



Original Article

Ethnic Society and Racial Study in Sociology

Ruksana Badshaha Shaikh

Associate Professor in Sociology Govt.first Grade college, chikodi.

Email: gkulkarni250@gmail.com

Manuscript ID:

JRD -2025-170811

ISSN: 2230-9578

Volume 17

Issue 8|

Pp. 59-61

Aug 2025

Submitted: 08 July. 2025

Revised: 22 July. 2025

Accepted: 06 Aug. 2025

Published: 31 Aug. 2025

Abstract

Sociology of race and ethnic relations is the study of the social, political, and economic connections between races and ethnicities at all levels of society. Residential segregation and other complex social dynamics between different racial and ethnic groups are examples of systemic racism that is studied in this discipline. Other racial identities include Native American, Māori, Asian, European American or White, African American or Black, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Aboriginal. Language, ancestry, traditions, and beliefs are examples of common cultural characteristics that are referred to as ethnicity. Students have the opportunity to consider political, economic, and social processes in addition to racial, ethnic, and cultural factors.

Keywords: Diversity, Culture, Sociology, Race, and Ethnicity, among others.

Introduction

Ethnic Society:

According to anthropologists, ethnicity is a shared affinity with a significant cultural group. Ethnicity is a cultural idea rather than a biological one, much like race. An ethnic group may consist of co-religionists since members of a religious community share many cultural standards. In India, where a person's identity is greatly influenced by their religious affiliation, this is particularly true. The common culture of an area may also have an impact on ethnicity. For example, people in Bengal speak one of the Bengali dialects and wear a specific style of clothing. Depending on a number of cultural and other factors, including language, diet, religion, ancestry, and physical characteristics commonly linked with race, a person's social group is the one that others either identify them with or with them. Ethnicity is essentially a subjective identity that is subject to change throughout time. One could contend that ethnicity is a socially constructed or inherited concept. An ethnic group is often characterised by a shared cultural heritage, ancestry, origin myth, history, country, language, dialect, religion, mythology, folklore, ritual, food, clothing style, artwork, or physical appearance. Ethnic groups may have a restricted spectrum of genetic ancestry or mixed genetic ancestry, depending on how they identify as a group.

Sociology of Ethnicity:

India is a vast country with a great deal of diversity. Its people have a wide range of religious beliefs, speak a wide diversity of languages, and exhibit a wide range of cultural characteristics that differ across the country, including food and dress. This is the case due to the fact that Indian civilisation is composed of many different ethnic groups, each of which has unique customs. As a result, while the term "Indian" can correctly identify an individual as an Indian citizen, it is unable to adequately characterise the cultural group to which that individual belongs. Therefore, the phrase "Indian" does not suggest ethnicity; rather, it simply refers to nationality. Language plays a significant role in ethnic identification in India. India's ethnic groups are mostly composed of two language families: Indo-Aryan, which is spoken by 78% of Indians, and Dravidian, which is spoken by 19.6% of Indians.



Quick Response Code:



Website:

<https://jrdrv.org/>

DOI:10.5281/zenodo.17183564



Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/) Public License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work noncommercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

Address for correspondence:

Ruksana Badshaha Shaikh, Associate Professor in Sociology Govt.first Grade college, chikodi.

How to cite this article:

Shaikh, R. B. (2025). *Ethnic Society and Racial Study in Sociology*. *Journal of Research and Development*, 17(8), 59–61. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17183564>

Approximately 3% of the population speaks foreign languages, including those belonging to the Austroasiatic and Sino-Tibetan groups. All of India's language families are composed of many different languages, some of which have names that reflect the ethnic communities that speak them. To illustrate this, we choose Tamil, the name of a Dravidian language and an ethnic community in southern India.

Concept of Race:

The concept of race is up for debate. It is difficult to explain a rationale for racial classifications, and there is ongoing debate on an objective set of categories. It is questionable and unreliable to classify people based on their physical attributes and skin tone. Genetic investigations have shown some evidence of genetic resemblance among major "continental" groups. However, there is no evidence that these correspond to commonly recognised racial groupings. There is more genetic variety among members of a single "racial" category (such as "white") than there is between such "racial" groups since 93% to 95% of genetic variability occurs within population groupings. Despite these difficulties, the term "race" is nonetheless often used in legislative and judicial contexts.

Sociology of Race in Indian society:

There have been numerous attempts, both during and after the British Raj, to classify India's population using racial typology. The government's goal of preventing racial inequities across communities after independence included the elimination of racial designations in the 1951 Indian Census. According to the national census carried out following independence, India does not now recognise any racial classification. Currently, the Indian subcontinent is home to four distinct racial groups: the Mediterraneans, the Negritos, the Proto-Australoids, and the Mongoloids. Currently, the Indian subcontinent is home to four distinct racial groups: Mediterraneans, Negritos, Proto-Australoids, and Mongoloids. The Negritos arrived in India before any other race. Soon after the Negritos arrived, a proto-Australoid race arrived, descended from the Australian aborigines. India was reached by the Mongoloids across the mountain ranges in the east and north. Originally from south-west Asia, Mediterraneans travelled to India.

The Connection Between Race and Ethnicity:

Race and ethnicity are similar concepts. However, ethnic differences usually focus on cultural characteristics like language, history, religion, and customs, even if physical characteristics, especially skin colour, have historically been used to distinguish races. Based on comparable physical or social traits, race is the classification of individuals into groups that are generally regarded as distinct within a given community. Racial categories are socially made, according to recent study; in other words, race is not an intrinsic characteristic of individuals but rather an identity that is created, usually by socially dominant groups, to provide social context and meaning. varied cultures, which are usually focused on the largest groups with social relevance, identify varied racial groups. Ethnicity and race are similar concepts. Although races have traditionally been divided based on physical characteristics, especially skin colour, ethnic differences usually focus on cultural characteristics like language, history, religion, and customs. In a given community, race is the classification of individuals into groups that are usually regarded as distinct due to shared social or physical traits. Current research suggests that racial categories are socially manufactured, meaning that race is not an intrinsic characteristic of individuals but rather an identity created, often by socially dominant groups, to provide social context and meaning. The cultures that define diverse racial groups are often centred around the largest groups with social significance. The sociology of race and ethnic relations examines the social, political, and economic interactions between races and ethnic groups at all levels of society. This discipline includes the study of systemic racism, which includes residential segregation and other complex social dynamics between different racial and ethnic groups.

Conclusion:

Therefore, the relationship between race and ethnicity was the subject of my paper. The sociology of race and ethnic relations examines the social, political, and economic interactions between races and ethnic groups at all levels of society. This discipline includes the study of systemic racism, which includes residential segregation and other complex social dynamics between different racial and ethnic groups. Race and ethnicity are similar concepts.

References:

1. Banton, Michael. 2008. *The Sociology of Ethnic Relations*. Ethnic and Racial Studies.
2. Collins, Patricia Hill (1993). "Toward a New Vision: Race, Class, and Gender as Categories of Analysis and Connection". *Race, Sex & Class*.
3. da Silva, Denise Ferreira (2007). *Toward a Global Idea of Race*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. ISBN 9780816654383.
4. [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK24684/#:~:text=Ethnicity%20is%20similar%20in%20concept,customs%20\(Montague%2C%201942\).](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK24684/#:~:text=Ethnicity%20is%20similar%20in%20concept,customs%20(Montague%2C%201942).)
5. <https://www.scotpho.org.uk/population-groups/ethnic-minorities/defining-ethnicity-and-race/#:~:text=Ethnicity%20has%20been%20defined%20as,1>
6. Fredrik Barth, ed. 1969 *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The Social Organization of Cultural Difference*; Eric Wolf 1982 *Europe and the People Without History*



Journal of Research and Development

Peer Reviewed International, Open Access Journal.

ISSN : 2230-9578 | Website: <https://jrdrv.org> Volume-17, Issue-8| August - 2025

7. J. Hutchinson & A.D. Smith (eds.), Oxford readers: Ethnicity (Oxford 1996), "Introduction".
8. T.H. Eriksen "Ethnic identity, national identity and intergroup conflict: The significance of personal experiences" in Ashmore, Jussim, Wilder (eds.): Social identity, intergroup conflict, and conflict reduction
9. Du Bois, W.E.B. 1940. Dusk of dawn; an essay toward an autobiography of a race concept. Schocken Books
10. Bohmer, Peter. 1998. Marxist Theory of Racism and Racial Inequality. Readings in Black Political Economy.