

QUESTION-NO2

INTRODUCTION:

Anthropology is defined as the study of human behaviour, culture, institutions of culture, and all human related issues. It is a holistic study of human beings. There are four major fields of anthropology which are physical anthropology, cultural anthropology, archeology and linguistic anthropology. According to anthropologist.

" It is the most scientific of the humanities and most humanistic of the sciences."

WHAT ANTHROPOLOGY IS

Anthropology is a complete and holistic study of a human being. It not only discusses the society but also

look into the micro-level details which are essential in describing a culture. It covers all the institutions of a culture and removes the dust of ethnocentrism.

1. ANTHROPOLOGY IS AN INTEGRATED AND HOLISTIC STUDY OF HUMAN

Anthropology is a holistic study and an integrated study of a human being. It discusses all the social institutions of a culture: marriage, religion, economic, political organisation etc. It studies the culture of a group not only on macro level but on micro level as well.

2. ANTHROPOLOGY DISCUSSES EVOLUTION OF HUMANS

Anthropology also discusses the evolution of human beings. There are a lot of

Theories that anthropologists gave: some were unilinear and some were multi-linear. They, anthropologists also gave theories about cultural evolution: Leslie White, Henry Morgan etc.

3. ANTHROPOLOGY REMOVES THE DUST OF ETHNOCENTRISM

Anthropology removes the dust of ethnocentrism. It means that anthropology is not judgemental. It does not look into a culture with keeping one's culture standard. Rather it sees a culture through the perspective of the residents in that culture.

4. ANTHROPOLOGY IS AN INTER-DISCIPLINARY FIELD

Anthropology is an interdisciplinary field that is

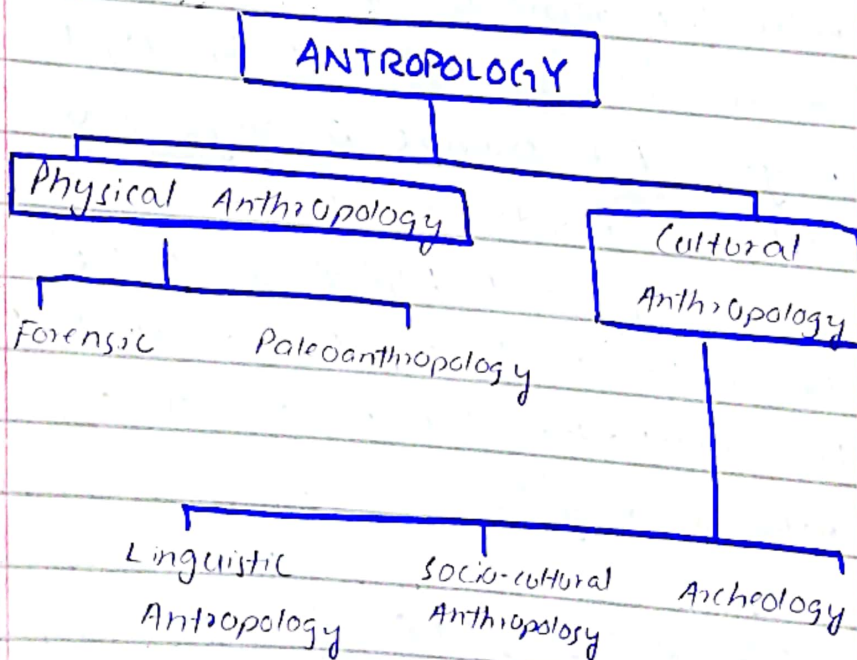
helpful in other disciplines as well. For example in Political science, it helps not only to understand the political system of a state, island or a group but also looks into the other fields like economics, family system, religion system etc.

5. ANTHROPOLOGY LOOKS THINGS AT MICRO LEVEL

There are 195 countries in the world and other fields are obsessed with only these 195 countries. However there are ~~more~~ thousands of islands and regions in the world. And only anthropologists look into these islands, ~~and~~ regions, and groups. For example Malinowski studied the Tobriand Islands in Papua New Guinea. He studied the culture, religion, economic system, political system and other institutions of the people of Tobriand Islands.

MAJOR FIELDS OF ANTHROPOLOGY

There are two major fields of anthropology: Physical and cultural anthropology. Cultural anthropology is further divided into three parts: archeology, linguistic anthropology and socio cultural anthropology. The following chart shows fields of anthropology



I. PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Physical Anthropology also known as the biological anthropology studies the human body, through the human remains. It can further be used in a lot of fields like forensic, primatology, paleoanthropology etc.

A) FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

It deals with the remains of the deceased person in order to assist in legal ways. For example if any crime such as murder occurs, forensic anthropology will help to assist the investigation bodies. An anthropologist help investigated the remains of a notorious nazi in Brazil.

B) PRIMATOLOGY

Physical anthropologists also help to understand

the primitives i.e. Apes and chimpanzees (closest relative of human). It does so by looking at the remains (bones, fossils etc) of the animals.

C) PALEOANTHROPOLOGY

It helps in understanding through the bone structure, fossils and remains of the people that lived in the past about the lives of the ancient people.

2. CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Cultural Anthropology is further divided into three parts: Archeology, Linguistic and socio-cultural anthropology.

A) ARCHEOLOGY

Anthropologists look into the remains (material), to study about the ancient culture, their way of living, their weapons,

For example, anthropologists work in the remains of Indus Valley civilization in Harappa to understand the culture of the people. Through it, one can understand historic and pre-historic cultures.

B) LINGUISTIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Language

is the paramount of any culture. Therefore, it is very important to know the language. Language anthropology studies the language of the ancient civilizations. By studying the language, the understanding of the culture becomes easy.

C) SOCIO-CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropo-

logists also studies the culture of a society. By studying the culture of a society, one may be able to understand the behaviour of the people. For example Dr Akbar S. Ahmed and his team studied

the culture of Europeans, as well as Americans in order to understand their behaviour towards Islam and specifically towards Muslims.

CONCLUSION

Anthropology is a unique discipline that looks at things in a broader perspective i.e. both at macro and micro level. Moreover, its four fields make it very useful in understanding humans, their evolution and about their behaviour.

QUESTION

What is culture? Elucidate its characteristics and usages in human life.

INTRODUCTION:

Cultural anthropology is the branch of anthropology that deals with cultural aspects. Different anthropologists have given different definitions for culture. EB Taylor, Malinowski and Meertz, all have given different definitions and all are valid.

Among characteristics of culture, includes symbols, subjectivity to change, dynamic, and much more. This, culture has a lot of usages in human life. It shapes the personality of the individuals, maintains order in society, governs the individual by giving them acceptable behaviour. More enculturation of the new generations is also the usage that is done by culture.

DEFINITION OF CULTURE

1) DEFINITION OF EB TAYLOR:

According

to Edward B Taylor:

"It is the complex whole
of norms, customs, traditions,
rituals, arts, knowledge, beliefs,
and much more."

2) DEFINITION OF MALINOWSKI

According

to Malinowski, it is the ~~sum~~ set
of communal activities that a society
performs in order to fulfill its
basic needs. These needs include,
shelter, food, reproduction, etc.

3) DEFINITION OF GEORtz

According

to Geertz, it is the interpretation of
different actions and symbols of a
society. The actions may include

searching for good, economic activities, consumption activities etc.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTURE

1) IT IS A LEARNED BEHAVIOUR

Culture is a learned behaviour. It is not inherited biologically, rather it is learnt from the surrounding. It can be in a subconscious state. For example, Americans usually stand at a distance from others while talking, it is only because that they have learnt it sub consciously.

2) CULTURE IS PATTERNED

Culture is patterned. It shapes the personalities. Franz Boas, Margaret Mead and Ruth Benedict also supported this.

Margaret Mead in her famous book 'Coming of Age in Samoa' has claimed that the Zuni tribe were proud and almost every individual had these same characteristics.

3) CULTURE INVOLVES SYMBOLS

Culture always involve symbols. Symbols may be like Holy Water, signs (verbal or non-verbal) as well. This is one of the key features of culture.

4) CULTURE IS SHARED

For a culture to ~~even~~ emerge, it is compulsory that it must be shared between a group of people. Kulkurter's 'Culture Area Theory' claims that culture originated from a single source

5) CULTURE IS DYNAMIC

Culture's another distinctive characteristic is that it is dynamic. It has taken its values, traditions from other cultures as well. For example whenever two cultures collide, they exchange traits of cultures. For example cocoa, coffee were introduced to the West by the Americans.

6) CULTURE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Culture always is subjected to change. There can be many reasons for change: diffusion, innovation, disasters etc. For example, Finland's people used Deer for transportation but due to innovations deer were replaced with machines. Also M.E in the biblical time used crates, then in the late 7th century used camels.

7) CULTURE IS ADOPTIVE

Culture is always adopted. Darwin's Nature Selection theory explains that only those survive who become adoptive with the culture. It is the survival of the fittest and thus it will produce strongest generations. So, adaptivity is also the characteristic of culture.

USAGES OF CULTURE IN HUMAN LIFE

1) SHAPES PERSONALITIES :

Culture shapes the personalities of the individuals residing in it. For example, all Baloch people will have same pride as other Baloches. It inculcates similar personalities in a being, as their other members have it.

2) MAINTAINS ORDER

Culture is responsible to maintain order in a society. It gives certain amount of rules and regulations in a society and it is bound on every individual to abide by these rules and regulations.

3) SETS PRECEDENCE TO LIVE LIFE ACCORDINGLY

It is the duty or usage of culture that it sets precedence for the individuals to live their life accordingly to its principles. It has some certain rules and regulations which are compulsory for an individual to follow.

4) ENCULTURATE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

The future generations of a society are also

enculturated due to the culture.

Culture is responsible to make these new generations literate about their ~~new~~ culture, traditions and customs.

5) ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR:

It is

the culture which is responsible to make a person or individual to learn about the behaviours that is acceptable in his society. For example, speaking rudely may in many cultures, act like a non-acceptable behaviour.

CONCLUSION:

Culture has some characteristics and also it has some usages ^{through} which it helps humans to ~~grow~~ grow. They may include enculturation of new members, setting rules etc.

QUESTION

Differentiate between Religion and Magic.
Explain the evolution of religion as an institution?

INTRODUCTION :

Religion and magic have certain differences between them. Religion constitutes God or natural being as a superior creation whereas magic terms the individual as a superior creature. Moreover, there is a concept of spirits (good or bad) in religion. Magic and the actions/rituals are done in order to get certain advantage from those spirits. Religion has evolved throughout the history and it has been explained by **EB Taylor**. According to him, the first religion was animism which evolved into polytheism and then, polytheism evolved into monotheism.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RELIGION AND MAGIC

1) CONCEPT OF SUPERNATURAL

A) RELIGION REGARDS GOD AS A SUPERNATURAL

Religion

regards God as a supernatural being.

It is compulsory upon a person to worship God, as he is the most powerful among all.

B) MAGIC REGARDS SPIRITS AS SUPERNATURAL

Magic

regards spirits as supernatural and there is no concept of God. The spirits can be evil or good. It is the spirit from which magic seeks help.

2) PRACTITIONER ATTITUDE TOWARDS SUPERNATURAL

A) FOR RELIGION, GOD IS SUPERIOR

In religion, a being considers God as a superior being and himself as inferior to God. For this purpose, he worships the God.

B) IN MAGIC, PRACTITIONER IS SUPERIOR

Practitioner is superior to the super natural spirit. He is commanding the super naturals in order to achieve certain goals by performing certain practices.

3) NATURE OF GOAL

A) RELIGION'S GOAL IS WELFARE OF OTHERS

The goal of the religion is the welfare of the society. The uplifting of poor,

in particular and society in general
is the goal of the society.

B) MAGIC'S GOAL IS INDIVIDUALISTIC

A magic's goal is to achieve an individual desire and he is not much concerned about the society. He focuses on the material aspects of the world.

4) NATURE OF RITUALS

A) RELIGION HAS FIXED RITUALS AT SPECIFIC TIME FRAME

For religion, the rituals are fixed and also they are to be performed at a specific time. Moreover, there is no secrecy in rituals, they are performed openly.

B) ~~FOR~~ MAGIC DOES NOT HAVE FIXED RITUALS AND FIXED TIME

For magic

the rituals have no fixed time or fixed actions. They can alternate according to the situation and can be performed at any time. Moreover they are done in secrecy.

EVOLUTION OF RELIGION AS AN INSTITUTION

1) EVOLUTION ~ BY E·B TAYLOR

A) ANIMISM MANAISM AS THE FIRST RELIGION

At the time of savagery, when man used to climb trees, have only wooden bows and arrows, the first religion at that time was animism. People usually saw dreams, and had no knowledge about them. The dreams made them to realise that there are spirits two spirits in the body. And when the person dies, the one spirit still resides.

They thought of it as the powerful and starting worshipping it.

B) ANIMATISM

After ^{Animism} Animatism,

there was animatism. As it became difficult for one to explain the formless things, they made them form in things such as bracelets, ornaments etc.

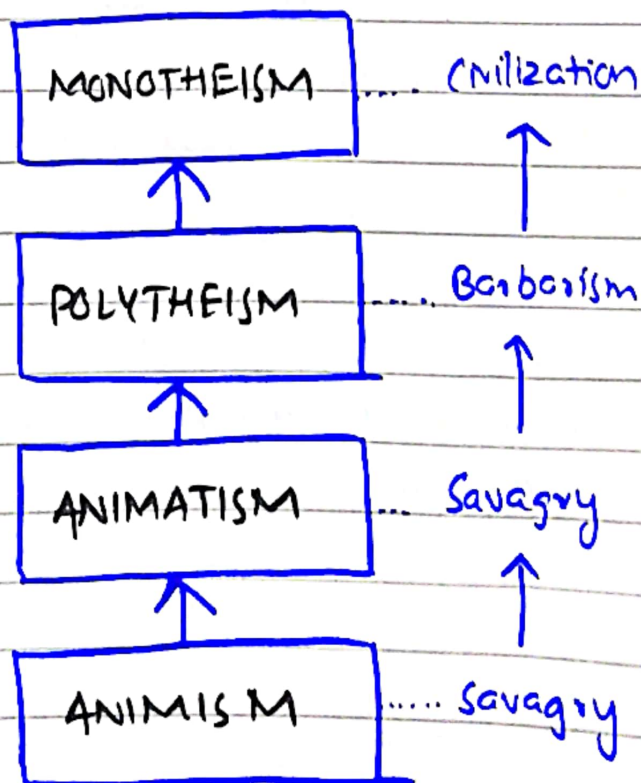
C) Polythesism

As the society moved towards barbarism, they established village and assigned specific and special roles. There were professional priest, who became more powerful as their status increased. Then, when they died, people started worshipping them. As there were a number of priests, so there became many gods; hence Polythesism.

D) MONOTHEISM

As the society became civilized (learned how to write), then there was a need to worship one God only, so, they decided the one, who seemed to be most powerful, hence it ended polytheism and monotheism was practiced.

2) FLOWCHART OF TAYLOR'S EVOLUTIONISM OF RELIGION



3) CRITICAL ANALYSIS

There is no proof that the world's first ever religion was animism, and not animatism. There is no historically evidence proving it. More over it is a unilinear evolution, there can be a possibility that it were a multilinear evolution

CONCLUSION:

There lies a difference between religion and magic. One considers itself superior (in magic) while in other, it considers itself inferior (in religion) and there is also difference in notion of God. The evolution of religion explains that world's first religion was animism which transformed into monotheism in the end.

QUESTION

What is ethnography. How it makes Anthropological research distinctive in nature.

INTRODUCTION :

Ethnography is a term against ethnology or 'chair arm anthropology.' It refers to the participation of the anthropologist in his field of research. An anthropologist has to stay in the field of research to make a qualitative research. It makes anthropological research different from and distinctive in nature. It gives us an inside perspective of the culture and removes the dust of ethnocentrism, as well as of xenocentrism. It also focuses on the micro-level perspective which are usually left behind and also focuses on the longitudinal research method.

DEFINING ETHNOGRAPHY

1) TO LIVE IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH

Ethnography is a term coined by the American anthropologists who tend to remove the dust of ethnocentric and xenocentricism. It focuses on the living of an anthropologist in his field of study or research. They may live up to several months, week or years depending on their research type.

2) PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION

Unlike the 'chair arm anthropology' which was used by the imperialists, it is less and forces a person to have participant involvement in the daily routine and tasks of the people or

society in which he lives or is doing research. For example, Malinowski did his field of work in the trobriand islands, he also took part in their activities.

Types of Participant Observation

Active Participant
Observation

Passive participant
observation

A) Active Participant Observation

It involves the active participation of the anthropologist in the tasks and routine matters of the society/ island that he worked in, he, the anthropologist participates, as if he is the actual member of the society.

B) PASSIVE PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION

It includes the participation but in a passive

manner. For example, in a Kulla Ring, he may not actively participate in the activity but he will notice and observe the activity passively.

ETHNOGRAPHY MAKES ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH DISTINCTIVE IN NATURE

1) SEES THE CULTURE IN ITS OWN SETTING

Ethnograph-
er's main focus is that no culture is superior or inferior. It depends on order to understand the culture and to research in true manner, it is necessary to see the culture in its own setting. It is recommended to think like a member of the society and to learn the real motive behind the activities or rituals.

2) ETIC AND EMIC APPROACH

It is a

distinctive feature of the ethnography that it involves etic as well as emic perspective. Etic perspective is the outside perspective or scientific perspective whereas Emic is the inside perspective of the originally residents of the culture / society.

3) USE OF KEY INFORMANTS

Key

Informants play a very important role in the research met of an anthropologist. He tells the anthropologist about the meaning of certain activities, their motives. He also serves as a guide for the anthropologist and assists him in getting him familiarized with the other members of society.

4) COMMUNICATING AND INTERVIEWING

After

selecting the right members with

help of key informant, it is necessary for a researcher to get the interview of the candidates. And it is also important that the interview should give interview according to his own consent and should not be interrupted while giving interview.

5) HELPS IN GETTING DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON SAME ISSUE

Ethnogra-

phy also helps in getting different perspectives of the members of the same society on a similar issue.

This would not have been possible in other natural sciences. This is rather another distinctive strategy of ethnographers.

6) ETHNOGRAPHY HELPS IN HOLISTIC STUDY

Ethnography also helps in doing the holistic study

of the members of the society, it may include all aspects irrespective of trivial importance. For instance Philip Koteck in his book right writes that even it should also be written that how does the members of a certain culture eat their food.

7) MICRO-LEVEL STUDY

Unfortunately,

other researches just aim on the macro level things, they forget that micro level things are important only because of the micro-level entities in the society. Ethnography helps anthropologists in studying those micro-level ~~its~~ and trivial things (in other natural sciences). It is another major characteristic and a distinctive feature of anthropology that make anthropology different from other social and natural sciences.

8) RECORDING INTERVIEWS :

The record of the interviews is also kept in ~~the~~ the anthropological research. And it is important that recording should be by the consent of the interviewee.

9) DIARY WRITING :

Diary writing is also one of the distinctive features of the anthropology. In the diary they have to write about their daily schedule and the daily research methods.

(CONCLUSION)

In a nutshell, ethnography is a distinctive feature of the anthropologists. The research that they make with this also differs from the rest of the rest of the social sciences research, as it is based on a holistic basis.