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Anthropology short notes

Tools of data collection

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination · Anthropology GS 1 · Anthropology GS 1 (Paper I)

(c) Tools of data collection: observation, interview, schedules, questionnaire, case study, genealogy, life-history, oral history, secondary sources of information, participatory methods.

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/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/tools-of-data-collection/>

Tools Of Data Collection**Definition**

Empiricism - observation-based, scientific & systematic.

Example / case study

Land alienation narratives in tribal communities.

Thinkers

• Bronislaw Malinowski - Trobriand Islanders (Kula exchange): E.E. Evans-Pritchard - Nuer political system; W.H.R. Rivers - Torres Strait Expedition; Kenneth Good - Yanomami Tribe of Brazil. • Interview - Margaret Mead (Samoa adolescence study): Genealogical method - W.H.R. Rivers (Toda tribe); Survey method - M.N. Srinivas (Rampura village study); Case study - Oscar Lewis (Culture of Poverty, Mexico). Bronislaw Malinowski - participant observation; culture exists to satisfy biological and psychological needs.

Definition

Established Dept. of Anthropology, Calcutta University.

Thinkers

S.C. Roy (1871-1942) - First Indian Ethnographer • Interview - Margaret Mead (Samoa adolescence study): Genealogical method - W.H.R. Rivers (Toda tribe); Survey method - M.N. Srinivas (Rampura village study); Case study - Oscar Lewis (Culture of Poverty, Mexico). Bronislaw Malinowski - participant observation; culture exists to satisfy biological and psychological needs.

Definition

Consciousness is always directed towards something (memory, idea, object).

Example / case study

Malinowski's study of Trobriand Islanders. Clifford Geertz - Cockfight (removed personal bias). Travis Martin - Veterans' homecoming experiences.

Definition

Separation from old identity, roles, and outside life

Example / case study

Land alienation narratives in tribal communities.

Thinkers

- Interview - Margaret Mead (Samoa adolescence study): Genealogical method - W.H.R. Rivers (Toda tribe); Survey method - M.N. Srinivas (Rampura village study); Case study - Oscar Lewis (Culture of Poverty, Mexico). Bronislaw Malinowski - participant observation; culture exists to satisfy biological and psychological needs. L.H. Morgan (Iroquois, 1840s - though semi-field): British Field Tradition.

Definition

Holistic approach | Specialized approach

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. in Indian Tribes: Clinical surveys conducted in tribal regions of Odisha and Madhya Pradesh revealed a high prevalence of Goiter (iodine deficiency) and Bitot's spots (Vitamin A deficiency) in Indian Context: According to **NFHS-5 (2019-21)** data, more than 57% of Indian women aged 15-49 are anemic. This assessment relies on hemoglobin tests to provide biochemical evidence of poor iron status across the population. in Global Tribes: Among the Maasai pastoralists, **Galvin (1992)** used dietary recall to document their extreme seasonal dependence on milk and meat, showing how their health fluctuates with their herding cycles

Thinkers

Eric Wolf | Anthropology as an interdisciplinary discipline

Definition

Tribal customs incorporated into Hinduism → smooth absorption.

Example / case study

Yellamma - mother goddess of tribes, seen as incarnation of Parvati. Bhil story - integrated into Shiva-Parvati narrative. Khasas (UK) - polyandry linked to Pandavas.

Thinkers

Eg. OBC rise in North India (Jaffrelot: Silent Revolution). • Interview - Margaret Mead (Samoa adolescence study); Genealogical method - W.H.R. Rivers (Toda tribe); Survey method - M.N. Srinivas (Rampura village study); Case study - Oscar Lewis (Culture of Poverty, Mexico). Bronislaw Malinowski - participant observation; culture exists to satisfy biological and psychological needs.

Definition

Biological anthropology studies human evolution, heredity, variation and adaptation using scientific methods, while recognising the influence of culture on biology.

Example / case study

Raj Banshi: Different status in Assam (OBC), WB (SC), Meghalaya (ST). Earlier Kshatriya demand in 1921 status, then sc status(WB) then Kamatpur state having ST status. **Bodo vs Kachari** (Assam): Kacharis claimed to be Bodos → conflict with Bodos. Religious & Linguistic Minorities in India

Definition

Technique, Method and Methodology

Example / case study

Land alienation narratives in tribal communities. Joint Forest Management (JFM) under FRA 2006.

Thinkers

Clifford Geertz - "Thick description" in Balinese Cockfight.: Quantitative Data. L.H. Morgan (Iroquois, 1840s - though semi-field): British Field Tradition.

Definition

Empiricism - observation-based, scientific & systematic.

Example / case study

• Tribal narratives of displacement in India Traced migration from Deccan-Konkan region → Son valley → **Chotanagpur Plateau**.

Thinkers

L.H. Morgan (Iroquois, 1840s - though semi-field): British Field Tradition.

Definition

secondary sources of information

Example / case study

Land alienation narratives in tribal communities.

Thinkers

• Interview - Margaret Mead (Samoa adolescence study); Genealogical method - W.H.R. Rivers (Toda tribe); Survey method - M.N. Srinivas (Rampura village study); Case study - Oscar Lewis (Culture of Poverty, Mexico). Bronislaw Malinowski - participant observation; culture exists to satisfy biological and psychological needs.

Definition

Ethnography and its type(7) & ethnology

Example / case study

Land alienation narratives in tribal communities.

Thinkers

• Interview - Margaret Mead (Samoa adolescence study); Genealogical method - W.H.R. Rivers (Toda tribe); Survey method - M.N. Srinivas (Rampura village study); Case study - Oscar Lewis (Culture of Poverty, Mexico). Bronislaw Malinowski - participant observation; culture exists to satisfy biological and psychological needs.