

1. Origin of the Bengali Nation

► Origin of Bengali People

We Bengalis are a mixed race of 5 different origins.

- ☐ Early Farmers from Fertile Crescent.
- ☐ South Asian Hunter Gatherer.
- ☐ Austro-Asiatic rice farmers from Southeast Asia.
- ☐ Proto Indo-European from Eurasian steppes.
- ☐ Tibeto Burman speaking East Asian.

The biggest portion of our DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) is from Early Farmers from the Fertile Crescent or Neolithic Iranian people. We also have a significant amount of DNA from Austroasiatic rice farmers and family south Indians followed by the proto-Indo-European and Tibeto-Burman.

The most ancient inhabitant of the subcontinent was *the South Asian Hunter-gatherer* people. Then with the spread of rice agriculture. Austroasiatic-speaking rice farmers from Southeast Asia entered eastern India and mixed with the locals. They spread the language and culture and modern-day Santhal tribes.

Meanwhile, in the west of the subcontinent, proto-Indo-European people were *genetically* absorbed by larger Indus Valley people after they successfully spread the culture and language.

Modern-day Bengalis are the result of a mix between Indo Aryan language-speaking people from somewhere in Northern India (Early Farmers from Fertile Crescent + proto Indo-European + South Asian Hunter-gatherer) and local Austroasiatic tribes (like Santhals) and Tibeto Burman tribes (like Chakmas).

► Modern Bengalis/Bangladeshis genetic composition is:

- ☐ 85-88% South Asian. 45–50% Early Farmers from fertile crescent (possibly from Iranian and came to Bengal through Indo Aryan language speaking settlers);
- ☐ 18–23% South Asian Hunter-gatherer. (Ancient DNA of this Hunter-Gatherer are yet to be discovered but Austroasiatic tribes and Southern Indian tribes are good proxy, Bengalis got this component from both Indo Aryan language speaking settlers) and 15% of Proto Indo Europeans;
- ☐ 2–15% East Asian 5-6% South-East Asian (Bengalis got it from Austroasiatic tribal). 5-6% North-East Asian (Tibeto Burmese). 2–3% Siberian (Came to Bengal through Indo-Aryan language-speaking settlers but also from North-East Asia).

The Bengali population is called a 'hybrid population'

It is difficult to analyze the ethnic identity of the Bengali nation. No research has been done in this regard. The information available in history is also unreliable. Bengali social history has failed to maintain objectivity on the one hand and has also complicated the narrative and the issue. The blood of various castes has flowed in the veins of the Bengali nation. Due to this, some theorists have called the Bengali race a 'fake' race.

Reasons why the Bengali race is called a 'hybrid race'

Below are the ethnic bloodlines that exist in the Bengali population. It was discussed

1. Early Australian Influence

Early Australian influence exists among the inhabitants of Bangladesh. They are one of the indigenous people of this region. Their physical characteristics are similar to the Davidic people of Sri Lanka. Their physical characteristics are - a long head, broad nose, black skin color, bent shape, or medium-sized Southals of Bangladesh, they are also tribes and such physical characteristics can be observed in some plains people.

2. Influence of Mongol-Dravidian groups

The indigenous people of the Indian subcontinent spoke Dravidian languages, there is disagreement over whether Dravidian and Veddi are the same or different. Again Mongolian

influence is observed on these tribal Vavid Dravidians. Mongolians are pale in color, with round heads, small eyes, and high jawbones influence is more or less seen in the population of this country. Ridgely hypothesizes that the Bengali ethnic group has Mongolian influence. Again, looking at their skin color, nose shape, eye structure, etc., Dravidian influence is also present among them. So according to Riffle's words, Bengalis are a hybrid population influenced by Mongol Dravidians.

3. Influence of Aryan speakers

The Aryan caste merged with the pre-Aryan peoples who came to Bengal. Therefore, many people think that the Aryan-speaking people influence the people of Bangladesh. The characteristics of Aryans are long noses and brown or narrow eyes. Their influence is observed among Brahmins, Vaidyas, and Kayasthas.

4. Australian and Dravidian influence

Reveals the identity of the Hindu ethnic groups, i.e. the origin of their religion and culture, Niranjana Roy has given information. According to his information, the religious practices of the aboriginal Australian and Dravidian tribes, through many changes, came into Hindu society. Therefore, 4 those early Australian and Dravidian influences are significant in the formation of the Hindu ethnic group.

5. Alpine

Broad-veined, light brown to dark brown complexion, body length medium, nose somewhat thick and haw, dark brown to black hair, and black to brown-gray eyes are typical features of this ethnic group. Another name for the Kepto-Plavic A tribe. From France to the Urals, these ethnic groups live in central Europe. The presence of people with this characteristic can be seen in the Indian subcontinent Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent.

6. Influence of Nemotu and Alpodinaris

Viraj Shankar, the eminent anthropologist of the Indian subcontinent, divided the population of the region into six groups. According to him, among them, Nigrobtu and Alpodinarin had considerable influence on the Bengalis. 7. Influence of Foreign Muslims Pirs, Auliyas, and their followers came to Bangladesh from different Muslim countries. So it is assumed that those countries especially Turks, Afghans, Mughals, Arabs, Abyssinia, Iran, etc. are Muslim. The people of the country have a proposal, although this proposal is not very effective.

8. Influence of Europeans

Many people from the European continent came to Bengal for trade. Among these merchant groups, the English East India Company later ruled the subcontinent for about 200 years. Hybridization developed an influence of European populations among the populations of the subcontinent. Which more or less exists among the Bengali population.

9. In terms of physical features

Tall, curvy, long-headed, round-headed, curly-haired, straight-haired, Khandanak, Tikalonak, high-jawed, broad-jawed, round-eyed, pale, gaur, Shyam, Krishna, Ghorakrishna - all types of appearance can be seen in us. Which carries the identity of our mixed race.

10. In terms of class-occupation

Hunters, farmers, merchants, soldiers, missionaries, coolies, laborers, and various types of people, sometimes driven by their own needs and sometimes driven out by other human groups, have come to Bengal for thousands of years. Hard to do over time, a hybrid nation has been created due to the welfare of the bride-daughter-mother.

Finally, it can be said that the influence of different ethnic groups has existed in the population of Bangladesh since ancient times. As a result of mixing with different ethnic groups in a diverse environment, Bengalis have become a hybrid or mixed race. We are mixed-blood people of Austro-Dravidian, Mongol-Negrito, Aryan-speaking Alpine, etc. We freely admit the influence of the foreigner, the foreigner, the foreigner, and the heathen

2. Origin of the Bengali Nation

By Bengali community, we mean those who live in a particular geographical area speak Bengali language, and have some characteristic features in appearance that distinguish them from others. There is disagreement about the ethnic identity of this population. Archaeological and paleontological studies here have not found any human fossils, which can be called the ancestors of the present population. Historical analysis shows that different peoples have come and lived in this country in different eras, so it can be said that the people living in Bangladesh do not belong to any particular ethnic group.

Ethnic identity of the Bengali nation

We can divide the Bengali nation into three parts in terms of origin. Namely-

- (1) Pre-Aryan or Non-Aryan population
- (2) Aryan population and
- (3) Post-Aryan population.

(1) Pre-Arya or Non-Aryan People

Since the Aryans were settled before the arrival of the Aryans, these pre-Aryan or non-Aryan people were the backbone of the Bengali nation. The Aryapurva population is mainly divided into four branches. These are— (i) Negrito, (ii) Austric, (iii) Dravidian, and (v) Indochinese or Mongolian.

(i) Negritos are assumed to inhabit a primitive race with a body structure similar to that of the Nihope. These are known as Negritos. It is believed that they came to this country from Africa or Australia. With the change of time, their existence is now extinct. Their complexions were black, their faces were rather flat and heavy, medium in stature, broad and underdeveloped, and their noses were thick, their eyes were black to black-brown, their hair was black and curly, their lips...were thick and thick, the ears were broad and short and their body build was medium and tall.

(ii) Austriacs The main part of the Bengali race is believed to have evolved from the Austrian population. About 5,000 years ago, the Austriacs entered Bengal from Indochina via Assam and overthrew the Negritos. They had elongated heads, broad and flat, noses, depressed foreheads, high eyebrows, thick lips, curly, black and brown hair, dark complexions, and stocky or medium build. These are identified as the ancestors of tribes like Bhil, Santal, Munda, etc. Bengali blood has their influence. The Austrian race has been described by some as a 'marked race'. They were mainly engaged in agriculture and lived in villages.

(iii) Dravidians: About five thousand years ago, about the same time as the Austriacs, the Dravidians came from the Mediterranean region and, being superior in civilization, absorbed the Austriacs. They had long heads, brown hair often curled, broad noses and foreheads, dark complexions, and stocky stature. The Aryapurba Bengali population was formed by the combination of Austriacs and other races. Their mixed bloodline is current in the current Bengali nation. The Aryan race merged with the race that was a mixture of Austrian and Dravidian populations to form the Bengali race. The Orangs of South India belong to the Dravidian class.

(iv) Austric Dravidians mixed with Mongolian populations long before the arrival of Votchiniese or Mongol Aryans in this country. They came to this country from Indonesia. Their skin color was brown, the head was broad and rounded, the nose was underdeveloped and small, the eye color was brown to dark black, the lips were medium and the hair was black and long and thin. Some of them were short and some were medium. They are more common in the northeastern border of Bangladesh. The Chakma, Garo, Koch, Hajong and Tripura tribes of Bangladesh belong to the Votchiniese or Mongolian ethnic group.

(2) Aryan population

The Aryan race has been associated with the population that came to Bengal from the east. And in the combination of all these nations The Bengali nation has fallen. There is disagreement about the original abode of the Aryans. Some historians think that Europe was The original abode of the Aryans. However, according to most, the Aryans had their original home in the Kyrgyz region south of the Ural Mountains. A total of 800 years from the Mauryan conquest to the Gupta dynasty i.e. from 300 BC to 500 AD Gradually, the turn of financialization takes place. However, the Aryan language and culture took root in Bangladesh during the Gupta period in the fourth and fifth centuries Aryas left Brahmavarta and came first to Aryavarta or North India and then to Magadha, Anga, Mithila, Kalinga, Raya,

Bengal was able to spread the overwhelming influence of its language and culture. The Aryans who came to the Indian subcontinent are two the population was divided into groups. Alpine (Alpine) and Nordic (Nordic). The Alpines are the mountain regions of Central Asia and the Nordics Come from the grasslands of North Asia. Long head, narrow to medium nose, fair complexion, beard, and mustache in males Predominance and strong reading are their main characteristics. They were not very skilled in agriculture. He used to make a living by rearing animals. They were the first to create a caste system in India.

(3) Post-Aryan Population

After the arrival of the Aryans, the Shaka people from Persian Turkestan settled in India. They settled in eastern Bharatenga and Bengal. Apart from the Shaka, various foreign dynasties from different regions ruled Bengal at different times. Among these dynasties, Sena, Chandra, Burman, Kharag are to be mentioned. Also, Arab Muslims of Semitic tribes came to Bengal in the seventh and eighth centuries for the propagation of Islam and trade. Later, during the Muslim rule, Muslim communities such as Turks, Arabs, Iranians, Abyssinians, Afghans, etc. settled in Bengal and mixed their blood with Bengali blood.

Ethnic identity of Bengalis and Opinions of various thinkers

Various historians and scholars have discussed the ethnographic identity of Bengalis. Theorists have offered different opinions. It is highlighted below-

1. Herbert Rizal's opinion: In his book Tribes and Caste of Bengal, Sir Herbert Bizley, an anthropologist of this subcontinent, while presenting the ethnographic identity of the Bengalis, said that the Bengali people originated from the Mongol and Dravidian groups. Medium. Bengali skin color is brownish, black, and slightly tawny.

2. Dr. J. Harton's opinion: Dr. J. Hutton divides the population of the Indian subcontinent into 8 groups. Analyzed the trial. The divisions are (i) Negrito. (i) Proto-Australied (iii) Early Meditarrianian, (iv) Civilized Meditarrianian (v) Armeniod, (vi) Alpine, (vii) Vedin-Aryan of Nordic (viii) Mongoloid, among them the physical features of Bengalis are similar to Alpine peoples.

3. Ramaprasad Chandra's opinion: Indian anthropologist Ramaprasad Chandra says, "Besides the people of Gujarat and Maharashtra, the Bengalis are also influenced by the Alpine human lineage."

4. Nihar Ranjan Roy's opinion: Nihar Ranjan Roy has given valuable information about the origin of the Hindu religion and culture in his book 'Early History of Bengali'. It shows the ethnic identity of Hindus. Early Australian and Dravidian influences are particularly important in shaping their ethnic groups. But Nihar Ranjan Roy opined that Arya's influence cannot be completely ignored.

5. Fazle Rabbi's opinion: Fazle Rabbi of Murshidabad opined in his book 'Hakikte Musalmane Bangla' that the Muslim population of Bangladesh has Turkish, Afghan, Arabic Abyssinian, and Iranian influence. In the eighth and ninth centuries, these foreign Muslim traders entered the Chittagong, Noakhali, and Sylhet regions.

6. Dalton's opinion: Dalton in his 'Descriptive Ethnology of Bangladesh' said, with the Kol, Bhil, and Santals. Dravidians have similar physical morphology. Bengali ethnic composition has Aryan and Dravidian influences.

7. Viraj Shankar Guha's opinion: According to Viraj Shankar Guha, a famous anthropologist of the Indian subcontinent, "The ancestors of Bengalis came from Persia and Baluchistan region." In the ethnographic discussion of the Bengali people, it is proved that many peoples have come to this country over time and they have jointly formed the Bengali nation. In the pre-Aryan period, the original Bengali population was formed by the Aryan mixture with the Austric Dravidians and Mongols in the later period. From the 8th century, many peoples like Mughal-Afghans, Turks, Arabs, etc. entered the subcontinent. Arabs came to this country on a business basis and settled in the Chittagong and Noakhali regions. Later, despite the intermingling of various communities, its impact has been very little in many cases. Proto-Australoid and Mongoloid groups still exist among the tribal people of different regions of Bangladesh. They still retain the language, culture, and way of life of two thousand years ago.

Finally, it can be said that the Bengali nation has been formed from a mixture of different races since prehistoric times, with the contribution of various external groups. Due to this characteristic, the Bengali nation has become known as a hybrid nation to other ethnicities of the world. The Bengali race is a mixed-blood people of Austric Dravidians, Mongol Negritos, Aryan-speaking Alpines, etc. and they accept foreign, foreign, heathen, sectarian influences without hesitation.