

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**MARITAL PRACTICES AMONG A GROUP OF MUSLIM
COMMUNITY LIVING IN COASTAL ODISHA**

**Mir Azad Kalam^{*}, Manideepa Dutta
Gupta Ghosh**

Department of Anthropology, Narasinha Dutt College, Howrah

**Corresponding author: imirazad@gmail.com*

Abstract: *The present study aimed to find out the marital practice among a Muslim community living in the coastal region of Odisha. The people were believed to migrate to this region about 125 years ago. A total of 173 households were sampled from 255 households from the village. Around 282 ever-married women were interviewed using a well-tested schedule. Data related to marriage practice has been collected. In-depth interviews were conducted to understand the participant's perspective about the culture, marriage practices. Results showed around 87% of marriages were conducted within-group. Around 11.3% of marriages were consanguineous marriages. Majority of the participants (31.3%) reported that 'purity in blood' was the reason for marrying cousins followed by 'maintaining peace' in the family (21.9%). The study suggests a reliant relationship between culture and marriage patterns among the study population.*

Keywords: Culture, marriage, inter-marriage, Mirzapur, Odisha.