

# Concept of Race



# Terminology

- ▶ Race is a confusing word, it means different things to different people.
- ▶ The word “race” denoting lineage, comes from a French translation of “Rasse” into the Italian “Razza”-which in Italian of that time applied to animals not peoples. This points to current English and Italian usage being derived and adapted respectively from the French.
- ▶ The common meaning of those is people of common decent.
- ▶ The word Race came into usage in English language in 16<sup>th</sup>. Century.

# Concept of Race over time

- ▶ Thomas de Gobineau attempt the first classification of human beings on the basis of physical characteristics i.e. skin colour, shape of the head, chin, jaw etc.
- ▶ The Social Darwinism added to the confusion of meaning of Race.
- ▶ The Social Darwinians extended the biological idea from the biological realm to the sociological realm.
- ▶ Now a days it is clear that even though Race does not have a biological meaning, it does have a social meaning which has been legally constructed.
- ▶ In common usage Race has been employed in a verity of ways, many of them incorrectly from a scientific point of view: culture(Latin Race), language (Aryan Race) etc. these usages are erroneous, since they are neither anatomical features nor are they inherited and fixed.

# Definition of Race

- ▶ According to UNESCO: - It is a group which shares in Common a certain set of innate physical characteristics and geographical origin within a certain area.
- ▶ According to A.W. Green - A race is a biological, human grouping, with a number of distinctive inherited characteristics which vary within a certain range
- ▶ According to Kroeber - A race is a biologically inherited group possessing a distinctive combination of physical traits that tend to breed true from generation to generation.

# Conclusion about Race

The expert sociologists, anthropologists and psychologists arranged by UNESCO arrived at the following conclusions about a race :

1. Fundamentally the entire human species has one origin and all men are homo sapiens.

2. National groups, religious groups, geographical groups, cultural groups, linguistic groups, etc., are all entirely unconnected with and unrelated to race. These groups do not give indication of any race. Distinctions can be made between different races on the basis of differences

in physical characteristics but not on the basis of cultural characteristics.

3. The differences found to exist between the physical characteristics of men are due both to heredity and to environment. Differences in heredity arise due to the processes known as mutation and in-breeding.

4. Some races make claims of purity but this is not true. Today pure races cannot be found anywhere in the world. The process of mixing of races originated long back.

5. Human races can be classified but these classifications are based solely on physical traits. They have no relation of any kind with mental or intellectual superiority or inferiority.

# Conclusion about Race

1. The inner capacity for the development of mind and culture is found equally in every race. Hence distinctions between races cannot be based on cultural differences or levels of intelligence. Intelligent people are to be found in all races.

2. It is possible that in one nation the degree of racial difference may be greater while in another nation it may be of a greater or a lesser degree.

3. Evidence in support of the fact that the race has no important effect in the social and cultural differences between various human groups has been found in historical and sociological studies. By no stretch of imagination can one conceive of any relation between changes in racial forms and social changes.

4. From the biological viewpoint, mixing of races is deleterious, is an essentially incorrect and invalid belief.

On the basis of this conclusion we can say that Race is a group of intermarrying people who are born of common ancestors, possesses similar physical traits and we feeling.

# Origin theory of Race

- ▶ The origin of Human race is quite controversial.
- ▶ According to Majid Hussain the origin of Race is a subject fought with a controversy.
- ▶ In general one encounters two contrasting schools of thought about origin of race i.e.
  - a. Theory of polygenesis.
  - b. Theory of monogenesis.

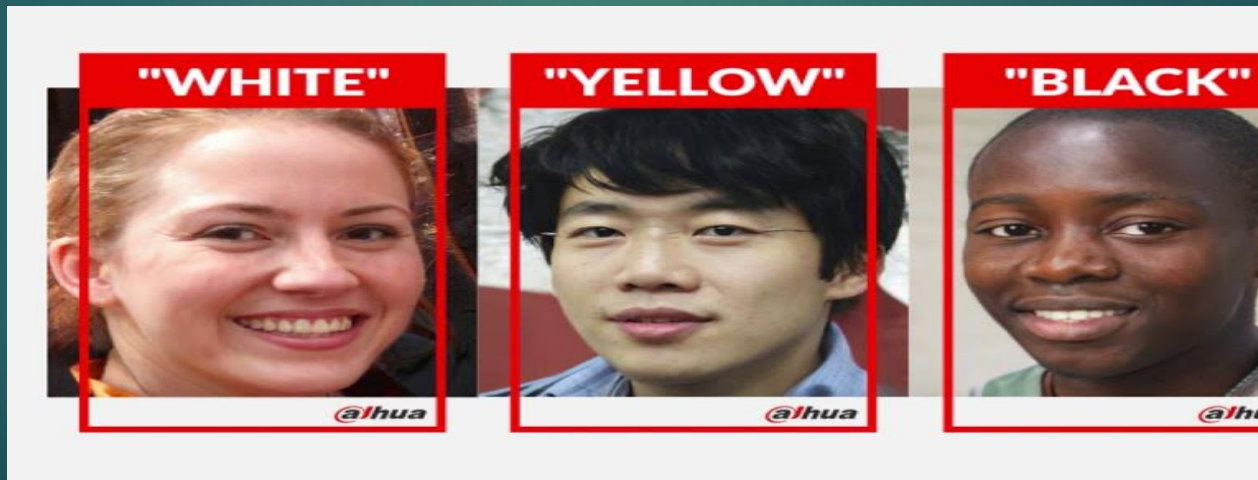
# Basis of Racial Classification

- ▶ The important features on the basis of which races are identified and classified are two kinds –
  - a. The superficial or External features (Skin Colour, Shape of Eyes)
  - b. Internal or structural features (Blood group, Shape of Nose)



# 1. Colour of Skin

- ▶ Colour is the most striking superficial characteristics of human division.
- ▶ Anthropologist and Ethnologist are consider three colours universally.
- ▶ In 1817 Cuvier divided the human group into three races on the basis of skin colour:
- ▶ 1.Caucasian (white colour) 2.mongoloid (yellow colour)  
3.Negro(black colour)



# Colour and Texture of Hair

- ▶ Hair may be straight ,woolly in structure and brown and black in colour.
- ▶ G.R. Gyayor has mentioned three types of hair :
  1. Ulotrichi – Frizzly hair (Negros,Bushmanetc)
  2. Leiotrichi- Straight hair (Central and North Asia and American Indians)
  3. Cymotrichi- Wavy hair (ainus of japan, Polynesian)
- ▶ A.C.Haddon in 1925 has used hhair as the chief basis of classification of world races.

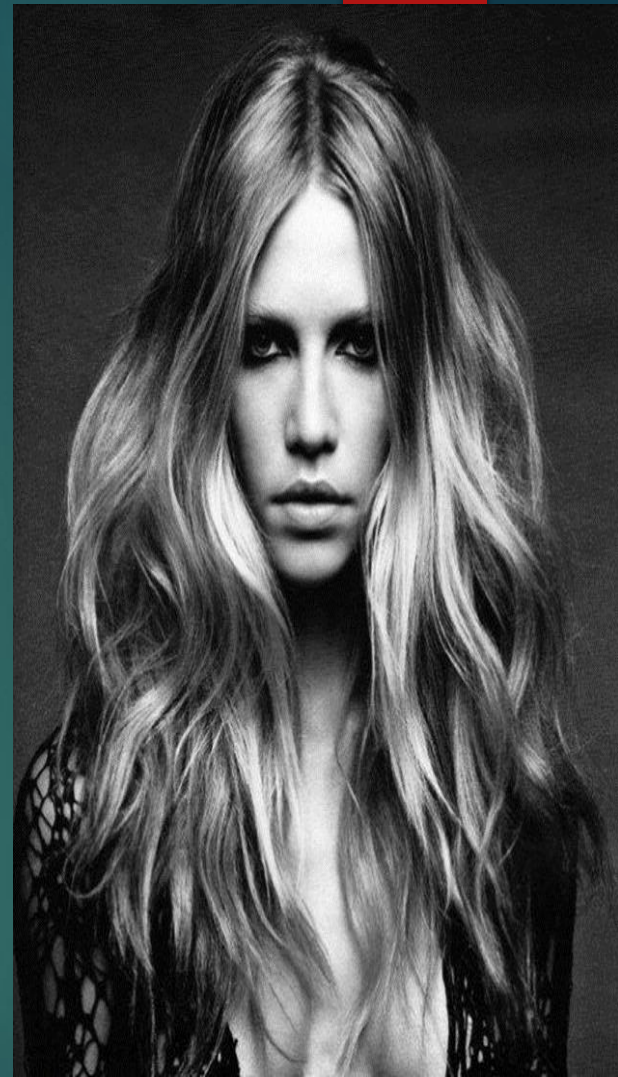


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# Colour & shape of Eyes

- ▶ Eye colour can be classified the same way as skin colour.
- ▶ The pigmentation of the iris (eye colour index)

Varies greatly among people of the world such as – Gray eyes are common in central Europeans, dark brown in Indian Republic

etc.)

- ▶ Shape of the eye is another significant features for racial identification.
- ▶ Epicanthic folds are skin folds of upper eyelids that cover the inner corner of the eyes, mostly found in Mongolian Race.



# Stature

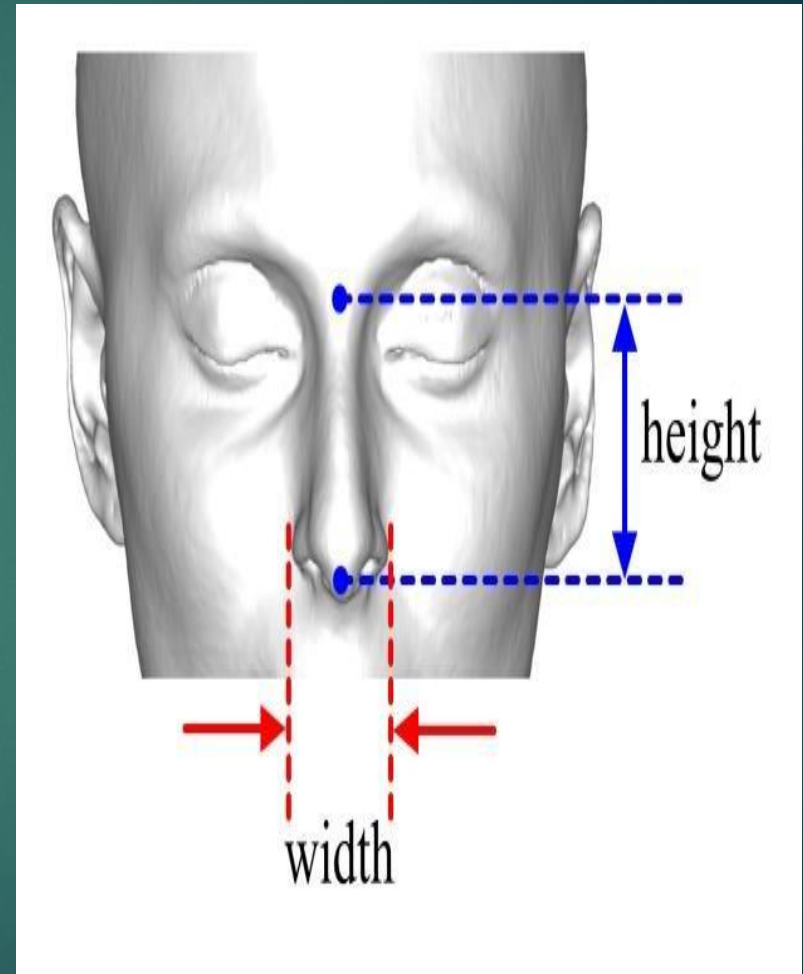
- ▶ Stature is one of the inherited quality of human beings , nevertheless it influenced by the quality and quantity of food.
- ▶ Easily measurable traits.
- ▶ On the basis of stature ,peoples may be classified into several groups- i)Pygmy(up to 129.0cms) ii)Very short (130-149.9cms) iii)Short (150 – 159.9 cms ) iv) Below medium (160 – 163.9cms) v)Medium (164 – 166.9cms) vi) Above medium (167 -169.9cms) vii)Tall (170-179.9cms) viii)Very tall (180-189.9) ix)Giant (200cm –above)
- ▶ Average stature for men range between 4feet 3inch to 6feet 7inch ,for female from 4feet to 6 feet 2inch.

# Blood Group

- ▶ Throughout the world, peoples can be divided into 4 types according to their blood group – **A, B, AB, O**
- ▶ One of the most genotypic traits.
- ▶ Among the **caucasoids** (white) the blood group is more **A** than **B**.
- ▶ Among **the mongoloids** blood groups **B** is most dominant while among the **negroes** **A** and **B** both are found.

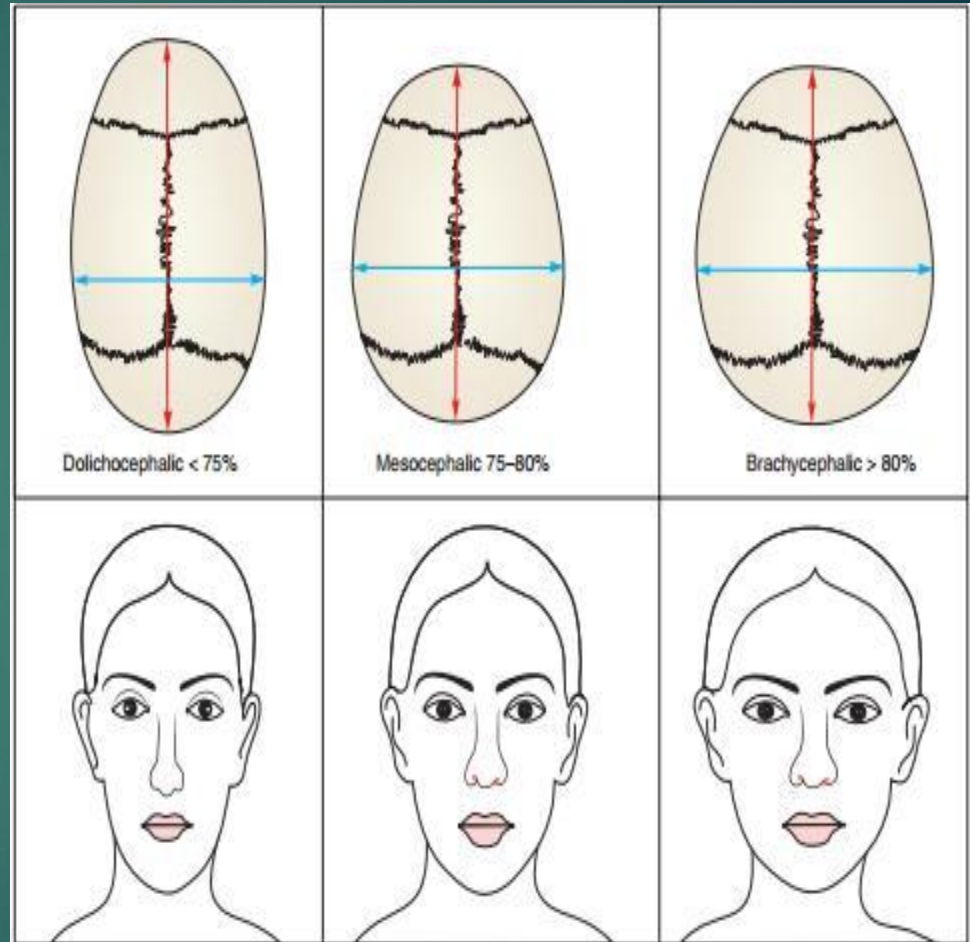
# The shape of the nose

- ▶ One of the best indicators of racial classification.
- ▶ Nasal index is a good indicator to know the dimension of nose. It is the proportion of the width of the nose to its length.
- ▶ **Nasal Index** =  $\text{width of nose} \times 100 / \text{Height of the nose}$ .
- ▶ Human population may be classified on the basis of nasal index as follows:
  - ▶ **i) Leptorrhinae – upto 70.9**
  - ▶ **ii) Mesorrhinae – 71 to 84.9**
  - ▶ **iii) Chamaerrhinae or Platyrrhine – 85 to 99.9**
  - ▶ **iv) Ultra chamaerrhinae/Hyper platyrrhine – 100 and above**



# The shape of the head

- ▶ The shape of the head is the important parameter used scientifically for the division of mankind into races.
- ▶ The shape of the head express as an index known as Cephalic Index.
- ▶ **Cephalic Index**=width of the head\*100/length of the head
- ▶ The resultant figures is often divided into 3 categories – **i)Long head ( Dolichocephalic)-below 78.5**
- ▶ **ii)Medium head (Mesocephalic)-78.6 to 82.5**
- ▶ **iii)Broad head (Brachycephalic)-more than 82.5**





# Shape of the Face

- ▶ The proper evaluation of face form can be possible with the help of Facial Index .
- ▶ It is an indicator of the proportion of the facial length to its breadth.
- ▶ The human population may be conveniently classified on the basis of facial index as follow:
- ▶ i) Hypereuryprospic – upto -78.9
- ▶ ii) Euryprospic – 79 to 83.9
- ▶ iii) Mesopropic – 84 to 87.9
- ▶ iv) Leptopropic – 88 to 92.9

# Classification of Race

- ▶ Different ethnologist and anthropologist have classified human races differently. Of these few most important are –
- ▶ 1. Bernier's classification – considered as the first attempt to classify human race into four groups.
- ▶ 2. Bradley – using dichotomous method divided world population into three groups white (Bearded & Beardless), Negroes (Straight haired & Woolly Haired) intermediates (mulattoes).
- ▶ Cuvier, Huxley, Deniker, A. C. Haddon, Hooton, Griffith Taylor, Roland B. Dixon and many others give their own classification on the basis of different traits of human population.

# World Race Classification

- ▶ Classification of human race is a controversial topic in Human geography. Despite of controversy world population divided into three broad racial groups ,i.e. –
- ▶ Caucasoid Race
- ▶ Mongoloid Race
- ▶ Negroid Race

# Caucasoid Race

- ▶ One of the major racial group, about 50% of people belongs to this group.
- ▶ Christoph Meiners is the first person who mentioned this group on his book “Outline of history of mankind” 1785.
- ▶ Classification: This group includes various subgroups with variety of racial elements- mediterranean, alpine, Nordic, East Baltic, Celtic, Ainu etc.
- ▶ Location: All over the World you can find this group of people, they are lived mainly Europe, middle west asia, south asia, north America and north east Africa.
- ▶ Physical characteristics:
  1. Skin colour- white, Olive, different shades of brown.
  2. Hair: Flat wavy to curl. Its colour is generally lighter in shades, texture of hair ranges from medium to fine. Quantity of body and facial hair moderate to abundant.
  3. Head: Dolichocephalic to Brachycephalic.
  4. Nose: Leptorrhine to Mesorrhine but platyrrhine is never found. Nasalbridge is generally high.
  5. Face: Forehead is high, lips are thin and chin is pronounced. Facial prognathism is totally absent.
  6. Eye: Colour of eye is not black. They show lighter shades.
  7. Stature: Usually tall.
  8. Blood group: more A than B

# Mongoloid

- ▶ Mongoloids have probably originated in central Asia and move to different direction, known as Asiatic or Oriental race.
- ▶ Classification: The Mongoloid are divided into four main subdivision on the basis of their geographical distribution. These are -1. The classical or central Mongoloid. 2. the arctic/northern Mongoloid/Eskimoids. 3. The southern or indo-Malayan. 4. The American Indians.
- ▶ Location: North china, Tibet region, northern Asia, North America, Greenland, Indonesia.
- ▶ Physical characteristics
  1. Skin colour- Ranges between saffron to yellow brown, some time reddish brown.
  2. Hair: The colour of hair is brown to brown black, texture is coarse form is straight and body hair is sparse.
  3. Head: Predominantly broad and medium height.
  4. Nose: Medium broad to very broad, nasal bridge is usually low
  5. Face: Medium broad to very broad and medium high.
  6. Eye: Colour of eye is brown to dark brown, epicanthic fold is very common.
  7. Stature: Medium tall to medium short.
  8. Blood group: more B than A

# Negroid

- ▶ The oldest race of the World.
- ▶ Classification : mainly divided into two groups- 1.African Negro  
2. Oceanic Negro. African negro is further classified into Five subdivision that is – True Negro, Nilotic Negro, Bantu, Bushman-Hottentot, Negrillo.
- Location:origin of negro is Africa ,they are distributed in west Africa and guinea coast,Nigeria,cenia,Uganda,tanjinia etc
- Physical characteristics:
  1. Skin colour-dark brown to black
  2. Hair: Woolly and frizzly black hair, sparse body hair with coarse texture.
  3. Head: Dolichocephalic head .
  4. Nose: broad and flat nose, nasal rought and bridge usuly low and broad.
  5. Face: medium broad to narrow with strong facial prognathism.
  6. Eye: Colour of eye is dark brown to black, vertical eye fold common.
  7. Stature: tall to very short.
  8. Blood group: Both A & B