

A Study of Numerical Taxonomy and Group Divergence in Seven Endogamous Groups of Assam

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ABSTRACT Anthropometric characters of seven endogamous groups, namely, the Muslim, Brahmin, Kalita, Kaibarta, Kumar, Jogi and Hira of Assam have been examined to study the numerical taxonomy and group divergence using the methodology of Penrose (1947, 1954) and Rao (1952). The study reveals three distinct clusters. Out of seven groups, the Brahmin and Muslim independently form two clusters that is, B and C respectively, whereas the rest that is, the non-Brahmin Hindus namely the Hira, Kaibarta, Jogi kumar and kalita together form another cluster (that is, A). Both the Brahmin and Muslim maintain considerable distance from the non-Brahmin Hindu groups. However, it appears that the distance between the Brahmin and the non-Brahmin Hindu groups is much shorter (distance between B and A is 0.8899), than that between the Muslim and the non-Brahmin groups (distance between C and A is 1.0620). This finding more or less agrees with the known ethnic history of the endogamous group included in the present study.