

Ethnic Composition of Indian Population

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Introduction:

Ethnic diversity is one of the social complexities found in most contemporary societies. Historically it is the legacy of conquests that brought diverse peoples under the rule of a dominant group. Ethnicity refers to the differentiation of groups of people who have shared cultural meanings, memories, and descent produced through social interaction. Ethnicity is considered to be shared characteristics such as culture, language, religion, and traditions, which contribute to a person or group's identity.

Definition of Ethnicity:

- ❖ An ethnic group, or an ethnicity, is a category of people who identify with each other based on similarities such as common ancestry, language, society, culture or nation.
- ❖ Ethnicity is usually an inherited status based on the society in which one lives.
- ❖ Membership of an ethnic group tends to be defined by a shared cultural heritage, ancestry, origin myth, history, homeland, language or dialect, symbolic systems such as religion, mythology and ritual, cuisine, dressing style, art, and physical appearance.
- ❖ An 'ethnic group' has been defined as a group that regards itself or is regarded by others as a distinct community by virtue of certain characteristics that will help to distinguish the group from the surrounding community.

Terminology:

- ❑ The term *ethnic* is derived from the Greek word *ethnos* which was loaned into Latin as *ethnicus*.
- ❑ The inherited English language term for this concept is *folk*, used alongside the latin *people* since the late Middle English period.

Racial classification of Indian People by different Anthropologist:

- ✓ India's present day population is a conglomeration of people belonging to different racial groups with different ethnic backgrounds.
- ✓ The people entered India from different parts of the world at different time periods adopting themselves.
- ✓ India has been a meeting point of different races and tribes from times immemorial.
- ✓ Almost all the major races of the world are found in India.
- ✓ As a result, India has a varied population and diversified ethnic composition.
- ✓ Different Anthropologists classify racial composition of Indian people based on their works. Some of the notable classification are Sir Herbert Hope Risley (1915), B.S. Guha (1937), Giufrida-Ruggeri (1921), A.C. Haddon (1924), Eickstedt (1934), S.S. Sarkar (1961) etc.

Classification of Sir Herbert Hope Risley (1915)

Sir Herbert Hope Risley tried to classify the Indian population on the basis of anthropometric measurements. He had developed a clear-cut idea about the racial elements of India when he directed the operation of Census for India in 1901. Later, he took the help of anthropometry to affirm his assumptions and published the results in 1915 under the title 'The People of India'. He identified three principal racial types in India i.e. The Dravidian, the Indo-Aryan and the Mongoloid. On the whole, Risley distinguished seven different 'physical types' in the Indian population in the following way:

1. The Dravidian type:

The stature of these people is short or below medium. The complexion is dark, approaching to black. The hair is similarly dark and plentiful with an occasional tendency to curl. The eye colour is also dark. The head is long and the nose is very broad, sometimes depressed at the root. The people of Dravidian type are distributed in the region from Ceylon to the valley of the Ganges covering the southern part of India, which especially includes the Western Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad), Central India and Chotonagpur. The best example of this type is the Paniyans of Malabar (South India) and the Santals of the Chottanagpur. Risley believed these people as original inhabitants of India who are found to be modified at present by the infiltration of the Aryans, the Scythians and the Mongoloids.

2. The Indo-Aryan type:

This type is the most close to the traditional Aryans who colonized India. The people are tall statured with fair complexion, dark eyes, and plentiful hair on face and body. They also possess predominant longhead (dolichocephalic), narrow and long (leptorrhine) nose. The type is confined to Punjab, Rajasthan and Kashmir where the members are known as the Kashmiri Brahmins, Rajputs, Jats and the Khattris.

3. The Mongoloid type:

The most important characteristic features of this type are broad-head, dark complexion with yellowish eyes and scanty hair on face and body. The stature is usually short or below medium. The nose shows a wide range of variation, from fine to broad. The face is typically flat where the eyes are oblique with epicanthic fold. The people of this type are found along the Himalayan region, especially in the regions namely North East Frontier, Nepal and Burma. The best examples are the Kanets of Lahul and Kulu Valleys, Lepchas of Darjeeling and Sikkim, the Limbus, the Murmis and the Gurungs of Nepal and the Bodo of Assam.

4. The Aryo-Dravidian type:

This type is known as the Hindustani type. Generally the heads of the people are long with a tendency towards medium. The complexion varies from light brown to black. The nose is usually medium, although the broad nose is not uncommon. But in this case, the broad nose is always broader than the nose of Indo-Aryans. In stature, the people are shorter than the Indo-Aryans who usually show a below average height; i.e. the height ranges from 159cm to 166cm. Thus, the Aryo- Dravidians is differentiated from the Indo-Aryans. The type is considered as an intermixture of the Aryans and the Dravidians in varying proportions. The people of this type are found in Uttar Pradesh, in some parts of Rajasthan and in Bihar.

5. The Mongolo-Dravidian type:

This type is known as the Bengalian type characterized by broad and round heads with a tendency towards medium dark complexion and plentiful hair on face. The nose is usually medium with a tendency towards flatness. The stature is also medium but sometimes short. Such people are found in Bengal and Orissa. The notable representatives of this type are the Bengali Brahmins and Bengali Kayasthas. According to Risley this type is not only an admixture of the Mongolians and the Dravidians, some blood strains of Indo-Aryan type are also mixed with it.

6. The Scytho-Dravidian type:

The people of this type possess medium to broad head, low to medium stature, fair complexion, and a moderately fine nose, which is not conspicuously long. The hair is scanty on face and body. It is held that the type has been evolved by the intermixture of two distinct racial strains—the Scythians and the Dravidians. Typical example of this type is found in Western India comprising the Maratha Brahmins, the Kunbis and the Coorgs, who are distributed in the tracts of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra-Gujrat border region upto the Coorg. The Scythian element is more prominent in higher social groups of these regions while the Dravidian features predominate among the lower social groups in the region.

7. The Turko-Iranian type:

This type is characterized by broad heads and fine to medium nose, which is long and prominent. The stature is fairly tall and the average height of the males varies from 162cm to 172cm. Although the eyes are dark in colour, grey eyes are not uncommon. Complexion of the people is generally fair; plentiful hair is found on face and body. The type includes the inhabitants of Afghanistan, Baluchistan and Northwest Frontier Provinces (now in Pakistan) who are represented by the Balochis, Brahai, Afghans and some other people of NWFP. In the view of Risley, this type has been formed probably by the fusion of Turki and Persian elements in which the former's features predominate. Risley's classification faced a considerable criticism from different authorities, especially in respect of the Dravidians, the Scytho-Dravidians and the Mongolo-Dravidians. Besides, the Indo-Aryans is distributed only in Punjab, Rajputana and the Kashmir Valley according to Risley. But the speakers of Aryan languages actually occupy a vast area in Indian subcontinent, which has not been reflected in his classification. If he had measured the people of Kashmir alone, then he should have placed them in a separate group as they possessed absolutely different physical features. Further, Risley had given much importance in Scythian elements when he discussed about broad-headed people as the Scytho-Dravidian type. In fact, the Scythian invaders stayed so short that they hardly get any opportunity to spread any remarkable influence among ethnic elements of Bombay Presidency where Risley conducted his study. Risley also stated that the broad-headed elements in Bengal have been influenced by the Mongolian people. But it is difficult to confirm that the brachycephalic elements in Bengal and Gujrat have been derived from the Mongolian element. Although all Mongolian people are brachycephals but the epicanthic fold as a typical Mongolian feature is found only among some people living in Darjeeling and neighbouring districts. This feature is totally absent among the people of other parts of Bengal.

Classification of Giufrida-Ruggeri (1921)

Giufrida- Ruggeri made the following six-fold ethnic classification for the people of India:

1. *Negrito: Veddas and some South Indian jungle tribes.*

2. *Pre-Dravidian or Australoid Veddics*: Santals, Oraons, Mundas, etc.

3. *Dravidian*: Tamil and Telugu speaking people.

4. *Tall dolichocephalic element*: Toda.

5. *Dolichocephalic Aryan* : Indo-Afghans, Indo-Iranians, etc.

6. *brachycephalic leucoderm* – Armenians, Georgianus, etc.

In contrast to H.H. Risley, Giufrida-Ruggeri had mentioned the Veddas and some South Indian forest dwelling tribes as possessing the Negrito element. He categorized the Indo-Afghans, Indo-Iranians, etc. under dolichocephalic Aryans. In his consideration, the brachycephalic leucoderms was a type, which included the Armenians and the peoples of Pamir and Georgia. He was inspired by the language based racial classification of his predecessor Sir H. H. Risley. But Giufrida-Ruggeri's classification was too short to denote the enormous variation of physical types that exist among the peoples of India.

Classification of A.C. Haddon (1924)

A.C. Haddon did not agree with Risley and gave his own analysis about the racial elements in India. He divided India into three main geographical regions—(a) Himalayas, (b) the Northern plains or Hindustan and (c) the Southern plateau or the Deccan which is mostly covered by the jungles.

(a) The Himalayan region:

Two principal types are found under this region:

(i) Indo-Aryan:

People of this type show tall stature, brown skin colour with varying shades, dolichocephalic head with straight fine leptorrhine nose, well-developed forehead and a long narrow face. This type is represented by the Kanets of Kulu Valley. In Eastern Punjab the Indo-Aryan Kanets exhibit a trace of Tibetan blood.

(ii) Mongoloid:

This type dominates in North Eastern India. In fact, the main racial element of North East Frontier Agency of India is the Mongoloid and the representatives are the Lepcha, Garo, Naga, Khasi, Dafla, etc. who show the Mongoloid features. Haddon identified several racial elements among the tribes of Assam, which have been accumulated due to various invasions at different times. Among these elements the brachycephalic leptorrhine, came from the north and has been converted into Eurasiatic group. The brachycephalic platyrrhine is a variety of Pareoan. Further, the dolichocephalic element

has entered from the main land of India into the population of Assam. Some Dravidian elements are also seen. Beside Assam, the people of Nepal, Bhutan, Kashmir and Punjab, show Mongoloid features very prominently.

(b) The Northern plains or Hindustan region:

The people are characterized by dolichocephalic head with straight fine leptorrhine nose, well-developed forehead and a long narrow face. Stature ranges from medium to tall, eyes are dark on light brown complexion. The hair is black and wavy. The representative populations are the Jats and the Rajputs and others. But the places where the members of this type have mixed with the aboriginal people, the admixture peoples are assumed as the lower caste people.

(c) The Deccan region or Southern plateau:

The different racial elements of this region as found by Haddon. These are:

1. Negrito:

Some people of this area show Negrito racial strain. Their physical characteristics include medium head, flat nose, flattened occiput, protruding forehead and very dark skin colour. The hair is black and the eyes are brown. The lips are somewhat fleshy and everted. The best representatives are the Kadars of Cochin, the Urallis of Nilgiri Hills and the Pullayans of Palni Hills. On the other hand, Andamanese represent a true Negrito racial element.

2. Pre-Dravidian:

This is the oldest existing stratum of Indian population. The people are characterized by dolichocephalic heads, short stature, and very dark skin with black hair. The hair form varies from wavy to very curly. The representative populations are Bhils, Gonds, Santals, Oraons, Hos, Mundas, etc.

3. Dravidian:

The Dravidians are characterized by the dolichocephalic heads, medium stature, brownish black skin colour and the mesorrhine nose. They possess plentiful hair, which are wavy with an occasional tendency to curl. The people of South India speaking Tamil, Malayalam, Telegu, Canarese, etc. belong to this type.

4. Southern brachycephals:

This type is characterized by Mesocephalic to brachycephalic head and mesorrhine nose. The complexion is brownish black. However, the features are represented by the Paniyans of the Tamil district and the Pavara fishermen of the Tinnevalley coast.

5. Western Brachycephals:

Haddon had traced a zone of broad-headed people extending from Gujarat to Coorg, along the Western coastal area of India. The people are characterized by brachycephalic heads, almost leptorrhine nose, light brown skin colour and tall stature. Risley had mentioned these people as the Scytho-Dravidians. The best examples are the Nagar Brahmins of Gujarat, the Prabhu, the Maratha of Maharashtra, etc.

Haddon's classification was based mainly on physical characters, artifacts, customs, languages and folk-tales. He justified his own analysis by the help of the evidences. According to his analysis, the oldest people of India must have been the Pre-Dravidians. The Dravidians also lived in India as the original inhabitants at the banks of the Ganges in Western Bengal. The Aryan-speaking people came on this subcontinent in the second millennium BC and spread over the fertile regions of the Punjab. Gradually, they occupied the valleys of the Jamuna and the Ganges. The main drawback of Haddon's analysis was that he did not mention anything regarding the Pre-Aryans of India.

Classification of Eickstedt (1934)

Fuherer von Eickstedt had made the German Indian Anthropological Expedition to India during 1926-29. He classified the Indian people in 1934, both from physical and cultural perspectives. Basically he was inspired by the variation in skin colour of the Indian people and suggested four main ethnic elements as constituents of the population in India.

I. Weddid or Ancient Indians:

These are the primitive people living in the forest. Two sub-types are distinguished here.

(a) Gondid:

These people show dark brown complexion and curly hair. They are totemistic in belief and use mattock. Matriarchal influence is noticed among them. The Oraons, Gonds, Bhils etc. are the best examples of this sub-type.

(b) Malid:

These people are characterized by curly hair with black-brown colour. Their culture is ancient but now they have been influenced by alien culture. People like Kurumbas, Veddas, etc. represent this sub-type.

II. Melanid or Black Indians:

Racially it is a mixed group, which is divided into two sub-groups.

(a) South Melanid:

This sub-group is characterized by black-brown skin colour. People live in the Southern most plains of India and possess strong matriarchal influence. The typical example of this group is the Yanaadi.

(b) Kolid:

This sub-group includes the primitive people characterized by black-brown skin colour who live in the North Deccan forests. They hold strong totemistic beliefs and prominent matriarchal influence. The best examples are the Santals and the Mundas.

III. Indid or New Indians:

These people are racially more advanced and occupy the open regions of India. They are further subdivided into two sub-groups.

(a) Gracile Indid:

This sub-group is characterized by brown skin colour with gracile appearance. The people show strong patriarchal influence as found among the Bengalis.

(b) North Indid:

This sub-group possesses light brown skin colour. People are patriarchal in nature. The best examples of this type are the Todas and the Rajputs.

IV. Palaeo-Mongoloid:

These people show certain incipient Mongoloid characters. The best examples are the Palayan of Wynad. Eickstedt's classification is regarded as a proper attempt to classify Indian population.

Classification of Dr. B.S. Guha (1937)

The racial classification of Dr. B. S. Guha's is based on anthropometric measurements, which were collected during his investigations from 1930 to 1933. Guha traced six major racial strains and nine sub-types among the modern Indian population.

1. The Negrito:

These people are considered as the first comers and the true autochthones of India. They are characterized by dark skin colour, short stature, and frizzly hair with long or short spirals. The head is small, medium, long or broad with bulbous forehead. The nose is flat and broad. The lips are everted and thick. The best representatives of this type are the Kadars, the Irulas, the Puniyans, etc. of South India. Such type of characters is also visible among the tribes living in the Rajmahal Hills. In respect

of the head form and hair form, the Indian Negrito strain resembles more to the Melanesian Pygmies than to the Andamanese or African Pygmies.

2. The Proto-Australoid:

This group is considered as the second oldest racial group in India characterized by dolichocephalic head, broad and flat nose (platyrrhine nose) which is depressed at the root. They are further short in height, dark brown to nearly black in skin colour. The hair is wavy or curly. Supraorbital ridges are prominent. These features are found among almost all the tribes of the Central and Southern India. The best examples are the Oraons, the Santals, and the Mundas of Chottanagpur region; the Chenchus, the Kurumbas, the Yeruvas and the Badagas of Southern India; and the Bhils, Kols of Central and Western India.

3. The Mongoloid:

This type of people is distinguished by scanty growth of hair on face and body. The eyes are obliquely set and show the presence of epicanthic fold. The face is flat with prominent cheekbones and hair is straight. This group can be divided into two sub-groups, such as Palaeo-Mongoloid and the Tibeto-Mongoloid. The former one is further sub-divided as long headed and broad-headed. In Palaeo-Mongoloid group, especially the longheaded type possesses long head, medium stature, and medium nose. Their cheekbones are prominent and skin colour varies from dark to light brown. The face is short and flat. They are the inhabitants of the sub-Himalayan region; the concentration is most remarkable in Assam and Burma Frontier. The Sema Nagas of Assam and the Limbus of Nepal are the best examples. The other sub-division of palaeo-Mongoloid is the broad-headed type who possesses broad head with round face, dark skin colour and medium nose. The eyes are obliquely set and epicanthic fold is more prominent than that of the long-headed type. This type has been identified among the hill tribes of Chittagung, e.g. the chakmas, the Maghs, etc. Second sub-division of Mongoloid is the Tibeto-Mongoloids who shows no further divisions. Their physical features are characterized by broad and massive head, tall stature, long and flat face, and medium to long nose. The eyes are oblique with marked epicanthic fold. Hair on body and face is almost absent. The skin colour is light brown. The best examples are the Tibetans of Bhutan and Sikkim.

4. The Mediterranean:

This group is divided into three distinct racial types, these are:

a) Palaeo-Mediterranean:

The people are characterized by long head with bulbous forehead, projected with high vault. They also show medium stature, small and broad nose, narrow face and pointed chin. The hair on face and body is scanty. The skin colour is dark. These people probably introduced megalithic culture to India.

The Dravidian speaking people of South India exhibit the main concentration of this type. The Tamil Brahmins of Madura, Nairs of Cochin, and Telugu Brahmins are the examples.

b) The Mediterranean:

The features include long head with arched forehead, narrow nose, medium to tall stature and light skin colour. Their chin is well developed, hair colour is dark, eye colour is brownish to dark and the hair on face and body is plentiful. These people live in the regions like Uttar Pradesh, Bombay, Bengal, Malabar, etc. The true types are the Numbudiri Brahmins of Cochin, Brahmins of Allahabad and Bengali Brahmins. It may be assumed that probably this type was responsible for the building up of Indus Valley civilization.

c) The Oriental:

These people resemble the Mediterranean in almost all physical features except the nose, which is long and convex in this case. The best examples are the Punjabi Chattris, the Benia of Rajputana, and the Pathans.

5. The Western Brachycephals:

This racial group is divided into three types, which are:

a) The Alpenoid:

This type shows broad head, medium stature, prominent nose and rounded face. The hair on face and body is abundant and the skin colour is light. This type is found among the Bania of Gujarat, the Kathi of Kathiawar and the Kayasthas of Bengal,

b) The dinaric:

This type is characterized by broad head. The nose is very long and often convex. The face is long and stature in general is very tall. The skin colour is dark; eye and hair colours are also dark. The representative populations are found in Bengal, Orissa and Coorg. The Brahmins of Bengal and Mysore are the best examples. Both the Alpino and the dinaric people entered into India through Baluchistan, Sind, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. They penetrated Ceylon from Kannada. The presence of this type has been noted in the Indus Valley site, Tinnevalley and Hyderabad.

c) The Armenoid:

This type shows a resemblance with the Dinarics in physical characters. Only difference is that, among the Dinarics the shape of occiput is much developed and the nose is very prominent. The Parsis of Bombay exhibit typical Armenoid characteristics. The Bengali Vaidyas and Kayasthas sometimes show the features of this type.

6. The Nordics:

The people are characterized by long head, arched forehead. The nose is straight and high bridged. All are tall statured with strong jaw and robust body built. The eye colour is blue or grey. The body colour is fair which reddish. This element is scattered in different parts of Northern India, especially in the Punjab and Rajputana. The Kho of Chitral, the Red Kaffirs, and the Khatash are some other representatives of this type. The Nordics came from the north, probably from Southeast Russia and Southwest Siberia, thereafter penetrated into India through Central Asia.

Classification of Dr. S.S. Sarkar (1961)

The racial classification of Dr. S.S. Sarkar is based on cephalic index. He suggested six ethnic elements as the main types in the population of India. According to him, India is predominantly a dolichocephalic country, followed by the racial types like mesocephals and brachycephals.

(a) The Dolichocephals:

1. Australoid:

The Australoids are known by different names, such as, Proto-Australoid, Pre-Dravidian, Nisada and Veddid. The aboriginal people of India exhibit a Veddid or Australoid element in different degrees. Certain tribes of South India like the Uralis, the Kannikars, Paniyan and other show Australoid features. Sarkar had mentioned that the Australoids are widely distributed throughout India. The features are present among all castes of India although a greatest concentration is found among the lower castes. However, the population is characterized by short stature with dark complexion. Their head is dolichocephalic, the nose is platyrrhine and the hair is wavy.

2. Indo-Aryan:

The dolichocephalic Indo-Aryans are quite distinct from that of the Australoids. Their physical features denote tall stature and light skin colour. The eye colour is also light, even the hair colour is not so dark as the Australoids. The cranial capacity of Indo-Aryans is higher than the Australoids. Their physique is well built and robust than the Australoids. The best example of Indo-Aryan type is the Baltis of the Hindukush Mountains. The Indo-Aryan people have frequently met with the people of Indus and the Gangetic Valley of Western India. Therefore, many features of this type predominate in the said region. A sporadic distribution of this type has also been noted in Eastern Bihar, Bengal and Assam. But in the latter areas, the type is confined among the higher castes only.

3. Mundari-Speakers:

‘The Mundari-speakers’ as described by Sarkar are the sturdy, short height people with robust constitution. Other features include a dolichocephalic head, a skin colour lighter than the Australoids. The thick, straight, black hair is more or less similar to those of the Mongoloids.

These people are distributed in the river valleys and plateaus of Eastern and Central India. Chottanagpur plateau, Orissa, and Madhya Pradesh show the highest concentration. They have been migrated from the east and bear some affinities with the Mongoloids.

(b) The Mesocephals:

4. Irano-Scythian:

This type of ethnic element perhaps entered in India from Northwest, almost at the same time during the Indo-Aryan migration. The physical features are characterized by the mesocephalic head and medium stature. These Irano-Scythians are quite different from the dolichocephalic Indo-Aryans, despite certain similarities do exist between them. In Eastern Bihar, Bengal and Assam the dolichocephalic Indo-Aryans have been replaced by the Mesocephalic Irano- Scythians. The average cephalic index of Indo-Aryans is 73 while among the Irano-Scythian it ranges between 77 and 79. The Mesocephalic Irano-Scythians appears to be more variable in physical features. After entering India these people possibly moved southward along the valley of the Indus. Ultimately they reached to Gujarat, Bombay and Maharashtra. Their distribution has been noted upto Northern Mysore, Deccan and further south. In Eastern India this element has been frequently observed among the populations inhabiting in the river valleys of the Narmada and the Son.

(c) The Brachyecephals:

5. Far Eastern:

There is no disagreement that the brachycephalic element came from Central Asia to India during Prehistoric period. The fact is that, the India had a connection with the Islands of Southeast Asia since ancient times and the cultural relationships have been continued till the historical period. A Malayan element is observed in the coastal regions of Chittagung hill tracts. This Malayan strain is quite distinct from other ethnic elements. Dr. Sarkar had defined it in terms of brachycephalic head, short stature, tendency towards obesity and dark skin colour.

6. Mongolian:

This type of people is found in the North-eastern borders of India and the foothills of the Himalayas. The physical characteristics show a predomination of Mongoloid features. The skin colour is yellowish, akin to Mongoloid skin colour. The hair is sparsely distributed on face and body. The eyes invariably present the epicanthic fold. For these typical Mongoloid characters, the people are easily distinguishable from the other populations of India.

Ethnic Composition of India (General Classification):

India's present day population is a conglomeration of people belonging to different racial groups with different ethnic backgrounds. The people entered India from different parts of the world at different time periods adopting themselves. India has been a meeting point of different races and tribes from times immemorial. Almost all the major races of the world are visible in India. As a result, India has a varied population and diversified ethnic composition.

The population of the country mainly derived from the following racial groups:

(1) Negrito:

- The word *Negrito* is the Spanish diminutive of *negro*, used to mean "little black person".
- The Negritos from Africa were the earliest people to have come to India. This is the oldest tribe in India.
- They have survived in their original habitat in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The Jarawas, Onges, Sentinelese and the Great Andamanese are some of the examples.
- Some hill tribes like Irulas, Kodars, Paniyans and Kurumbas are found in some patches in Southern part of mainland India.
- Badgi in Rajmahal (Bihar), Jaroya in Andaman, Kadar in Karnataka, Naga+Khasi in North East etc.
- This has often been interpreted to the effect that they are remnants of the original expansion from Africa some 70,000 years ago.
- However, another study suggests that the Onge (indigenous to Little Andaman) are "more closely related to Southeast Asians than they are to present-day South Asians", and that the Great Andamanese "appear to have received a degree of relatively recent admixture from adjacent regional populations but also share a significant degree of genetic ancestry with Malaysian negrito groups.
- Significant geographical distribution (Globally): Andaman Nicobar island in India, peninsular region in Malaysia, Thailand's Southern part, Philippines's Luzon, Negros, Palawan region etc.



Plate: Negrito

❖ **Racial features:**

- ✓ *Height : short stature*
- ✓ *Skin color : brown to black*
- ✓ *Hair: woolly or curly hair*
- ✓ *Noise: wide and fatty*
- ✓ *Lips: wide and reverse*
- ✓ *Head: wide*
- ✓ *Forehead: bulbous forehead*

(2) Proto-Australoid or Australo-Melanesian:

- The term "Australoid" was coined in ethnology in the mid 19th century, describing tribes or populations "of the type of native Australians".
- In physical anthropology, *Australoid* is used for morphological features characteristic of Aboriginal Australians by Daniel John Cunningham in his *Text-book of Anatomy* (1902).
- An *Australoid* racial group was first proposed by Thomas Huxley in an essay *On the Geographical Distribution of the Chief Modifications of Mankind* (1870), in which he divided humanity into four principal groups (Xanthochroic, Mongoloid, Negroid, and Australoid).
- The term "Proto-Australoid" was used by Roland Burrage Dixon in his *Racial History of Man* (1923). In a 1962 publication, Australoid was described as one of the five major human races alongside Caucasoid, Mongoloid, Congoid and Capoid.

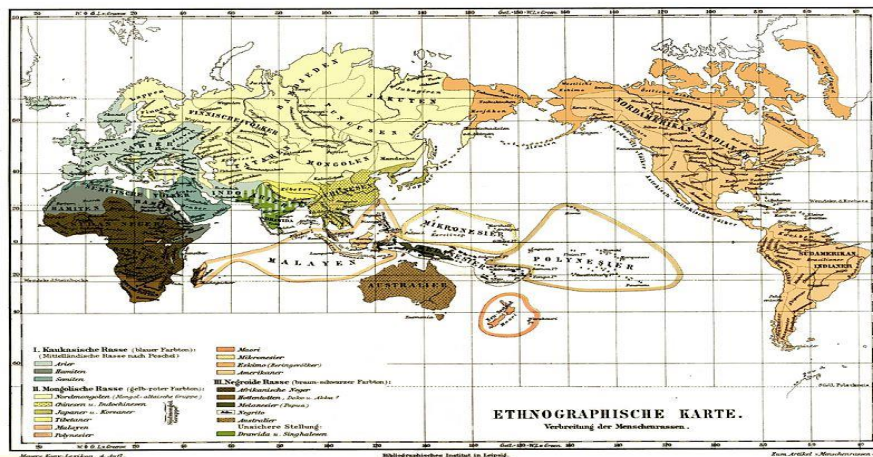


Figure: Global distribution of Proto-Austroloid or Australo-Melanesian

- South Indian tribes specifically described as having Australoid affinities include the Oraon, Munda, Santal, Bhil, Gondi, the Kadars of Kerala, the Kurumba and Irula of the Nilgiris, the Paniyans of Malabar, the Uralis, Kannikars, Mithuvan and Chenchus, Malpaharis of the highland of central India. This tribe is dominant in Middle and South India.
- Proto Australoids or Austrics were the next to come to India after the Negritos. They are people with wavy hair lavishly distributed all over their brown bodies. Long headed with low foreheads and prominent eye ridges, noses with low and broad roots, thick jaws, large palates and teeth and small chins.



Plate: Proto-Austroloid or Australo-Melanesian

❖ *Racial features:*

- ✓ *Height : short to medium stature*
- ✓ *Skin color : brown to black*

- ✓ *Hair: clean hair*
- ✓ *Noise: broad flat*
- ✓ *Lips: wide and reverse*
- ✓ *Head: wide*
- ✓ *Forehead: bulbous forehead*

(3) Mongoloid:

- ❖ Mongols: The Mongols are an East-Central Asian ethnic group native to Mongolia and to China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. They also live as minorities in other regions of China, as well as in Russia.
- ❖ Mongoloid is a grouping of various peoples indigenous to Asia, North America, South America, and the Pacific Islands (with some exceptions).
- ❖ In 2019 Mongoloid comprised 29%, Negroid 27% and Caucasian 20% of earth population.
- ❖ The first use of the term *Mongolian race* was by Christoph Meiners in 1785, who divided humanity into two races he labeled "Tartar-Caucasians" and "Mongolians".
- The word “mong” derives from the word “mongol” and “mongoloid”. Dr. John Langdon Down, who discovered Down’s syndrome in the 1860s, used “mongolism” and “mongoloid” to describe the people from Mongolia and Mongoloid race (those of Asian ethnicity).
- ❖ Mongoloids found in the North-Eastern part of India in the States of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Tripura and in Northern parts of West Bengal, Sikkim, and Ladakh are people with yellow complexion, oblique eyes, high cheekbones, sparse hair and medium height.
- ❖ *Indian tribes belonging Mongoloid race:* Lepcha, Toda, Rava, Khasi, Limbu, Garo, Naga, Chakma etc.



Plate: Mongoloid

❖ ***Mongolian community in India:***

- ✓ Onward migration from Tibet: Mongolians who were originally studying in Tibet in the 1950s followed the Tibetans and fled to India after the 1950 invasion of Tibet and the 1959 Tibetan uprising. Many of them settled in Kalimpong, West Bengal.
- ✓ Direct migration from Mongolia: They entered India through northern or eastern mountain. Presently they occupy large areas of Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and others part of north east India.
- ✓ The Mongoloid race of India can be divided two sub groups:
 - (i) *Palaeo- Mongoloids*: Assam and Myanmar border.
 - (ii) *Tibeto-Mongoloids*: Bhutan border, Sikkim and Trans Himalayas.

❖ ***Racial features:***

- ✓ *Height : medium to tall*
- ✓ *Skin color : Yellowish to fair*
- ✓ *Hair: straight and dark hair.*
- ✓ *Noise: flat to steep*
- ✓ *Lips: simple*
- ✓ *Head: wide and round*
- ✓ *Forehead: high*
- ✓ *Check bones: high*

(4) Dravidians:

- ❑ The origin of the Sanskrit word *dravida* is the word *tamiz* (Tamil). The Sanskrit word *dravida* is used to denote the geographical region of South India. In Prakrit, words such as "Damela", "Dameda", "Dhamila" and "Damila", which later evolved from "Tamila", could have been used to denote an ethnic identity.
- ❑ While the English word *Dravidian* was first employed by Robert Caldwell in his book of comparative Dravidian grammar based on the usage of the Sanskrit word *dravida* in the work *Tantravarttika* by *Kumarila Bhatta*, the word *dravida* in Sanskrit has been historically used to denote geographical regions of Southern India as whole.
- ❑ Dravidian people or Dravidians are speakers of any of the Dravidian languages. There are around 245 million native speakers of Dravidian languages.
- ❑ Dravidian speakers form the majority of the population of south India and are natively found in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Maldives and Sri Lanka.

❖ *Origin of the Dravidians:*

- The origins of the Dravidians are a "very complex subject of research and debate."
- They may have been indigenous to the Indian subcontinent, but origins in, or influence from, West-Asia has also been proposed.
- According to Narasimhan et al. (2018), Dravidians formed as a mixture of Archaic Ancestral South Asians, and neolithic farmers from Iran.
- Although in modern times speakers of various Dravidian languages have mainly occupied the southern portion of India, Dravidian speakers must have been widespread throughout the Indian subcontinent before the Indo-Aryan migration into the subcontinent.
- According to Carole Davies, "many academic researchers have attempted to connect the Dravidians with the remnants of the great Indus Valley Civilisation, located in Northwestern India," most noteworthy Asko Parpola, who did extensive research on the IVC-scripts. The Brahui population of Balochistan in Pakistan has been taken by some as the linguistic equivalent of a relict population, perhaps indicating that Dravidian languages were formerly much more widespread and were supplanted by the incoming Indo-Aryan languages.
- Nowadays Tamils, Malayalis, Telugus, Kannadigas that make up around 20% of India's population.

Table: List of the some ethnic groups belonging Dravidian category

Name	Subgroup	Population	Notes
Badagas	South Dravidian	133,500 (2011 census)	Badagas are found in Tamil nadu
Brahuis	North Dravidian	2.5 million	Brahuis are mostly found in the Balochistan region of Pakistan, with smaller numbers in southwestern Afghanistan.
Chenchu people	South-Central Dravidian		Chenchus are found in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha.
Irula	South Dravidian	203,382 (2011 census)	Irula are found in Tamil nadu
Gondis	Central Dravidian	13 million (approx.)	Gondi belong to the central Dravidian subgroup. They are spread over the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha. A state named Gondwana was proposed to represent them in India.
Khonds	South-Central Dravidian	1,627,486 (2011 census)	Khonds are found in Odisha
Kannadigas	South Dravidian	43.7 million.	Kannadigas are native to Karnataka in India but considerable population is also found in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala.
Kodavas	South Dravidian	160,000(approx.)	Kodavas are native to Kodagu district
Kurukh	North Dravidian	3.6 million (approx.)	Kurukh are spread over the states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha.
Malayalis	South Dravidian	32.2 million	Malayalis are native to Kerala and Lakshadweep, but are also found in Puducherry and parts of Tamil Nadu. They are also found in large numbers in Middle East countries as migrant workers.

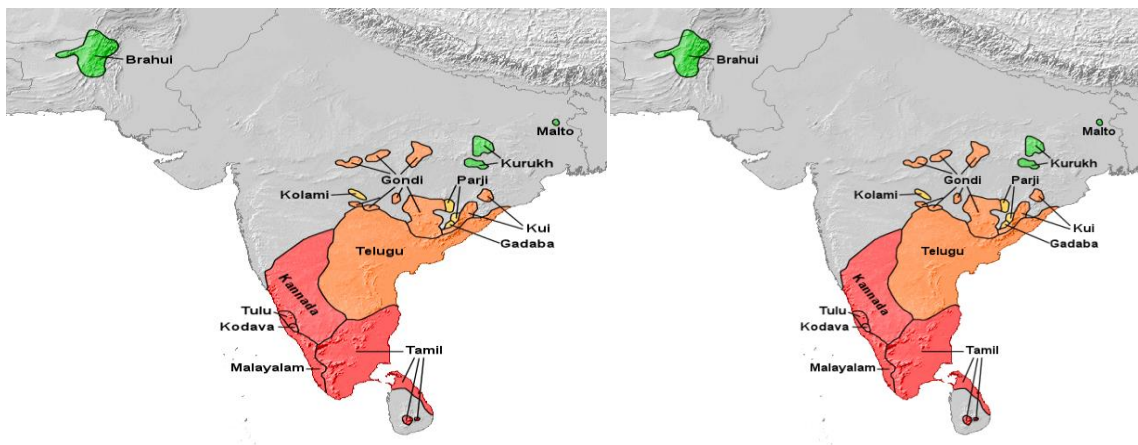


Figure: Geographical distribution of Dravidians



Plate: Dravidian

❖ **Racial features:**

- ✓ *Height : medium to tall*
- ✓ *Skin color : black, brown, fair*
- ✓ *Hair: plentiful hair with slight curls*
- ✓ *Noise: steep*
- ✓ *Lips: simple*
- ✓ *Head: wide and round*
- ✓ *Forehead: high*

(5) Mediterranean:

- ❖ The Mediterranean race (Mediterranid race) is one of the sub-races into which the Caucasian race was categorized by most anthropologists in the late 19th to mid-20th centuries.
- ❖ This racial stock may be related to the Caucasian physical type i.e. the white race.
- ❖ It is one of the dominant races in India.
- ❖ The Mediterranean is characterized by medium or short stature, slender build, long head and dark complexion.
- ❖ The Mediterranean race is divided into three types such as:
 - (i) *Palaeo-Mediterranean*
 - (ii) *Mediterranean and*
 - (iii) *Oriental.*
- ❖ *The Paleo-Mediterranean* racial type is found in Tamil-Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and is represented by the Tamil and Telegu Brahmins in South India.
- ❖ *The Mediterranean* is considered one among the most dominant racial strains in India who are believed to have been the builders of the Indus Valley Civilization.
- ❖ *The oriental Mediterranean* is almost similar to the Mediterranean type. Even though the Mediterranean race was once pre-dominant throughout India, but now it is confined to the South, among the Dravidians.

Racial Diversity of India

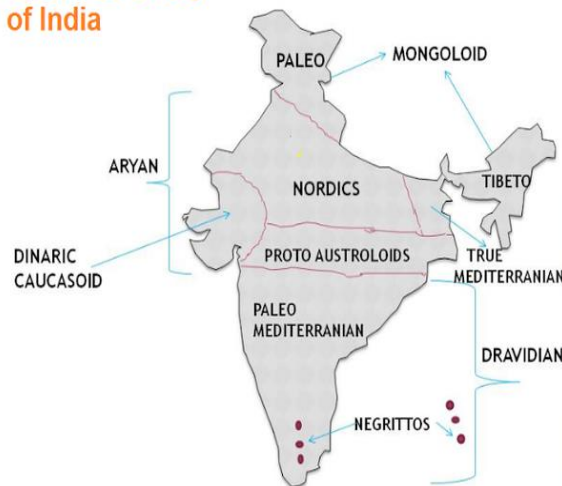


Figure: Racial diversity in India

Plate: Mediterranean

❖ *Racial features:*

- ✓ *Height: shorter or medium (not tall) stature,*
- ✓ *Skull: long or moderate skull,*
- ✓ *Nose: a narrow and often slightly aquiline nose,*
- ✓ *Hair and Eyes: prevalence of dark hair and eyes,*
- ✓ *Skin Colour: cream to tan or dark brown skin tone,*

(6) Brachycephals:

- ❖ Western Brachycephalics include the broad headed people living mainly on the Western side of the country such as the Ganga valley and the delta, parts of Kashmir, Kathiawar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Parsis and Kodavas also fall under this category.
- ❖ It is believed that the western Brachycephals have entered India from the west.



Plate: Brachycephals

- ❖ This race is divided into three sub-groups:

(i) *The Alpinoid*

(ii) *The Dinaric and*

(iii) *The Armenoid.*

- ❖ *The Alpinoid* is characterized by broad head, medium stature, light skin and are found amongst the Bonias of Gujarat, the Kayastha caste of Bengal etc.
- ❖ *The Dinaric* is found among the Brahmin of Bengal, non-Brahmin of Karnataka. This strain is also claimed to be found among the Orissans. People belonging to this strain are characterized by broad-head, long nose, tall stature, dark skin colour.
- ❖ *The Armenoid* is characterized by more marked shape of the back of head, a prominent and narrow nose. The Parsees of Bombay possess these characteristics and therefore they are believed to be the true representatives of this racial type.

(6) Nordic or Indo-Aryan:

- ❖ Russian-born French anthropologist Joseph Deniker that initially proposed "nordique" (meaning simply "northern") as an "ethnic group" (a term that he coined).
- ❖ He defined *nordique* by a set of physical characteristics such as the concurrence of somewhat wavy hair, light eyes, reddish skin, tall stature and a dolichocephalic skull. Of six 'Caucasian' groups Deniker accommodated four into secondary ethnic groups, all of which he considered intermediate to the Nordic: *Northwestern*, *Sub-Nordic*, *Vistula* and *Sub-Adriatic*, respectively.
- ❖ Nordics points were the last one to immigrate to India. They came to India somewhere between 2000 and 1500 BC.

- ❖ They are now mainly found in the Northern and Central part of India.
- ❖ People belonging to this racial stock are characterized by tall stature, long head, light skin and hair and blue eyes.

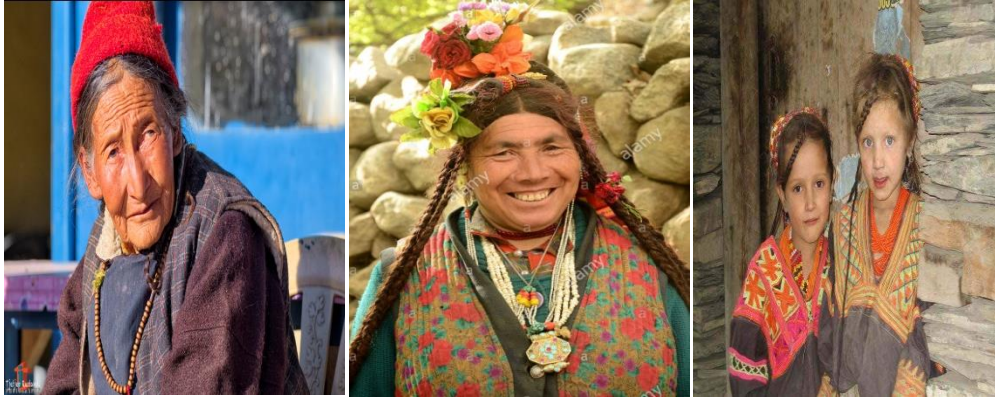


Plate: Nordic or Indo-Aryan

- ❖ This physical stock has come to India from the North South East Asia, South West Siberia through Central Asia and spread all over the Northern part of our country during the second millennium B.C.
- ❖ At present, this strain is found amongst the Bania castes of Gujarat, the Kayasthas of Bengal etc., in North India, not in a pure form, but in a mixed form with the Mediterranean race.
- ❖ They are, in particular, found in Punjab and Rajputana. This racial type is represented by the Kho of Chitral, the Red Kaffirs, and the Khatash.
- ❖ It is believed that they have influenced Indian culture through their contribution of new ideas to philosophy and literature.

Glossary:

❖ Racial segregation :

Racial segregation is the systemic separation of people into racial or other ethnic groups in daily life. It may apply to activities such as eating in a restaurant, drinking from a water fountain, using a public toilet, attending school, going to the movies, riding on a bus, or in the rental or purchase of a home or of hotel rooms.

❖ Amity-Enmity Complex:

The amity-enmity complex was a term introduced by Sir Arthur Keith. His work, *A New Theory of Human Evolution* (1948), posited that humans evolved as differing races, tribes, and cultures, exhibiting patriotism, morality, leadership and nationalism.

❖ **Ethnocentrism :**

The term *ethnocentrism* was coined by Ludwig Gumplowicz and subsequently employed by social scientist William G. Sumner. Ethnocentrism is the act of judging another culture based on preconceptions that are found in the values and standards of one's own culture – especially regarding language, behavior, customs, and religion. These aspects or categories are distinctions that define each ethnicity's unique cultural identity.

❖ **Pygmy peoples:**

In anthropology, pygmy peoples are ethnic groups whose average height is unusually short. The term pygmyism is used to describe the phenotype of endemic short stature for populations in which adult men are on average less than 150 cm (4 ft 11 in) tall. The term is primarily associated with the African Pygmies, the hunter-gatherers of the Congo basin.

❖ **Anthropometry:**

Anthropometry (from Greek *anthropos*, human and 'measure) refers to the measurement of the human individual. An early tool of physical anthropology, it has been used for identification, for the purposes of understanding human physical variation, in paleoanthropology and in various attempts to correlate physical with racial and psychological traits. Anthropometry involves the systematic measurement of the physical properties of the human body, primarily dimensional descriptors of body size and shape.

❖ **Mongolian spot:**

A Mongolian spot, also known as Mongolian blue spot, is a congenital birthmark with wavy borders and irregular shape. It normally disappears three to five years after birth. The most common color is blue, although they can be blue-gray, blue-black or deep brown. The spot is prevalent among East, South, Southeast, North and Central Asian peoples, Indigenous Oceania's (chiefly Micronesians and Polynesians), Sub-Saharan Africans, Amerindians, non-European Latin Americans, Caribbeans of mixed-race descent, and Turkish people.

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