

## STATUS OF HBS DISTRIBUTION AND $\beta$ -GLOBIN GENE HAPLOTYPES AMONG SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE POPULATIONS OF ODISHA

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*The present study aims to assess sickle cell hemoglobin (HbS) status and associated haplotypes within the  $\beta$ -globin gene cluster among individuals in Koraput district of Odisha. The prevalence of HbAS was found to be 11.18%. Molecular screening was conducted at 4 specific sites, i.e., Hba/S, HincII- $\psi\beta$ , HincII-3'  $\psi\beta$ , and HinfI 5'  $\beta$ . The Arab-Indian haplotype was identified as the most frequent haplotype associated with HbS. Atypical haplotypes such as Senegal, Benin, and Bantu were also observed at low frequencies.*

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