

A Note on the Origin of Jettis of Andhra Pradesh

P. Venkatramana, K. B. Hari Prasad and P. Chengal Reddy

Department of Anthropology, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati 517 502, Andhra Pradesh, India
Fax: 08574-25211; E mail: pvrmana35@usa.net

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ABSTRACT The blood and saliva samples were analysed for ABO, Rh (D) blood groups and secretor factor on 191 subjects of the Jettis of Nellore and Chittoor districts of Andhra Pradesh. The present data were compared with the data available on the Rajputs and the Jats of north India to test the validity of the information about the origin of the Jettis. Based on these data, it is not possible to throw light on the origin of the Jettis either from the Rajputs or from the Jats.

INTRODUCTION

Jettis, a Telugu speaking caste, were stratified on occupational basis. Professionally they were wrestlers and gymnasts. According to some informants, about their origin, a group of the Rajputs migrated from north to south India to maintain their purity as a consequence of the imposition of a new religion, Din-elahi, by

Akbar. In course of time they were identified and called as Jettis in this area. Also some Jettis called themselves as a group of the Jats, migrated from north India and thought that the word *Jetti* was derived from *Jat*.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The blood and saliva samples were drawn from a random sample of 191 subjects (Male-102; Female-89) of Jetti community from Venkatagiri and Srikalahasti towns of Nellore and Chittoor districts of Andhra Pradesh, respectively. The blood and saliva samples were typed for ABO, Rh (D) and ABH secretor factor.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the present investigation an attempt has been made to test the validity of the origin of the

Table 1: ABO, Rh (D) and ABH secretion among Jettis, Rajputs and Jats

Population	N	O	A		B	AB		χ^2	Source
			A ₁	A ₂		A ₁ B	A ₂ B		
Jettis	191	39.79	14.66	11.52	29.31	3.14	1.57		Present Study
Rajput I	100	36.00	20.00	0.00	37.00	7.00	0.00	17.90**	Das et al., 1975
Rajput II	124	29.03		24.19	33.87		12.90	9.52*	Tiwari, 1954
Rajput III	268	21.64		34.70	27.61		16.04	27.81**	Field Report, 1958
Rajput IV	126	29.36		13.49	37.30		19.84	25.81**	Field Report, 1968
Rajput V	100	29.00		22.00	37.00		11.00	8.40*	Banerjee and Banerjee,1975
Jat I	204	32.35	20.59	2.45	38.24	5.39	0.98	18.94**	Undevia et al., 1975
Jat II	105	35.24	29.52	0.95	27.62	4.76	0.19	18.34**	Chattopadhyay, 1969
Jat III	400	34.25		23.25	35.50		7.00	3.99	Bansal and Jaswinder,1975
Rh (D) Blood Group									
			Rh+		Rh-				
Jettis	191		93.72		6.28				Present Study
Jat III	400		90.50		9.50			1.76	Bansal and Jaswinder,1975
ABH Secretion									
			Se		se				
Jettis	191		67.02		32.98				Present Study
Rajput I	76		59.20		40.80			1.42	Das et al.,1975
Rajput II	30		70.00		30.00			0.11	Tiwari, 1954

* Significant at 5% level

** Significant at 1% level

Jettis based on the serological data available on the Rajputs and Jats from north India. With respect to ABO blood group system, the Jettis are significantly different from both the Rajputs and Jats excepting in one sample (Bansal and Jaswinder, 1975) (Table-1). For the other systems, Rh (D) and secretor factor no significant difference was observed between them.

Based on the above data it is not possible to throw light on the origin of the Jettis either from the Rajputs or from the Jats. Because no information is available about the exact endogamous sub-group of the Rajputs or the Jats and the area from which this group migrated. However, the Jettis showed similarity with local caste populations of Andhra Pradesh with ABO and Rh (D) systems, excepting to ABH secretion (Hari Prasad, 1983). Admixture may be one of the possibilities for this similarity. However, it is difficult to confirm it unless information on marriage and extramarital relationship is known. The further data on historical and cultural as well as genetical characters on these populations are required to discern the origin of the Jettis.

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