

## **EXPLORING TRADITIONAL FOOD PREFERENCES OVER AGE AND GENDER AMONG THE MONPA TRIBES OF WEST KAMENG DISTRICT, ARUNACHAL PRADESH (INDIA)**

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*Based on the physiological and psychological motivations, this research examines the preferences of traditional food across age and gender among the Monpa tribes of West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. The survey was administered to 150 respondents (above 18 years of age) in 30 (thirty) Monpa villages of West Kameng district. The schedule about their preferences was filled up for 11 traditional food items and 1 other category (i.e. non-traditional item) using a 5-points rating scale. The respondents were stratified into three groups based on age viz. 18 - 34 years, 35 - 54 years, and above 55 years. 50 respondents from each category were sampled, of which 50% were female. The weighted average and ANOVA have been applied to test the hypothesis at a 95% level of significance. The results show significant age-based preferences and insignificant gender-based preferences.*

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