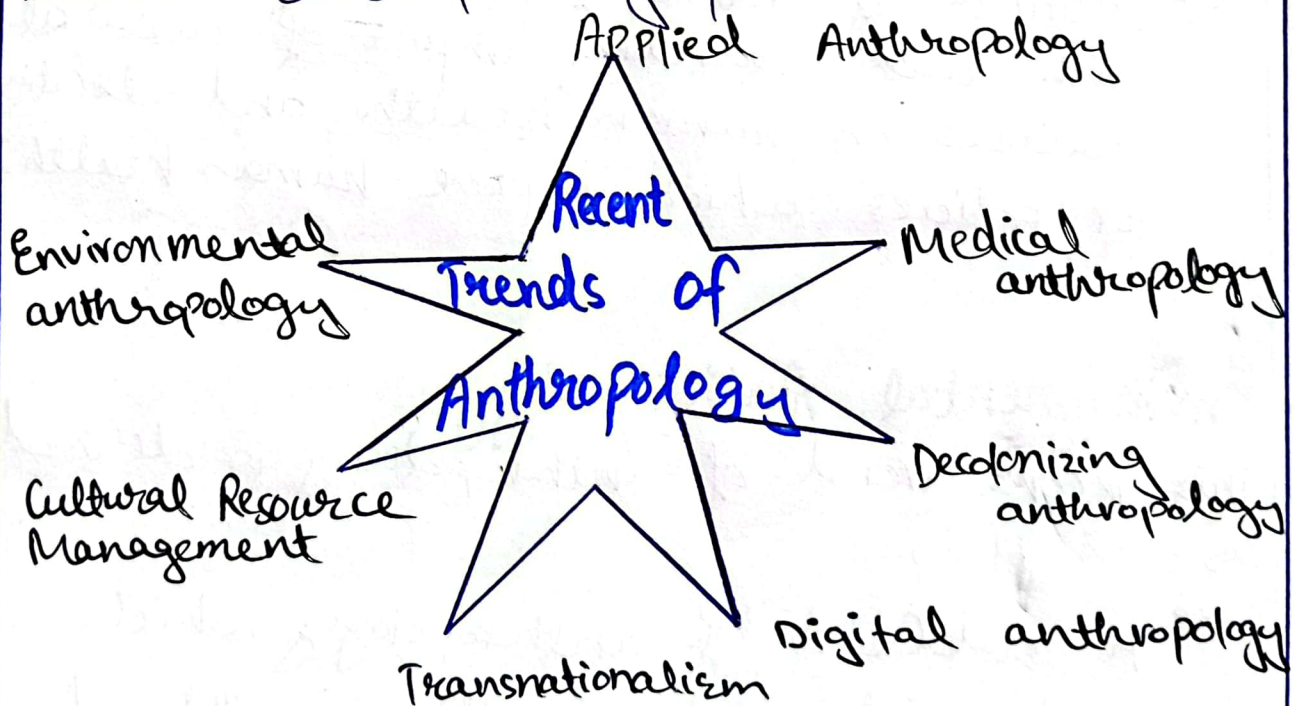


Q: Discuss how anthropology helps to solve contemporary problems using recent trends of anthropology.

Applications of Recent Trends of Anthropology

Anthropology, which is defined as scientific study of humans, human behavior and societies, uses its recent trends like applied anthropology, digital anthropology, environmental anthropology, cultural resource management, transnationalism, decolonizing anthropology and medical anthropology for solving various contemporary problems.



1- Explicating Recent Trends of Anthropology

Following are the recent trends of anthropology.

i- Applied Anthropology:

This recent trend of anthropology is defined as:

ee branch of anthropology which involves the application of anthropological theories and insights for addressing social issues and contemporary problems faced by humans.??

ii- Medical Anthropology:

This recent trend of anthropology is defined as:

ee Subfield of anthropology which deals with understanding impact of cultural practices on human health and advocating for policies which improve human health.??

iii- Environmental Anthropology:

This recent trend of anthropology is defined as:

ee A subfield of anthropology which deals with understanding impact of cultural practices on environment and advocating for policies which promote

environmental sustainability.”

iv. Transnationalism:

This recent trend of anthropology:-

- “ Involves understanding the impact of migration on human life, impact of urbanization and globalization on social and cultural practices.”

v. Decolonizing anthropology:

This recent trend of anthropology:-

- “ Involves transforming this discipline from its colonial roots and power imbalances inherent in its history.”

This trend prioritizes interaction with marginalized communities and focuses on the importance of indigenous knowledge. It promotes more participatory research practices.

vi. Digital Anthropology:

This recent trend of anthropology:-

- “ Deals with understanding the implications of digital technology on cultural practices and social constructions.”

vii. Cultural Resource Management:

This recent trend of anthropology is defined as:-

- “ A subfield of anthropology which uses cultural knowledge about local cultural practices for preserving and managing

Cultural heritage like archaeological sites, historical landmarks etc."

2. Solving Contemporary Problems

Using Recent Trends of Anthropology

Following discourse clearly highlights how recent trends of anthropology can solve contemporary problems.

i- Reducing Religious Extremism in Societies:

Religious extremism is a contemporary problem that can be solved by using applied anthropology. For instance, Mathew Mathews ^{ethnographic} work in Singapore society highlights how applied anthropology helps in resolving religious extremism in biased societies of the world (Mathew Mathews, Cultural Relativism and extremism, 2016).

ii- Biodiversity Conservation:

Biodiversity conservation is one of the biggest challenges today. Janelle L.W. McGowan's work in Pacific Island ^{community environmental} is an example which shows how applied anthropology helps in biodiversity.

conservation. Her work highlights how traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) helps in biodiversity management (Janelle L.W. McGowan, Biodiversity Conservation in Pacific Island Community, June 2013).

iii- **Combating Islamophobia and Anti-West Ideologies:** Islamophobia and anti-west ideologies also pose a threat to human societies. Aihwa Ong's *Alter Globalization* is an example which shows how applied anthropology helps in combating Islamophobia and anti-west ideologies by challenging the binary 'West versus the Rest' ideology (Aihwa Ong, *Nuanced Understanding of Cultural Exchange*, Jan 2010).

iv- **Improving Public Health Initiatives:** Public health is a major concern in the contemporary era of globalization. Christina Garsten's ethnographic study on environment and health in Southern Sweden examines how cultural practices impact human health. This is an example of medical anthropology which helps in improving public health initiatives (Christina Garsten, *Environment and Health in Southern Sweden*, March 2015).

v. Promoting Cultural Identity:

Cultural identity is facing a threat due to urbanization, technology and globalization. Hannah Knox's ethnographic study named as "Ethnography in Digital age" is an example of digital anthropology which examines how this trend of anthropology promotes use of technological apps for promoting cultural identity (Hannah Knox, Ethnography in Digital Age, 2008).

vi. Resolving Ethnic Conflicts:

Human societies are facing ethnic conflicts. However, Jessica Cattelino's work in the Seminole tribe of Florida is an example which shows how applied anthropology helps in understanding local cultural practices for reducing ethnic conflicts (Jessica Cattelino, Ethnography in Seminole Tribe of Florida, Feb 2014).

vii. Reducing Economic Inequality: Economic inequality is also a contemporary challenge faced by human societies. David Graeber, a cultural anthropologist, traced the

history of debt and economic structure of world economic organizations that have been perpetuating economic inequality for century. This shows how recent trend of anthropology helps in formulating policies which reduce economic inequality that could erupt due to exploitive lender practices (David Graeber, Debt: The History of 5000 Years, 2011).

viii- Mitigating Migration Issues:

Globalization and urbanization are causing migration issues. Decolonizing anthropology and transnationalism help in resolving these issues. For instance, Shannon Speed, a Chikasaw anthropologist, used decolonizing frameworks to understand compounded vulnerabilities of indigenous women migration system. This can reduce the impact of settler colonialism and capitalism on immigrants (Shannon Speed, Women Migration System, July 2006).

ix- Cultural Heritage Preservation:

Cultural resource management helps in cultural heritage preservation. For instance, Mansoor Akbar Kundi's research

in the archaeological sites of Balochistan is an example in this regard. It explores the importance of understanding local cultural dynamics for cultural heritage preservation (Mansoor Akbar kundi, Cultural Resource Management in Balochistan, May 2012).

Conclusion:-

Anthropology is an interdisciplinary field that helps in understanding each and every aspect of human life. The recent trends of anthropology play a key role in improving health, environment, cultural practices, social harmony, mitigating extremism and Islamophobia. ^{They} It also play a key role in cultural heritage preservation.