

## Origin of An Indian:an Anthropological Synthesis



### Anthropology

**KEYWORDS:** Anthropologists, Race, Homo sapiens sapiens, DNA

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### ABSTRACT

*India is a melting pot of various races. Human biologists and raciologists are always curious to map out the genesis and spread of the population of India. The article explains the flow of population from the African origin to India and Indian sub-continent. Current existence of humans in India with their biological and historical reasons like genetics and Indus valley invasion are the crux of this piece of paper.*

**1. Prologue:** For years long, there is always a question mark blinks before anthropologists pertaining to the origin and evolution of world population in general and Indian population in particular. This controversy extends to the realm of historians as well. Historians rely on the written records at one hand and archaeological findings at the other. So far as the matter of anthropologists is concerned, it is the job of Physical anthropologists to trace out the human ancestry with specific reference to fossils findings (human remains excavated, those human ancestor used to inhabit on earth millions and millions year ago) and estimating racial criteria (physical features of living humans e. g. skin colour, shape of nose, hair etc. applying certain anthropological rules) of various population inhabiting different corners of the earth.

**2.1 Racial Elements in Indian Population:** Racial Elements Indian population is always a matter of argument among anthropologists. The cause may be sited to the diversity among the people of this nation. Pluralism is vividly observed in cultures, societies and racial elements (physical features, appearance) as well. If a person visit north India , Aryan elements are more common i.e. tall stature ( height) , fair complexion , sharp of nose ; on the contrary , in south India reverse features are observed i.e. short stature , dark complexion and flat nose too (Dravidian elements) . Amazingly, more local variations are there among the inhabitants of eastern India and western India. Thus it is an almost impossible task for raciologists (scientists who study races) to put Indian population into a single racial category. Unquestionably, India is thus called a *Melting Pot* of races.

**2.2** Next comes the question how come this country is populated? Human genetists (scientists who study heredity) now confirmed the fact that human population first originated in Africa (Eve theory - the mother of present day population traced back to Estern Africa). Logically, first originated the African population, then they migrated across the globe. Probably, the migration could have been a simple task for this population in the undivided world (Geologists are of the opinion, millions and millions years ago, there was single land surrounded by great sea .Then originated continents by plate tectonics). Henceforth, as the other nations of the world, *India owes its original population to Africa.*

**2.3** Reconstructing evolutionary history (origin and development of organisms or living beings) of Indian population will remain an incomplete task until and unless there shall be enough fossil evidences before anthropologists to reach a finite conclusion. Unfortunately, in Indian context, rarely fossil clues are obtained in archaeological sites, insufficient enough to link the evolutionary history of this nation. Researches are going on to find out the correct evolutionary chain in India.

**3.1 Indian Population: Historical Perspectives** Anthropologists have fixed the origin of first population of world; but till

date unable trace back Indian racial origin. Skeletal remains of the Narmada valley throw least light to rebuilding theory. But regarding the racial impurity little logic can be sited. India inevitably had its own indigenous population prior to Aryan invasion (otherwise only Aryan elements are prevailing in contemporary India). Intermixture had taken place in between the aborigines and Aryans giving rise to a mix population. Subsequent inter-mating destroyed racial purity of India. This may be the reason why racial pluralism is well observed in present day India.

**3.2** British imperialism unquestionably a prime factor to penetrate new racial elements to this country. In fact French and Portugal colonisation is more responsible in reforming Indian population than those of Britishers. *French and Portugal colonisation*, as much before to those of Britishers, contributed few racial elements prior to British invasion. In western India, we have got the Parsi community exhibiting Aryan racial elements. This is only because they invaded India in early 18<sup>th</sup> century from Middle East (Western Asia i.e. Iraq, Iran, Kazakhstan etc.). Among the population south India French racial element is obvious as French colony was established near Pondicherry (Union Territory). But this has nothing to interfere with the Dravidian population of Deep South. Interlinking the people of Tamil Nadu in particular, with those of Sri Lankan citizens, Physical Anthropologists have assured extreme uniformity between these two groups. It is expected Indian – Dravidians shifted to the then Ceylon via sea route years ago .Thus great Hindu epic the Ramayana has some hidden facts i.e. Rama invaded Lanka.

**3.3** Picturising the north-east people of India before a layman will definitely be mistaken by him as a Chinese citizen .These people must have entered India from its north – east frontier. The epicanthic fold (upper eye lid folding) that is common among these two groups, helped anthropologists to derive a definite conclusion i.e. these people with eye fold (Mongoloids) invaded India from Far East.

**4.1 Human Genetics and Human Variations:** To make a sure conclusion, Human genetists are taken into account. The DNA (deoxyriboneuclic acid, purest form of gene) is matched. Comparison is done to draw probability among races and sub- races. It is a purely a dependable formula to be relied upon. This DNA analysis can be performed taking samples from any body part into account. In this method, by analyzing m-DNA (mitochondrial DNA, found in mitochondrion of the cell), human genetists traced human origin to Africa.

**4.2** Opinions of cultural anthropologists open clue for further syntheses. To them tribal population congregates the indigenous population of India. Instancing a few tribes like Kondhs (irrespective of the class), Santhals, Bhils, and Gadaba (irrespective of their habitational site) has enough Negroid elements to be put under the Negrito section. Undoubtedly, as Negroes are the ancient population of them all, culture mappers, very rightly put

forward their judgement , placing tribals as original dwellers of India .

**4.3** This apart surprisingly these tribal populations perform certain religious habits, those were partially observed among the Neanderthals or the Cromagnons (ancestors of present day humans- Homo sapiens sapiens ) . Anthropophagi (man killing man , for food ) prevalent among Neanderthals , till occur among the Australian aborigines . Likely , cult worship found in Neolithic period ( developed Stone Age ) , till found among Indian tribes . Thus culture does help in unraveling few mysteries in human evolutionary sequence in India .

**5. Conclusion:** However, contemporary racial analysis in India defines Indian race as impure and put origin of an Indian in question. It is for sure all the nations were being populated from single stock i.e. Africa, until the new theory depicts Australian population as a completely pure one i.e. lacking genetic chain with that of Africa . Likewise, future may reveal some absolutely new propositions placing origin of Indian population in a new path by unveiling new dimensions in the evolutionary history in India .

## REFERENCE

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