

## A STUDY ON INCOME AND EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF IRULA TRIBES IN PALAKKAD DISTRICT OF KERALA

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### ABSTRACT

The Irulas (Iruians or Irulars), the numerically dominant tribe of Attappady, derive their name from their complexion as *[rula* (pitch black). Irulas are of Tamil origin and formerly occupants of Coimbatore district. It is probable that the Irulas of Attappady are the descendants of those who migrated from Coimbatore to Attappady forests when there was a great water scarcity in Coimbatore and neighboring places. The history of their mass migration dates back to the end of the 16th century or the beginning of the 17th century (Luiz 1962). There are 104 Irula hamlets in Attappady. Irulas are of medium height, long armed and have curly hair, prominent cheek bones and narrow noses. They speak a mixture of *Malayalam*, *Canerese* and *Tamil*. The paper explains income and expenditure pattern of irula tribes in Palakkad district of Kerala. Food, cloth and footwear are essential for the tribes. So the tribes have been given much importance to their basic requirements. Livestock is the major income source for most of the tribes entire district and the wage is another important source of income of the irula tribes from Palakkad.

**KEY WORDS:** Irula Tribe, Income and Expenditure Pattern