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The researcher was brought up in Kannur District of Kerala where the Paniya community is widely spread out. The researcher had an opportunity to observe this tribe from his childhood. In those days the researcher never gave a serious thought about them. After several years he had a privilege to get involved with some of the social service activities among them as a part of the social concern of the Church. Many questions were raised in the researcher's mind during this time. Who are these people? What is their heritage and history? What is their religion, language and culture? These questions have remained unanswered since there were no sufficient written records on them.

The researcher also had an opportunity to work as a lecturer among the Northeast hill tribals for five years in Nagaland. It was observed that there are lot of common aspects between Northeast Tribals and Paniyas. This motivated the researcher to study on this topic.

The researcher also had the privilege to teach the subject "Primal Religions and Tribal Sociology" for the past several years in ACTS Academy of Higher Education, Bangalore. This helped the researcher to understand many interesting factors about them. The researcher had to notice several insights on this subject during the course of his teaching. These factors encouraged the researcher to take up an in-depth research study on the subject, ‘Customs, Culture and Religion of Paniya Tribe and their Social Changes’.

This study was very much beneficial personally, through which the researcher had gathered lot of information and received new insights into the research topic. This study and findings may surely throw some light on this area of specialization and will help those who are planning to take up research on tribal related topics.

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