

Anthropological Knowledge for Human Welfare: Some Observation

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KEYWORDS Emic. Tibeto-Burman. Mongoloid. Family Planning. Placenta

ABSTRACT The role of anthropologists and social scientists has become relevant in the sphere of human welfare. The planning of social behaviour is not particularly new in human history and some sort of vision of welfare is present in every human society in different forms. The anthropologists study mankind in totality following a holistic approach. Thus, anthropological knowledge may be utilized for the service of man. The aim of the present paper is to examine how indigenous knowledge and practices may be utilized for the service of man. The in depth study in some communities of North East India revealed that each and every community has its own views regarding the ideal size of family, some indigenous concept and ways of family planning, reproductive health care system, socializing children, imparting education through traditional institution etc. Everywhere, there are some deep-seated cultural values, which prevent in accepting/adopting the new ideas. On the other hand, some traits or beliefs may be identified whose inner aim is almost similar to those, which the new scheme emphasizes. Thus latent cultural values must be given due importance. If the social scientists trace those 'emic' perspectives of the people, it will be easier to convince the people by emphasizing their own view to accept new ideas for their overall welfare.