

## **Rethinking in Indian Anthropology**

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**ABSTRACT** In the value of specialization many disciplines are facing a problem of segmentation. If this is allowed to influence anthropology it can result into such disciplines which will become virtually unrecognizable to each other. Consequently anthropology needs to work out a formula where most recent advances in biological and sociological fields can be incorporated to device newer strategies of research. If we look at the issues emanating in the national scene in the last 50 years we would see that none of them fall outside the area of involvement of Anthropologists. Whether it is Jharkhand problem, the Mandal Commission or the tribal de-Christianization. Anthropologists in our country could provide very little research results to help us understand the contemporary issues. In physical anthropology as well there is a crying need to understand occupational Osteology and Physiology. Increasing stress brought about by rapid transformation in life style is another sector for which we have no baseline data to provide. None of these issues can be dealt purely by analyzing samples in the laboratory. Each of these areas of research require a thorough understanding of both the traditional mores of a population as also the magnitude and direction of change brought to bear by them. Consequently, one needs to wed the socio-cultural studies with biological information. No other subject can handle these diverse areas as successfully as the anthropologists can. Yet the impact of specialization has created such a vast gap between our sub-disciplines that we were unable to address to the actual issues. It is felt that in the next century we should try to gear our researches to such an array of issues which can consider a population as not only the product of genetic combination but also the product of a society and history. This might also be extended to serological studies where newer parasite and viruses are using Man as a Vector. Since human cultural adaptation to a specific food, water source or even sexual behavior regulates the point of entry of these parasites or viruses and since these are rapidly mutating organisms, anthropological studies can make substantial contribution also in the areas of public health if we try to change our direction of research.