

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

B.A and B.SC SEMESTER IV PAPER- 7

**TOPIC- MONOGOLOID : THEIR GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS AND
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION**

MONGOLOID

Mongoloids have probably originated in Central Asia and moved to different directions. The Mongoloids are divided into four main subdivisions on the basis of their geographical distribution. These are

- (1) The Classical or Central Mongoloid,
- (2) The Arctic or Northern Mongoloid or Eskimoids,
- (3) The Southern or Indo-Malayan Mongoloids
- (4) The American Indians.

The Mongoloid physical features are:

- Yellowish brown tinge skin colour consisting of straight and black hair, scanty body and facial hair,
- Brachycephalic head with concave or straight nose having low nasal root and bridge, broad and flat face with prominent cheek bones,
- Narrow slit-like opening of eyes with epicanthic fold and variable stature.

1 Classical Mongoloid or Central Mongoloid

These are distributed mainly in Siberia and Amur River district and sporadically in Northern China, Mongolia and Tibet. The representative groups are Buriat, Koryak, Goldi, Gilyak, etc.; this racial element is present in Tibetans and some other Northern Chinese. The physical features are:

- Yellow or yellowish brown skin colour, straight,

- Coarse and black hair spreading sparsely on body and face,
- Usually brachycephalic head but mesocephalic and dolichocephalic are also found with a projected occiput region,
- Straight or concave nasal profile consisting of low nasal root without any depression, low nasal bridge with medium breadth and moderately spread nasal wings.
- The sketch of the face is very broad with square jaws and round forehead.

The characteristic features are:

- Yellow to red brown skin colour that present straight or slightly wavy, coarse and black hair,
- Sparse distribution of hair on body and face, dolicho-mesocephalic or brachycephalic head,
- Predominantly mesorrhine long nose and high nasal bridge with convex profile and medium thick lips.
- Broad face is embodied with typical Mongoloid cheek bones,
- Sloping forehead and prominent chin.
- Eye-brow ridges and glabella are strongly elevated showing shovel-shaped incisors with medium prognathism.
- Dark brown to black eye colour with frequent internal epicanthic fold present in women and children whereas external epicanthic fold is a common phenomenon both in males and females.
- Lips are thin with varied stature.

a) **Palaeo – Amerind**

These have also been designated as Lagoa Santa type of Brazil, Ecuador: Orinaco. Basically it is an archaic South American race. A few of their living representatives are Botocudo, Buru, etc., some are found in the Eastern United States, Canada and America. The physical features are: Dolichocephalic head with long and narrow face exhibiting more reddish

brown than yellowish brown skin colour. Their hair is almost black and wavy.

b) Northern Amerind

North American Indians and the people of the Northern and Eastern Woodlands belong to this group. The physical features are:

- Yellowish brown skin colour with straight and black hair, dolichocephalic or mesocephalic head with straight or convex profile, mesorrhine nose,
- Oval shaped face with medium to dark brown eyes and an external fold. The stature ranges from 161 to 175 cm.

c) Neo-Amerind

These are distributed in South America, Central America and North American plateau. The physical features are:

Yellow-brown skin colour is depicted consisting of straight and black hair.

Neo-Amerind symbolizes brachycephalic head having mesorrhine nose with straight or concave profile.

They have broad and short face with black eyes and an external fold. Short to tall stature and the height varies from 155 to 178 cm.

d) Tehucleche

They live in Patagonia and probably the Onas of Tierra del Fuego constitute a branch of Tehucleche. The physical characters are:

Brownish skin colour,

Straight and black hair,

brachycephalic head,

mesorrhine nose with straight profile.

They possess square and broad face,

Black eyes with external fold and have tall stature which varies from 173 to 183 cm.

e) North-West Coast Amerind

They live in the West coast of North America. There are two sub-types, Northern type and Southern type: The Northern type is taller. Skin and hair is lighter in colour than any other Northern Amerinds. Stature is medium with long arms and short body. Northern type has concave or straight nose and a broad face with moderate height. In southern type nose is convex and high face.