

Colonial cousin

A Dutch scientist has made several in-depth studies on the ecological concerns of

Kerala.
V. KAMATHAN
profiles the anthropologist



anthropologist

TWO decades ago, a village of Kerala was a hotbed of excitement to its inhabitants. The excitement had been stirred by a Dutch scientist besides the Maranikulam community. Kuthanour colony was the scene of everything for poor households who were long deprived of their own land. Peter Van Der Werff, a Dutch anthropologist, had come into the village to study the life-cycle of the handloom. He had been invited to explain the ecological concerns of the community. Peter stayed close to the colony, and he was invited into the unsullied spaces of the

with occasional conversations with local farmers and rubber-tappers, Peter read a professional study of their psyche and socio-economic behaviour. The study was a research in 'Modern Poverty', an anthropologist's deceptively dignified society.

"People in this society are incredibly sociable and sensitive, and ever changing. This social society consists not for return to its regularity," Peter attributes to the ecological concerns of employers and casual labourers who are oppressed by the rural sector. "There are subtle

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