

Museum of the Department of Anthropology, Utkal University, Odisha: An Overview



K C Satapathy, *PhD*

P. G. Department of Anthropology,
Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
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The **discipline of Anthropology** began as a **colonial construct** to understand the other from the vantage point of the colonial master. It provided legitimacy to the colonial rule.

Ethnographic studies during the colonial period were characterised by the perception of culture as a bounded entity, long term fieldwork on homogeneous population and participant observation as the main methodological tool.

In **post-colonial context**, the nature and trajectory of the discipline has undergone **radical changes**. The issues that have grappled contemporary anthropological imagination include **celebration of cultural diversity, identity politics, development from below, culture as an input in sustainable development, anthropological perspective on hunger and malnutrition, quality of life and questions on livelihood, human genomics and bioethics**(Basa, K. K.; 2013).



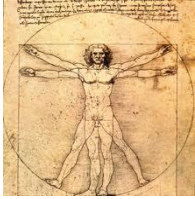
Anthropology is that branch of knowledge which is devoted to the holistic study of biological and cultural aspect of man.

Museums: Exhibit design, conservation of and research of collections, and museum administration.

“Probably no museum subject in India needs more attention than Anthropology. Few countries are richer than India in tribal and folk arts and artifacts and all that goes with ancient traditional communities, which have developed and been protected in isolation over long period of time. **Their disappearance without trace or with inadequate records** will represent a loss not only for India but for the world.” (G. Morely, 1967)

“This **mirror** is nothing but a ‘museum’ when talking in terms of culture. This mirror can give to a visitor a reflection of his own self and his culture, thus stimulate his thought processes as also know himself, his people and his country in a very wide perspective.” (S Roy, 1972)





Post-graduate Department of Anthropology ,Utkal University, Bhubaneswar Museum

1958- The department museum was established and is open to public on all working days. This is one of few department of India, where training in Museology and Museum Management is imparted at the Post-graduate level.

The museum has **three sections with 1124 specimens**

- I. **Cultural Anthropology section:** covers, hunting, fishing, basketry, musical instruments, weapons of defense and offence, basketry, musical instruments, dress and ornaments , stone sculpture, docra specimens, lakha specimens, brass specimens, silver filigree, **punch mark coins(4th & 2nd Century BC)** , wood carving specimens, Odishan mask and photographs of different of tribal groups and rural areas of Odisha have been collected and displayed in well lighted show-cases. Specimens from state of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland were also collected and displayed in the museum.
- II. **Pre-history Archaeology section:** has largest collection of prehistoric tools, pottery, **human skeleton** etc of lower, middle and upper Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Chalcolithic culture of Odisha.
- III. **Biological Anthropology section** :possesses plastic casts of original fossils representing the various stages of human evolution.

Some of the aspects of evolutionary anthropology such as human evolution, forensic, growth and nutrition, health and anthropometry have considerable museum potentials and these have been displayed in the section through charts, models and photographs.

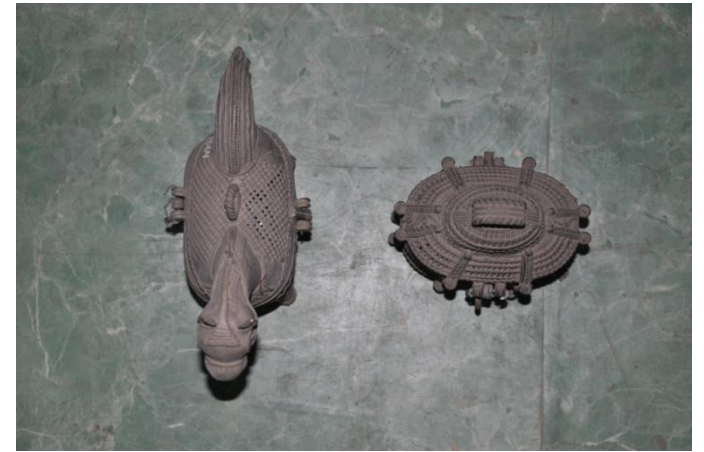
Cultural Museum



Wood carving specimens



Dogra specimens

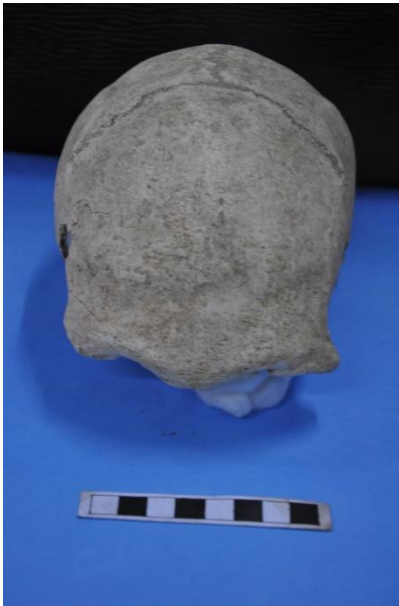




Prehistory Museum

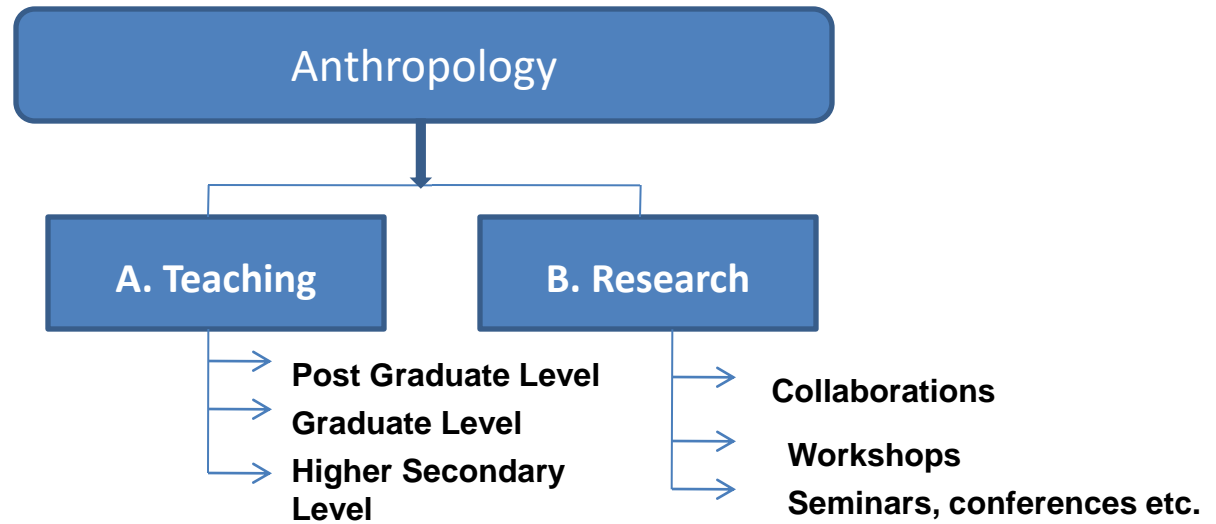


Biological Anthropology Museum



Utility of Department Anthropology Museum:

- ❑ Students are taught on **culture and life of people** of Odisha (tribal)
- ❑ Specimens are utilized for imparting **practical training** in Museology
- ❑ Specimens are used for **research** purposes.
- ❑ Students of local schools and colleges **visit** the museum and are provided with guide lectures.
- ❑ **Special exhibitions** were organized on behalf of University in the Indian Science Congress, Bhubaneswar(1977), Goa(1993), Kolkata(1995) and Pune (2000) as well as in 10th IUAES on Shifting cultivation in 1982.
- ❑ Under **exchange programme** many Indian and foreign scholars visit our department museum regularly.
- ❑ Specimens are given as per the University rule to other institutions for exhibition as well as imparting education to students.

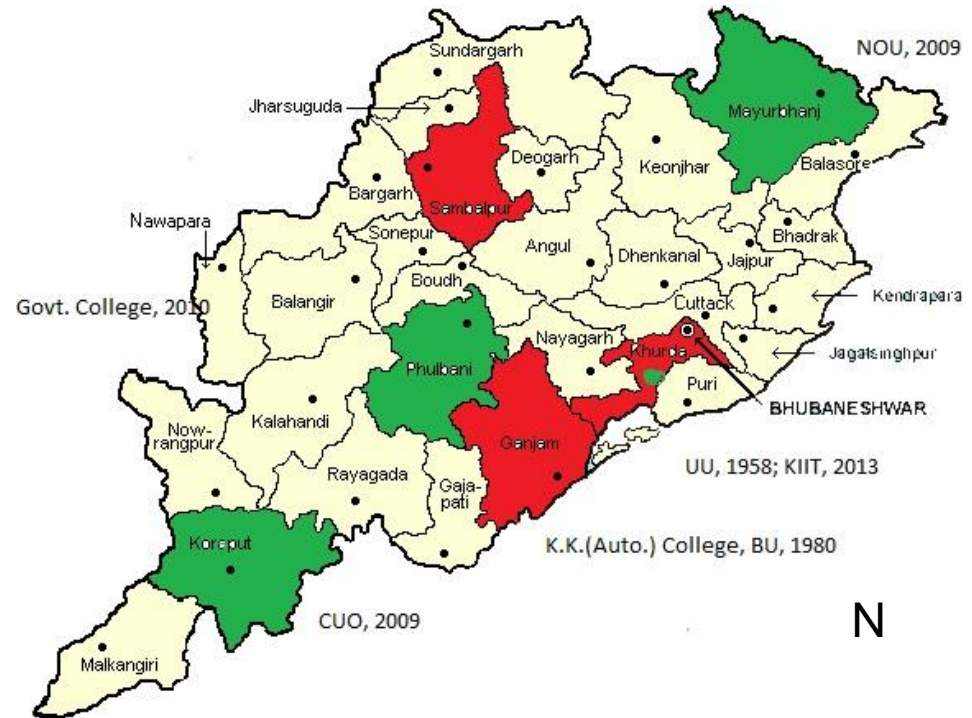


Teaching at University level: 03

State Universities , 01 Central University, 01

Private University and 02 Colleges

1. Utkal University(1958)
2. Sambalpur University (1976, 1991)
3. Berhampur University (1980, 2010)
4. North Orissa University (2001)
5. Central University of Orissa (2009)
6. KIIT University (2013)



Post Graduate teaching in Anthropology in Odisha at University Level



Professor Ayinapalli Aiyappan

(5 February 1905 – 28 June 1988)

(Head, Department of Anthropology, Utkal University Sept. 1958 to 31.05.1966)

Ayinapalli Aiyappan (5 February 1905 – 28 June 1988) was an **museologist** who served as Superintendent of the Government Museum, Madras from 1940 to 1960. He was the first Indian to occupy the post. Aiyappan was also an amateur archaeologist who did pioneering excavations on the archaeological site at Arikamedu.

PhD in 1937 after being a student of **Raymond Firth** at the London School of Economics .

He became **professor and head of the Department of Anthropology at Utkal University in 1958.**

In 1969 he was appointed vice-chancellor of Kerala University.

He was also a sponsoring founder and director of the **Tribal Research Bureau of Odisha** (now known as Tribal and Harijan Research and Training Institute), and director of the Department of Rural Welfare of Odisha.





Professor L. K. Mahapatra: The Department witnessed a new phase of its growth with Professor Dr. L. K. Mahapatra as its Professor and Head in 1967 to 89. He strengthened the Cultural Museum of the department.



Professor Usha Deka A brilliant teacher, excellent research supervisor and an able administrator developed the papeoanthrology section of the Department Museum



Professor K. C. Tripathy : Specialized in in Physical Anthropology at the very beginning he did field work on hematology and later in **1973** switched over to the Prehistoric Archaeology and initiated **Prehistoric research as well as specialization** in the Department. Contributed significantly to **Paleoanthropology** as well as **Forensic Anthropology** besides Prehistory.



Professor S. K. Ghoshmaulik

Specialization: Population Genetics, Forensic Anthropology and Nutritional Anthropology. Established **Forensic Anthropology teaching (1995) and research in Odisha.**



Dr. Bijaya Kumar Behera (b.1946) : received his MSc in Anthropology from Utkal University, Bhubaneswar and PhD from Calcutta University. He is a senior and reputed scholar of Social Anthropology and Museology in India. He has served the Post-graduate Department of Anthropology , Utkal University in different research and teaching positions since 1967. He was a visiting fellow at the South Asian Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany from 1979 to 1982. He has visited and collaborated with important and famous Museums of Germany, U.K., Austria, France, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Belgium and the Netherland. He has authored four books and more than 60 research papers.



Professor Kishor K. Basa (born 1958) is the Co-ordinator, CAS Programme, Department of Anthropology, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar 751004.

❑ Commonwealth Post Doctoral fellow, Indo French Cultural exchange award ;Sectional president Anthropology and Archaeology section, ISCCA, 2006, Delivered Platinum Jubilee Lecture, ISCA., Hyderabad, 2004. Delivered Panchanan Mitra Memorial Lecturer, Asiatic Society, 2006.

❑ Served as Director, IGRMS, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India; b) Served as Director I/C , Anthropological Survey of India ; c) Member Advisory Committee for drafting 11th V Year Plan of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India d) Member, Expert Committee for recommending grants for development of Museums, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India e) Member, Technical Expert Committee, Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO

Workshops
organized by the Department of Anthropology, Utkal University

- **2012 Conservation of Ethnographic Specimens** (in Collaboration with **Indira Gandhi Rashtrya Manav Sanghralaya (IGRMS)** , Bhopal. (3.12.2012 to 08.12.2012)
- **2013 Conservation of Ethnographic Specimens** (in Collaboration with **Indira Gandhi Rashtrya Manav Sanghralaya (IGRMS)**, Bhopal). **(29.11.2013 to 05.12.2013)**
- **2013 Skeletal Remains from Bang near Harirajpur** (Prof. S Walimbe and Dr. Veena Mushrif Tripathy, **Deccan College, Pune** acted as Resource Persons) (12.3.2013-18.3.2013)
- **2014 Skeletal Remains from Bang near Harirajpur** (Dr. Veena Mushrif Tripathy , **Deccan College, Pune** acted as the Resouce person) (24.3.2014-30.3.2014)
- **2015 Tribal Arts of Odisha**. Lalitkal Akademy, New Delhi (22-23 rd Feb. 2015), Indian Anthropology Congress, Dept. of Anthropology, Utkal University.

Workshop on Conservation of Ethnographic Specimens

(3rd to 8th Dec 2012)

Organized by:

Indira Gandhi Rastriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal

In Collaboration with

P. G. Department of Anthropology (CAS)

Utkal University, Bhubaneswar



WELCOME! CEREMONY



Workshop on

Conservation of Ethnographic Specimens

Organised BY

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal

In collaboration with

Department of Anthropology, (CAS), Utkal University, Bhubaneswar

29.11.2013 - 5.12.2013





Mr. D. S. Rao, IGRMS training the participants in the workshop

















Excavation-I, Bang, Harirajpur,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha, 2013





Ist press meeting on excavation





Excavation-II,
Bang,
Harirajpur,
2014















Ind Press meet



Human remains (Ethics in archaeological research), Excavation at Harirajpur by Prof. K. K. Basa and his team, Odisha, 2013

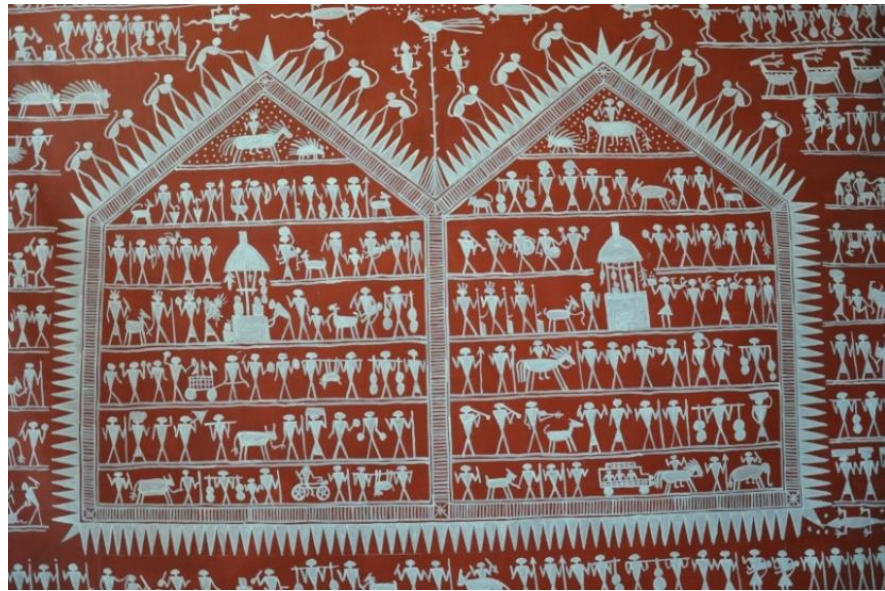


Source: *Indian Express & Odisha Today*, retrieved on 28th July 2013,
<http://www.orissadiary.com/CurrentNews.asp?id=40107#sthash.7kUTCrot.dpuf>

Workshop on Tribal Art of Odisha, 2015







Exhibitions

1. **People of India** , Anthropological Survey of India, 22-23 Feb. 2015, Indian Anthropology Congress, Dept. of Anthropology, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
2. **Tribes of Odisha**, SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, 2015, Indian 22-23 Feb., Indian Anthropology Congress, Dept. of Anthropology, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha



Tribes of Odisha, SCSTRTI, 2015

National and International Seminars/ Conferences

1. **2013** (8th –9th November) *Robert Bruce Foote Commemoration Conference* on the theme **Researches on Acheulian Cultures in India: Issues, Trends & Challenges** (in collaboration with IGRMS, Bhopal & Department of History, Sambalpur University, Burla, Odisha).
2. **2015** (22-23rd February) **Indian Anthropology Congress** on the theme Tribal transformation in contemporary India: Issues and Challenges in collaboration with SCSTRTI, Govt. Of Odisha
3. **2015** (20-22 March): **Indian and The Indian Ocean**: International Conference on Renewing Maritime Trade and Civilizational Linkages.
4. **2015**(6-7th November): **Kalinga-Lanka: Reviving Old Linkages and Exploring New opportunities.**





In association with Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, SCSTRTI, Govt. of Odisha, **IGRMS**, ICSSR, TATA, DST, AYUSH, ICMR and AnSI





Museum Extension Activities of the Department







Prof. K. K. Bas interacting with school students



Mr. Daitari Sahoo, Sr. Lecturer describing the skeleton to the school students





School students in the Biological Anthropology Museum



Sri Manas Pattanaik, Research Fellow, describing human skeleton



School teachers participated with their students



Students observing in the Cultural Museum



Shyma Mohapatra, Research Fellow, imparting education on Human and Ape skeleton to School students



Visitors to the P. G. Department of Anthropology Museum





Ethics for Anthropology Museum



Chagnon the "most controversial anthropologist"



Source: 'Bana Balika' by Ramakanta Mahananda, *The Samaj*(Ravibar), June 01-07, 2008



The Bonda highlanders, Odisha, 2012



The Jaraws, Andaman Island, India, 2013

Limitations

- ❖ Paucity of funds and lack of trained teachers as well as infrastructure facilities are major obstacles.
- ❖ Misconception and lack of integrative approaches in Anthropology
- ❖ Responsibility of the Archaeologist vis-a-vis local traditions and cultures. A researcher needs to consider local cultural values.
- ❖ Responsibility of the Archaeologist vis-a-vis dissemination of the material uncovered, not only in academic circles but also to a broader public, both in the area of the excavation and from where the Sponsors come
- ❖ Balancing World, National and regional claims to various parts of the archaeological record
- ❖ Protecting Archaeological sites and objects from illegal trade



Thank You