

Chapter 1: Meaning and Scope of Anthropology

SCOPE OF ANTHROPOLOGY - All aspects of the humankind in their past, present & future → it achieves

Introduction: the most complete understanding of the humankind.

Anthropology strives to understand the humankind in its totality. In this context, it not only describes and analyses but also synthesizes the biological, cultural and social aspects of humankind in all places at all times, in order to understand the totality in relation to its parts and the parts in relation to its totality and to derive certain generalizations about the biological, cultural and social behavior of the whole humankind.

Coverage:

The scope of anthropology is universal. It does not restrict itself to any one aspect of humankind; it covers the biological, cultural and social aspects of humankind. It does not limit itself to any one group of people; it searches out the remains of human beings in pre-historic sites and it carries on field studies in primitive communities, peasant villages and in the urban settings of modern civilization. It does not confine to any one particular period of human history; it covers the humans in pre-historic, proto-historic, historic, present and future times. It does not confine to any one portion of earth; it covers human beings in pre-historic landscape, historic settings and contemporary arctic snows, desert wastes, temperate prairies and woodlands. So anthropology studies human beings right from their emergence till today and in future wherever they live. Anthropology is concerned with extinct human and living peoples.

Thus the scope of anthropology examines:

- i) how humans are basically organisms.
- ii) how humans in order to transcend their animal origins have adapted themselves to their environment by creating culture and organizing group life.
- iii) how humans, while creating culture and group life, have evolved and used language as an effective means of communication;
- how humans in their adaptation to diverse environments have created an amazing variety of cultures and group lives; and
- how human in their fascinating variety of cultures and group living display solutions to problems which are rooted in their indivisible unity in all places at all times.

Branches:

When the scope of anthropology examines how humans are basically organisms, it treats human beings as a part of the living world. In this regard, it describes, analyses and interprets the origins, evolution, diversification and variation of humankind. This becomes the