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Anthropology short notes**UPSC Mains Anthropology Paper 1 - Anthropology GS 1 (Paper I)**

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

UPSC Anthropology optional Paper I - meaning, theory, methods and biological anthropology, mapped as GS 1 of the optional. Headings: Meaning, Scope and development of Anthropology. • Relationships with other disciplines • Social-cultural Anthropology. • Biological Anthropology. • Archaeological Anthropology. • Linguistic Anthropology. • Biological and Cultural factors in human evolution. • Theories of Organic Evolution (Pre-Darwinian, Darwinian and Post-Darwinian). • Synthetic theory of evolution • Characteristics of Primates • Plio-pleistocene hominids in South and East Africa • Homo erectus • Neanderthal man • Rhodesian man. • Homo sapiens • The biological basis of Life • Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology. Chronology • Cultural Evolution • Paleolithic • Mesolithic • Neolithic • Chalcolithic • Copper-Bronze Age • Iron Age • The Nature of Culture • The Nature of Society • Marriage • Family • Kinship • Economic Organization • Political Organization and Social Control • Religion • Classical evolutionism (Tylor, Morgan and Frazer) • Historical particularism (Boas) • Functionalism (Malinowski) • Structuralism (Lévi-Strauss and E. Leach) • Culture and personality (Benedict, Mead, Linton, Kardiner and Cora-du Bois) • Neo-evolutionism (Childe, White, Steward, Sahlins and Service) • Cultural materialism (Harris) • Symbolic and interpretive theories (Turner, Schneider and Geertz) • Cognitive theories (Tyler, Conklin) • Post-modernism in anthropology. • Culture, Language and Communication • Fieldwork tradition in anthropology • Distinction between technique, method and methodology • Tools of data collection • Analysis, interpretation and presentation of data. • Human Genetics • Mendelian genetics in man-family study, single factor, multifactor, lethal, sub-lethal and polygenic inheritance in man. • Concept of genetic polymorphism and selection, Mendelian population, Hardy-Weinberg law • Numerical and structural aberrations (disorders). • Sex chromosomal aberration • Autosomal aberrations • Genetic imprints in human disease, genetic screening, genetic counseling, human DNA profiling, gene mapping and genome s • Race and racism, biological basis of morphological variation of non-metric and metric characters. Racial criteria, racia • Age, sex and population variation as genetic marker • Concepts and methods of Ecological Anthropology: Bio-cultural Adaptations • Epidemiological Anthropology • Factors affecting growth and development • Ageing and senescence. Theories and observations • Relevance of menarche, menopause and other bioevents to fertility. Fertility patterns and differentials. • Demographic theories • Biological and socio-ecological factors influencing fecundity, fertility, natality and mortality. • Applications of Anthropology.

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/syllabus/anthropology/gs-1/>

Meaning, Scope and development of Anthropology.**Definition**

Anthropology is the holistic, comparative study of humans - biological evolution, culture, language, institutions and behaviour - across time and space (anthropos = human; logos = study).

Example / case study

Harappan urban planning is reconstructed from material remains, showing how archaeology recovers past social organisation. Tribal welfare uses anthropological field methods such as PRA/RRA so schemes fit local culture rather than a one-size plan.

Thinkers

E.A. Hoebel - Anthropology is the study of man and his works. L.P. Vidyarthi - three phases of Indian anthropology: Formative (1774-1919, colonial surveys), Constructive (1920-1949, institutional fieldwork), Analytical (from 1950).

Definition

Scope spans four branches (CLAP) - Cultural, Linguistic, Archaeological and Physical anthropology - plus applied work in health, development, forensics and policy.

Example / case study

Medical anthropology explains why vaccination or healing behaviour differs by culture, not only by biology. Forensic anthropology identifies human remains after disasters or crime, linking osteology to identity.

Thinkers

Franz Boas - four-field approach: biological, archaeological, linguistic and cultural study of humans together. Ralph Piddington - mapped economic anthropology around production, distribution and consumption in social context.

Definition

The subject moved from armchair unilinear evolution and colonial administration, through field ethnography and structural-functional analysis, to applied and reflexive anthropology.

Example / case study

Formative phase (1774-1919): Risley's People of India and Thurston's Castes and Tribes of Southern India - survey anthropology for colonial rule. Constructive phase (1920-1949): Calcutta University department (1920); Majumdar on the Ho, Elwin in Bastar, Karve on caste and kinship.

Thinkers

L.P. Vidyarthi - Formative, Constructive and Analytical phases of anthropology in India. E.B. Tylor - unilinear evolution (savagery-barbarism-civilisation) and the doctrine of survivals. Franz Boas - rejected universal stages; each culture has its own history (historical particularism).

Relationships with other disciplines**Definition**

Anthropology has evolved from a colonial and evolutionary discipline into a holistic, reflexive and interdisciplinary science that seeks to understand humans in their biological, cultural and historical totality. By integrating insights from natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, it provides one of the most comprehensive frameworks for understanding human diversity, adaptation and social change.

Definition

Anthropology, defined as the scientific and holistic study of human beings, has undergone a profound evolution from its origins as a tool for colonial administration to a reflexive, interdisciplinary science. As Eric Wolf remarked, the discipline acts as a "bond between subject matters," bridging the gap between natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. Its evolution can be traced through several distinct theoretical and methodological shifts.

Example / case study

Study of caste and kinship in India draws on both sociology and social anthropology.

Thinkers

Core Philosophy: Thinkers like E.B. Tylor (the "**Father of Modern Anthropology**"), Lewis Henry Morgan, and James Frazer proposed Unilinear Evolution, suggesting all societies progress through identical stages (e.g., Savagery → Barbarism → Civilization). Historical Particularism: Franz Boas (the "**Father of American Anthropology**") rejected universal laws, arguing that each culture has a unique history. He introduced the Four-Field Approach (Biological, Archaeological, Linguistic, and Cultural) to gather comprehensive empirical data.: The Golden Age of Fieldwork: Functionalism. Bio-cultural Functionalism: Bronislaw Malinowski pioneered Participant Observation, arguing that culture exists solely to satisfy biological and psychological needs. Structural Functionalism: A.R. Radcliffe-Brown applied an "**Organic Analogy**," viewing society as a system where institutions function like organs to maintain the stability of the social structure.: Structural and Psychological Turns. Structuralism: Claude Lévi-Strauss argued that human thought is patterned through binary oppositions (e.g., **Nature vs. Culture**) and that culture, like language, is a mental construct.

Definition

Anthropology occupies a unique position among the social sciences because it integrates insights from biology, sociology, psychology, history, archaeology, medicine and environmental sciences. This interdisciplinary character enables anthropology to provide a comprehensive understanding of humans as biological organisms, social beings and cultural creators, making it one of the most holistic disciplines in the social sciences.

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Thinkers

Hoebel | Anthropology and Sociology are closely related

Definition

Ethnology is the comparative study of cultures.

Thinkers

Hoebel | Anthropology and Sociology are closely related Evans-Pritchard | Social Anthropology is part of Sociology; Ethnology classifies cultures **Durkheim** | Influenced Functional Anthropology S. C. Dube | Historical context in Indian Anthropology K. S. Singh | Tribal and historical studies

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Definition

Use field studies and empirical data.

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Social-cultural Anthropology.

Definition

Cultural Anthropology is the study of learned behaviour, beliefs, customs, traditions, institutions, and values of different human societies.

Example / case study

Analysis of Harappan weights and urban planning provides evidence not only about technology but also about economic organisation and social regulation. Material remains → scientific analysis → reconstruction of past human behaviour and institutions. 3. Linguistic Anthropology - Language + Worldview Linguistic anthropology studies the relationship between language, culture and society.

Thinkers

K. S. Singh | Tribal and historical studies Bronislaw Malinowski | Fieldwork; Cultural Anthropology
Franz Boas | Cultural Anthropology; Historical Particularism Benjamin Lee Whorf | Linguistic
Relativity

Definition

Cultural Anthropology is the study of learned behaviour, beliefs, customs, traditions, institutions, and values of different human societies.

Example / case study

Information is reconstructed almost entirely through archaeological evidence. Together they explain humans from biological, cultural, linguistic and historical perspectives. Anthropology today extends far beyond the study of tribes.

Thinkers

E.A. Hoebel: "Anthropology is the study of man and his works."

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Example / case study

over-consumption of resources → karma teaches restraint. Lucia Michelutti (The Vernacularisation of Democracy, 2008) → Yadavs of UP link identity to Krishna descent. John Cort (Jains in the World, 2001) → Oswals consider themselves superior to other Jain castes (Shrimals, Porwals). Anuja Agrawal (Chaste Wives and Prostitute Sisters, 2008) → Bedia community narrates their Rajput origin despite prostitution as occupation.

Biological Anthropology.**Definition**

The discipline has evolved from a "Science of Man" focused on the "primitive" to a global, reflexive discipline that addresses contemporary issues like Digital Anthropology, Medical Anthropology, and AI technology. As society changes, anthropology continues to adapt, fulfilling its role as a holistic framework for understanding human diversity and survival.

Thinkers

Neo-Evolutionism: Revived evolutionary theory by explaining cultural change through technology and ecology. Leslie White proposed that cultural development is a function of energy harnessed ($C = E \times T$), while Julian Steward introduced Cultural Ecology, focusing on multilineal evolution and environmental adaptation. Cultural Materialism: Marvin Harris argued that the primary driver of culture is the material constraints of existence, organized into a hierarchy of Infrastructure, Structure, and Superstructure.: The Symbolic and Reflexive Turn (Late 20th Century - Present). Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology: Clifford Geertz viewed culture as a "text" to be read through Thick Description, while Victor Turner focused on the dynamic role of rituals and Communitas. Metabolic Living: **Harris Solomon (2016)** studied obesity and diabetes in India, linking the physical changes in the Indian body to shifting food systems and global capital.

Definition

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

Example / case study

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Definition

Drives cycle of suffering until Moksha is attained.

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Archaeological Anthropology.

Definition

Studies past human societies through material remains.

Example / case study

Lactase persistence → long-term milk consumption in pastoral populations → selection for lactose tolerance. Thus, biological anthropology connects genetic evolution with culturally created dietary practices. 2. Archaeological Anthropology - Material Science + Human Meaning Archaeological anthropology reconstructs past human societies through artifacts, ecofacts and features.

Thinkers

Bronislaw Malinowski | Fieldwork; Cultural Anthropology Franz Boas | Cultural Anthropology; Historical Particularism Benjamin Lee Whorf | Linguistic Relativity

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Linguistic Anthropology.**Definition**

Studies language across time & space

Example / case study

Malinowski's study of Trobriand Islanders. The Enduring Voices Project (National Geographic) documents endangered languages through audio-visual records.

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Biological and Cultural factors in human evolution.**Definition**

Studies the biological evolution and variation of human beings.

Theories of Organic Evolution (Pre-Darwinian, Darwinian and Post-Darwinian).**Definition**

Franz Boas strongly countered this approach.

Definition

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Synthetic theory of evolution**Definition**

The Synthetic Theory of Evolution (Neo-Darwinism) is the modern explanation of evolution that integrates Darwin's theory of Natural Selection with Mendelian genetics, population genetics, cytology, molecular biology, and paleontology. It explains evolution as changes in allele (gene) frequencies within populations over generations.

Example / case study

Long neck of giraffe developed by stretching to reach leaves.

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Definition

Evolution is inconsistent and asymmetrical - different parts of an organism evolve at different rates and different times.

Example / case study

In human evolution, bipedalism evolved before a larger brain. 1□ Boundaries between modules are hard to define, as body traits are interconnected and influence one another. 3□ Cope's Rule(T: Like rope want to be larger) States that living species tend to evolve toward larger body size over time.

Definition

Adaptive radiation is the process by which organisms rapidly diversify from a common ancestor into multiple new forms when environmental changes make new resources available or create new ecological niches.

Example / case study

Humans vs other terrestrial animals - humans dominate resources leading to exclusion of others.

Definition

"Nothing is free" - evolution takes time and selective death; this is the cost.

Example / case study

Lemurs in Madagascar diversified into over 100 species, each adapted to unique environments. Old World monkeys and apes diversified into multiple species - baboons, gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and humans. Refers to the development of similar traits in unrelated species due to similar environmental pressures, not common ancestry. Such species remain distinct overall but show functional similarity in specific traits.

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Definition

Refers to the evolutionary diversification within the primate family, including humans, apes, and monkeys, into multiple species adapted to varied environments.

Example / case study

Darwin's Finches in the Galápagos Islands - 14 species evolved from one ancestral finch, differing in beak size and shape suited to different food sources (seeds, insects, nectar). Mammals after the extinction of dinosaurs (~65 million years ago) diversified into forms adapted for running, leaping, swimming, climbing, and flying. Lemurs in Madagascar diversified into over 100 species, each adapted to unique environments. Old World monkeys and apes diversified into multiple species - baboons, gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and humans.

Thinkers

Clifford Geertz (Interpretive Anthropology): Geertz focused on cognition and meaning. Heavily influenced by **Max Weber's** Verstehen and hermeneutics, he argued that humans are suspended in "webs of significance" they have spun themselves. Victor Turner (Symbolic Anthropology): Turner focused on social processes and action. Influenced by Max Gluckman and Arnold van Gennep, he examined how symbols move and work dynamically during crises and transitions.: Symbols as **Vehicles vs. Operators. Geertz** (Vehicles): Symbols are viewed as vehicles of culture that convey established ideas and orientations to decode what a society "tells itself about itself". Turner (Operators): Symbols are operators in social processes. They act as tools to prompt social action, resolve conflict, and guide individuals through status changes. Turner identified specific properties of symbols: Multivocality (many meanings), Condensation (packed meanings), and Polarization (sensory vs. ideological poles).: **Thick Description vs. Social Drama. Geertz** (Methodology): He championed "**Thick Description**," which involves providing a detailed account of behavior within its cultural context to explain not just what happened, but its deep intent and meaning (e.g., distinguishing a blink from a conspiratorial wink).

Definition

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Example / case study

Long neck of giraffe developed by stretching to reach leaves.

Characteristics of Primates

Definition

Primates are "unguiculate, clavicate, placental mammals with orbits encircled by bone, three kinds of teeth at one time of life, a well-developed brain with a posterior lobe and calcarine fissure, at least one pair of extremities with an opposable digit, hallux with a flat nail or none, a well-developed caecum, pendulous penis, testes in scrotum, two pectoral mammae."

Definition

Bipedalism refers to the habitual use of two legs for locomotion.

Example / case study

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Definition

Tactile pads → sensitive fingertips.

Definition

7. Taxonomical Classification of Primates

Definition

1) Vertical clinging & leaping(4 limbs- hindlimb)

Definition

Non-opposable means a thumb, toe, or digit that cannot move inward to touch or face the other fingers or toes on that hand or foot. It cannot form a tight grip against the rest of the digits.

Definition

Playback studies (Cheney, Zuberbühler).

Example / case study

Orangutans (studied by Biruté Galdikas).

Definition

Suspensory locomotion is an arboreal movement strategy where an animal hangs or supports its body weight beneath tree branches rather than walking or balancing on top of them.

Definition

Studies human-primate interactions.

Example / case study

Free-ranging temple monkeys in Bali → behaviour shaped by humans & religious protection. Focuses on multi species ethnography not anthropocentric. LEAKEY'S ANGELS (Three great primate researchers)- Trimates Studied chimpanzees in Tanzania (Gombe).

Definition

Comparative Anatomy of Man and Apes

Example / case study

Chimpanzees → sexual maturity at 9 years, physical maturity at 12 years.

Definition

Non-opposable means a thumb, toe, or digit that cannot move inward to touch or face the other fingers or toes on that hand or foot. It cannot form a tight grip against the rest of the digits.

Plio-pleistocene hominids in South and East Africa**Definition**

Paranthropus aethiopicus: Lived roughly 2.7 to 2.3 million years ago in East Africa. Known from the "Black Skull", it is the earliest robust species and shows a strong sagittal crest combined with a protruding face.

Definition

→ Indicates shift to hard-object feeding and omnivory.

Homo erectus**Definition**

Homo sapiens → "Homo" is the genus, "sapiens" is the species.

Example / case study

1□ Delayed eruption or loss of wisdom teeth. 2□ Decline in the average age of menstruation. 3□ Rise of antibiotic/drug resistance in bacteria. 4□ Peppered moth (industrial melanism).

Definition

Indigenous people → Original inhabitants before colonisation; politically weak, in reservations.

Example / case study

Naga identity - multiple tribes unified by colonial rule + Christianity. Indian caste system vs African lineage system Studies human evolution from early hominins to modern humans.

Thinkers

Scholar: Clifford Geertz (Old Societies and New States, 1963).

Definition

Scholars: Dipankar Gupta, Ranajit Guha

Definition

Homo sapiens → "Homo" is the genus, "sapiens" is the species.

Example / case study

Herbert Risley: Racial theory of caste; The People of India. Thurston: Castes & Tribes of Southern India. Beginning: Institutionalisation of anthropology (Dept. of Anthropology, Calcutta University - 1920). Nature: Empirical fieldwork, study of social institutions.

Neanderthal man**Definition**

Genomic studies show 2-4% Neanderthal DNA in non-African modern humans.

Definition

The Levallois Technique: The hallmark of Mousterian technology is the Levallois (prepared-core) technique. This sophisticated method involved carefully shaping a stone core-often compared to a tortoise shell-so that a single, predictable, sharp flake could be struck off with a specific shape, such as a triangle.

Definition

Mostly classified as Homo heidelbergensis.

Example / case study

Tribes earning through criminalised activities

Definition

Genomic studies show 2-4% Neanderthal DNA in non-African modern humans.

Example / case study

Tribes earning through criminalised activities

Rhodesian man.**Definition**

Shows holistic worldview of tribes.

Example / case study

Political anthropology accepts the classical idea that humans are inherently political. According to **Aristotle**, man is a homo politicus (political animal).

Homo sapiens**Definition**

Homo sapiens → "Homo" is the genus, "sapiens" is the species.

Definition

Homo sapiens → "Homo" is the genus, "sapiens" is the species.

The biological basis of Life**Definition**

Biological Factors Causing Subordination

Example / case study

Studies the biological evolution and variation of human beings. It examines humans as biological organisms.

Definition

~70,000 years ago → Indian & African populations had a common ancestor (proved by mtDNA studies).

Thinkers

She did not get Nobel recognition → bias in science (WASP dominance: White Anglo-Saxon Protestant).

Definition

Studies the biological evolution and variation of human beings.

Definition

A ↔ T (weak hydrogen bond, double bond).

Example / case study

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Definition

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Definition

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Example / case study

100 cases of cell division → 40 recombinant, 60 parent → $RF = 40 / 100 = 0.4$ (110)⁶ possible combinations - hence every human has a unique HLA type.

Definition

This is a phenomenon where the expression of a gene depends on which parent it was inherited from. Certain genes are "silenced" via DNA methylation during gamete formation.

Example / case study

Phenylketonuria (PKU). A mutation on Chromosome 12 leads to an inability to metabolize phenylalanine, which subsequently causes intellectual disability, skin pigmentation loss, and neurological issues. HLA (Human Leukocyte Antigen) genes. On Chromosome 6, genes A, B, and C are linked and almost always inherited as a single unit. Prader-Willi Syndrome occurs if a specific segment of Chromosome 15 is deleted from the paternal side, while Angelman Syndrome results if the same segment is deleted from the maternal side.

Thinkers

Marriage as Exchange: Lévi-Strauss used the Purum case to argue that kinship is fundamentally a system for the reciprocal exchange of women between groups, which acts as a form of social communication. Challenge to Descent Primacy: While British anthropologists like Radcliffe-Brown emphasized descent groups (lineages/clans) as the primary basis of social structure, the Purum system proved that marriage alliances are equally fundamental.

Definition

~70,000 years ago → Indian & African populations had a common ancestor (proved by mtDNA studies).

Thinkers

6□ Thomas Hunt Morgan (1910s) - Chromosomal Theory of Genes

Definition

Excessive telomere shortening or damage can impair cell function and is associated with aging and health problems.

Example / case study

100 cases of cell division → 40 recombinant, 60 parent → $RF = 40 / 100 = 0.4$

Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology. Chronology

Definition

Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology. Chronology

Definition

Integrated geology with archaeology, especially stratigraphy, making Indian prehistory more scientific

Example / case study

Father & Father's brother called by same term. A person is a Brahmin because he is born in a Brahmin family, follows certain rituals, inherits ritual purity. A lower caste with economic power can challenge ritual status. Distillers (Boad caste) improved economic status under British rule → acquired land → challenged ritual dominance of warrior castes, earlier they were lower caste.

Definition

Physical Health: Menopause is associated with significant physical changes, such as osteoporosis (bone brittleness) and skin dryness, necessitating targeted public health interventions for the "Third Age" of a woman's life.

Example / case study

Krakatoa volcanic eruption (Indonesia, 1883) - layers below this date are older than 1883. Obsidian glass used by Neolithic Mexico.

Cultural Evolution

Definition

Scientific perspective | Humanistic perspective

Example / case study

Oxygen discovered independently by two scientists Indicates force larger than individual → culture

Thinkers

- E.B. Tylor & L.H. Morgan - cultural evolution.: G.P. Murdock - systematic cross-cultural comparison.
- Margaret Mead - Samoa & New Guinea (comparative temperament)
- James G. Frazer - The Golden Bough (comparative mythology).
- E.B. Tylor - culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom; unilinear evolution and survivals.

Definition

- Studies different cultures across time and space

Example / case study

Oxygen discovered independently by two scientists Indicates force larger than individual → culture

Thinkers

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Paleolithic**Definition**

Applied anthropology demonstrates the practical value of bridging science and humanities: scientific knowledge identifies the problem, while cultural understanding determines whether the solution will actually work.

Thinkers

James George Frazer, a prominent figure in the Classical Evolutionism school, proposed a unilinear model of intellectual progress that significantly influenced early anthropological thought. He presented a significant evolutionary interpretation of religion in his classic work The Golden Bough. Frazer proposed that human intellectual development passed through three successive stages-magic, religion, and science. Although influential, his theory has been widely criticized by later anthropologists.

Mesolithic**Definition**

Makes comparison between contemporary societies & ancient cultures.

Neolithic**Definition**

The primary limitation of this method is its material specificity; it can only be applied to the limited number of minerals and volcanic glasses that contain Uranium-238 and have the structural integrity to maintain tracks over millions of years. Additionally, because it is an absolute method, it requires sophisticated laboratory equipment and nuclear irradiation to be carried out effectively.

Example / case study

Obsidian glass used by Neolithic Mexico.

Chalcolithic**Definition**

Metal ores & luxury goods → imports.

Copper-Bronze Age

Definition

2. Write a Note on **Chalcolithic Culture (2004)**

Iron Age**Definition**

Integrated geology with archaeology, especially stratigraphy, making Indian prehistory more scientific

The Nature of Culture**Definition**

It is a historically created design for living.

Definition

Q.6(b) "The agenda of biological anthropology became more scientific from the middle of the twentieth century." Justify. (15 Marks)

Example / case study

In human evolution, bipedalism evolved before a larger brain. 1□ Boundaries between modules are hard to define, as body traits are interconnected and influence one another. 3□ Cope's Rule(T: Like rope want to be larger) States that living species tend to evolve toward larger body size over time.

Thinkers

Feature | Clifford Geertz | Victor Turner

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It is a historically created design for living.

Definition

Culture refers to the intangible aspects of life such as values, beliefs, norms, and ways of thinking.

Thinkers

Singh: Future of caste is not decay but adaptation → caste changes form but continues to exist.
André Bêteille: In South India, old jajmani ties are gone, but caste associations thrive in urban Chennai and Bengaluru.

Definition

It is a historically created design for living.

Example / case study

Sati should be understood only within its cultural-historical context (as per this view). Cultural relativism is valid only up to a certain extent. Encourages personal achievement and self-reliance.

Definition

It is a historically created design for living.

Definition

It is a historically created design for living.

Definition

Ethnicity is a process/relationship, not just a static category.

Thinkers

The Religious Stage: Frazer posited that religion was born from magical failure. When magic failed to produce desired results, humans shifted from trying to control nature to a state of submissiveness, attempting to please supernatural powers through prayer and sacrifice. The Scientific Stage: This represents the final transition to empirical observation, objective cause-and-effect patterns, and structural rationality, which Frazer viewed as the pinnacle of human thought.: Critical Drawbacks of Frazer's Theory. Conjectural History: Like other classical evolutionists, Frazer was an "armchair ethnologist," relying on speculative deductions rather than systematic, empirical fieldwork. The Static Fallacy: Frazer incorrectly treated contemporary tribal groups as "living fossils" or static survivals of the past, ignoring their own unique historical developments. Anthony Giddens argues that high modernity creates ontological insecurity-a deep-seated uncertainty about identity and existence. Religion remains essential because it provides an ultimate cognitive orientation and meaning across what Clifford Geertz called the three critical thresholds: reason, suffering, and evil. Geertz defined religion as a system of symbols that establishes powerful and long-lasting moods and motivations, which remain vital in the face of modern risks.: Rise of Neo-Tribes and Moral Gurus.

Definition

Use field studies and empirical data.

Example / case study

Sati should be understood only within its cultural-historical context (as per this view). Cultural relativism is valid only up to a certain extent.

Thinkers

Development-induced displacement (by B.K. Roy Burman) highlighting Eco, Health, Political marginalisation. E.A. Hoebel - Anthropology is the study of man and his works. A.R. Radcliffe-Brown(Veranda Anthro) T: Red- Brown munda came India and gave gyan social order and cohesion maintain karta Baffin Island → Study of Eskimo (Inuit) → Early fieldwork of Franz Boas (1883-84). Bronislaw Malinowski - Trobriand Islands

Definition

Colonialism and imperial expansion exposed anthropologists to diverse societies, but early studies were biased.

Example / case study

Sati should be understood only within its cultural-historical context (as per this view). Cultural relativism is valid only up to a certain extent. Encourages personal achievement and self-reliance.

Definition

Traphagan studied sports in Japanese society and found that sports are an important means of socialization. Japanese children participate in school sports not only for physical fitness but also to learn discipline, teamwork, responsibility, perseverance and respect.

Example / case study

Armed uprisings and revolutionary movements against colonial rule. It refers to the process of socialising a child into one's own culture. The child is considered to begin life as a blank slate, and culture is gradually internalised. Enculturation continues throughout life (lifelong cultural learning).

Definition

It is a historically created design for living.

Definition

Culture is the man-made part of the environment

The Nature of Society**Definition**

Society is the hardware, culture is the software.

Definition

Society is the hardware, culture is the software.

Thinkers

Bronislaw Malinowski - participant observation; culture exists to satisfy biological and psychological needs.

Definition

Society is the hardware, culture is the software.

Thinkers

Hoebel | Anthropology and Sociology are closely related

Definition

Society is a collection of individuals united by relations or modes of behaviour that distinguish them from others.

Example / case study

Herbert Risley: Racial theory of caste; The People of India. Thurston: Castes & Tribes of Southern India. Beginning: Institutionalisation of anthropology (Dept. of Anthropology, Calcutta University - 1920). Nature: Empirical fieldwork, study of social institutions.

Definition

Empiricism - observation-based, scientific & systematic.

Example / case study

Volunteering, clubs, social groups, exercise groups.

Definition

Society is the hardware, culture is the software.

Marriage**Definition**

Segmental division → society divided into birth-based groups.

Thinkers

Philosophy for NEFA (1957) - Verrier Elwin

Definition

- Family is a biological-social unit

Example / case study

over-consumption of resources → karma teaches restraint.

Thinkers

4. Evaluative Phase (1990-Present) (not Vidyarthi's original)

Definition

Ethnicity refers to the manifestation of ethnic identity.

Definition

Marriage is a ritually recognised union between a man and a woman.

Thinkers

Malinowski and Radcliffe-Brown can be quoted for functional importance.

Definition

Word "Casta" → Portuguese → means race/lineage.

Definition

Faced greater hardship in securing livelihood.

Example / case study

Father & Father's brother called by same term. Satrol Khap → First to allow inter-caste marriage. Boora Khap → anti-dowry & marriage expenditure minimum. Narwal Khap → helpline vs child marriage, feticide & gender violence.

Definition

Marriage is a universal institution.

Thinkers

- Formation of alliances (Levi-Strauss - Alliance Theory): Reduces inter-group conflict.

Definition

Marriage is a universal institution.

Thinkers

- Formation of alliances (Levi-Strauss - Alliance Theory): Reduces inter-group conflict.

Definition

Strict prohibition based on moral/religious grounds.

Thinkers

Levi-Strauss - Alliance Theory: Incest taboo enables exchange of women; Creates networks of cooperation. A.R. Radcliffe-Brown - structural-functionalism: institutions function like organs to maintain social structure.

Definition

Marriage is a ritually recognised union between a man and a woman.

Thinkers

Malinowski and Radcliffe-Brown can be quoted for functional importance.

Definition

Due to his intervention → Baiga Chak reserve was created in Mandla district (M.P.).

Thinkers

Philosophy for NEFA (1957) - Verrier Elwin Applied Anthro- Birhor Action Research Project - L.P. Vidyarthi

Definition

Marriage is a universal institution.

Definition

Hindu society allowed freedom of tribal practices.

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.

Definition

Marriage is a universal institution.

Definition

Marriage is a universal institution.

Definition

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

Example / case study

Andaman & Nicobar → Onge, Sentinelese, Shompens, Great Andamanese

Thinkers

B.K. Roy Burman - tribal condition = like external colonization. Identified by K.S. Singh - "tribalism without tribes".

Definition

This is a phenomenon where the expression of a gene depends on which parent it was inherited from. Certain genes are "silenced" via DNA methylation during gamete formation.

Example / case study

HLA (Human Leukocyte Antigen) genes. On Chromosome 6, genes A, B, and C are linked and almost always inherited as a single unit. Prader-Willi Syndrome occurs if a specific segment of Chromosome 15 is deleted from the paternal side, while Angelman Syndrome results if the same segment is deleted from the maternal side.

Thinkers

Marriage as Exchange: Lévi-Strauss used the Purum case to argue that kinship is fundamentally a system for the reciprocal exchange of women between groups, which acts as a form of social communication. Challenge to Descent Primacy: While British anthropologists like Radcliffe-Brown emphasized descent groups (lineages/clans) as the primary basis of social structure, the Purum system proved that marriage alliances are equally fundamental.

Definition

The Purum tribe of Manipur (an Old Kuki tribe) holds a landmark position in anthropological theory, primarily due to its distinctive prescriptive marriage system. First documented in detail by Prof. T.C. Das in his 1945 monograph, *The Purums: An Old Kuki tribe of Manipur*, the system became a central database for one of the most significant debates in kinship studies: Descent versus Alliance theory.

Thinkers

Marriage as Exchange: Lévi-Strauss used the Purum case to argue that kinship is fundamentally a system for the reciprocal exchange of women between groups, which acts as a form of social communication. Challenge to Descent Primacy: While British anthropologists like Radcliffe-Brown emphasized descent groups (lineages/clans) as the primary basis of social structure, the Purum system proved that marriage alliances are equally fundamental.

Definition

Establishes legal fatherhood of a woman's children.

Definition

Wife is acquired by paying bride price.

Definition

Definition (Srinivas, 1952): "The process by which a low caste, tribe or group changes its customs, rituals, ideology and way of life in the direction of a high and twice-born caste."

Example / case study

Satrol Khap → First to allow inter-caste marriage. Boora Khap → anti-dowry & marriage expenditure minimum. Narwal Khap → helpline vs child marriage, feticide & gender violence. □ Despite liberal steps(women akhadas, fund for athletics), male dominance persists → Khap = tradition + modernity mix.

Thinkers

Yogendra Singh - Sanskritization = cultural camouflage for caste conflict.

Family**Definition**

Family is a site of sexual and labour exploitation.

Definition

Cultural Anthropology is the study of learned behaviour, beliefs, customs, traditions, institutions, and values of different human societies.

Example / case study

over-consumption of resources → karma teaches restraint.

Thinkers

4. Evaluative Phase (1990-Present) (not Vidyarthi's original)

Definition

Ethnicity refers to the manifestation of ethnic identity.

Definition

Pioneer of village studies in India.

Example / case study

Supported by- 2011 census- Nuclear family fell from 54.3 to 52.3% mainly bcoz of space constraints.

Definition

Food preparation and consumption

Definition

Kindred refers to a unique type of kinship group that is defined from the perspective of a specific individual (referred to as Ego).

Definition

Kindred refers to a unique type of kinship group that is defined from the perspective of a specific individual (referred to as Ego).

Definition

→ Hence, family is a biological unit

Example / case study

A person is a Brahmin because he is born in a Brahmin family, follows certain rituals, inherits ritual purity.

Definition

→ Hence, family is a biological unit

Example / case study

Nuclear Family: Parents and their immediate children. Joint / Extended Family: Multiple generations (grandparents, parents, siblings, cousins) operating under a single kinship structure.

Thinkers

Radcliffe-Brown (Structural Functionalism): Opposed Kroeber; Argued that terminology and behaviour are closely linked. Royalty practice - to preserve "pure blood" (e.g., European monarchs).

Definition

Cultural Anthropology is the study of learned behaviour, beliefs, customs, traditions, institutions, and values of different human societies.

Thinkers

Philosophy for NEFA (1957) - Verrier Elwin

Definition

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Example / case study

Orangutans (studied by Biruté Galdikas).

Definition

Counter Views: Joint Family is Adapting

Definition

They argue that family is an institution embedded with power relations.

Example / case study

cited: UK divorce rate increase 228% (BBC report)

Definition

Caste is always resilient and dynamic in society.

Thinkers

Yogendra Singh - Modernization of Indian Tradition

Definition

The traditional family ideology is anti-social

Example / case study

cited: UK divorce rate increase 228% (BBC report)

Kinship**Definition**

Clan is the seat of political authority

Thinkers

Kinship Studies in India - Irawati Karve

Definition

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

Example / case study

Lactase persistence → long-term milk consumption in pastoral populations → selection for lactose tolerance. Thus, biological anthropology connects genetic evolution with culturally created dietary practices. 2. Archaeological Anthropology - Material Science + Human Meaning Helps estimate prevalence of inherited disorders.

Thinkers

Claude Lévi-Strauss: Used genealogical/kinship data to develop Alliance Theory, focusing on marriage and exchange between lineages. India: S.C. Roy documented Oraon genealogies; Irawati Karve used genealogical mapping to study village kinship and exogamy in Maharashtra.

Definition

A key feature distinguishing tribes from bands is the presence of pan-tribal sodality (associational organisation).

Thinkers

Radcliffe-Brown (Structural Functionalism): Opposed Kroeber; Argued that terminology and behaviour are closely linked. Kinship Studies in India - Irawati Karve E.B. Tylor - culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom; unilinear evolution and survivals.

Definition

Principles and types of descent

Thinkers

A.R. Radcliffe-Brown - structural-functionalism: institutions function like organs to maintain social structure. Study by Evans-Pritchard among Nuer (South Sudan)

Definition

Situating a person's position in the kinship structure

Example / case study

Descent may be traced from either parent

Thinkers

A.R. Radcliffe-Brown - structural-functionalism: institutions function like organs to maintain social structure.

Definition

Double descent (double unilineal descent) is a kinship system in which individuals inherit rights and group membership through two lines - typically both patrilineal and matrilineal - for different purposes such as land, ritual office or property.

Example / case study

Khairlanji massacre (Maharashtra, 2006). Surinder Jodhka (Ad-Dharmis, Punjab) → As Dalits gained autonomy, they asserted control over women, started teasing and taunting women of U caste. Patriarchal Bargaining (Deniz Kandiyoti) → Upper caste women themselves internalize patriarchy, enforce norms for status. Dalit Women's Double disadvantage (Leela Dube) Gail Omvedt by Gail Omvedt → suffer both caste and gender discrimination. (dalit + women).

Thinkers

A.R. Radcliffe-Brown - analysed descent principles in African kinship systems. Fortes - lineage theory and unilineal descent groups.

Definition

Disseminated info (weather, govt schemes, health).

Example / case study

Descent may be traced from either parent Choice may change from one generation to another Not culturally fixed; depends on circumstances

Definition

Produces a unique set for each individual

Example / case study

Descent may be traced from either parent Choice may change from one generation to another Not culturally fixed; depends on circumstances

Definition

III. Applications in Anthropological Studies

Thinkers

A.R. Radcliffe-Brown - structural-functionalism: institutions function like organs to maintain social structure. Radcliffe-Brown: Used genealogies to reconstruct descent groups and social structure in Africa. Malinowski: Used them to understand kinship and land inheritance among the Trobriand Islanders. Claude Lévi-Strauss: Used genealogical/kinship data to develop Alliance Theory, focusing on marriage and exchange between lineages. India: S.C. Roy documented Oraon genealogies; Irawati Karve used genealogical mapping to study village kinship and exogamy in Maharashtra.

Definition

Clan is the seat of political authority

Example / case study

Leadership based on generosity, age, skills.

Definition

Conducted 18 months fieldwork among Konyak Nagas in Wanching village.

Definition

A key feature distinguishing tribes from bands is the presence of pan-tribal sodality (associational organisation).

Thinkers

Study by Evans-Pritchard among Nuer (South Sudan) Kinship Studies in India - Irawati Karve E.B. Tylor - culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom; unilinear evolution and survivals.

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Example / case study

Descent may be traced from either parent Choice may change from one generation to another Not culturally fixed; depends on circumstances

Definition

Kinship terminology refers to the nomenclature and labels used to address or refer to kin in a society.

Example / case study

Father & Father's brother called by same term.

Thinkers

- Evans-Pritchard - Nuer segmentary lineage; Meyer Fortes - Tallensi lineage structure. L. H. Morgan - Kinship Terminology: Emerged due to rise of private property.

Definition

She studied language, caste, and family to classify kinship patterns.

Example / case study

Father & Father's brother called by same term.

Thinkers

- Lewis Henry Morgan - Kinship Classification • 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. Kinship Studies in India - Irawati Karve

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Definition

Raj Gonds - Haimendorf (Adilabad)

Thinkers

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Definition

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Definition

III. Applications in Anthropological Studies

Thinkers

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Economic Organization**Definition**

Anthropology studies humans as an integrated whole.

Definition

Use field studies and empirical data.

Example / case study

Islamic banking → interest-free system based on moral-religious principles

Thinkers

S.C. Roy: used Horoko (true human) for tribe. Ernest Gellner - four steps of national identity: shared formal education; cultural homogenisation; language standardisation; anonymity among members that produces a feeling of sameness. Christophe Jaffrelot - two-step rise of Hindu nationalism: stigmatise an 'other' as a common enemy; then unify Hindus across caste, class and region. E.A. Hoebel - Anthropology is the study of man and his works. A.R. Radcliffe-Brown - structural-functionalism: institutions function like organs to maintain social structure.

Definition

Cultural Anthropology is the study of learned behaviour, beliefs, customs, traditions, institutions, and values of different human societies.

Example / case study

Information is reconstructed almost entirely through archaeological evidence. Together they explain humans from biological, cultural, linguistic and historical perspectives. Anthropology today extends far beyond the study of tribes.

Thinkers

E.A. Hoebel: "Anthropology is the study of man and his works."

Definition

relevance of economic anthropology

Example / case study

Islamic banking → interest-free system based on moral-religious principles Economy as a by-product of human social living, not merely profit maximisation

Definition

Formalist and Substantivist debate

Definition

Production refers to the modification of natural resources into goods for consumption.

Definition

Recent studies, such as those by Cheithou Charles Yuhlung (2007) on the related Chothe group, confirm that despite modernization, this prescriptive matrilineal alliance remains, in Rodney Needham's words, "ideal, stable and adaptive".

Example / case study

Giving without expectation of immediate return

Definition

Boys: 13.5-14.5 yrs (spurt starts 12.5-15.5).

Definition

Found that caste clusters do not have genetic similarity → disproved racial theories of caste.

Example / case study

even Brahmins of Maharashtra showed diversity, not homogeneity. Giving without expectation of immediate return

Definition

globalization and indigenous economic systems

Example / case study

Kalbelia dance - UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION ON INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

Political Organization and Social Control**Definition**

4. Political Organization and Social Control

Definition

Chiefs maintained autonomy even over non-tribals.

Example / case study

Redistribution practiced even in harsh environments

Definition

1. Formative Phase (1774-1919)

Example / case study

Herbert Risley: Racial theory of caste; The People of India. Thurston: Castes & Tribes of Southern India. Beginning: Institutionalisation of anthropology (Dept. of Anthropology, Calcutta University - 1920). Nature: Empirical fieldwork, study of social institutions.

Definition

1941: Defined as those of tribal origin.

Example / case study

Leader may select camp location but lacks coercive power The concept of tribe was elaborated by Elman Service.

Definition

Argument: Shudras were originally part of the Kshatriya varna.

Definition

Informal Means of Social Control (Simple Societies)

Definition

Social Control in Simple Societies

Definition

Household called Tarawad - matrilineal, but headed by eldest male (Karnavan).

Definition

Folk ideas were given scientific legitimacy over time.

Example / case study

Japanese considered "white" at one time; Chinese labelled "coloured".

Definition

Informal Means of Social Control (Simple Societies)

Example / case study

Satrol Khap → First to allow inter-caste marriage. Boora Khap → anti-dowry & marriage expenditure minimum. Narwal Khap → helpline vs child marriage, feticide & gender violence. □ Despite liberal steps(women akhadas, fund for athletics), male dominance persists → Khap = tradition + modernity mix.

Definition

According to **Aristotle**, man is a homo politicus (political animal).

Definition

Incest taboo (universal, degree varies).

Religion**Definition**

- Refers to intensity of religious belief, behaviour, and practice

Definition

Refers to the practice of alternating between two or more languages or language varieties within a single conversation or discourse.

Thinkers

A.R. Radcliffe-Brown - structural-functionalism: institutions function like organs to maintain social structure. E.B. Tylor - culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom; unilinear evolution and survivals.

Definition

Theological → Metaphysical → Scientific stage

Example / case study

Mana, Bong (Indian Ho and Oraon tribes).

Thinkers

E.B. Tylor - culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom; unilinear evolution and survivals.

Definition

Violation leads to ostracism or punishment.

Definition

Theological → Metaphysical → Scientific stage

Thinkers

Bronislaw Malinowski - participant observation; culture exists to satisfy biological and psychological needs.

Definition

Holistic study of human language in relation to society, culture, and identity

Definition

No writing tradition, industrial arts, or advanced skills.

Example / case study

Medieval Christianity Bogomils (Devil was seen as fallen angel). Mana, Bong (Indian Ho and Oraon tribes).

Thinkers

Applied Anthro- Birhor Action Research Project - L.P. Vidyarthi (E. B. Tylor)(T: Tiles me bhi soul/sprit hota to so kaam kro mistri sahab) Criticised Tylor for over-intellectualising early humans.

Definition

Holistic study of human language in relation to society, culture, and identity

Example / case study

Mana, Bong (Indian Ho and Oraon tribes).

Thinkers

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Definition

Totem is the symbol of society; sacredness comes from collective effervescence.

Thinkers

Claude Lévi-Strauss:(Jeans me hamesha two extreme side hota)

Definition

Most basic institutions present in almost all societies

Example / case study

Sons were expelled → developed envy and hostility.

Thinkers

Bronislaw Malinowski - participant observation; culture exists to satisfy biological and psychological needs.

Definition

- Refers to intensity of religious belief, behaviour, and practice

Thinkers

S.C. Roy (1871-1942) - First Indian Ethnographer

Definition

Compassionate Social Care: Fossil remains like the "Old Man of La Chapelle" show that Neanderthals provided compassionate care for the elderly and disabled. This individual had severe arthritis and had lost most of his teeth, yet survived long enough to reach old age, indicating that the group supported him despite his inability to forage or hunt for himself.

Thinkers

James George Frazer, a prominent figure in the Classical Evolutionism school, proposed a unilinear model of intellectual progress that significantly influenced early anthropological thought. He presented a significant evolutionary interpretation of religion in his classic work *The Golden Bough*. Frazer proposed that human intellectual development passed through three successive stages-magic, religion, and science. Although influential, his theory has been widely criticized by later anthropologists. Frazer's most influential contribution, detailed in his seminal work *The Golden Bough* (1890), focuses on the intellectual evolution of the human psyche through three distinct, sequential stages: Magic, Religion, and Science.: The Three-Stage Evolutionary Model. The Religious Stage: Frazer posited that religion was born from magical failure. When magic failed to produce desired results, humans shifted from trying to control nature to a state of submissiveness, attempting to please supernatural powers through prayer and sacrifice. The Scientific Stage: This represents the final transition to empirical observation, objective cause-and-effect patterns, and structural rationality, which Frazer viewed as the pinnacle of human thought.: Critical Drawbacks of Frazer's Theory. Conjectural History: Like other classical evolutionists, Frazer was an "armchair ethnologist," relying on speculative deductions rather than systematic, empirical fieldwork.

Definition

Theological → Metaphysical → Scientific stage

Thinkers

E.B. Tylor - culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom; unilinear evolution and survivals.

Definition

Totemism is a magico-religious belief; clan believes in descent from and protection by totem.

Thinkers

Claude Lévi-Strauss:(Jeans me hamesha two extreme side hota)

Definition

Studied Parha and Munda-Manki system (political institutions of Oraon & Munda tribes).

Example / case study

Leadership based on generosity, age, skills.

Definition

Theological → Metaphysical → Scientific stage

Thinkers

Philosophy for NEFA (1957) - Verrier Elwin Approach: Vidyarthi's + K.N. Sahay's model (forces of change). E.B. Tylor - culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom; unilinear evolution and survivals.

Definition

Shows holistic worldview of tribes.

Example / case study

Religion has not declined, but changed form. David Lyon - "**Jesus in Disneyland**" (T: S. Lyon ka religion disneyland me bhi, majak bna diya hai ye log) Religion becomes a commodity (cafeteria approach).

Definition

Holistic study of human language in relation to society, culture, and identity

Definition

ETIC (Outsider's Scientific Perspective)

Thinkers

- Lewis Henry Morgan - Kinship Classification

Classical evolutionism (Tylor, Morgan and Frazer)**Definition**

Anthropology, defined as the scientific and holistic study of human beings, has undergone a profound evolution from its origins as a tool for colonial administration to a reflexive, interdisciplinary science. As Eric Wolf remarked, the discipline acts as a "bond between subject matters," bridging the gap between natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. Its evolution can be traced through several distinct theoretical and methodological shifts.

Thinkers

Core Philosophy: Thinkers like E.B. Tylor (the "**Father of Modern Anthropology**"), Lewis Henry Morgan, and James Frazer proposed Unilinear Evolution, suggesting all societies progress through identical stages (e.g., Savagery → Barbarism → Civilization). Historical Particularism: Franz Boas (the "**Father of American Anthropology**") rejected universal laws, arguing that each culture has a unique history. He introduced the Four-Field Approach (Biological, Archaeological, Linguistic, and Cultural) to gather comprehensive empirical data.: The Golden Age of Fieldwork: Functionalism. Bio-cultural Functionalism: Bronislaw Malinowski pioneered Participant Observation, arguing that culture exists solely to satisfy biological and psychological needs. Structural Functionalism: A.R. Radcliffe-Brown applied an "**Organic Analogy**," viewing society as a system where institutions function like organs to maintain the stability of the social structure.: Structural and Psychological Turns. Structuralism: Claude Lévi-Strauss argued that human thought is patterned through binary oppositions (e.g., **Nature vs. Culture**) and that culture, like language, is a mental construct.

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S.C. Roy (1871-1942) - First Indian Ethnographer
Core Philosophy: Thinkers like E.B. Tylor (the "Father of Modern Anthropology"), Lewis Henry Morgan, and James Frazer proposed Unilinear Evolution, suggesting all societies progress through identical stages (e.g., Savagery → Barbarism → Civilization). Historical Particularism: Franz Boas (the "Father of American Anthropology") rejected universal laws, arguing that each culture has a unique history. He introduced the Four-Field Approach (Biological, Archaeological, Linguistic, and Cultural) to gather comprehensive empirical data.: The Golden Age of Fieldwork: Functionalism. Bio-cultural Functionalism: Bronislaw Malinowski pioneered Participant Observation, arguing that culture exists solely to satisfy biological and psychological needs. Structural Functionalism: A.R. Radcliffe-Brown applied an "Organic Analogy," viewing society as a system where institutions function like organs to maintain the stability of the social structure.: Structural and Psychological Turns.

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Historical particularism (Boas)

Definition

Holistic approach | Specialized approach

Thinkers

K. S. Singh | Tribal and historical studies Bronislaw Malinowski | Fieldwork; Cultural Anthropology Franz Boas | Cultural Anthropology; Historical Particularism Benjamin Lee Whorf | Linguistic Relativity

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Definition

Burnt brick structures, water reservoirs.

Thinkers

A.R. Radcliffe-Brown (Veranda Anthro) T: Red- Brown munda came India and gave gyan social order and cohesion maintain karta Baffin Island → Study of Eskimo (Inuit) → Early fieldwork of Franz Boas (1883-84). Bronislaw Malinowski - Trobriand Islands K. S. Singh | Tribal and historical studies Bronislaw Malinowski | Fieldwork; Cultural Anthropology

Definition

Beginning of scientific imperialism in forestry.

Example / case study

even Brahmins of Maharashtra showed diversity, not homogeneity.

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Example / case study

Naga identity - multiple tribes unified by colonial rule + Christianity.

Thinkers

Iravati Karve - Caste, kinship, family.: Analytical Phase (1950-1990). 4. Evaluative Phase (1990-Present) (not Vidyarthi's original) Singh: Future of caste is not decay but adaptation → caste changes form but continues to exist. André Beteille: In South India, old jajmani ties are gone, but caste associations thrive in urban Chennai and Bengaluru. Scholar: Clifford Geertz (Old Societies and New States, 1963).

Functionalism (Malinowski)

Definition

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Definition

Correction of Evolutionary Timelines: Molecular studies by Vincent Sarich and Allan Wilson demonstrated that the human-chimpanzee split occurred much later (approx. 5-8 mya) than previously thought. This placed Miocene fossils like Ramapithecus (12 mya) outside the human lineage.

Example / case study

A study of a local tribe that ignores the impact of global capitalism or state-led industrialization (such as the mining in the DRC or phosphate excavation on Banaba Island) fails to capture the true reality of that culture's survival.

Thinkers

Clifford Geertz (Interpretive Anthropology): Geertz focused on cognition and meaning. Heavily influenced by **Max Weber's** Verstehen and hermeneutics, he argued that humans are suspended in "webs of significance" they have spun themselves. Victor Turner (Symbolic Anthropology): Turner focused on social processes and action. Influenced by Max Gluckman and Arnold van Gennep, he examined how symbols move and work dynamically during crises and transitions.: Symbols as **Vehicles vs. Operators. Geertz** (Vehicles): Symbols are viewed as vehicles of culture that convey established ideas and orientations to decode what a society "tells itself about itself". Turner (Operators): Symbols are operators in social processes. They act as tools to prompt social action, resolve conflict, and guide individuals through status changes. Turner identified specific properties of symbols: Multivocality (many meanings), Condensation (packed meanings), and Polarization (sensory vs. ideological poles).: **Thick Description vs. Social Drama. Geertz** (Methodology): He championed "**Thick Description**," which involves providing a detailed account of behavior within its cultural context to explain not just what happened, but its deep intent and meaning (e.g., distinguishing a blink from a conspiratorial wink).

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Thinkers

A.R. Radcliffe-Brown - structural-functionalism: institutions function like organs to maintain social structure. Historical Particularism: Franz Boas (the "**Father of American Anthropology**") rejected universal laws, arguing that each culture has a unique history. He introduced the Four-Field Approach (Biological, Archaeological, Linguistic, and Cultural) to gather comprehensive empirical data.: The Golden Age of Fieldwork: Functionalism. Bio-cultural Functionalism: Bronislaw Malinowski pioneered Participant Observation, arguing that culture exists solely to satisfy biological and psychological needs. Structural Functionalism: A.R. Radcliffe-Brown applied an "**Organic Analogy**," viewing society as a system where institutions function like organs to maintain the stability of the social structure.: Structural and Psychological Turns. Structuralism: Claude Lévi-Strauss argued that human thought is patterned through binary oppositions (e.g., **Nature vs. Culture**) and that culture, like language, is a mental construct.

Structuralism (Lévi-Strauss and E. Leach)

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Example / case study

Prader-Willi Syndrome occurs if a specific segment of Chromosome 15 is deleted from the paternal side, while Angelman Syndrome results if the same segment is deleted from the maternal side.

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Definition

Considered cultural truth, not history.

Thinkers

Bronislaw Malinowski - participant observation; culture exists to satisfy biological and psychological needs. Freud: Repressed desires. RITUAL Formal, repetitive, symbolic acts.

Culture and personality (Benedict, Mead, Linton, Kardiner and Cora-du Bois)

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Thinkers

Ernest Gellner - four steps of national identity: shared formal education; cultural homogenisation; language standardisation; anonymity among members that produces a feeling of sameness. Christophe Jaffrelot - two-step rise of Hindu nationalism: stigmatise an 'other' as a common enemy; then unify Hindus across caste, class and region. Bio-cultural Functionalism: Bronislaw Malinowski pioneered Participant Observation, arguing that culture exists solely to satisfy biological and psychological needs. Structural Functionalism: A.R. Radcliffe-Brown applied an "Organic Analogy," viewing society as a system where institutions function like organs to maintain the stability of the social structure.: Structural and Psychological Turns. Structuralism: Claude Lévi-Strauss argued that human thought is patterned through binary oppositions (e.g., Nature vs. Culture) and that culture, like language, is a mental construct.

Definition

(Added by me: Apatanis are globally recognized by FAO for their indigenous paddy-fish cultivation as a sustainable agricultural heritage system).

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Definition

Ethnocentrism means viewing other cultures through the lens of one's own culture.

Thinkers

Margaret Mead - culture determines personality.

Definition

Child-rearing is the most important mechanism of enculturation.

Thinkers

Margaret Mead - culture determines personality. Bronislaw Malinowski - Trobriand Islands

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Bronislaw Malinowski - Trobriand Islands Margaret Mead - culture determines personality.

Neo-evolutionism (Childe, White, Steward, Sahlins and Service)

Definition

1. Examine Gordon Childe's Statement "**Neolithic Culture is a Revolution**" (2010)

Thinkers

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Definition

PTC Tasting: The ability to taste the bitter chemical Phenylthiocarbamide is a dominant trait (TT, Tt).

Thinkers

Bronislaw Malinowski | Fieldwork; Cultural Anthropology Franz Boas | Cultural Anthropology; Historical Particularism Benjamin Lee Whorf | Linguistic Relativity Historical Particularism: Franz Boas (the "**Father of American Anthropology**") rejected universal laws, arguing that each culture has a unique history. He introduced the Four-Field Approach (Biological, Archaeological, Linguistic, and Cultural) to gather comprehensive empirical data.: The Golden Age of Fieldwork: Functionalism.

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Definition

Consumption is the utilisation of final goods and services by society.

Example / case study

Giving without expectation of immediate return

Definition

Traced migration from Deccan-Konkan region → Son valley → **Chotanagpur Plateau**.

Cultural materialism (Harris)

Definition

ETIC (Outsider's Scientific Perspective)

Example / case study

M Harris examples(Abtes, USSR, Sacred cow, Islam) Increase in marriage age despite same biological adolescence Some cultural practices become maladaptive when conditions change. Practices once useful may become harmful or irrelevant.

Thinkers

Bronislaw Malinowski - participant observation; culture exists to satisfy biological and psychological needs. • Structural Functionalism - Radcliffe-Brown

Symbolic and interpretive theories (Turner, Schneider and Geertz)

Definition

The symbolic and interpretive school in anthropology, pioneered by Clifford Geertz and Victor Turner in the 1960s and 1970s, emerged as a reaction against the rigid models of structural-functionalism and cultural materialism. Both scholars shifted the discipline's focus from macro-level social structures to micro-level, actor-centered understandings of meaning and symbols. While they shared a foundational belief that culture is a system of symbols, their theoretical streams diverged significantly in how those symbols should be analyzed.

Thinkers

Clifford Geertz (Interpretive Anthropology): Geertz focused on cognition and meaning. Heavily influenced by **Max Weber's** Verstehen and hermeneutics, he argued that humans are suspended in "webs of significance" they have spun themselves. Victor Turner (Symbolic Anthropology): Turner focused on social processes and action. Influenced by Max Gluckman and Arnold van Gennep, he examined how symbols move and work dynamically during crises and transitions.: Symbols as **Vehicles vs. Operators**. **Geertz** (Vehicles): Symbols are viewed as vehicles of culture that convey established ideas and orientations to decode what a society "tells itself about itself". Turner (Operators): Symbols are operators in social processes. They act as tools to prompt social action, resolve conflict, and guide individuals through status changes. Turner identified specific properties of symbols: Multivocality (many meanings), Condensation (packed meanings), and Polarization (sensory vs. ideological poles). Neo-Evolutionism: Revived evolutionary theory by explaining cultural change through technology and ecology. Leslie White proposed that cultural development is a function of energy harnessed ($C = E \times T$), while Julian Steward introduced Cultural Ecology, focusing on multilinear evolution and environmental adaptation.

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Definition

- Focus on lived experience and subjective meanings.

Example / case study

• Clifford Geertz - "**Thick Description**" (Balinese Cockfight) • Renato Rosaldo - "**Grief and a Headhunter's Rage**" → Personal grief helped him understand Ilongot headhunting. • David Schneider - Study of kinship as cultural system.

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Example / case study

Naga identity - multiple tribes unified by colonial rule + Christianity.

Thinkers

Scholar: Clifford Geertz (Old Societies and New States, 1963). Ernest Gellner: Riots happen between two equal groups; if one weak → genocide. Structuralism: Claude Lévi-Strauss argued that human thought is patterned through binary oppositions (e.g., **Nature vs. Culture**) and that culture, like language, is a mental construct. Culture and Personality: Scholars like Ruth Benedict and Margaret Mead explored the relationship between culture and individual psychology, arguing that adult personality is a product of cultural training and socialization.: Mid-20th Century Revivals: Neo-Evolutionism and Materialism. Neo-Evolutionism: Revived evolutionary theory by explaining cultural change through technology and ecology. Leslie White proposed that cultural development is a function of energy harnessed ($C = E \times T$), while Julian Steward introduced Cultural Ecology, focusing on multilineal evolution and environmental adaptation.

Cognitive theories (Tyler, Conklin)**Definition**

Errors in DNA & protein synthesis accumulate → cellular malfunction → ageing.

Thinkers

• Ta-ta theory(E.B Tylor) - imitation of gesture movements

Definition

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Thinkers

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Thinkers

- Ta-ta theory (E.B Tylor) - imitation of gesture movements

Post-modernism in anthropology.**Definition**

Colonialism and imperial expansion exposed anthropologists to diverse societies, but early studies were biased.

Thinkers

- H.H. Risley - **Census** classification in India: G.P. Murdock's Ethnographic Atlas - Standardized questionnaire for cross-cultural comparison; National Sample Survey (India) - Schedule-based large scale data collection.

Culture, Language and Communication**Definition**

Studies the relationship between language, culture and society.

Example / case study

K. S. Singh | Tribal and historical studies Cultural Anthropology | Culture and social life Linguistic Anthropology | Language and communication Physical Anthropology | Human biology and evolution

Definition

1. Formative Phase (1774-1919)

Example / case study

Herbert Risley: Racial theory of caste; The People of India. Thurston: Castes & Tribes of Southern India. Beginning: Institutionalisation of anthropology (Dept. of Anthropology, Calcutta University - 1920). Nature: Empirical fieldwork, study of social institutions.

Definition

Anthropology has evolved from the colonial study of "primitive societies" into a dynamic, interdisciplinary and applied social science. Its holistic perspective, integrating biology, culture, language and history, makes it uniquely suited to address contemporary challenges such as public health, sustainable development, climate change, identity conflicts and inclusive governance. Consequently, anthropology remains highly relevant for both academic inquiry and evidence-based policymaking.

Thinkers

4. Evaluative Phase (1990-Present) (not Vidyarthi's original) Franz Boas | Cultural determinism, Historical Particularism Margaret Mead | **Nature vs Nurture** (Samoa study) Eric Wolf | Anthropology as an interdisciplinary discipline

Definition

Studies the relationship between language, culture and society.

Example / case study

K. S. Singh | Tribal and historical studies Cultural Anthropology | Culture and social life Linguistic Anthropology | Language and communication Physical Anthropology | Human biology and evolution

Definition

verbal and non-verbal communication

Definition

Studies the relationship between language, culture and society.

Example / case study

(Dell Hymes) T: "Hymes ka Communication HYMNS □" Study of communication within its social and cultural context.

Fieldwork tradition in anthropology**Definition**

- Objective, third-person, scientific tone.

Thinkers

Radcliffe-Brown: Fieldwork in Andaman Islands; Structural-functionalism. L.H. Morgan (Iroquois, 1840s - though semi-field): British Field Tradition. Evans-Pritchard | Social Anthropology is part of Sociology; Ethnology classifies cultures Durkheim | Influenced Functional Anthropology S. C. Dube | Historical context in Indian Anthropology

Distinction between technique, method and methodology**Definition**

Technique, Method and Methodology

Definition

Mason Cooley: "Methodology is applied ideology."

Example / case study

Yadav caste has many sub-castes like Ahir, Gwala, Sadgop.

Thinkers

S.C. Roy (1871-1942) - First Indian Ethnographer Bronislaw Malinowski - participant observation; culture exists to satisfy biological and psychological needs. • Structural Functionalism - Radcliffe-Brown

Definition

Social Anthropology is a branch of sociology mainly devoted to the study of primitive societies.

Example / case study

Yadav caste has many sub-castes like Ahir, Gwala, Sadgop.

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S.C. Roy (1871-1942) - First Indian Ethnographer E.A. Hoebel - Anthropology is the study of man and his works. A.R. Radcliffe-Brown - structural-functionalism: institutions function like organs to maintain social structure. Bronislaw Malinowski - participant observation; culture exists to satisfy biological and psychological needs.

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.

Analysis, interpretation and presentation of data.**Definition**

Studies one culture deeply | Compares many cultures

Example / case study

Yadav caste has many sub-castes like Ahir, Gwala, Sadgop. Land alienation narratives in tribal communities. Joint Forest Management (JFM) under FRA 2006.

Thinkers

Hoebel | Anthropology and Sociology are closely related Evans-Pritchard | Social Anthropology is part of Sociology; Ethnology classifies cultures **Durkheim** | Influenced Functional Anthropology S. C. Dube | Historical context in Indian Anthropology E.B. Tylor - culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom; unilinear evolution and survivals.

Definition

Shift: From tribal to village studies.

Example / case study

Margaret Mead and Derek Freeman gave contrasting interpretations of Samoa. 2. Researcher's identity(gender) matters. Malinowski and Annette Weiner produced different accounts of the Trobriand Islands. 4. Anthropology relies heavily on qualitative interpretation.

Thinkers

4. Evaluative Phase (1990-Present) (not Vidyarthi's original) James G. Frazer - The Golden Bough (comparative mythology). E.B. Tylor - culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom; unilinear evolution and survivals.

Definition

Power dynamics within community.

Example / case study

Land alienation narratives in tribal communities. Male fruit flies' Y chromosomes die; females (XX) survive.

Thinkers

Clifford Geertz - "Thick description" in Balinese Cockfight.: Quantitative Data. James G. Frazer - The Golden Bough (comparative mythology). E.B. Tylor - culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom; unilinear evolution and survivals.

Human Genetics**Definition**

Medical Genetics: It is the standard method for understanding the inheritance patterns of Mendelian disorders such as Huntington's disease, Sickle-cell anemia, and Thalassemia.

Thinkers

Bronislaw Malinowski | Fieldwork; Cultural Anthropology Franz Boas | Cultural Anthropology; Historical Particularism Benjamin Lee Whorf | Linguistic Relativity Radcliffe-Brown: Used genealogies to reconstruct descent groups and social structure in Africa.

Definition

Study (Kamal K. Misra): >85% of tribal land transfers in AP, MP, Odisha are to non-tribals.

Thinkers

Development-induced displacement (by B.K. Roy Burman) highlighting Eco, Health, Political marginalisation. Titles show caste influence: Singh, Pujari, Rana, Nayak. Radcliffe-Brown: Used genealogies to reconstruct descent groups and social structure in Africa. Malinowski: Used them to understand kinship and land inheritance among the Trobriand Islanders.

Definition

Medical Genetics: It is the standard method for understanding the inheritance patterns of Mendelian disorders such as Huntington's disease, Sickle-cell anemia, and Thalassemia.

Thinkers

Radcliffe-Brown: Used genealogies to reconstruct descent groups and social structure in Africa. Malinowski: Used them to understand kinship and land inheritance among the Trobriand Islanders. Claude Lévi-Strauss: Used genealogical/kinship data to develop Alliance Theory, focusing on marriage and exchange between lineages. India: S.C. Roy documented Oraon genealogies; Irawati Karve used genealogical mapping to study village kinship and exogamy in Maharashtra.: Applications of Pedigree Analysis.

Definition

It examines humans as biological organisms.

Definition

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Definition

Medical Genetics: It is the standard method for understanding the inheritance patterns of Mendelian disorders such as Huntington's disease, Sickle-cell anemia, and Thalassemia.

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Medical Genetics: It is the standard method for understanding the inheritance patterns of Mendelian disorders such as Huntington's disease, Sickle-cell anemia, and Thalassemia.

Thinkers

Bronislaw Malinowski | Fieldwork; Cultural Anthropology Franz Boas | Cultural Anthropology; Historical Particularism Benjamin Lee Whorf | Linguistic Relativity Radcliffe-Brown: Used genealogies to reconstruct descent groups and social structure in Africa.

Mendelian genetics in man-family study, single factor, multifactor, lethal, sub-lethal and polygenic inheritance in man.

Definition

The Synthetic Theory of Evolution (Neo-Darwinism) is the modern explanation of evolution that integrates Darwin's theory of Natural Selection with Mendelian genetics, population genetics, cytology, molecular biology, and paleontology. It explains evolution as changes in allele (gene) frequencies within populations over generations.

Example / case study

Form bell-shaped curve in population(majority in median range eg height).

Thinkers

Radcliffe-Brown: Used genealogies to reconstruct descent groups and social structure in Africa.
 Malinowski: Used them to understand kinship and land inheritance among the Trobriand Islanders.

Definition

ss - Sickle cell anemia(died bcoz of sickle cell)

Example / case study

Form bell-shaped curve in population(majority in median range eg height).

Definition

This is a phenomenon where the expression of a gene depends on which parent it was inherited from. Certain genes are "silenced" via DNA methylation during gamete formation.

Example / case study

The ABO blood group system. Alleles (I^A) and (I^B) are codominant. If an individual inherits both, they have blood type AB, expressing both A and B antigens on their red blood cells. Sickle Cell Trait. Individuals with the heterozygous genotype (Ss) produce approximately 65% normal red blood cells and 35% sickled cells, providing them with a biological advantage: partial resistance to malaria. Phenylketonuria (PKU). A mutation on Chromosome 12 leads to an inability to metabolize phenylalanine, which subsequently causes intellectual disability, skin pigmentation loss, and neurological issues. HLA (Human Leukocyte Antigen) genes. On Chromosome 6, genes A, B, and C are linked and almost always inherited as a single unit.

Thinkers

Marriage as Exchange: Lévi-Strauss used the Purum case to argue that kinship is fundamentally a system for the reciprocal exchange of women between groups, which acts as a form of social communication.

Definition

These genes reduce the efficiency or viability of the organism but do not cause death.

Example / case study

FTO gene - body cannot digest food properly; linked to obesity.(T: FTO nahi raheg to mote ho jough, food digest hi nahi hoga) ACE gene - increases risk of hypertension.(ACE ko gussa aayeg ki BP high rhta jo hai) Cause death in more than 50% but less than 100% of affected individuals. Some survive with medical support or favorable environment.

Definition

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Definition

ss - Sickle cell anemia(died bcoz of sickle cell)

Example / case study

Form bell-shaped curve in population(majority in median range eg height).

Concept of genetic polymorphism and selection, Mendelian population, Hardy-Weinberg law

Definition

Hence, Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium is an ideal theoretical model, not a perfect description of real populations.

Definition

Culture and embodiment is a transformative paradigm in anthropology that examines how the human body is not merely a biological vessel, but a living site where social meanings, emotions, and power relations are physically inscribed, felt, and lived. This approach bridges the gap between biological and cultural anthropology, moving beyond the Western "mind-body dualism" to view the body as the very ground of cultural experience.

Definition

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Definition

This is a phenomenon where the expression of a gene depends on which parent it was inherited from. Certain genes are "silenced" via DNA methylation during gamete formation.

Example / case study

Phenylketonuria (PKU). A mutation on Chromosome 12 leads to an inability to metabolize phenylalanine, which subsequently causes intellectual disability, skin pigmentation loss, and neurological issues. HLA (Human Leukocyte Antigen) genes. On Chromosome 6, genes A, B, and C are linked and almost always inherited as a single unit. Prader-Willi Syndrome occurs if a specific segment of Chromosome 15 is deleted from the paternal side, while Angelman Syndrome results if the same segment is deleted from the maternal side.

Thinkers

Marriage as Exchange: Lévi-Strauss used the Purum case to argue that kinship is fundamentally a system for the reciprocal exchange of women between groups, which acts as a form of social communication. Challenge to Descent Primacy: While British anthropologists like Radcliffe-Brown emphasized descent groups (lineages/clans) as the primary basis of social structure, the Purum system proved that marriage alliances are equally fundamental.

Definition

It is a mechanism/barrier that prevents members of different populations or groups from interbreeding and producing fertile offspring.

Thinkers

Philosophy for NEFA (1957) - Verrier Elwin

Definition

Isolated, simple, backward lifestyle.

Example / case study

Yellamma - mother goddess of tribes, seen as incarnation of Parvati. Bhil story - integrated into Shiva-Parvati narrative. Helps reconstruct population history and gene flow. Measures genetic differentiation among populations.

Definition

Inbreeding refers to non-random mating among genetically related individuals.

Definition

The Synthetic Theory of Evolution (Neo-Darwinism) is the modern explanation of evolution that integrates Darwin's theory of Natural Selection with Mendelian genetics, population genetics, cytology, molecular biology, and paleontology. It explains evolution as changes in allele (gene) frequencies within populations over generations.

Example / case study

Some protein variants with no adaptive value Importance: Useful in population genetics and ancestry studies. Variation in chromosome structure or number within a population.

Definition

Hence, Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium is an ideal theoretical model, not a perfect description of real populations.

Definition

Gene imprinting is a phenomenon where certain genes are expressed differently depending on whether they are inherited from the mother or father.

Example / case study

Rh incompatibility (Rh+ father × Rh- mother → Erythroblastosis fetalis). HLA-B and ABC genes are linked but not inherited together. African slaves with sickle-cell gene (beneficial in Africa) suffered in cold American regions.

Definition

The Synthetic Theory of Evolution (Neo-Darwinism) is the modern explanation of evolution that integrates Darwin's theory of Natural Selection with Mendelian genetics, population genetics, cytology, molecular biology, and paleontology. It explains evolution as changes in allele (gene) frequencies within populations over generations.

Definition

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

Example / case study

Lactase persistence → long-term milk consumption in pastoral populations → selection for lactose tolerance. Thus, biological anthropology connects genetic evolution with culturally created dietary practices. 2. Archaeological Anthropology - Material Science + Human Meaning Over 100 years, several European royals are carriers now.

Thinkers

Claude Lévi-Strauss: Used genealogical/kinship data to develop Alliance Theory, focusing on marriage and exchange between lineages. India: S.C. Roy documented Oraon genealogies; Irawati Karve used genealogical mapping to study village kinship and exogamy in Maharashtra.

Numerical and structural aberrations (disorders).**Definition**

Theoretical Basis: It is often linked to ethno-primateology, which recognizes humans as part of the environment of other primates and examines their cultural and social interactions.

Example / case study

Cri-du-chat Syndrome (5p-) - deletion on short arm of chromosome 5. Micrognathia (small jaw), clenched fists with overlapping fingers.

Definition

Q.3(c) Differentiate between pedigree and genealogical analyses. Discuss the history and application of these methods in anthropological studies. (15 Marks)

Thinkers

Addictions: alcohol, tobacco, opium (Singhpos of Arunachal). Radcliffe-Brown: Used genealogies to reconstruct descent groups and social structure in Africa. Malinowski: Used them to understand kinship and land inheritance among the Trobriand Islanders. Claude Lévi-Strauss: Used genealogical/kinship data to develop Alliance Theory, focusing on marriage and exchange between lineages. India: S.C. Roy documented Oraon genealogies; Irawati Karve used genealogical mapping to study village kinship and exogamy in Maharashtra.

Sex chromosomal aberration**Definition**

Understanding evolutionary change through chromosomal studies.

Example / case study

Humans and chimpanzees share a common ancestor with 24 pairs of chromosomes; two fused to form chromosome #2 in humans. Discovered by: Murray F. Lyon (Lyon Hypothesis, 1961). (T: M.F Leone) Refers to the inactivated X chromosome in female somatic cells (random inactivation).

Definition

A karyotype is the complete set of chromosomes of an individual, arranged in homologous pairs according to their size, shape and banding pattern.

Example / case study

Cri-du-chat Syndrome (5p-) - deletion on short arm of chromosome 5. The brain is highly sensitive to gene dosage imbalance.

Thinkers

Turner's Syndrome (XO): Female with only one X → no Barr body.

Definition

A karyotype is the complete set of chromosomes of an individual, arranged in homologous pairs according to their size, shape and banding pattern.

Example / case study

Cri-du-chat Syndrome (5p-) - deletion on short arm of chromosome 5. Severity depends on proportion and distribution of abnormal cells. Mosaic Down Syndrome - some cells 47,+21; others normal 46. Turner mosaic - some cells 45,X; others 46,XX.

Thinkers

Turner's Syndrome (XO): Female with only one X → no Barr body.

Definition

Refers to the inactivated X chromosome in female somatic cells (random inactivation).

Example / case study

Calico Cats: Different coat patches due to random X inactivation. Turner's Syndrome (XO): Female with only one X → no Barr body.

Definition

Diagnosis: Karyotype (47,XXX); two Barr bodies.

Example / case study

Cri-du-chat Syndrome (5p-) - deletion on short arm of chromosome 5. Baby after birth cry like cat, microcephaly, wide-set eyes, low-set ears. Intellectual disability, delayed development.

Definition

Understanding evolutionary change through chromosomal studies.

Example / case study

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Autosomal aberrations**Definition**

$2n + 1 \rightarrow$ Trisomy, $2n - 1 \rightarrow$ Monosomy.

Example / case study

Cri-du-chat Syndrome (5p-) - deletion on short arm of chromosome 5. □ (2021) "Chromosomal aberrations can play havoc with the human body and mind." Explain.

Definition

Risk increases with maternal age.

Example / case study

Mosaic Down Syndrome - some cells 47,+21; others normal 46. Turner mosaic - some cells 45,X; others 46,XX. □ (2021) "Chromosomal aberrations can play havoc with the human body and mind." Explain. Chromosomal aberrations disturb the normal gene dosage and gene regulation, thereby affecting multiple organ systems simultaneously. Because many genes are involved, their impact on the human body and mind can be profound.

Definition

Micrognathia (small jaw), clenched fists with overlapping fingers.

Definition

PTC Tasting: The ability to taste the bitter chemical Phenylthiocarbamide is a dominant trait (TT, Tt).

Example / case study

A study of a local tribe that ignores the impact of global capitalism or state-led industrialization (such as the mining in the DRC or phosphate excavation on Banaba Island) fails to capture the true reality of that culture's survival.

Thinkers

Bronislaw Malinowski | Fieldwork; Cultural Anthropology Franz Boas | Cultural Anthropology; Historical Particularism Benjamin Lee Whorf | Linguistic Relativity Individual as Active Agent: Scholars like Alexander Goldenweiser and Edward Sapir argued that culture is not an abstract force independent of humans. By assuming a closed system, anthropologists overlook individual biographies and the "personal particularity" that creative individuals inject into the cultural stream to drive innovation.

Definition

Entire sets of chromosomes gained or lost.

Example / case study

Cri-du-chat Syndrome (5p-) - deletion on short arm of chromosome 5. Baby after birth cry like cat, microcephaly, wide-set eyes, low-set ears. Intellectual disability, delayed development.

Genetic imprints in human disease, genetic screening, genetic counseling, human DNA profiling, gene mapping and genome s

Definition

Medical Genetics: It is the standard method for understanding the inheritance patterns of Mendelian disorders such as Huntington's disease, Sickle-cell anemia, and Thalassemia.

Example / case study

Male fruit flies' Y chromosomes die; females (XX) survive.

Thinkers

Radcliffe-Brown: Used genealogies to reconstruct descent groups and social structure in Africa. Malinowski: Used them to understand kinship and land inheritance among the Trobriand Islanders. Claude Lévi-Strauss: Used genealogical/kinship data to develop Alliance Theory, focusing on marriage and exchange between lineages. India: S.C. Roy documented Oraon genealogies; Irawati Karve used genealogical mapping to study village kinship and exogamy in Maharashtra.: Applications of Pedigree Analysis.

Definition

PRADAN: works with govt., promotes SHGs for sustainable livelihoods.

Example / case study

Male fruit flies' Y chromosomes die; females (XX) survive.

Definition

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Example / case study

Lactase persistence → long-term milk consumption in pastoral populations → selection for lactose tolerance. Thus, biological anthropology connects genetic evolution with culturally created dietary practices. DNA profiling for crime scene investigations. Victim identification during large-scale disasters.

Thinkers

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Definition

DNA profiling for crime scene investigations.

Example / case study

Male fruit flies' Y chromosomes die; females (XX) survive.

Definition

Based on linkage studies and recombination frequency.

Example / case study

Male fruit flies' Y chromosomes die; females (XX) survive. If recombinant frequency = 0.76 → distance = 76 cM.

Definition

DNA profiling for crime scene investigations.

Example / case study

Male fruit flies' Y chromosomes die; females (XX) survive. If recombinant frequency = 0.76 → distance = 76 cM.

Race and racism, biological basis of morphological variation of non-metric and metric characters. Racial criteria, racia

Definition

It examines humans as biological organisms.

Example / case study

The Enduring Voices Project (National Geographic) documents endangered languages through audio-visual records.

Definition

Studies the biological evolution and variation of human beings.

Definition

Studies the biological evolution and variation of human beings.

Definition

Studies the biological evolution and variation of human beings.

Age, sex and population variation as genetic marker

Definition

UPSC note: ABO system is the most commonly cited example in humans.

Example / case study

Some protein variants with no adaptive value Importance: Useful in population genetics and ancestry studies. Variation in chromosome structure or number within a population.

Definition

Population genetics & evolutionary studies.

Definition

Population genetics & evolutionary studies.

Example / case study

Human chromosomal variants (e.g., heterochromatin variations) Anthropological use: Helpful in evolutionary and population studies. 5. Biochemical/protein/functional (Molecular) Polymorphism Variation at the protein or enzyme level.

Definition

GWAS (Genome-Wide Association Studies) identify connections between genetic variants and diseases.

Example / case study

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Definition

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Example / case study

Some protein variants with no adaptive value Importance: Useful in population genetics and ancestry studies. Variation in chromosome structure or number within a population.

Definition

Thus, scientific analysis of the human skeleton serves broader humanitarian objectives such as justice, dignity and identification of victims.

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Example / case study

1 - Tristan da Cunha Island: (Cunhu da Tri star) 2 - Huntington's Disease #4 (Brain Cell Degeneration): (Mar cai aibo hunting pe - Yadav dimag)

Definition

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Concepts and methods of Ecological Anthropology: Bio-cultural Adaptations**Definition**

Scientific lens | Humanistic/social lens | Anthropological synthesis

Thinkers

E.A. Hoebel - Anthropology is the study of man and his works.

Definition

Even where food is available, nutritional outcomes can differ because of access, intra-household distribution, gender relations and social status.

Thinkers

E.A. Hoebel - Anthropology is the study of man and his works.

Definition

Adaptability refers to human physiological, developmental, and behavioral responses to environmental stress. Political economy shows that socio-economic inequality limits and shapes these responses.

Example / case study

In the Banaba Island case, the environment was rendered uninhabitable because of phosphate mining driven by colonial economic interests, illustrating how the political economy can physically destroy an ecological niche.

Thinkers

E.A. Hoebel - Anthropology is the study of man and his works. Conclusion: While Clifford Geertz sought to interpret the "web of meanings" that define human existence, Victor Turner aimed to understand how those meanings are performed and transformed through ritual action. Together, they engineered the "**Symbolic Turn**," proving that human action is fundamentally mediated by meaning and symbolic complexity.

Definition

Scientific lens | Humanistic/social lens | Anthropological synthesis

Thinkers

E.A. Hoebel - Anthropology is the study of man and his works.

Definition

Use field studies and empirical data.

Example / case study

Naga identity - multiple tribes unified by colonial rule + Christianity.

Thinkers

Scholar: Clifford Geertz (Old Societies and New States, 1963). Ernest Gellner: Riots happen between two equal groups; if one weak → genocide. Titles show caste influence: Singh, Pujari, Rana, Nayak. E.A. Hoebel - Anthropology is the study of man and his works.

Definition

Nutritional anthropology is a subfield of biological and biocultural anthropology that examines the interaction between diet, human biology, ecology, and culture. It views nutrition not merely as a biological requirement but as a biocultural phenomenon shaped by environment, social organization, and political economy. Anthropologists such as **John Bennett (1943)** and later **Scrimshaw and Young (1989)** emphasized that nutrition must be analyzed as a process where food intake is inseparable from the inequality and ecology of a community.

Example / case study

Developmental Acclimatization (Ontogenetic Development)

Thinkers

E.A. Hoebel - Anthropology is the study of man and his works.

Epidemiological Anthropology**Definition**

This is a very strong way to connect ecology + evolution + anthropology.

Definition

This is a very strong way to connect ecology + evolution + anthropology.

Thinkers

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

Definition

Studies distribution & determinants of diseases and injuries in human populations.

Definition

Studies distribution & determinants of diseases and injuries in human populations.

Definition

Studies distribution & determinants of diseases and injuries in human populations.

Example / case study

Epidemiological Triad (Model of Disease Causation) Used to study determinants & distribution of diseases.

Factors affecting growth and development**Definition**

Studies the biological evolution and variation of human beings.

Definition

It examines humans as biological organisms.

Example / case study

even Brahmins of Maharashtra showed diversity, not homogeneity.

Thinkers

S.C. Dube: Indian tradition = multi-polar not bipolar (Classical, Regional, Local, Western, Emergent National, Tradition of elites e.g., Ramayana, Chhath, Sarna, Universal Adult Franchise, Armed Forces).

Definition

Pioneer of village studies in India.

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. 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

Definition

Shivpuri district is among the worst malnutrition-affected regions in the world.

Example / case study

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. 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)

Definition

It examines humans as biological organisms.

Thinkers

S.C. Roy (1871-1942) - First Indian Ethnographer Franz Boas - historical particularism and the four-field approach (biological, archaeological, linguistic, cultural). Eric Wolf - Interdisciplinary Anthropology.

Definition

Mortality is the central factor in population dynamics.

Ageing and senescence. Theories and observations

Definition

Ageing is also shaped by social expectations, roles, norms, and culture.

Definition

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Definition

Study: Sripuram village (Tamil Nadu).

Example / case study

Children's contribution is high (Max in Horticulture by Whiting & Whiting in six culture study of socialization)

Definition

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Thinkers

E.A. Hoebel: "Anthropology is the study of man and his works."

Definition

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Definition

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Relevance of menarche, menopause and other bioevents to fertility. Fertility patterns and differentials.

Definition

Stage 5 pockets: Kerala, some NE states.

Definition

This approach examines how structural factors like power and inequality physically determine the health and "form" of the body.

Thinkers

Metabolic Living: **Harris Solomon (2016)** studied obesity and diabetes in India, linking the physical changes in the Indian body to shifting food systems and global capital.

Definition

other bioevents to fertility. Fertility patterns

Definition

Stage 5 pockets: Kerala, some NE states.

Demographic theories**Definition**

Errors in DNA & protein synthesis accumulate → cellular malfunction → ageing.

Thinkers

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

Definition

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Definition

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Example / case study

Herbert Risley: Racial theory of caste; The People of India. Thurston: Castes & Tribes of Southern India. Beginning: Institutionalisation of anthropology (Dept. of Anthropology, Calcutta University - 1920). Nature: Empirical fieldwork, study of social institutions.

Thinkers

S.C. Roy (1871-1942) - First Indian Ethnographer

Definition

Mysore Tribes & Castes (4 vols.)

Example / case study

Chiapas, Mexico - Coca-cola addiction → Diabetes

Thinkers

S.C. Roy (1871-1942) - First Indian Ethnographer • Ta-ta theory(E.B Tylor) - imitation of gesture movements

Biological and socio-ecological factors influencing fecundity, fertility, natality and mortality.

Definition

Studies humans from every perspective.

Thinkers

E.A. Hoebel: "Anthropology is the study of man and his works."

Definition

socio-ecological factors influencing fecundity

Definition

Minorities control highest lands, have legal safeguards, socio economic condition of every community increased since independence but slower for some minority shows largely gov not directly discriminated in benefits till now but it is the result of ineffective implementation.

Definition

Body fat $\approx$ 17% for onset, 22% for regular cycles (called Nubility).

Definition

Drives cycle of suffering until Moksha is attained.

Example / case study

over-consumption of resources $\rightarrow$ karma teaches restraint.

Thinkers

Addictions: alcohol, tobacco, opium (Singhpos of Arunachal).

Applications of Anthropology

Definition

Medical Genetics: It is the standard method for understanding the inheritance patterns of Mendelian disorders such as Huntington's disease, Sickle-cell anemia, and Thalassemia.

Example / case study

Information is reconstructed almost entirely through archaeological evidence. Together they explain humans from biological, cultural, linguistic and historical perspectives. Anthropology today extends far beyond the study of tribes.

Thinkers

E.A. Hoebel: "Anthropology is the study of man and his works." Franz Boas - historical particularism and the four-field approach (biological, archaeological, linguistic, cultural). Radcliffe-Brown: Used genealogies to reconstruct descent groups and social structure in Africa. Malinowski: Used them to understand kinship and land inheritance among the Trobriand Islanders. Claude Lévi-Strauss: Used genealogical/kinship data to develop Alliance Theory, focusing on marriage and exchange between lineages.

Definition

Cultural Anthropology is the study of learned behaviour, beliefs, customs, traditions, institutions, and values of different human societies.

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Definition

Nutritional anthropology is a subfield of biological and biocultural anthropology that examines the interaction between diet, human biology, ecology, and culture. It views nutrition not merely as a biological requirement but as a biocultural phenomenon shaped by environment, social organization, and political economy. Anthropologists such as **John Bennett (1943)** and later **Scrimshaw and Young (1989)** emphasized that nutrition must be analyzed as a process where food intake is inseparable from the inequality and ecology of a community.

Example / case study

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Definition

Scientific lens | Humanistic/social lens | Anthropological synthesis

Example / case study

- Ranakhandi village: women rejected high-yield wheat because of its colour and taste, showing why technically superior food interventions can fail without cultural acceptance.

Thinkers

Similarly, L.P. Vidyarthi's Nature-Man-Spirit Complex illustrates the interaction of environment, human society and cultural/religious beliefs in understanding tribal life.

Definition

Study (Kamal K. Misra): >85% of tribal land transfers in AP, MP, Odisha are to non-tribals.

Example / case study

Involves complete sequencing of the genome using next-generation methods. To sequence the entire human genome and identify all genes.

Thinkers

Development-induced displacement (by B.K. Roy Burman) highlighting Eco, Health, Political marginalisation. Titles show caste influence: Singh, Pujari, Rana, Nayak.

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Definition

6. Archaeological Reconstruction

Example / case study

Analysis of Harappan weights and urban planning provides evidence not only about technology but also about economic organisation and social regulation. Material remains → scientific analysis → reconstruction of past human behaviour and institutions. 3. Linguistic Anthropology - Language + Worldview Linguistic anthropology studies the relationship between language, culture and society.

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Definition

3□ Enables species comparison and evolutionary studies.

Example / case study

Estimating carriers of cystic fibrosis or β -thalassemia. Indian caste populations often deviate from HWE due to prolonged endogamy.

Thinkers

Franz Boas - historical particularism and the four-field approach (biological, archaeological, linguistic, cultural).

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Hence, Anthropology literally means "Study of Human Beings."

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Definition

Anthropology is broadly divided into four major branches, each focusing on a different aspect of human life. Together, they provide a holistic understanding of human beings.

Thinkers

Approach: Vidyarthi's + K.N. Sahay's model (forces of change).

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