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Anthropology short notes

Problems of the tribal Communities

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination · Anthropology Paper 2 · Anthropology GS 2 (Paper II)

6.2 Problems of the tribal Communities-Land alienation, poverty, indebtedness, low literacy, poor educational facilities, unemployment, under-employment, health and nutrition.

Short notes by official syllabus heading.

Revision notes for the Anthropology optional. Confirm thinkers and examples against standard texts and recent papers.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/archives/anthropology-notes/paper-2/problems-of-the-tribal-communities/>

Problems Of The Tribal Communities

Definition

Problems of the tribal Communities

Example / case study

Land alienation narratives in tribal communities.

Thinkers

Clifford Geertz - "Thick description" in Balinese Cockfight.: Quantitative Data.

Definition

Tradition: Pradhan Gonds = chroniclers, preserve myths & genealogies.

Example / case study

Land alienation narratives in tribal communities.

Thinkers

Leaders: Bholanath Sahay, Ganga Narain Singh.

Definition

Anthropometric Methods: This involves quantitative measurements to evaluate undernutrition, growth, and obesity. Common indicators include Height, Weight, Body Mass Index (BMI), mid-upper arm circumference, and skinfold thickness. Standardized techniques were systematized by **John Weiner and J.A. Lourie (1969)**. Studies of Indian tribal communities often use these to show Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED).

Example / case study

in Indian Tribes: **ICMR (2009)** studies utilized these techniques to identify widespread Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED) among Indian tribal communities, using Body Mass Index (BMI) and mid-upper arm circumference as primary indicators of health status. Paul Farmer's research in Haiti and Rwanda demonstrated that diseases like HIV and tuberculosis are not just biological accidents but are "socially produced" through colonial exploitation and economic dependency. Similarly, Nancy Scheper-Hughes observed that "emotional detachment" from weak infants among impoverished Brazilian mothers was an embodied response to extreme scarcity-a "political economy of the body".

1: Lactose Tolerance: This biological trait evolved in specific pastoralist cultures with a history of milk-drinking (cultural economy), showing how a cultural adaptation changed the biological capacity of a population to thrive in their ecological setting.

2: High-Altitude Adaptation: In high-altitude regions like Tibet or the Andes, the ecological stress is hypoxia (low oxygen). Human adaptability here is integrated: it involves biological changes like increased lung capacity and the EPAS1 gene, as well as cultural adjustments like transhumance (seasonal migration) and iron-rich diets.

Definition

Absence of dominant caste group.

Definition

Pre-agricultural level of existence (Stone-age type life)

Example / case study

Land alienation narratives in tribal communities.

Definition

KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Odisha) → educates 30,000 tribal students; claims to prevent Maoism, but criticized for "brainwashing" & loss of tribal culture.

Example / case study

Haimendorf's teacher training in tribal areas
ST Health Card for tribals outside their native place.
Publish "**Tribal Health Index**" every 3 years.

Definition

Land alienation & displacement.

Example / case study

Land alienation narratives in tribal communities.

Definition

Article 366(25): ST means tribes or tribal communities deemed under **Art. 342**.

Example / case study

Land alienation narratives in tribal communities.

Definition

Training in traditions, values, discipline.

Thinkers

Philosophy for NEFA (1957) - Verrier Elwin Approach: Vidyarthi's + K.N. Sahay's model (forces of change).

Definition

Single window, **Census** & baseline survey.

Example / case study

Banjara Packers and Movers of Mughals (lost jobs after Mughal decline). Gadi Lohar (royal blacksmiths of Maharashtra after Mughal arrival). British suspicion → feared nomads as threat to empire . Racism & understanding of caste → communities to be criminal by birth

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