

KULIS

The Kulis are numerically a small community in Orissa. The word Kullis has been derived from the word Kulina meaning clean work, denoting their traditional occupation of weaving. The tribe is endogamous and are divided into various exogamous totemistic septs (Gotras) i.e. Bagho (Tiger), Nago (Cobra), (Kakar) Basur (Kakar), Neial (Neula) and Mohanto. Monogamy is common rule in their society. Kulis family is nuclear, patrilocal and patrilineal. Inheritance of paternal property follows the rule of primogeniture in male line only. They observe puberty rites (Rajathala) for pubescent girls attaining their first menarche. Marriage through negotiation is ideal form of marriage among them. The other modes of acquiring mates are through mutual consent, Junior levirate, sororate and cross cousin marriage, remarriage of widows, widowers and divorcees are permitted by their society. Payment of bride price (Kanya mul) is prevalent. They practise burial to dispose of their dead and the death pollution continues for eleven days. They have their own traditional community council headed by Gountia and assisted by Dakua, their messenger and the posts of these office bearers are hereditary in nature.

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