

VEPACHEDU EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

మన సంస్కృతి

Mana Sanskriti (Our Culture)

Chief Editor: Dr. Sreenivasarao Vepachedu, Esq.

What's in a Name?

Surnames are inherited through the male line which means they can be considered markers for the Y chromosome genes. This means a study of surname distribution can help us understand genetic structures and historical social behavior, such as the role of migrations. A Chinese research team focused on the impact of migration and drift on the evolution of China's population structure and published in the American Journal of Physical Anthropology.

In Western European countries drift is the main effect as the majority of the population has been settled for a long time. However, in the United States immigration has had a far greater impact, particularly with the influx of people during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Overall geographical distribution of surnames and population structure of modern China was found to be the result of both drift and large-scale migration as several regional centers of Chinese civilization developed throughout the nation's history. China stands unique from both models with a 4,000-year history of recorded surnames stretching back to the Xia Dynasty of the 21st to 16thcenturies BC. Surname distribution has been consistent since the Song Dynasty 900 years ago and partly due to Confucian culture surnames have been well preserved through the generations. The team found the highest levels of surname diversity at the Yangtze River basin, particularly around the middle and lower reaches of the river. The team believes this is due to multiple large migrations throughout Chinese history.

Historically 97 of the 100 most common surnames originated during the Spring and Autumn Period (722-476 BC) and the Warring States Period (476-221 BC) when the territory of China was limited to the central plains. There are multiple historical migrations from the central plains to the Yangtze River basin and consequently the population around the basin consists of local citizens and historical migrant groups.

	5114 <u>Kali Era</u> , Nandana Year, Vaisakha month 2070 Vikramarka Era, Nandana Year, Vaisakha month
	1934 <u>Salivahana Era</u> , Nandana Year, Vaisakha month
Issue 172	2012 AD, May



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However, it may be difficult to map such migration paths based on surnames in the Indian context, as many surnames are adopted by many genetically unrelated from various tribes and castes.

Poverty Stricken Brahmins

Caste/tribe reminds me of the <u>pathetic situation that Brahmins</u> are facing in Andhra Pradesh today. <u>Brahmins are about 2% of the total population</u> (~80 million) of Andhra Pradesh.

According to Indrasenareeddy Nallu, Brahmins in the state of Andhra Pradesh are poverty stricken, with about 60% of the total Brahmin population living under poverty line. They may have had a great ancestry, but today they are poor and power less. No one, including the rich among the Brahmins, does not care or do anything about the wretched state and status of Brahmins in India, especially in Andhra Pradesh. About 30% of Brahmins survive on below poverty line wages working as priests in temples, after spending more than 12 years in Vedic schools learning Vedas and rituals.

During the independence movement, the British hanged hundreds of freedom fighters and jailed many more in Andman islands, of which 50% were Brahmins. Despite the fact that Brahmin leaders like <u>Veeresalingam Kandukuri</u>, <u>Lakshminarasimham Chilakamarthi</u>, <u>Apparao Gurajada</u>, <u>Hanumantharao Madapati</u>, etc., fought for reforms and equality in the society, Brahmins are treated as pariahs today in the modern Indian and Telugu society.

Mr. Nallu demands a Commission lead by a High Court Judge to enquire into the pathetic situation of Brahmins in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Please read the latest on Brahmins in Telugu by Indrasenareddy Nallu.

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		2070 Vikramarka Era, Nandana Year, Vaisakha month
		1934 <u>Salivahana Era</u> , Nandana Year, Vaisakha month
	Issue 172	2012 AD, May
	Issue 1/2	



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"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed." Mahatma Gandhi

Hinduism is a way of life, with diversity of religion, and Indian teachings share the importance of *seva* (service).

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Om! Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityorma Amritamgamaya, Om Shantih, Shantih!

(Aum! Lead the world from wrong path to the right path, from ignorance to knowledge, from mortality to immortality, and peace!)

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Issue 172