

# Anthropology (2017).

(Q)

Discusses the fields and branches of anthropology.

## INTRODUCTION:

Anthropology is the study of **interaction between societies** and how they have evolved over time. Anthropology is similar to sociology and it has not merely dealt with societies, but also their interaction with **medicine, archaeology, culture, paleontology etc.**

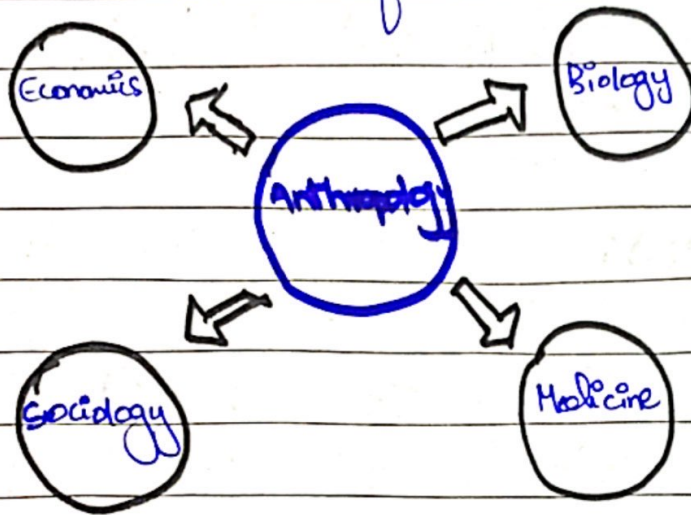
Furthermore, it has also taken a great role in economics as well. It has become a multi-disciplinary field which has been incorporated

in subjects like **gender studies, religious studies, geography etc.**

Although it is a new subject, yet it plays a crucial role in studying different cultures around the world.

# Anthropology: A diverse field:

As mentioned earlier, anthropology has a significant role to play in other fields as well. Following are the intrusions of anthropology in other fields:

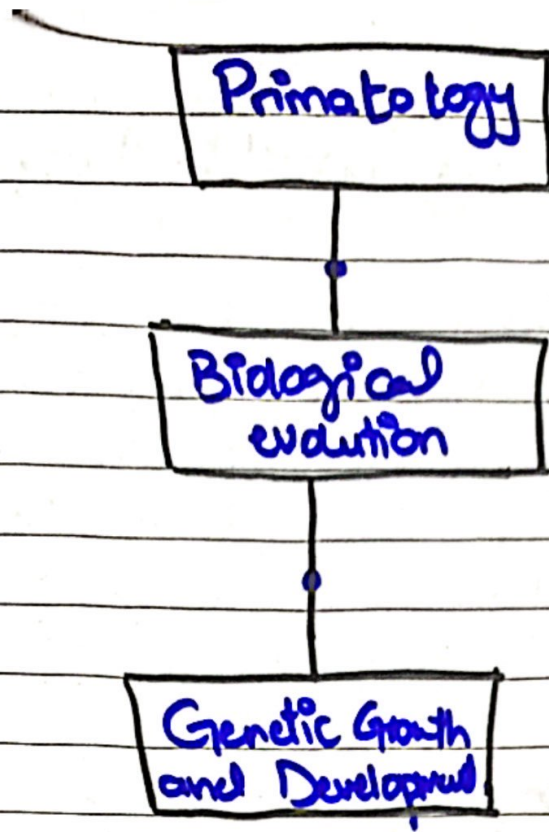


## Subfields and Branches of Anthropology:

- Biological Anthropology:

This deals with the biological evolution of human beings. According to Conrad Phillip Kottak's book "Cultural Anthropology", following are the aspects which are discussed in biological anthropology:





- Primatology and Anthropology's relationship:

Primatology is the study of human beings when they were present as **apes and monkeys**. Furthermore, primatology studies about how biological evolution took place to of humans from ~~homo~~ <sup>homo</sup> habilis to **homo sapiens**.

- **Linguistic Anthropology:**

Linguistic anthropology is an important subfield of anthropology. In this branch, anthropologists study the relation between culture and



language. They also study how **the contemporary world's language** is related to the primitive world. For instance, the language which was spoken in primitive ages does not exist in its pure form today. Thus, linguistic anthropology deals with evolution and dispersion of language.

### **Applied Anthropology:**

Applied anthropology deals with the solving the problems of contemporary world. According to **Eve Chambers**, there are two functions of anthropology:

- Academic knowledge and idealistic situations.
- Practical application of knowledge derived from anthropology.
- **Medicine and Applied Anthropology:**

Applied anthropology also discovers the medical side. It discovers how



Diseases are linked with social and cultural factors. The following equation shows the relation:

A restricted environment  $\rightarrow$  Social Pressure  $\rightarrow$  Depression and Anxiety in the society

- **Applied Anthropology and social problems:**

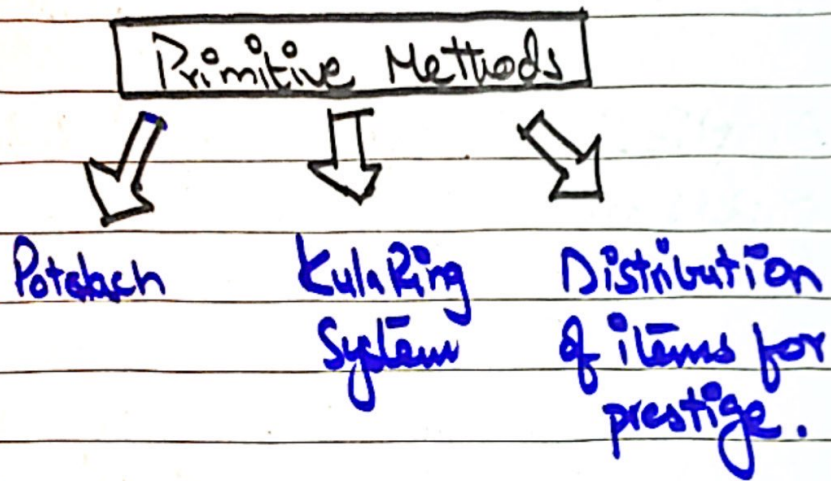
Applied anthropology also talks about social problems. For instance, it would discover the cultural and social causes of poverty, sexual abuse etc. It deals with the causes of terrorism and what factors compel people to choose this path.

### **Economic Anthropology:**

This type of anthropology deals with the primitive and contemporary practices of regulating economy at an individual level. William A. Haviland has stated in his book that



in primitive societies, people used to regulate their finances via **Barter Trade**. Barter trade means the exchange of a material with another. For instance, someone would trade his cattle for fish or ghee. More <sup>primitive methods</sup> methods of economic regulation include:



## Genetics and Anthropology:

Anthropology also deals with genetics. ~~Refer~~ After **Charles Darwin's** theory of survival of the fittest, anthropologists started to study about how genetics lead to the survival of the fittest and what genetic reasons lead to the development of **homo sapiens** today.

# Cultural Anthropology:

Culture is a significant branch of anthropology. It studies different cultures which existed in primitive ages and how they have evolved.

A cultural anthropologist **Elizabeth Lindzey** studied those cultures which had almost gone extinct. These cultures enable anthropologists to link primitive cultures with contemporary ages.

## Conclusion:

Henceforth, Anthropology is a very diverse field which deals with all important academic fields. It also deeply studies ~~with~~ marriage, kinship, religions and how they have evolved over time and in what ways they continue to impact humans. Thus, the scope of anthropology has broadened over time.

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