CHAPTER V

Summary and Conclusion

The following general conclusions have been drawn from the present study on the Pulaya Community distributed over six dense forest settlements at Thirumoorthy Hills, Udumalpet, Coimbatore district. The total sample consisted of 170 Pulayas, both men and women selected through Systematic Random Sampling from each of the settlements respectively. Data was collected through interview schedules, Key-informant interview and participant observation with the help of an interview schedule to measure Acceptance of Community, Acceptance of Life-situations and Adjustment in the areas of Community, Family, Occupation and Emotion.

1. There is a clear evidence of a homogeneous tribal culture among the Pulayas in the six settlements studied. This homogeneity prevails irrespective of the ecological factors posing a problem to prompt communication between the settlements. This distinct and unique tribal culture in vogue itself is an indication of a powerful resistance to extraneous and other polluting influences.

2. This homogeneity is revealed in their high level of Acceptance of Community, Acceptance of Life-situations and adjustment in the areas of Community, Family, Occupation and emotion irrespective of the differences between the settlements.
3. Though there is a high level of acceptance of community and lifesituations and Adjustment, different levels of inter-settlement differences are also found which may be attributed to some functional variations within the settlements.

4. Generally speaking acceptance of community and life situations and adjustment have not been found to be influenced by variables studied such as sex, migration, debt, active role in community activities and size of the family. However the influence of these variables are rather selective and not consistent.

5. There is significant inter-correlation and association among the indicators of mental health used in the present study. This is a confirmation of the assumption that acceptance and adjustment are indispensable criteria of mental health.

6. Acceptance and adjustment go together and this is revealed in the analysis of the acceptance of community and life-situations of high and low groups. Significant difference exists in both acceptance of community and life situations between high and low adjustment groups. Though this difference between two groups is striking, the high level of acceptance of community and life-situations among pulayas in each settlement stand as a solid proof of the homogeneity of Pulaya culture.