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ANTHROPOLOGY AND RESEARCH METHODS

B.A.N.C.-131

B.A. General - 1st Semester

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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

ANTHROPOLOGY AND RESEARCH METHODS

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Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Attempt five questions in all. All questions carry equal marks. Choose at least two questions from each Section.

SECTION – A

Q. 1. What is Anthropology? Discuss the scope of Anthropology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'Defining Anthropology' and Page No. 4, 'Scope of Anthropology'.

Q. 2. Describe the history and development of Social Anthropology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 26, Q. No. 3.

Q. 3. Discuss the relationship of Physical Anthropology with other branches of Anthropology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 33, 'Relationship of Physical/Biological Anthropology with Other Disciplines'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on any two of the following:

(a) Current fields of Archaeological Anthropology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 28, Q. No. 6.

(b) Linguistic Anthropology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 21, 'Linguistic Anthropology'.

(c) The British school.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 44, 'The British and American Schools of Anthropology'.

(d) Ethics in fieldwork.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 69, 'Ethics in Fieldwork'.

SECTION-B

Q. 5. Briefly discuss the growth of Physical Anthropology in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 57, 'Growth of Physical/Biological Anthropology in India'.

Q. 6. Describe the history of fieldwork tradition.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 68, 'History of Fieldwork'.

Q. 7. Discuss the methods of data collection in Archaeological Anthropology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 126, 'Methods of Data Collection in Archaeological Anthropology'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on any two of the following:

(a) Formulation of research design.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 142, 'Formulation of Research Design'.

(b) Case study methods.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 123, 'Case Study Method'.

(c) Ethno-archaeology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 128, 'Ethno-Archaeology'.

(d) Emic and Etic Approach.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 117, 'Emic and Etic Approach'.

■ ■

QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

ANTHROPOLOGY AND RESEARCH METHODS

B.A.N.C.-131

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Attempt five questions in all. All questions carry equal marks. Choose at least two questions from each Section.

SECTION-A

Q. 1. Define Anthropology. Briefly discuss the aims and objectives of Anthropology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'Defining Anthropology' and Page No. 2, 'Objectives of Anthropology'.

Q. 2. Describe history and development of physical anthropology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 23, Q. No. 1.

Q. 3. Discuss the relationship of social anthropology with other social sciences.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 34, 'Relationship of Social/Cultural Anthropology with Other Disciplines'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on any two of the following:

(a) Excavation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 127, 'Excavation'.

(b) Linguistic Anthropology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 21, 'Linguistic Anthropology'.

(c) Comparative Method.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 120, Q. No. 5.

(d) The French School.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 91, 'The French School'.

SECTION-B

Q. 5. Briefly discuss the growth of archaeological anthropology in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 27, Q. No. 5.

Q. 6. Describe the importance of fieldwork in anthropology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 67, 'The Importance of Fieldwork'.

Q. 7. Discuss the methods of data collection in social anthropology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 123, 'Methods of Data Collection in Social/Cultural Anthropology'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on any two of the following:

(a) Anthropometry.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 125, 'Anthropometry Method'.

(b) Cultural Relativism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 2, 'Cultural Relativism'.

(c) Descriptive Research Design.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 144, Q. No. 2.

(d) Holistic Approach.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 115, 'Holistic Approach'.

■ ■

Sample Preview of The Chapter

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ANTHROPOLOGY AND RESEARCH METHODS

Definition, Scope and Significance of Anthropology



INTRODUCTION

Anthropology studies the origin and development of human species. It also covers how environment affects culture and how culture has an impact over the growth and development of human personality. In this chapter, we define anthropology and the basic aspects of the subject.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

DEFINING ANTHROPOLOGY

The word anthropology, which literally means science of human, has been derived from *anthropos* (human) and *logos* (science). Anthropology deals with human existence in terms of culture, biology, history and environment.

According to Eric Wolf, anthropology aims to study men both from within and without. The American Anthropological Association defines anthropology as “The study of humans, past and present.” Anthropology is an integrative science that tries to understand human in its totality. It studies cultural and biological diversities for a better understanding of human existence.

Anthropologists also use diverse and unique tools in the form of research methods and apply their knowledge and methods of research in solving practical problems. Here, comes a new field called applied anthropology.

Anthropology has four sub-branches which deal with different aspects of human existence. The four branches are:

- Social-cultural anthropology
- Biological anthropology

- Archaeology
- Linguistic anthropology.

Holistic/Integrated Discipline

Anthropology takes a holistic view of human existence. It starts from placing the *Homo sapiens* in the evolutionary scheme and analyzes the variations in the human species. It tries to study the emergence and diversification of culture and emergence of civilization.

To study human past and present, integrating biological, archaeological and cultural dimensions lead to interesting results. The study of the Indus Valley Civilization is an example. We know about their culture and society on the basis of archaeological findings which include artifacts, seals, statues, objects of daily use and objects of luxury and their scientific analysis.

Analysis of the skeletal remains found at Harappa showed that most of the male skeletal remains were genetically not related. However, most of the skeletal remains of the females were genetically related. Thus, it has been concluded that the residence pattern after marriage could be ‘*matrilocal*’ in nature. It indicate that after marriage a male might have go to his wife’s house to reside, which is opposite the tradition of the present India.

Comparative Science

Anthropology is a comparative science. Anthropologists compare different cultures and human populations are compared to understand similarities and differences between them. Earlier comparison has been used as a method to illustrate and categorize different cultural groups into an evolutionary sequence. However, from the beginning of 20th century after the emergence of new ideologies in the subject, comparison was made to reach certain generalizations about the structure of the society and laws governing the society.

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Earlier, comparison between 'Simple' and 'Complex' societies led to a belief that some societies are superior to the others and the western societies are at the epitome of cultural evolution.

This gave rise to an ethno-centric bias. However, gradually it was realized that every culture should be understood in its own specific context and there is nothing like the concept of superior or inferior culture. This led to the emergence of the idea of cultural relativism. This idea adds value to the subject and makes us more tolerant towards other cultures and populations.

Fieldwork Method

Intensive Fieldwork method, the hallmark of anthropology, was popularized by B. Malinowski. Anthropologists spend a considerable amount of time in the field (around one year). Most anthropologists choose their field among the tribal communities who live in far-flung hilly, forest or coastal areas.

Many stalwarts have chosen their field among such communities. For example, Malinowski studied the Trobriand Islanders who lived in Papua New Guinea. Evans Pritchard studied the Nuer community of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Radcliffe Brown studied the Andaman Islanders. Margaret Mead studied the Samoans.

The field workers stay with the people they study and also learn their language and ways of life. They take part in the daily activities of the people and observe how people and their various institutions function. This method is called 'Participant Observation'. Using this method, fieldworkers take part in the social life of the community they study and observe how people negotiate their cultural and social lives.

Malinowski popularized 'Participant Observation'. He had the view that anthropologists should not depend on what people say that they do but anthropologists should observe what people actually do because sometimes people won't tell you what they exactly do or how they conduct their social and cultural activities as they might project the 'ideal' and hide the 'actual'.

Thus, to know the 'actual', observation is required.

OBJECTIVES OF ANTHROPOLOGY

The objectives of Anthropology can be defined at two levels:

(a) at the level of the students who aim to study the discipline.

(b) at the level of other stakeholders which include the community, administrators, thinkers and researchers which get involved in the study of the discipline for various purposes.

At the student level, the objective is to make students aware of and appreciate human and cultural variations. This leads to the study of various life situations.

Anthropology considers the bio-social existence of the human population. Many path-breaking studies have been carried out among the tribal and peasant communities and thus it involves marginalized section of the population into discourse.

Cultural Relativism

At the second level, different stakeholders have different objectives. Like human evolution, cultural evolution is believed to have happened in a stage-by-stage manner from simple to complex cultural and societal traits. Thus, the belief is that most of the tribal societies represent an earlier stage of cultural evolution and will ultimately be evolved to the level of western cultures and civilization. This led to a type of ethnocentric bias which makes the white western 'race' as superior and gave impetus to the idea of colonialism. The idea that it is the duty of the 'white men' to civilize the 'primitive' societies consolidated western colonialism in Africa and Asia. Most of the early anthropologists were British and their main aim was to study different population in the sub-continent to improve the administrative mechanism.

However, all anthropologists and scholars of human culture do not agree with the idea of the evolutionists. This led to a change in the objective of the subject towards a more synchronic view. The objective changed from anthropology as a study of history to a discipline that became more concerned in studying societies at the present state or as here and now. This objective was most visible in the works of Malinowski who rejected the idea that simple social institutions were inferiority to complex one. He was of strong view of that the idea of basic needs that are common to all human beings and because of which different social institutions are formed.

Nature-Nurture Debate

The debate is which among the two – nature or nurture — is more important. Anthropologists have contributed positively towards this debate.

Take the notion of ‘Race’. People believe that certain physical characteristics go with certain behavioral patterns though race is a social construct. Human behaviour is considered to be naturally determined. This led to the formation of certain stereotypes related to race. This led to a belief that certain races are superior to others. However, some anthropologists do not accept this line of thought and pioneer among them was Franz Boas.

Boas believes that human behaviour is culturally determined. Nurture plays an important role than the nature in human behaviour. To prove this, one of his students Margaret Mead studied the adolescent behavior among the Samoans. Margaret Mead found that their adolescent was unlike that of Americans. Samoan adolescents seemed to be well adjusted with no associated trauma or disturbances. This finding established the importance of nurture.

This study is significant since it is generally widely held that adolescent is an age of trauma and disturbances and adolescent boys and girls tend to engage in a rebellious behaviour. Such kind of behaviour was thought to be rooted in their genes and thus was thought to be universal. Boas held the view that if he can find even one example where adolescent was not a period of trauma and disturbances then the biological basis of such an assumption could be challenged and its cultural basis could be established. The study of Margaret Mead found this general believe wrong.

Applying Anthropology to Solve Life Problems

Anthropological knowledge is used to help people lead better lives and protect their right. Anthropology is studied and practiced to bring about positive change in people’s lives, particularly the marginalized sections. Take the case of development in the name of which natural resources in the form of forest produces, minerals, coal, have been exploited. Large-scale displacement of people mostly tribes who inhabit such areas for centuries has happened. It is in this context, anthropologists take stand for such a marginalized section of the population. Knowledge about tribals help the anthropologists in protecting the people’s rights.

Anthropology thus relates to the issue of advocacy of civil rights.

It was during the World War II, anthropological knowledge and methods were used to understand the enemy culture to hasten victory of the allied forces. Ruth Benedict conducted such a study on Japanese prisoners in America to understand the Japanese culture. Such studies were called studying ‘Culture at a distance’ because in such a study the anthropologist is not going among the natives in their land but trying to study their culture through some cultural representatives. After the study, Benedict wrote *Chrysanthemum and the Sword*.

Anthropologists also conducted studies with similar objectives during the Second World War in America that focused on the issue of dietary patterns of the people. The believe was the food crisis may be resolved if the dietary pattern can be studied and changed in accordance with food items that were in greater supply during the war.

Universal vs. Specific Knowledge

The anthropological knowledge has widened from the particular to the universal. The study of prisoners during the world war proves this point. Anthropologists choose a very specific community for her study and based on that study they aim at answering certain basic questions which are more fundamental in nature.

A particular knowledge also fulfills the objective of comparing it with the known. For example, if an anthropologist understands the position women in a society she can compare the position of women across different societies. The comparison leads to some kind of conclusions which can be used for making alternative strategies and structural formulations that may lead to solving present problems. For example, alternative models of equal status of men and women can be emulated on a larger scale for the benefit of the people.

The study of the marriage and family patterns among the Nayars of Kerala by Kathleen Gough led to the reformulation of the definition of marriage which was till then defined as a union of male and female with common residence for attaining certain social goals.

The study on the indigenous knowledge system of tribal groups, the product of specific socio-economic and ecological situations that over a period of time, has become important strategic tools for survival. This indigenous knowledge system has proved to be of great

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help in managing extreme life conditions during natural disasters.

Some communities who have lived with disasters like floods and droughts for decades have developed specific knowledge on its management and resilience. This knowledge is integrated with the larger disaster management plans. Similarly, indigenous knowledge related to medicinal plants and their use is of great importance in the treatment of certain diseases.

SCOPE OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Urban Anthropology

Earlier the anthropological studies were conducted on 'tribes' to find out the ethnographic descriptive account of these groups and cultural and social changes that are taking place among such communities. After the 1960s, the scope was widened with a new sub-branch of anthropology called urban anthropology.

As the urbanization picked up pace and urban centers attracted the population of the rural areas, anthropologists also shifted their focus on these areas. They studied 'Peasant in cities', their adaptability to new places and the social and cultural changes.

Anthropological Methods

Applied anthropology uses tools such as Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) for addressing particular problems and suggesting solutions to them.

Under the RRA, a quick assessment of the problems of a rural community is conducted to bring about time-bound changes in their conditions. The anthropological notion of insider's perspective comes to life with the use of PRA. Under the PRA techniques, people take part in negotiating the meaning and extent of their problems and suggest solutions.

For example, flood-affected people might prepare vulnerability maps to show the areas more prone to floods and may prepare safe route maps that can provide alternative routes in case of an emergency situation. PRA is based upon the notion that 'People know the best'. Many tribal communities have been displaced from their lands due to building of dams and mining. Anthropologists have been studying these processes and have advocated for the rights of the displaced communities.

Business Management

Anthropologists study dynamic behavioural aspect of the business management. For business, people meet and interact with each other. Anthropologists apply the method of ethnography and in-depth study at a micro-level for studying management-related issues. Anthropological tools can be applied at three levels:

- (1) Understanding organizational structure and culture of a multi-national corporate house.
- (2) Understanding customers' behaviour for improving products for attaining higher profit.
- (3) Understanding the impact of market culture on the lifestyle and social institutions such as family and marriage patterns in the society.

The comparative method offers an opportunity for cross-cultural comparisons and reaches to a generalization of best practices with regard to marketing and structure of an organization.

Disaster Management

Anthropologists contribute towards disaster management by studying and suggesting methods of vulnerability reduction. Disasters cause large-scale damage to property and life. Disaster management is a continuous process rather than limited to a post-disaster relief event. Now the efforts are made towards reducing risk and vulnerabilities of various social groups. Some people are more vulnerable than others due to poverty, gender, age, social capital, and the physical space that they occupy. Anthropologists have a crucial role in disaster management.

Biological/Physical Anthropology

Anthropologists are concerned with human paleontology and human genetics. In human paleontology, Anthropologists study human fossils to unravel the evolutionary history of humans. The field of primatology tries to trace the roots and points of departures that led to the evolution of *Homo sapiens*. The field of human genetics studies human variations, disease distribution across regions and human adaptations on a genetic level. In areas like human growth and nutrition, both physical/biological and socio-economic dimensions are integrated. Growth and nutrition are affected by socio-economic factors social capital, like income and group status.

Archaeological Anthropology

This branch of anthropology which deals with societies and cultures of the remote past is called archaeological anthropology. It focuses on rebuilding