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**CULTURAL HABITS OF IRULA TRIBE**

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**Abstract**

The irula tribal people are living in and around Western Ghats of Coimbatore district. There are number of tribal community people are living in this district. Generally irula is a Dravidian family. They like medium height, long armed and have curly hair. They are also known as Erullava, iruliga, illiga, uraliandkadupujari.

**Keywords:** irula, tribal, Erullava, iruliga, illiga, uraliandkadupujari

**Cultural-set-up**

The irula tribal people are living in and around Western Ghats of Coimbatore district. There are number of tribal community people are living in this district. But Researcher has only chosen the Hindu Irular tribes. The Irulartribes are very innocent. Because mostly the parents bring their children to meet their life partner in childhood then they will fall in love each other in age of marriage. If parents want to marry son with any bridegroom, they must be married with karupputa:li which is being blessed by the seven kula's people. Then only they can committee marriage with only family otherwise the parents must each other with karupputa:li marriage , because manjat:li wearing people cannot keep any marriage. Vellekakula has habit of inter marriage with all kulas either bride or bridegroom. They mostly do not send their daughter to any festival programmed. Because gents are coming to their festival form different places of local area. They can come to know about bride and bridegroom in each side of the people. The widows all not allowed for second marriagebut can run life with lovable person. Obviously irulas are very much faith in god, they of each one god and also saiva and vaisnava religion here. Then sivarathiri festival are celebrating very grandly because of among the relationship revealed. Sivarathiri is the biggest festival one in ever mostly they do have a feast with pa: lkurumpakavunder-irular to make each other having a good relationship. Mostly Irula peoples are sewing betel and nut. and otherwise irula males are drunker (except someone).

**Caste System**

The term "caste", when used in human culture, is usually in conjunction with the social division in Hindu society, particularly in India.Coimbaotreirula tribe 7 kulas of 8 kulas are given more important for ceremony and festivals in their lives. 'kurnage' kula are on of the most important kulas in Irula tribe. Because u:rumoopan,who is a leader of only hamlet

to rule his society and takes final decision of any matter, is selected from 'kurunage' kula, The position of u:rumu:pan has been selected in a hereditary. Vanda:ri is belonging to 'velleka' kula and an assist of mu:ppan. He executes the decisions of the u:ru committee and investigates in to complaints find out the truth, and settles conflicts and controversies. 'Kuruthale' belongs to cambankula and the people of 'kurutala' manage decoration and cooking for festival and ceremony of this local place. The position of 'kuruthale' is selected as hereditary. Mannukaru manages only land regarding ceremony, ritual and cultivation. This position is hereditary .Kuruvan is a leader to each kula .He has advised the problems of ceremony and festival. He takes any problem to u:rumu:ppan, unless he can solve it. 'Kuppe' kula is separated from kurunage, velleka, karattike, cambe, punge, do considered 'kuppe' kula as 'kuppai' (dust pin). The people of 'kuppe' would participate in any marriage but they would not bless. Devane is treated as Dhobies. The people of 'devane' clean the cloth of other kulas with the help of the dinky's. 'Kupp'e and 'devane', who cannot marry with any other kula, can marry within their kula.

#### **Irula Hut**

The tribes prefer to live on hill slopes on past time .But recently who have living in plain area nearby hill. Irula houses of these tribes are built which branches of bamboo trees and roofed with dry coconut leaf and also some grasses. Every house has a separate room to goat and cow dung. The entirely family prefer to use single room.

#### **Birth ceremony**

There is no special ceremony conducted during pregnancy. Usually confinement take place in the husband's house and the girl's mother attends on her along with some other elderly experienced woman.

#### **Puberty**

When a girl attains puberty, her maternal uncle construct temporary bamboo (dabbe) hut. On the ninth day they burn the bamboo (dabbe) then went to temple accompany another girl that time play and dance.

#### **Marriage**

The Irula tribes are very innocent. Because mostly the parents bring their children to meet their life partner in childhood then they will fall in love each other in age of marriage. If parents want to marry son with any bridegroom, they must be married with karupputa:li which is being blessed by the seven kula's people. Then only they can committee marriage with only family otherwise the parents must each other with karupputa:li marriage , because manjata:li wearing people cannot keep any marriage. Vellekakula has habit of inter marriage with all kulas either bride or bridegroom. They

mostly don't send their daughter to any festival programme. Because gents are coming to their festival from different places of local area. They can come to know about bride and bridegroom in each side of the people. So that time arrangement of his parents' marriage in properly in front of the seven kulas.

### **Death**

They have habit of burial dead body and not burning. And otherwise not crying then Pora, Thavilu and Kuzhal are the musical instruments used in accompaniment of the dance. They would not allow the people to burry dead body because of their proper marriage with karupputali.

### **Worship**

Irula tribal are very much faith in god, they of each one god and also saiva and vaisnava religion here. Then sivarathiri festival are celebrating very grandly, because of among the relationship revealed. Sivarathiri is the biggest festival one in ever mostly they do have a feast with palkurumpakavunder-irular to make each other having a good relationship. and other traditional god of Maniarasuamman, Veerakali, Vanapathrakali, Malleswaran temple.

### **Relationship among the castes**

Every social institution undergoes change with day to day with time and growth of social, economic and cultural condition. Irula caste has strong unity and fraternity which are found among them. Vellekakula has habit of inter marriage with all kulas either bride or bridegroomkurunage, can be and peraka have brotherhood relationship and they have not inert-marriage among them, but in present time very few of them want to get intermarriage within the same castes. There are four kinds of Irulas 1. Male Nadu Irulas 2. Vettakedu Irulas 3. Kasabas Irulas 4. Uralirulas Among the not relationship of above types of Hindu irulas. Only marriage and ceremony relationship from Hindu irula inter clan. And otherwise socially among the kavunders and other scheduled caste.

### **Economical and occupational system**

Irulas are a tribal community living in different parts of Tamilnadu. They are a recognized Scheduled Tribe (ST) by the Govt. of India. Their work or occupation is hunting to fulfill food needs and agriculture. By the order of forest authorities they leave the top of mountain and came to the nearby place of the mountain. So they leave hunting and do agriculture for their needs. Irulas cultivate small patches close by their village raising Ragi, Samai They yield paddy, grains, dhalls by agriculture. Their agriculture was spoiled by animals like pig, peacock, and elephants. So they demand the forest authorities to current fence. So also put some rules of not to cut the trees. Because of this crisis they get land

from kudumbakoundar for lease and do agriculture and split the earned amount into two. Most of Erulars were going for building, gold covering works and some of them going to other states for housekeeping, watching jobs. Men are doing the job of getting honey, ginger, onions, pepper, masanic potato, paldayil potato and some medicinal leaves and sell them. Women are growing goat, cow, in maruthamalai, velliankiri, mountainkovil, devotees slippers were keep safe by this women and they earn from this. Now a days government are collecting medicinal plants for this the forest officials uses this irulars.

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