

Honorable Editor of Utkal Deepika

Sir,

We shall be obliged if you would like to place the following report (news) in your newspaper.

There lives a Vaishnav in our Orissa province since long, who eats only fruits. He is, at present, selecting the dense forest of Dhenkanal and some other *gadjats* as his place of habitation, initiating majority of the population of these areas to his religious cult, enhancing the number of his followers day by day. We can say, at the least of our count, that the number of his followers cannot be less than a thousand. About three hundred of those have already obtained Kumbhipata (“bark wear”). Though the rest are consecrated institutionally, yet they have not left their home. Within a few days they may wander wearing *kaupina*. It is a matter of grief that being influenced by such a stupid and barbarous man such a large number of people of Orissa would abandon their *grhastha dharma*. Hence we pray that the government would pay attention to it and take necessary steps to abolish this practice. (Utkal Deepika, 20th August 1871)