

Paper: 2016

Human Geography

Chapt: Race

For both 2nd sem and 4th sem



Race: The term race is a comprehensive term which has been defined differently by different cultural-anthropologists, sociologists and human geographers. Some of the important definitions of race have been given in the following:

- ① A race is a principal division of mankind, marked by physical characteristics of that breed.
- ② Another group of cultural anthropologists defines race with more or less permanent distinguishing physical characteristics, ^{to which} persons concerned attach certain interpretation.
- ③ A race is a biological inbred group possessing a distinctive combination of physical traits that tend to breed true from ~~generation~~ ^{generation} to generation.

Race has also been defined as a biological grouping within the human species distinguished or classified according to genetically transmitted differences.

In simple words, a categorization of human species, based on skin-colour and other physical characteristics is known as race. Here colour of skin is more important physical characteristics to classify race than others eg. height, face, head, chin, jaw etc.

Race is a very important indicator of identity. Biologically, all people are part of the same race, the human race. The idea of race developed mainly during the period of Great Age of Discoveries (14th and 15th centuries) and colonialism. It was ~~mainly~~ during the period of colonialism that the Europeans started thinking themselves superior to those living elsewhere. In fact, during the period of exploration



in the colonies.
DIVISIONS OF MANKIND:

and colonialism, the Europeans defined themselves as superior to the people in

The anthropologists on the basis of physical characteristics (colour of skin and hair type), were used to identify three to five biological races, i.e., Negroids, Caucasoids, Mongoloids, Australoids, and American Indians. Subsequently, more details techniques taking into account, blood types and hereditary diseases as well as terrain barriers, resulted into classification of eight or nine geographical races. Although, authorities differ in terminology and in exact definition, the following divisions are generally accepted: Negroids (African), Caucasoid (Europeans), Mongoloids (Asiatic or Oriental), Indic (Hindu-Aryans), Australoids (Australians), Polynesians, Melanesians, Micronesians (Pacific Ocean Islands) and American Indians or Red Indians.

DISTRIBUTION:

The spatial distribution and concentration of these races in a general way is Caucasoids in Europe, Mongoloids in Asia, Negroid in Africa and Australoids in Australia. (Fig-1). It does not mean that these races are confined to given continents. For example, the Caucasoid race which is found not only in Europe but also along the northern belt of Africa, Asia Minor (Turkey), Afghanistan, Iran to Pakistan and northern India. The Mongoloid race is mainly found in the central, eastern and south eastern parts of Asia and the western parts of America (Red Indians etc), Arctic regions (Eskimos in Inuits, in Canada, Greenland and Yakuts, Chukchi in Siberia). The Negroids have



main concentration to the south of Sahara Desert in Africa, but they are also found in Indonesia (Pygmy group), New Guinea Papua and Malenia. The Australoids - a mixture of Nigroids and Dravidians (South Indian) are largely concentrated in Australia, especially in the northern and western parts of that continent.

DISTRIBUTION OF MAJOR RACES

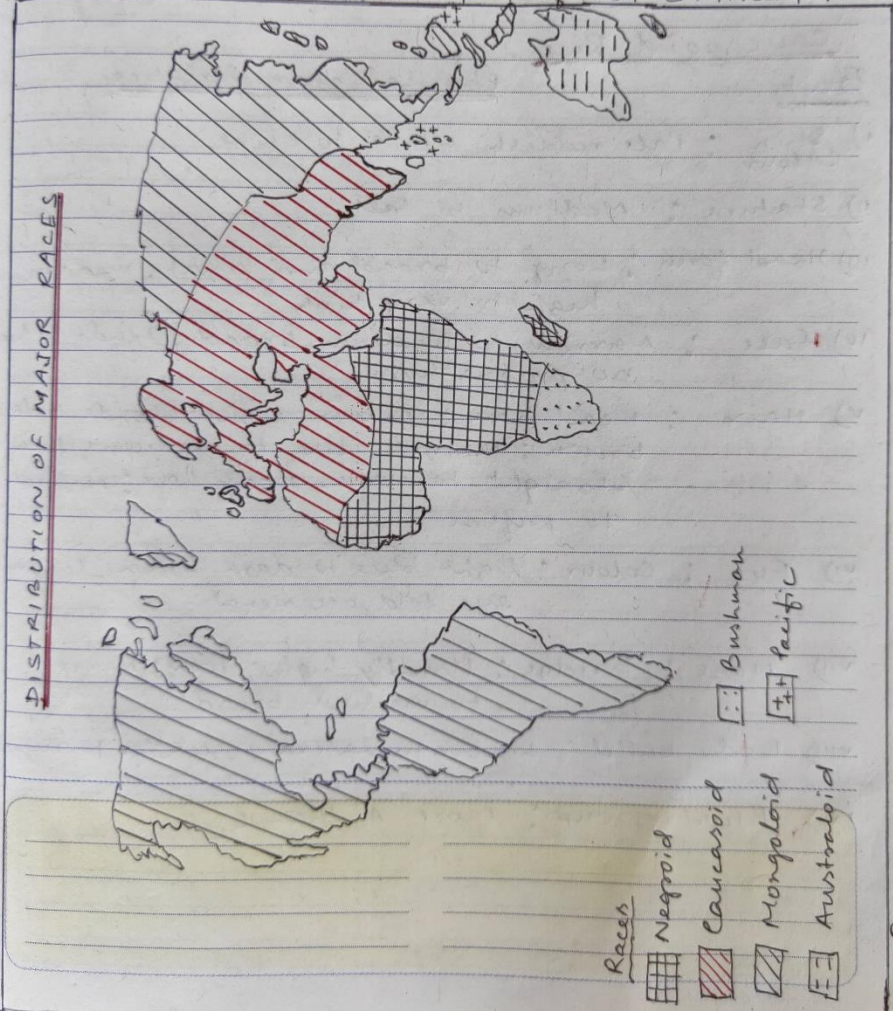


Fig - 1

Physical characteristics of Major Races

The physical characteristics of the three major racial groups, i.e. caucasoid, Mongoloid and negroid, classified by Haddon and Krogman have been given below:

Caucasoid Race: physical characteristics

Trait

- i) Skin Colour: Pale reddish white to olive
- ii) Stature: Medium to tall.
- iii) Head form: Long to broad and short, medium high to very high.
- iv) Face: Narrow to medium broad, tends to high, no prognathism.
- v) Hair: Head hair: colour, light blonde to dark brown; texture, fine to medium; form straight to wavy. Body hair: Moderate to profuse
- vi) Eye: Colour: light blue to dark brown, lateral eye fold occasional.
- vii) Nose: Bridge: Usually high; form: narrow to medium broad.
- viii) Body build: Linear to lateral; slender to rugged.
- ix) Blood group: More A than B

Mongoloid Race:

Trait

Physical characteristics

- 1) Skin colour : Saffron to yellow brown, some reddish brown.
- ii) Stature : Medium tall to medium short
- iii) Head form : Predominantly broad and height medium.
- iv) Face : Medium broad to very broad, malar high and flat, tends to medium high.
- v) Hair : Head hair : Colour brown to brown black; texture, coarse; form, straight
Body hair : Sparse
- vi) Eye : colour : brown to dark brown, medial epicanthic fold very common.
- vii) Nose : Bridge : Usually low to medium; form : medium broad
- viii) Body Build : Tends to be lateral, some linearly evident.
- ix) Blood group : High in B.

Negroid Race:

Trait

Physical characteristics

- 1) Skin colour : Brown to brown black, some yellow brown.
- ii) Stature : Tall to very short.
- iii) Head form : Predominantly long, height low to medium.
- iv) Face : Medium broad to narrow, tends to medium high, strong prognathism.



v) Hair : Head hair : colour, brown, black
texture, coarse; form, light curls
to woolly or frizzly
Body hair : slight.

vi) Eye : colour : brown to brown black, vertical
eye fold common.

vii) nose : Bridge : usually low, form medium
broad to very broad

viii) Body build : Tends to be lateral and
muscular

ix) Blood group : High in Rhe (eDe)

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