

A Note on Earlobe Attachment Among the Thado Kukis and Kabui Nagas of Manipur

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ABSTRACT The earlobe attachment among the Thado Kukis and Kabui Nagas (both sexes) of Manipur are included in this paper. In both the population the free type dominates over the attached type in both the sexes.

INTRODUCTION

Earlobe attachment in man is mostly influenced by gene, although its mode of inheritance is not clearly known (Hilden, 1922; Carriere, 1937; Powell and Whitney, 1937; Gates, 1954; Wiener, 1937 and Winchester, 1961 : cited from Mchanrajin and Mukherjee, 1973). Laid and Walsh (1966) and some others have suggested that a simple Mendelian gene affects is likely to be responsible for earlobe types. In recent years many human biologists consider earlobe attachment as a very important tool to study population variations.

In this paper an attempt has been made to study the nature of population variations on the basis of the different types of earlobe attachment. The study was conducted on two populations namely Thado Kukis and Kabui Nagas of Imphal, Manipur of North East India. The Thado Kukis are basically Mongoloid people. They are a member of Kuki chin tribe. They have their own ethnic identity, though they are very much akin to the Mizos of Mizoram. They belong to the schedule tribe. Agriculture is their main

source of livelihood. The Kabui Nagas are one of the most important schedule tribes of Manipur. They belong to the Naga group. They are a patriarchal people. Regarding their physical features, they show the Mongoloid feature. Linguistically they belong to the Tibeto Burman family.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The types of earlobes were observed on 200 unrelated individuals of both the sexes from the two villages namely Morphic Tampak Thado Kukis village and Hidaksungba Kabui Naga village of Manipur. Only two types of earlobes were classified: (i) attached lobe and (ii) free lobe. The two sexes from each group were treated separately to study the nature of sex differences and to test the representative nature of the groups. Data on both attached and free lobe were compiled from existing literature for comparative purposes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The percentage frequency of earlobe attachment of Thado Kukis and Kabui Nagas of Manipur are given in table 1. From the table it is clear that in both the groups the free type dominates over the attached type in both the sexes. It is also seen that the two groups are very much akin to one another in respect of this trait as

Table 1: Distribution of types of earlobe attachment in the Thado Kukis and Kabui Nagas

Population	Sex	Sample size	Attached		Free		Sex differences (d.f. = 1)
			No.	%	No.	%	
Thado Kuki	M	50	16	32	34	68	$\chi^2 = 0.262$ 0.70 > P > 0.50
	F	50	20	40	30	60	
	M + F	100	36	36	64	64	
Kabui Naga	M	50	19	38	31	62	$\chi^2 = 2.28$ 0.20 > P > 0.10
	F	50	12	24	38	76	
	M + F	100	31	31	69	69	

Table 2: Distribution of types of earlobe attachment in some Mongoloid populations of North East India

Population	Sex	Sample size	Attached	Free	Authors
Thado Kuki	M + F	100	36.00	64.00	Present Study
Kabui Naga	M + F	100	31.00	69.00	Present Study
Nishing (Bangni)	M + F	229	60.26	39.74	Sengupta, 1991
Ahom	M + F	380	35.52	64.48	Sengupta & Dutta, 1991
Mishing	M + F	302	53.97	46.03	Sengupta, 1981
Deuri	M + F	291	30.58	69.42	Sengupta, 1981
Meitheis	M + F	217	55.30	44.70	Singh & Malhotra, 1970
Gallong	M + F	244	67.21	32.79	Das & Choudhury, 1975
Tawang Monpa	M + F	414	77.05	22.95	Duara, 1979
Tai Turung	M + F	151	41.06	58.94	Barua & Dutta, 1994
Tangkul Naga	M + F	202	61.39	38.61	Singh, 1982
Wancho	M	105	72.39	27.61	Dutta, 1985
Konyak Naga	M	42	59.52	40.48	Dutta, 1992
Ahom	M + F	330	29.40	70.60	Das, 1975

revealed by the χ^2 values ($\chi^2 = 0.558$, $0.50 > P > 0.30$). However, in both the groups, the two sexes show remarkable similarities as measured by the χ^2 values.

Table 2 shows the distribution of earlobes in some Mongoloid population of North East India. It is clear from the table that the variability in the frequencies of attached earlobe ranges from 29.40-77.05, whereas the variability for free lobe ranges from 27.61-70.60. It is also clear that in both the attached and free earlobe, the Thado Kukis (36.00 and 64.00 respectively) approach more with that of the Ahom (Sengupta and Dutta, 1991). The Kabui Nagas on the other hand is more akin to both the Ahom (Das, 1970) and the Deuris (Sengupta, 1981).

The study therefore shows that in case of earlobe attachment Thado Kukis and Kabui Nagas of Manipur differ from most of the populations of North East India, though they belong to the same Mongoloid ethnic group.

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