

PROJETS OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

A. PAST PROJECTS (COMPLETED IN THE LAST 5 YEARS)

Development and Sustainability:

Undertaking a comprehensive endeavour, this project rigorously assessed developmental initiatives implemented across 16 villages nationwide, spanning both tribal and non-tribal communities. Its primary objective was to meticulously evaluate the effectiveness and sustainability of these projects within a holistic framework. Through thorough examination of diverse locations and communities, the project offered invaluable insights into the efficacy of developmental endeavors. Moreover, it underscored the paramount significance of adopting sustainable practices for ensuring enduring community growth and well-being. By encompassing a broad spectrum of contexts and experiences, this initiative provided a nuanced understanding of the intricate dynamics involved in fostering development and sustainability within varied community settings.

Man and Environment:

Centring its attention on the 18 Biosphere Reserves spread across India, this project delved deeply into the societal perspectives regarding natural resources, considering them not merely as commodities but as integral cultural assets. It underscored the imperative of integrating this nuanced understanding into management strategies, advocating for approaches to development that are intricately linked with conservation efforts. By acknowledging and embracing the cultural significance attached to these resources, the project sought to cultivate a sense of appreciation and acceptance among local communities. Ultimately, the aim was to catalyze more effective environmental management practices that resonate with the values and aspirations of the people inhabiting these biodiverse regions.

DNA Polymorphism of the Contemporary Indian Populations:

This project undertook a comprehensive study of Uni-parental DNA markers across 75 diverse communities, encompassing tribal populations as well. Its primary objective was to delve into the genetic diversity prevalent in India. The findings of the study lent support to the Out-of-Africa hypothesis regarding human migration, while also pinpointing India as a crucial corridor for population movements within South Asia. Notably, the outcomes of the project garnered widespread acclaim and were published globally, offering invaluable insights into the intricate genetic landscape of Indian populations.

Community Genetics and Health: Bio-Cultural Adaptation:

This project aimed to bridge health disparities among marginalized communities, particularly De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic groups, by organizing health awareness and screening camps nationwide. Prioritizing screening for abnormal hemoglobin levels, the research sought to elevate the health status of these communities and bolster their access to essential healthcare services. By focusing on proactive measures such as early detection and intervention, the initiative aimed to significantly enhance the overall well-being of these marginalized groups.

People of India: Bio-Cultural Adaptation, Genetics & Family Study:

The project set out to comprehensively explore the biological and cultural adaptations of Indian populations by conducting an in-depth study of genetics and family structures. Through the examination of a wide array of diverse communities, the research aimed to uncover the intricate interplay between genetics and cultural factors in shaping adaptation and resilience. By delving into these complexities, the project aimed to offer valuable insights into the diverse tapestry of human diversity within India, shedding light on the multifaceted dynamics that contribute to the country's rich cultural and genetic heritage.

Siwalik Excavation (Paleoanthropology):

Cataloguing 100 artifacts, this project focused on excavations in the Siwalik region, offering insights into early human settlements and evolutionary processes. By studying archaeological remains, the project aimed to reconstruct ancient human lifestyles and behaviors, contributing to our understanding of human evolution in the Indian subcontinent.

Physical Growth and Development of Children in North-East India:

Utilizing anthropometric measurements and comprehensive community studies, this project conducted a thorough assessment of the physical growth and development of children in the North-East region. By scrutinizing various factors impacting childhood development, including nutritional status, socio-economic conditions, and environmental influences, the research aimed to generate valuable insights. These insights were intended to inform the formulation of evidence-based policies and interventions aimed at enhancing child health and overall well-being in the region. Through its holistic approach, the project sought to contribute towards fostering healthier and more prosperous futures for children in the North-East India.

Anthropological Study on De-Notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Communities:

These projects undertaken by the Anthropological Survey of India reflect a comprehensive effort to understand the diverse socio-cultural and economic structures of marginalized communities across India. By investigating into the historical narratives, cultural identities, and present-day obstacles faced by these marginalized groups, the research aimed to shed light on the challenges faced by them. Furthermore, it sheds light on their dilemma and difficulties and suggests ways for their integration into mainstream society. Additionally, as part of this overarching project, the Anthropological Survey of India has embarked on a comprehensive study encompassing 232 communities identified in the Idate Commission Report, commissioned by the NITI AAYOG, Government of India. This endeavour represents a concerted effort to thoroughly understand the complexities of these communities and pave the way for informed policies and interventions aimed at uplifting and empowering them within the broader social and economic framework.

B. CURRENT PROJECTS

I. National Projects

Gut Microbial Genomic Study among the PVTGs of India:

The Anthropological Survey of India has undertaken the project “Gut Microbial Genomic Study among the PVTGs of India”. It is the first major study on the gut microbial abundance in particularly vulnerable tribal communities (henceforth PVTGs) across India. The said project will help explore the genetic diversity of PVTGs, and compare gut microbiota in different contexts. Furthermore, the study will throw light on how dietary shifts impact the gut microbiome and thus will provide insights into the biomedical consequences of changing dietary habits in diverse populations. Enhancing our understanding of the gut microbiome is an opportunity to observe the direct evolutionary effects of dietary shifts and their impact on nutrition and health. All the more, the study will be crucial in generating reference database on health aspect against the backdrop of health of gut microbiome. The study will also be of special interest to understand health issues of the PVTGs and the strategies to be adopted for improving their health status.

Rural Livestock Markets in India: An Anthropological Exploration of Economic, Social and Cultural Facets:

A ground-breaking anthropological inquiry is set to embark on a comprehensive examination of rural livestock markets across India. This pioneering nationwide endeavour aims to unravel the intricate tapestry of economic, social, and cultural dynamics inherent within these longstanding marketplaces. By delving deep into the fabric of these age-old systems, the study seeks to unearth invaluable insights into their enduring significance and operational complexities. Through meticulous analysis, it endeavours to illuminate not only the functional aspects but also the profound socio-cultural impacts that these markets exert on the communities they serve. This holistic exploration promises to provide a rich understanding of the interplay between tradition, commerce, and community in the vibrant context of rural India's livestock markets.

II. Regional Projects

Ethnic groups in Inter-State Borders of Chhattisgarh, India: Identities, Intra and Inter-ethnic relationships and Developmental concerns:

The Anthropological Survey of India is embarked on a comprehensive project focusing on studying the ethnic groups residing along the inter-state borders of Chhattisgarh, India, shared with Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha with aims to explore the intricate dynamics of identities, intra- and inter-ethnic relationships, and developmental challenges faced by these communities. Through meticulous analysis, the study seeks to uncover how geographical and administrative boundaries shape their socio-cultural and economic activities, while also addressing their unique developmental concerns. By providing a nuanced understanding of their lived experiences, the project aims to inform policies and interventions tailored to the specific needs of these borderland communities, fostering inclusivity, cohesion, and development within these diverse regions.

Assessment of Health, Hygiene and Sanitation of the Khasi in North-East India, with Special Reference to Women and Children:

This project entails a thorough evaluation of the health, hygiene, and sanitation standards within the Khasi community of North-East India, with a specific emphasis on the well-being of women and children. Through comprehensive assessment methods, the study aims to gain insights into the prevailing conditions, identifying areas of concern and improvement. By focusing on the cultural, social, and geographical intricacies unique to Meghalaya's diverse ethnic groups, the envisioned outcome is to craft targeted health enhancement frameworks. These models will be finely attuned to the specific needs and nuances of the Khasi community, aiming to foster better health outcomes and overall well-being among women and children.

Digital Literacy and its Impact on Cultural Heritage Preservation among the Garo:

The study aims to investigate the correlation between digital literacy and the preservation of cultural heritage among the Garo community. Through an examination of grassroots initiatives within the Garo society aimed at conserving heritage through digital platforms, this research endeavours to uncover the extent to which digital literacy influences the preservation efforts of Garo cultural practices and traditions. By delving into community-led endeavours in the digital realm, the study aims to shed light on how access to digital tools and skills help the Garo people to

safeguard their cultural legacy. Ultimately, this investigation seeks to provide valuable insights into the role of digital literacy in shaping the preservation landscape of Garo cultural heritage, facilitating informed approaches towards sustaining their rich traditions in the modern era.