

## Genetics Studies in Five Endogamous Populations of North Bihar

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**ABSTRACT** Five caste populations (Bania, Bhumihar, Dusadh, Kurmi and Chamar) from Purnia zone of North Bihar were studied for the ABO blood groups, the Rh blood groups, PTC tasting ability and red-green colour blindness. All five castes have high frequency of the B group. It has been concluded that correlation between ethnic relationship and serological similarities is not close. Genetic distance analysis showed the existence of a clear distance pattern. Bania and Dusadha as well as Bhumihars and Kurmis are found in different sub-clusters forming one coherent cluster, whereas Chamars are deviating obviously from this cluster. These analysis reflect the social differentiation of the five caste groups and substantiate the importance of endogamy for emergence and maintenance of genetic diversity in man.