

Genetic Diversity among Coastal Populations of Maharashtra, Goa and Odisha, India

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ABSTRACT India has served as a gateway between continents, with waves of human migration leaving rich cultural and linguistic diversity in their wake. Studies of genetic variation provide inferences about the nature and intensity of forces that have modulated our evolutionary course. The researchers analyzed genetic diversity using 5 genetic markers (ABO, MN, Rh, Se and tasters/non-tasters) in seven populations sampled from Maharashtra, Goa (western coastal zone) and Odisha (eastern coastal zone) of India. The genetic distance estimated by the DISPAN program revealed that geographic segregation has led to genetic divergence among the population of similar ethnicity while population inhabiting same geographical region had higher genetic affinity despite their ethnic origin. ABO locus among all showed maximum genetic divergence between the populations. However, more studies referring to the coastal populations of India could provide new insights into the processes of admixture, selection and drift which lead to population dispersal and differentiation.