

**SpringerBriefs in Well-Being and Quality  
of Life Research**

SpringerBriefs in Well-Being and Quality-of-Life Research are concise summaries of cutting-edge research and practical applications across the field of well-being and quality of life research. These compact refereed monographs are under the editorial supervision of an international Advisory Board\*. Volumes are 50 to 125 pages (approximately 20,000–70,000 words), with a clear focus. The series covers a range of content from professional to academic such as: snapshots of hot and/or emerging topics, in-depth case studies, and timely reports of state-of-the art analytical techniques. The scope of the series spans the entire field of Well-Being Research and Quality-of-Life Studies, with a view to significantly advance research. The character of the series is international and interdisciplinary and will include research areas such as: health, cross-cultural studies, gender, children, education, work and organizational issues, relationships, job satisfaction, religion, spirituality, ageing from the perspectives of sociology, psychology, philosophy, public health and economics in relation to Well-being and Quality-of-Life research. Volumes in the series may analyze past, present and/or future trends, as well as their determinants and consequences. Both solicited and unsolicited manuscripts are considered for publication in this series. SpringerBriefs in Well-Being and Quality-of-Life Research will be of interest to a wide range of individuals with interest in quality of life studies, including sociologists, psychologists, economists, philosophers, health researchers, as well as practitioners across the social sciences. Briefs will be published as part of Springer's eBook collection, with millions of users worldwide. In addition, Briefs will be available for individual print and electronic purchase. Briefs are characterized by fast, global electronic dissemination, standard publishing contracts, easy-to-use manuscript preparation and formatting guidelines, and expedited production schedules. We aim for publication 8–12 weeks after acceptance.

More information about this series at <http://www.springer.com/series/10150>

Gareth Davey

# Quality of Life and Well-Being in an Indian Ethnic Community

The Case of Badagas

 Springer

Gareth Davey  
School of Anthropology and Conservation  
The University of Kent  
Canterbury, Kent  
UK

ISSN 2211-7644 ISSN 2211-7652 (electronic)  
SpringerBriefs in Well-Being and Quality of Life Research  
ISBN 978-3-319-90661-4 ISBN 978-3-319-90662-1 (eBook)  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-90662-1>

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018939310

© The Author(s) 2018

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are reserved by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Printed on acid-free paper

This Springer imprint is published by the registered company Springer International Publishing AG part of Springer Nature  
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

# Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>Introduction</b> . . . . .                                | 1  |
| Once upon a Time: The Beginnings . . . . .                   | 2  |
| Migration and Identity . . . . .                             | 5  |
| Localisation in the Nilgiri Hills . . . . .                  | 7  |
| Badagas as One Big Family . . . . .                          | 9  |
| Language, Religion, and Folk Medicine . . . . .              | 11 |
| Traditional Economy . . . . .                                | 12 |
| Badagas as Colonial Subjects . . . . .                       | 14 |
| Desire for Change . . . . .                                  | 18 |
| Concluding Summary and Chapter Outlines . . . . .            | 20 |
| References . . . . .   | 23 |
| <b>Methodology</b> . . . . .                                 | 27 |
| Fieldsites: Multi-sited Ethnography . . . . .                | 28 |
| Social Identity and Symbolic Interactionism . . . . .        | 30 |
| Quality of Life . . . . .                                    | 34 |
| Data . . . . .   | 37 |
| Concluding Summary . . . . .                                 | 41 |
| References . . . . .   | 42 |
| <b>Badagas Going Digital</b> . . . . .                       | 45 |
| Past and Present . . . . .                                   | 49 |
| Pride of Being Badaga . . . . .                              | 52 |
| Poverty and Social Inequality in the Nilgiri Hills . . . . . | 56 |
| Fundraising and Social Activism . . . . .                    | 61 |
| Concluding Summary . . . . .                                 | 66 |
| References . . . . .   | 69 |
| <b>Migrants' Voices</b> . . . . .                            | 71 |
| Departing the Nilgiri Hills . . . . .                        | 76 |
| The Promised Land: Living in Bangalore . . . . .             | 79 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Being Badaga . . . . .  | 82  |
| Becoming City Badaga . . . . .                                      | 87  |
| Concluding Summary . . . . .  | 92  |
| References . . . . .  | 93  |
| <b>Conclusion</b> . . . . .   | 95  |
| Being Badaga in India Today . . . . .                               | 96  |
| Intersections of Quality of Life, Identity, and Migration . . . . . | 102 |
| From Othering to Self-Othering . . . . .                            | 105 |
| Parting Thoughts . . . . .  | 107 |
| References . . . . .  | 109 |