

B.A.PART-I(SOCIOLOGY)	
Paper-II(Social Anthropology)	
Topic- Social Anthropology College- MMC,P.U(Department of Sociology)	By: Dr. Archna kumari Email ID: archnakumari706@gmail.com

□ I

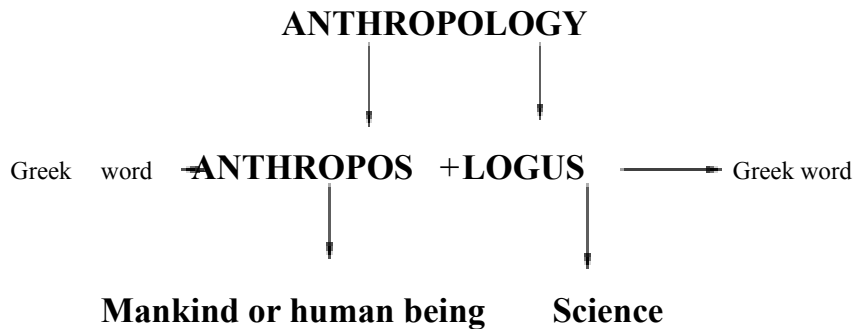
□ Learning Objectives-

- To know about Social Anthropology.

□ Introduction:

Anthropology is the study of various elements of humans, including biology and culture, in order to understand human origin and the evolution of various beliefs and social customs.

The term anthropology is a combination of two terms ‘anthropos’ and ‘logus’, the former meaning human and the later meaning discourse or science. Thus anthropology is the science or discourse of man. It is the science or discourse of human beings. Aristotle first used the term ‘Anthropologist’.



Anthropology is the study or science of mankind or humanity

● Definitions of Anthropology:

- According to **E.A.Hobel**- “Anthropology is the study of man and of all his works. In its fullest sense it is the study of races and customs of mankind.”
- According to **A.L.Krober**-“Anthropology is the science of groups of men and their behaviour and production”.
- According to **D.N. Majumdar** and **T.N.Madan**-“Anthropology studies the emergence and development of man from the physical, cultural and social points of view.”

- According to **M.Jacobs** and **B.J.Stern**-“Anthropology is the scientific study of the physical, social and cultural development and behaviour of human beings since their appearance on this earth.”
 - Anthropology is the study of humanity.
 - Anthropology is a broad scientific discipline dedicated to the comparative study of humans as a group, from its first appearance on earth to its present stage of development.

In a more specific term, anthropology is science which:

- Investigates the strategies for living that are learned and shared by people as members of human social groups;
- Examines the characteristics that human beings share as members of one species (homo sapiens) and the diverse ways that people live in different environments; and
- Analyzes the products of social groups: material objects (tools, cloths, houses, etc) and nonmaterial creations (beliefs, values, practices, institutions, etc).

It should further be stressed that anthropology focuses on (1) the origin of humans, (2) the evolutionary development of humans, (3) human physical, biochemical and cultural variations, and (4) the material possessions and cultural heritages of humans. Anthropology seeks to explain how and why people are both similar and different through examination of our biological and cultural past and comparative study of contemporary human societies.

Anthropology has a strong affinity with natural sciences as well. In fact, anthropology is well known by that aspect of it which is mainly concerned with the biological/ physical dimensions of mankind as a biological being in group context. Hence, it may be inappropriate to say that anthropology is only a social science. It is also a natural science, not in the sense that it deals with the natural phenomenon or man as an individual entity per se, but in the sense that one of its main interests is to study man and man's behavior as a product of the natural processes, and in the context of the animal kingdom.

□ **Major branches and specializations in anthropology:**

- Five major branches of anthropology: physical anthropology, Sociocultural anthropology, archeological anthropology, linguistic anthropology and applied anthropology
- Specializations in physical anthropology: primatology, paleoanthropology, anthropometry, population genetics, forensic anthropology
- Specializations in sociocultural anthropology: medical anthropology, urban anthropology, anthropology of religion, ecological anthropology, demographic anthropology, development anthropology, economic anthropology, etc.

- Specializations in archeological anthropology: historical archeology, prehistoric archeology, Ethnoarcheology, classic archeology, underwater archeology, biblical archeology, cultural resource management, etc.
- Specializations in linguistic anthropology: sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, structural linguistics, etc.

□ **Conclusion:**

Social Anthropology is the comparative study of the ways in which people live in different social and cultural settings across the globe. Societies vary enormously in how they organise themselves, the cultural practices in which they engage, as well as their religious, political and economic arrangements. Social Anthropologists devote themselves to studying this variation in all of its complexity, with a view to contributing to a broader understanding of what it is to be human - what unites us as human beings, as well as what makes us so diverse.