

Some Karen families went back to Burma in 1967 during repatriation of the Burmese. It is reported that some families were motivated by the Burmese to accompany them to Burma while majority of the Karens stayed back in Andamans.

Occupation

At present the Karens are predominantly cultivators but at the same time they go for hunting, fishing including shell fishery, boat building and government service.

The Karens continue to cultivate their traditional Burma variety of paddy. The rice, of this traditional variety of paddy is black in colour. This rice has considerable demand in the local market in Mayabunder as people from other communities too like to purchase it to prepare the special ~~bar~~ breakfast. Though many Karens have adopted other varieties of paddy like other settlers they still prefer to retain their traditional variety of paddy. The Karens have a number of traditional distinct agricultural implements. The list of the traditional implements with their brief description and percentage of families who still possess such implements are given in Appendix .

Karens are adept hunters. They used to hunt the wild animals like pigs, deer in the Andaman forests earlier when these animals were not endangered. Karens used to go for day and weeks together for hunting expedition.