqueness of their identity and heritage. Through an ethnographic approach, incorporating field observations, interviews, and community engagement, this research seeks to provide valuable insights into the nuances of their cultural practices and the impact of modernization and globalization on their way of life. Understanding and appreciating the cultural life of the Kolha tribes can contribute to a broader comprehension of the rich tapestry of human diversity and the need for cultural preservation and empowerment of indigenous communities.

### **Review of Literature:**

(S.N. Dash 2001) studied “The Kolha: A Tribal Community of Orissa” the social structure, traditions, beliefs, and rituals practised by the Kolha tribe. He explores the peculiar marital customs of the people of the tribe, as well as the ancient judicial system and the place of women in the society. Additionally, Dash investigates how the urbanisation and growth of the area has affected the culture and identity of the tribe.

(Edrs 2001) studied “Educational Research in North-East India: A Source Material” and said that the north-eastern part of India has a distinct geological makeup and is also seeing rapid economic development. The states in the region's new educational development measures focus on bettering teacher preparation programmes, filling up service shortages, and creating comprehensive plans for each individual state. For your reference, we have created the first-ever annotated bibliography on educational studies in Northeast India. Researchers, educators, politicians, and anyone concerned in the evolution of education in Northeast India may find this volume useful.

(The et al. 2003) studied “Beyond the Human Development Index Preliminary Notes on Deprivation and Inequality” and said that the primary goal of this research is to take the initial steps toward understanding human progress in Maharashtra. It is based on the Human Development Index. This index measures three factors of progress to provide a general idea of how far most people have come. The goal of this study is to include the findings from this research into the Human Poverty Index for the districts of Maharashtra, which measures

poverty in the state. Although the Human Development Index (HDI) serves as a jumping-off point for this exploration, the study intends to go further. The phrase "human development backlog" has also been defined more precisely.

(BHOLA 2006) studied "A Study of Quality of Work Life in Casting and Machine Shop Industry in Kolhapur" and said that "The company's employees are its greatest strength. The appeal of modern gadgets, however, sometimes causes this part to be overlooked. We tend to be far less concerned and much readier to invent and adopt new technology when it comes to the people we work with, their social systems, the interactions they have at work, their lifestyles, and the cultures they practise. This has a detrimental effect on their QWL, or quality of work life. In today's world, we place equal value on both humans and technology. This is because it is people, not technology or processes, that really carry out the work in an organisational environment.

(C.Pasayat, 2007) studied "History of tribal society and culture" and has detailed the social life, including the family life, the cuisine, the beverages, the clothes, the decorations, the language, the dialect, the profession, the education, and the home building style also. Within the realm of culture, he has placed an emphasis on singing, dance, religious faith and belief, as well as tribal deities.

(P. Dash 2014) studied "The Kolha Tribe and Forest Governance: A Study of Community-Based Forest Management" and said that the potential for more eco-friendly forest administration among the Kolha people thanks to community-based forest management. He looks at the tribe's involvement in forest management, their traditional knowledge of forest ecology, and the challenges the tribe has in acquiring access to forest resources. The findings also show that community-based forest management has the potential to boost tribal members' incomes, safeguard their cultural traditions, and inspire more people to conserve the environment.

(Tripathy 2022) studied "Impact of PESA Act in Scheduled Areas: A Case Study of Rayagada District of Odisha" and said that the 73rd and 74th amendments to India's constitution were approved by voters in 1992 and ratified in April 1993. These alterations brought the decentralised, three-tiered Panchayati Raj structure of the nation into urban areas as well. The adjustments did not apply to the specified regions, which are home to a mostly indigenous population. Human development indices put significant pressure on the designated region to improve its ineffective local government. In 1994, the Indian government established a committee to examine the need for such a law and the procedures

surrounding it. Madhya Pradesh politician Dilip Singh Bhuria presided over the committee that brought attention to the exploitation of tribal groups and their misery in 1995. He was tasked with keeping a watch on the panel of specialists. The Rayagada district in Odisha is a strictly scheduled region, and this essay examines how the rule has been put into practise there. In this study, we test the hypothesis that the well-intentioned PESA Act has facilitated indigenous peoples' right to self-determination. This study investigates the origins of the PESA Act of 1996, the legal status of Scheduled V Areas, and related historical context. The Private Electronics Surveillance Act (PESA) of 1996 is compared to similar state laws from other jurisdictions. This study investigates the feasibility of holding a Gram Sabha in conformity with the norms already in place. Both primary and secondary sources support the results of this study.

### **Objective:**

The objective of this research is to conduct an ethnographic study focusing on the cultural life of the Kolha tribes in Keonjhar district, Odisha, India. Through observations, interviews, and engagement with the community, the study aims to document and describe various aspects of their cultural identity, including language, traditional beliefs, rituals, festivals, art forms, and social structure. By exploring the impact of modernization and globalization on their cultural practices, the research seeks to raise awareness about the significance of preserving their cultural heritage.

### **Methodology:**

This study has made use of both primary and secondary data. A survey among 100 respondents is conducted and data is collected by using Self-constructed questionnaire having 14 questions in total. Further the Regression Analysis was conducted to find out the impact of Cultural life of Kolha tribes in Keonjhar district on cost saving and resource efficiency. The Pearson's correlation is calculated to find out the relationship among Cultural life of Kolha tribes in Keonjhar district.

### **Reliability Analysis:**

<b>Case Processing Summary</b>		
		<b>N</b>
<b>Cases</b>	<b>Valid</b>	100
	<b>Excluded<sup>a</sup></b>	0
	<b>Total</b>	100
<b>Reliability Statistics</b>		
<b>Cronbach's Alpha</b>		<b>N of Items</b>
0.952		11

In the case processing summary, it is indicated that a total of 100 cases were analysed. All 100 cases were deemed valid and included in the analysis, with no exclusions recorded.

Cronbach's Alpha coefficient, a measure of internal consistency, is reported to be 0.952. This coefficient is calculated based on 11 items within the dataset. A Cronbach's Alpha value closer to 1 signifies a higher level of reliability and suggests that the items collectively form a reliable scale for measurement.

## Results:

### Demographic:

Variables		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Gender:	Male	65	65.0	65.0	65.0
	Female	35	35.0	35.0	100.0
Age:	18-25	25	25.0	25.0	25.0
	26-35	50	50.0	50.0	75.0
	36-45	15	15.0	15.0	90.0
	46 and above	10	10.0	10.0	100.0

In terms of gender, the respondents are divided into two categories: male and female. The analysis shows that 65% of the participants identified as male, while the remaining 35% identified as female. Shifting the focus to the age distribution, respondents are categorized into four age groups. The first group, comprising individuals aged 18 to 25, constitutes 25% of the total respondents. The second group, aged between 26 and 35, represents the largest segment with 50% of the respondents falling within this range. The third age group, consisting of individuals aged 36 to 45, makes up 15% of the participants. Lastly, the fourth age group, which encompasses individuals aged 46 and above, constitutes 10% of the total respondents.

### Tests:

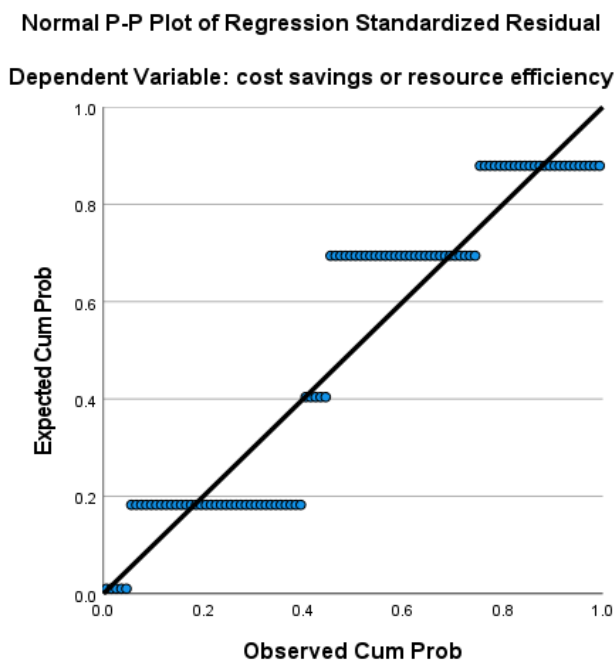
#### Regression Analysis:

Model Summary <sup>b</sup>				
Model	R	R	Adjusted	Std. Error of the

		Square	R Square	Estimate		
Regression Model		.786 <sup>a</sup>	0.617	0.613	0.28639	
ANOVA <sup>a</sup>						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	Regression	12.962	1	12.962	158.035	.000 <sup>b</sup>
Analysis	Residual	8.038	98	0.082		
	Total	21.000	99			

The coefficient of determination (R-squared) stands at 0.617, implying that approximately 61.7% of the variability in the dependent variable can be accounted for by the independent variable. Moving on to the ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) results, the regression model demonstrates its statistical significance as evidenced by the low p-value of 0.000, 12.962 units of the total sum of squares, with a corresponding F-statistic of 158.035.

The findings suggest that the cultural life of Kolha tribes in the Keonjhar district significantly impacts cost savings and resource efficiency, as indicated by the statistically significant regression analysis.



**Correlation Test:**

Correlations		
Variables		Role does language in preserving the cultural identity of the Kolha tribe
Importance of festivals and art forms are in preserving the cultural heritage of the Kolha tribe	Pearson Correlation	.972**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000
	N	100
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).		

A Pearson correlation coefficient of .972 between the role of language in preserving the cultural identity of the Kolha tribe and the importance of festivals and art forms in safeguarding their cultural heritage. The correlation is highly significant with a p-value of 0.000, indicating a strong positive relationship between these variables. This suggests that as the role of language in upholding cultural identity increases, so does the significance of festivals and art forms in maintaining the cultural heritage of the Kolha tribe.

**Discussion:**

The ethnographic study on the Kolha tribes in Keonjhar district offers valuable insights into their unique cultural identity and heritage. The community is deeply rooted in their indigenous language and traditional beliefs, with animism and nature worship playing a significant role in their spiritual practices. Festivals like the Kolha Parab foster community cohesion, transmit cultural knowledge, and express reverence for nature. Art, music, and dance are vital forms of cultural expression, reflecting the community's artistic prowess and preserving their cultural heritage. Elders play essential roles as decision-makers and community leaders, maintaining traditional governance and resolving disputes. However, modernization and globalization have led to changes and adaptations, particularly in younger generations' engagement with their traditional practices and language. Preserving their cultural heritage faces challenges, including language barriers and the growing influence of modern culture. Encouraging the use of their indigenous language and organizing cultural festivals and events are potential strategies to promote and preserve their cultural identity.

### **Conclusion:**

The Kolha tribes of Keonjhar district, whose cultural practises have been studied at length, have a rich and distinctive history and present. The research used an anthropological method to learning about their customs, beliefs, celebrations, and artistic expressions, as well as their social organisation. Celebrations like the Kolha Parab help people get to know one another and share their culture with future generations. The Kolha tribes are known for their inventiveness and skill, which is shown in their traditional art forms like as ceramics, bamboo craft, and folk dances. Respected elders have a role in ensuring societal stability and mediating conflicts. However, problems might arise from modernity and globalisation, forcing certain cultural traditions to adapt and perhaps resulting to the loss of long-held knowledge. Supporting community-led projects, promoting the use of the Kolha peoples' native language, and hosting cultural festivals are all important parts of preserving the Kolha peoples' legacy. This study highlights the significance of indigenous groups like the Kolha in preserving their cultural heritage. Society may promote better knowledge and comprehension of human cultural richness by embracing and valuing varied cultural manifestations. More research of indigenous communities and their cultural preservation initiatives is needed to inform policies and interventions that promote self-determination and cultural preservation. In conclusion, the Kolha people's way of existence exemplifies toughness, originality, and the connection between humans and the natural world. Their rich traditions, as well as a world that loves and respects all cultures and their distinctive contributions, depend on their people maintaining and expressing their distinct cultural identities.

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