

The People of Bangladesh

We can describe this content using by two categories like

1. The origin of the race of Bengali
2. Present scenario of the Bengali people based on different determinants.

That's are given in the following pages-

Race & Ethnic Groups



Race



**Genetically transmitted
Physical characteristics of
different human groups.**

Race



A race is a category of people who have been **singled out as inferior or superior**, on the basis of real or alleged physical characteristics such as skin color, hair texture, eye shape, or other attributes.

Ethnicity



Ethnicity refers to shared cultural practices, perspectives, and distinctions that set one group of people apart from another.

That is, ethnicity is a shared cultural heritage.

Ethnicity



The most common characteristics distinguishing various ethnic groups are ancestry, a sense of history, language, religion, and dress forms. Ethnic differences are not inherited; they are *learned*.

Ethnic groups In Bangladesh



Bengali

-Vast Maority of the population is Bengali-a term describing both an ethnic and linguistic group.

-Historically Bengali people are of diverse origin, having emerged from the confluence of various communities.



Non-Bengalis

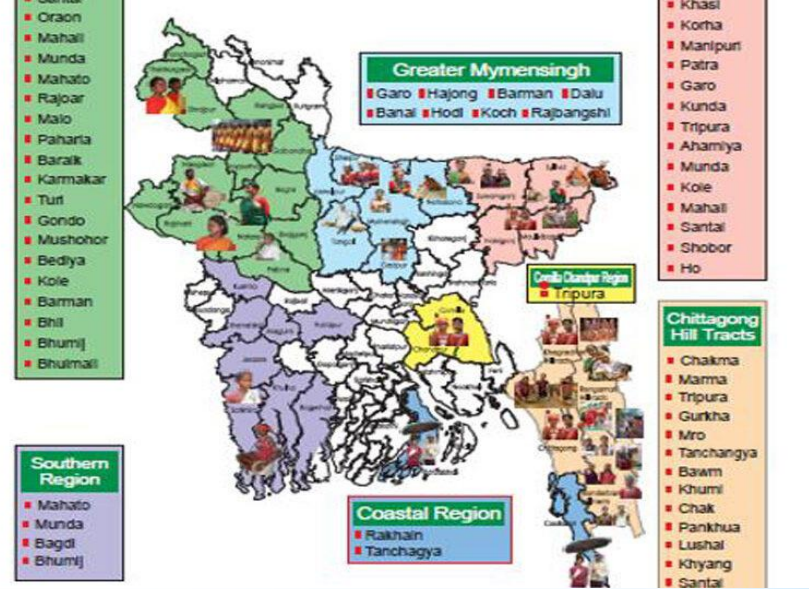


-Non-Bengalis consisting primarily of smaller indigenous groups.

-Most of these peoples inhabit the Chittagong Hill tracts.

-Chakma, Marma, The Tipra, the Mro, The Khumi, the Mizo are among them.

Non-Bengalis



- The Santhal, the Mahali, the Munda peoples live in the northwestern part of Bangladesh.
- The Khasi in Sylhet near the border with Assam
- The Garo and Hajong in the northeastern part of Bangladesh.

Racial and ethnic Origin of the people of Bangladesh

The Negritos were the first of the racial groups that came to Bangladesh.

Proto-Australoid race came here just after the Negritos and their sources are Australian aborigines. The Mongoloids came to India and then Bangladesh through the passes of northern and eastern mountain ranges.

Soon Dravidian were added from the north-west to this melting population and spread as far as Bangladesh.

**All this
happened before the
arrival of Ariyans in
5th and 6th centuries**

-Thus, different groups of people from different places of the world formed the nucleus of populization in the land combining together various races of people.

Based on ethnic and racial diversity the people of Bangladesh can be divided into four groups

Pre-non Aryan group-

- Negrito
- The Dravidian
- Proto Australian
- Mongolian
- Bangali

Negrito

A primitive race with a constitution similar to that of the Negro is supposed to have inhabited this country. Native to Africa. They lived south of Sahara desert and in Melanesia.

Physical traits:

- *Black complexion*
- *Undersized*
- *Thick leap*
- *Flatten nose*

Dravidian



Populations of Dravidian speakers live mainly in southern India, most notably Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Telugu, and Tulu.

They held in india before the indo-Aryan invansion.

They are smallest ethnic group in Bangladesh.

Dravir

Physical traits:

- ☐ *Black to brown complexion*
- ☐ *Long head*
- ☐ *Expansive nose*
- ☐ *Black and brown hair texture*

In the Sylhet tea gardens we can observe some Dravian languages people like Munda and Oraon.

Proto-Australian



Probably they come from Africa

The early habitants of the Australoids were in from central India to South India and also from Shinghal to Australia. In course of time a part of this ethnic group left from their own habitats and migrated to ancient Bengal.

Santhals are proto-Australian. Mainly laborers in the tea gardens of Sylhet. Some living in Chittagong hill tracts and different districts of Rajshahi Division.

Mongolian



Central Asian ethnic group.

In Bangladesh Mongolian people confined mainly to Chittagong hill tracts and Madhupur forest of Mymensingh.

Chakma, Tipra, Garo, Hajong etc.

Physical features of mongoloid race

- ❖ Flavescent and brown complexion
- ❖ Straight hair
- ❖ Small eye shape
- ❖ *Flatten nose*

The Aryan Origin

- The **Aryans** came to Bengal at last through invasion from the north of South Asia. The Aryan race emerged in the late-19th century to describe people of Proto-Indo-European heritage as a racial grouping.
- Indo-Iranians as an epithet of 'Noble'. They are of two categories in general:

- **Alpine:** Resided in the high mountain valley and due to the living in the highland, having *fair complexion* and *short forehead*. The upper-class Bengali Hindus (Brahmins) are mostly from this group
- **Nordic:** the character of this Aryan group is among the North Indian people who have *complexion* and long *forehead*.

Bengalis are Mixed/hybrid nation

Bangladesh is a melting-pot of ancient ethnic groups. Many races of the world had intruded into Bengal, many also went away, but they left behind marks of their stay here.

Many anthropologists believe that the *Bangali* nation makes a vastly mixed race or Hybrid (Shankara) Nation.

Mixed/hybrid nation

The society and social system forged by these ancient communities underwent transformation after the arrival of the **Aryans** from northern parts of the Middle-East and eastern parts of Europe.

New blood was infused among the Bangalis after the arrival of the **Shaka people (Scythians)** from Persia and Turkistan.

Mixed/hybrid nation

Various groups of adventurous people from **different regions of India** also contributed towards formation of the Bangali nation through their arrivals here.

Mixed/hybrid nation

This **mixing** (Shankarayana) has been geared up even more during the current age of globalisation. In one word, the Bangalis are a **mixed** (*shankara*) nation.

Thank You