

*Paper Code: SOC-CC-410*  
*Paper: Social Stratification*  
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*Topic: RACE AND ETHNICITY*

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- **RACE**

The term Race refers to the genetically transmitted physical characteristics of different human beings and groups.

The term Ethnicity refers to culturally acquired differences.

Q.) What is Race?

Race is a socially significant reality. Races have been regarded as a social creation. They result from the attribution of biological characteristics because of intermixing, overlapping and the gradual shading of physical characteristics.

Montesquieu has written that the French scientist Buffon 1749, Linnaeus on the basis of planning of classification of various races first time used the word Race.

- **Definition of Race**

- **Majumdar defines** - It is a group of people who by their possession of a number of common physical traits can be distinguished from others even if the members of their biological group are widely scattered, they form a Race.
- **Merrill defines** - Race is a biological term referring to certain physical similarities among large group of persons that transmitted through the mechanism of heredity.

- **Origin of Race**

- Mutation
- Natural Selection
- Crossing
- Isolation
- Migration

- **Determinants of Race**

The physical characteristics of various races can be categorized into two sections and these two sections can be said the determinants of Race.

- **Definite Physical Traits**

1. Cranial Shape
2. Cranial Capacity
3. Facial Index
4. Nasal Index
5. Blood Group
6. Stature

- **Indefinite Physical Trait**

1. Skin Color
2. Eyes
3. Hair
4. Prognathism

- **Major Living Races of The World**

Kroeber has divided the whole world Race into major three sections and eleven sub- groups. Under this 99% population comes.

- Caucasoid
- Mongoloid
- Negroid

- **Classification of Indian Race**

- **Dravidian** - This group lives in Madras, Hyderabad, South Madhya Pradesh and in Southern Bihar. They have black skin color, small height, black eyes and a flat nose.
  - **Indo-Aryan** - This group speaks Indo-Aryan language. They live in east Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kashmir.
  - **Mongoloids** - They are mainly found in Nepal, Assam and Burma. Their bodily characteristics are like Asiatic Mongoloids. Skin color is yellow, head is medium and face is very flat.
  - **Indo-Dravidian or Aryo-Dravidian** - They are the mixed group of Indo-Aryan and Dravidian. Long head, medium nose and black skin color. They are found in UP and Bihar.
  - **Scytho-Dravidian** - They are the mixed group of Mongol and Dravidian. Skin color is black and short height or medium height. They reside in Bengal and Odisha
  - **Turko-Iranian** - They are mixed group of Turk and Iran. They have wider head, tall height. They live in Baluchistan and north-west Pakistan.
- Risley explains that in India there are the original Races Dravidian, Mongol and Indo-Aryans and other four Races are the result of mixed groups.

- **ETHNICITY**

The term ethnicity signifies cultural feature which includes language, religion, national origin, dietary practices and a sense of common historical heritage or other distinctive cultural traits.

According to Milton Cordon, the word Ethnicity comes from the Greek word "Ethnos" which means people or Nation. Thus, an ethnic group thinks of itself as a people or nation or is viewed by others as culturally different.

- **Definitions**

- **Horton and Hunt** – The term Ethnic group could be used to refer to – any kind of group racial or otherwise, which is socially identified as different and has developed its own sub-culture.
- **Richard T Schaefer** – An ethnic group is a set apart from others primarily because of its national origin or distinctive cultural patterns.

**J.M.Yinger says that there are three major elements of ethnic group.**

- **Outsiders view of the group**
- **Insiders view of themselves**
- **Participation in common activities**

**The basic difference between Race and Ethnic groups**

- Race is a concept and it is being returned to the biological characteristics, but Ethnicity refers to cultural features which includes language, national origin, religion etc.
- Racial characteristics are genetically inherited but Ethnic groups does not have any inborn cultural traits. It acquires them from environment For Ex: The Tamilians of India and the Sri Lankan's Tamilians ancestry share the same genetic heritage but yet they display a very different cultural norms and values. Thus, this is the basic differences between Race and Ethnicity.

