

**PAPER II**

**1.3 ETHNOARCHAEOLOGY IN INDIA**

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AIR 68  
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### (1.B) Ethno - Archaeology in India

- The concept of Ethno - A
- Survival & II among hunting, foraging, fishing pastoral & peasant communities. including arts & crafts producing communities.
- PYQ → Ethno-archaeological analysis of hunting activities of contemporaneous tribal communities.

• Ethno A as a research study (10/2018)

• EA (10/2017)

- EA evidences for survival of hunting-gathering tradition in A
- Imp of EA approach to A. indigenous craft of A
- Colonial ethnography
- New Archaeology

2020 (15) - Discuss importance of EA in reconstructing past society  
① e.g.

Defn of EA || ⇒ Daniel Stiles (1977) - called it living archaeology

• Upinder Singh in 'A History of Ancient & Medieval India - 2008'

⇒ EA = Study of behaviours & practices of living communities in order to interpret the archaeological evidence related to the communities of the past.

• Carol Kramer in 'International Encyclopedia of A' - 2006

⇒ Document of aspects of socio-cultural behaviour likely to leave identifiable residues in the archaeological records.

at the confluence of Anthropology & Archaeology.

(120)

Ethno Archaeology = S.O. contemporary culture with a view to understanding the behavioral relationship which underlies the prodn of material culture.

• Ethnos = People (nat<sup>n</sup>) ; Grapho = Write

• Term EA was formally adopted / coined by Jesse Fawkes (1900)

• EA = ethnographic study of people for archaeological reasons usually through the S.O. material remains of a society.

provides a constructive methodological + theoretical framework for formulating explanatory models.

builds model of socio-cultural context

Reconstruction of ancient lifestyle

helps understand the way an object was made & its use for?

studied burial + disposal of dead animals

practices of NANAMUIT  
D's

Louis Binford

EA = Ethnology

Archaeology

uses cultural materialism based on archaeological findings

Activity Reconstruction  
based on the antiquity

based on "IPSYCHIC  
UNITY OF SOCIETIES"

CHARACTERISTICS  
OF EA

1. is a specialised branch as well as a methodology (Mukundan Murthy)

Projected + Interpretative reality

## ORIGIN OF EA

→ In India, little > 50 yrs old.

- Ethnography was used by Archaeologists but data was not gathered for archaeological goals in mind.
- EA developed as response to feeling that ethnography was not adequately answering these problems.
- Formal appearance of EA as a subdiscipline ~ 1956 after a paper by Maxime Kleindienst & Patty Watson
- Gained its last name after ~~giving~~ "new Archaeology" - 1958 alone.

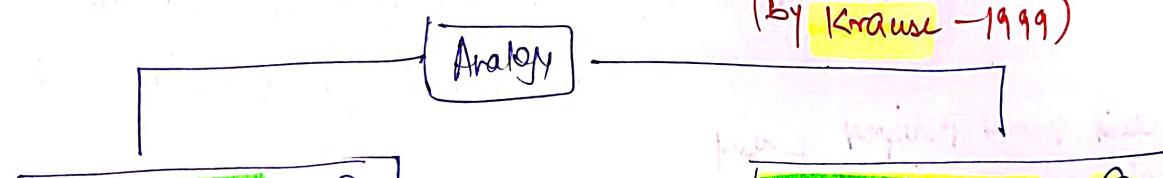
## METHODOLOGY

- Used the tool of 'Analogy' (most used research tool in Archaeology)

↓  
applic<sup>n</sup> of observed behaviour → non observed.

↓  
This is why EA is neither a theory/method but a research strategy.

(by Krause - 1999)



• Given by Steward (1942)

when there is a temporal continuity

b/w archaeological culture &  
ethnographic culture

like similar enviro

↓

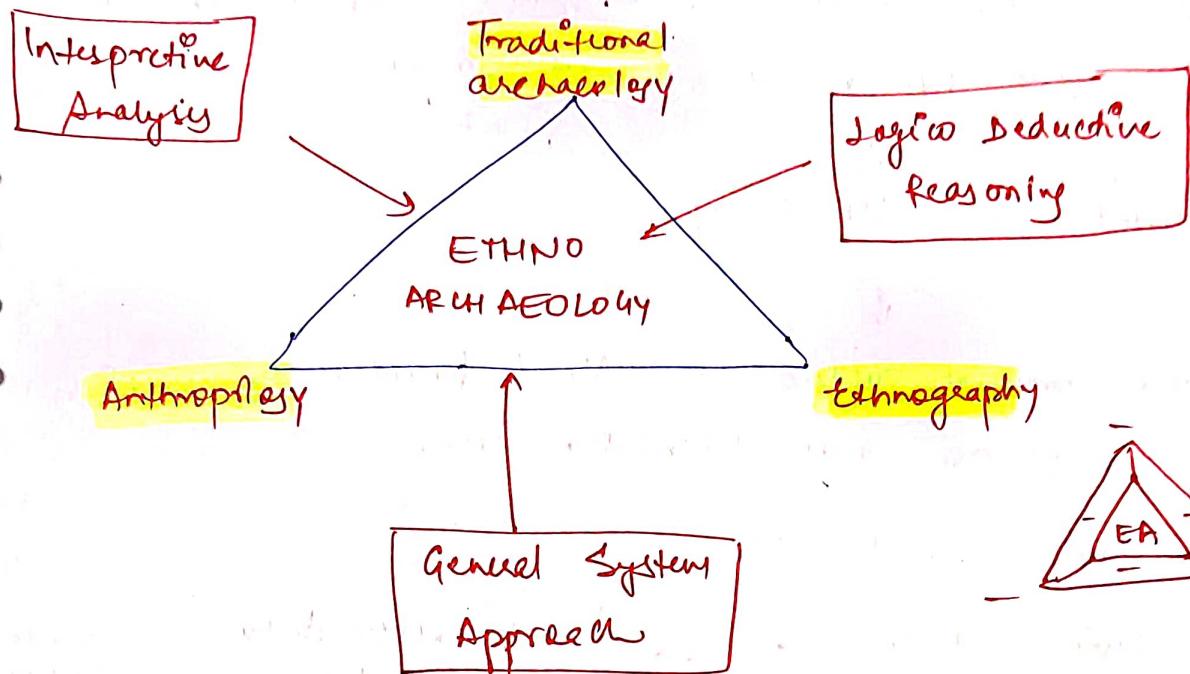
max probab of being collect

\* based on concept of

"Survival" = continuity

\* Based on concept of parallel

similarity



Old Archaeology + GCA + LDR + IA = Ethnoarchaeology

### EXAMPLES

Birds (Today) share food despite not shortage  $\Rightarrow$  early Hdg too did coz they'd perish if they didn't

#### Direct Historical A

= Survival = continuity

#### Jungs of Koenjhas



dog continuously  
burning

Domesticity  
called Mandapar

#### Auspicious

#### General Comparative A

= II = Similarity

↳ Orge & ABNI  $\rightarrow$  decorate body with microliths but no microlith mesolith site there

So, trade must've happened.

so keep burning

folklore that once they lost fire but regained it by divine blessing

↳ Actually, the folklore is there to prevent this danger in future.

## CONTEMPORARY

Indira Gandhi राष्ट्रीय गान्धी राष्ट्रदर्शन (IGRMS) in MP have started EA projects in last decade

Initiated circles **KK Basa**

Study of material culture + cultural practices of local artists, craftsmen near Bhimbetka caves.

↳ to find connect b/w

Prehistoric Rock Paintings

Contemporary visual artists

ie trace survivals & parallels

## CHALLENGES

A single archaeological situation can have multiple analogies possible to be drawn.

↓

Process of elim' to narrow down must be adopted.

## Criticism

- Based on "Psychic unity of societies" - may not be true.
- Consider societies & their practices to be unchanged in N1 lakh yrs if geographical cond'ts are unaltered  
↳ sounds impossible

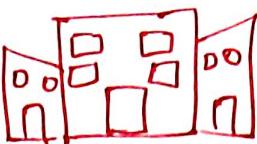
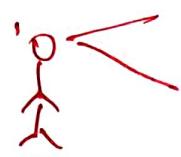
Relevance Helps reconstruct the past in sites where material artefacts are not present / found.

↳ KK Basa (former ASI director) - EA brings flesh & blood to skeletal remains of archaeology & brings life to them

New Archaeology = Procesual Archaeology.

- Origin in 1958 by "Method & theory in American Archaeology" by Gordon Willey & Philip Phillips

Ethno A =

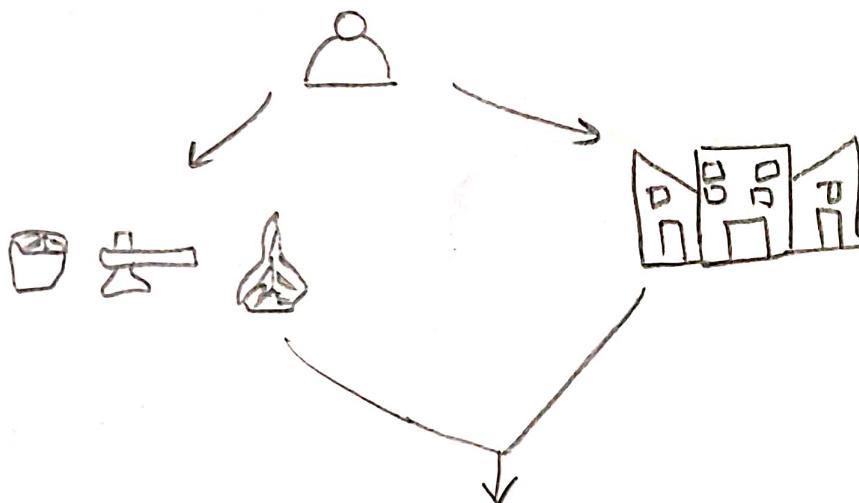


Studies the behaviour  
of a society



found archaeological  
tools from  
same site

tries to combine these & tries  
to find out why the tool was  
made.



Q Explain the concept of 'survivals' & 'parallels', and their role in Ethnoarchaeology?

→ EBT in his book 'PC (1871)' defined survivals as cultural phenomena that outline the set of cond's under which they were originally developed.

Parallels, refers to cultural similarities that exist across cultures that may /not/ have been in direct contact with each other at any pt of time.

### Role in EA

EA is concerned with study of present societies for the purpose of reconstructing prehistoric cultures, in conjunctn with surviving archaeological remains.

Survivals evoke the principle of continuity.  
eg Jungs of Keonjhar → Mandaghat log

Parallels evoke the principle of similarity.  
eg Onge of Andamans

Q Scope of Ethnoarchaeology in India / Part EA  
Studies done in India?

⇒ EA in India has contributed to understanding of pre-history, protohistory & hist. of Indian subcontinent. It has acquired a wide scope in India.

Eg

- ▷ Study of Chenchus (AP), Bishnois (Jharkhand), Kadars (Cochin) (food gatherers) has helped understand the ecological & socio-economic adapt's of analogous societies in lower, middle & upper Paleolithic.
- ▷ S.O. contemporary shifting cultivators to understand lifeways / culture of people following similar subsistence strategies in the past. It has highlighted the imp. link b/w the ways people obtain their living & their identity.

▷ Archana Choksi (1995) - Studied Gudiyali & Ladai (two pottery manufac. in Gujarat)

↳ She found that both villages produced diff. types of vessels & the potters were reluctant to change their style. This was cos., forms of vessels are connected to lives.

\* Gudiyali → labourers & service class

\* Ladai → Herders

\* Mouth of pottery → decide past

- (12)
- IV) Lee Horne (1978) studied brass castors of Bengal & compared them with those of tribal Jharkhand, Bihar, S.Gadh. filled many gaps in so. nomadic brass castors.
- V) Thimma Rddy studied present day pastoralists in Andhra & compared the demographic cond's with extinct pastoralists
- VI) S.O. 'carnelian bead manufacturing' in Khamhat (Gujarat) to understand the process of inc bead making, social org'n of bead makers and rel' b/n traders & craftsmen.
- VII) Carol Kramer & Daniel Miller (1979) - studied potters in North & west villages & compared with potters living among tribals.
- VIII) S.O. H&fg of present times to project of role in subsistence activities in past.
- IX) Lewis Binford: study of butchery practices among Eskimos of Alaska