

**Economic Anthropology and Studies on Indigenous (“Tribal”/ “Adivasis” Ethnic)  
Communities  
(Draft only)**

**Unit-1**

Introduction: Economic Anthropology, (old and new) terms, concepts and definitions – Native (Indigenous/Tribal/Adivasis/Ethnic) communities use of pejorative terminologies of these groups – Relationship between Economics and Anthropology, Principles of an Economic Anthropology, Reservations Policies Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Areas  
The Golden Age of Economic Anthropology (1950-1970)  
The rise of modern economics and anthropology (1870-1940)

Characteristics of Tribal Economies – Primitive Tribal Groups - Common Properties resources - The Formalist – Substantivist Debate, and after the Debate – Disembedded Economy Vs Embedded Economy - Gift Economy - Moral Economy – Self sufficient Economics, Reciprocity, Redistribution and Exchange, Trade etc., Economies - Subsistence Economics – Market Economics – Pre-modern Economics

Ethnic Communities Tribe Occupational Structures and cultural diversities (multicultural ;salad bowl’, cultural mosaic, rise of ethnic groups, language and cultures that co-exist within society) – Customary Law & Change - primitive characteristics of economy to Modern Economy/ Human Economy: from the food gathering (Ancient World) to food producing to the Age of Cyber Economy - Barter Economy to Digital Economy – Caste and Class differences among Indian groups - The rise of modern Economy and Anthropology

Economics and Cultures and Resources: Economies and the problems of human nature – (the self interested model vs. the moral modern and non-modern economies).

Ethnic cleansing (sometimes used as genocide) – forced deportation, to get people to move.

- as a crime under international law
- as a military, political, economic tactic

## **Unit-II:**

Pre-capitalist economics, market economies local national international markets: role of middle persons, external forces, and financial institutions, Indebtedness. Communitarianism – family, community, morality under different economic systems. Pre-Colonialism, Colonialism and Neo-Colonialism and its impact on Indigenous Communities, tribal historical movements, uprisings revolts and resistances. Productions - Mode of Production – Production Relations “Indian Jajmani System” - slavery serfdom, peasantry and proletariats and cyber workers. Tribalism, de-tribalization, nomadism, pastoralism, peasantization de-peasantization proletarianization, pauperism - Social disruption of market immersion and the consequences for, on Indigenous culture

## **Unit – III**

Indigenous Communities of the world – Tribal Ethnic groups in India - shifting cultivation – integration and disintegration process - and globalization impact on indigenous Tribal/Indigenous Communities, ecological forest villages and their common property resources crises - Forests Rights, Common property resources, land alienation, displacement, rehabilitation, indebtedness - migratory trends – Problems of conservation of natural capital and protection of Indigenous Communities – Ecological crisis and globalization impact on indigenous communities - Indigenous Knowledge & Ecology – Deep Ecology - Eco Feminism – Androcracy, Ethnocentrism (William Graham Sumner (1840-1910) – American, proto-libertarian folkways (1980) and anti-ethnocentric anthropology, anthropocentrism – New directions in economic anthropology – gender perspectives

#### **Unit-IV:**

Economics and Egalitarianism - Social deprivation and class analysis of world capitalism and Indigenous Groups – Anthropologists’ encounters with neo-liberal capitalists (1980-2000) - Economic liberalization and non-economic liberalism – concepts, causes and consequential effects of unequal development and alternative developmental strategies – Rights (in land and forest) for the economic resources and application of the constitutional provisions into a reality - Right to education health to social economic resources – Rights-based approaches to tribal issues to provide equal opportunities and equal share in GDP with non-discrimination – Evolving trends in Information Technology, and its perils on Indigenous Communities - Evaluation and Role of International, National Governmental, Non-governmental organizations and their developmental policies, programmes, plans, sub plans and its implications on the future of indigenous communities and poor (assetless) masses – Alternative possibilities and economic action – Political Economy & Economic Anthropology, nations and their futures - Empiricism – Dialectical Materialism and Empirical Social Research on (Indigenous) poor Native Communities - Social Action Research, Participatory Approach – Development from below – Participative Development and local – “self-determination” Making local people formal participants and directors of change.

Heuristic approach - uses successive evaluations of trial and error experimentations to arrive at a final result

Holistic approach - looks at the whole picture. The totality of something is much greater than the sum of its component parts. They are interdependent on each other and cannot be understood by the isolated examination of their parts.

Rudolf Virchow (1821-1902) – anthropologist public health

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### **SUGGESTED JOURNALS**

Science and Culture.

The Indigenous world

International Work Group for indigenous Affairs

Journal of economic history

The Radical humanist

The world Economy

Social Action

The Journal of peasant studies

Man and development

The Journal of Development Studies

Economic and Political Weekly, Bombay (related articles on Tribals).

Human Science, earlier named Bulletin of Anthropological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Journal of Indian Anthropological Society, Calcutta.

Journal of Social Science Research, Ranchi University, Anthropology Department.

Journal of Royal Anthropological Institute.

Man in India, Ranchi.

Social Scientist

*Research in Economic Anthropology*

**SEE WEBSITES:** for related topics: (Cyber café)

### **SUGGESTED FILIMS & DOCUMENTARY FILMS**

*Asante Market Women*. (1982) Claudia Milne, Charlotte Boaitey, UK (Directors) A documentary on a tribe in Ghana where the men are polygamous and the women are subordinate in all

domestic matters. But in the market place the women reign supreme. These women have evolved their own power structure to settle all disputes over price and quality.

*Alluri Seetharama Raju* (1974) Historical [Telugu](#) cinema based on the life of Indian freedom fighter [Alluri Sitaramaraju](#), directed by V. Ramachandra Rao and written by Maharadhi Tripuraneni.

*The Godfather* I, II, III (1972, 1974, 1990) Francis Ford Coppola (Director). Based on Mario Puzo's 1968 novel with the same name on leaders of a powerful New York crime family. The story, spanning the years 1945 to 1955, centers on the ascension of Michael Corleone (Pacino) from reluctant family outsider to ruthless Mafia boss.

*We Are Every Where* (1998) on Roma and Ghor groups of Europe and India. Devi, B.R. Shyamala

*Ongka's Big Moka: The Kawelka of Papua New Guinea* (1976) Ongka, a [New Guinea Big man](#), is seen preparing a [Moka exchange](#). The film follows Ongka's struggles to accumulate huge numbers of pigs and other items of value to present at a Moka ceremony to another tribe. The objective of Ongka's Moka is to build status, prestige and fame for his tribe and for himself. Ongka uses Moka to elevate his status as the "Big Man" of his tribe. The film shows clearly that there are strong elements of competition and one-upmanship in giving Moka, setting the ceremony's date, and also - despite the fact that they never filmed it - in the actual Moka ceremony itself in which the participants wear traditional and magnificent Highland



"decoration". Giving Moka can bring the giver close to ruin but the political and social gains from increased prestige can outweigh this.

This film has become a staple in college anthropology programs due to its excellent illustration of gift based economies as well as an example of the role of Big Men.

Important persons relevant for economic anthropology:

Franz Boas (1858-1942) – Anthropologist (student of Rudolf Virchow), father of American anthropology and the father of modern anthropology, scientific study of human cultures and societies.

Bronislaw Malinowski)

Ruth Fulton Benedict (1887-1948) – American anthropologist, folklorist, study of folklore.

Margaret Mead

Paul Bohannan, student of Herskovitch – Tiv of Nigeria (1968) with Laura Bohannan

Alan Dundes (1934 -2005) – folklorist, “seeing is believing”.

John Locke (1632-1704) – natural rights. Father of classical liberalism. British empiricist

Francis Bacon (1561-1626) – Baconian method, Scientific method, Inductive methodology, kind of reasoning.

Robert K, Merton – developed concepts “unintended consequences”, “role strain”, “role model”, “self-fulfilling prophecy”, “reference group”.

Adolf Bastian (1876-1905) – ethnologist, development of ethnography.