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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

PREVALENCE OF BLOOD GROUP ABO AND Rh IN SCHEDULED TRIBES (ST) OF SOUTH BIHAR REGION

Sir,

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At one time blood groups were regarded to be nonadaptive traits uneffected by any type of selection. Prevalence of blood groups have been reported earlier in tribals of south Indian (1) and the racial differences in percentage of ABO blood groups have been also reported (2) among the people belonging to different origin. The frequency of blood groups differ in different geographical areas (3). But the geographical gradients of A and B genes give an indication that the blood groups are affected by environmental selection. Researches have clearly demonstrated that the physiological genetics including blood groups are the product of interaction of biological and environmental factors (4). Isolation of tribes imposed by geographical factor in Arunachal Pradesh have led them to live and flourish with their distinct identities (5).

The present study of blood group as well as Rh factor was undertaken with the purpose to known the prevalence of ABO and Rh group in scheduled tribes of South Bihar region.

A total of 2679 (2526 men and 153 women) scheduled tribes were randomly selected from the workers of Bokaro Steel Factory, Bokaro, situated in the southern region of Bihar state.

ABO Blood group determination and Rh-antigen studies were done by standard methods (6). Finger was pricked with the sterilized needle and one drop of unknown blood was transferred to four slides. To each drop, a drop of Antisera – A, Antisera – B, Antisera – H and Antisera – D was added separately. On the basis of agglutination the

TABLE I : Showing the prevalence of blood groups in ST men and women.

S.No.	*Sex*	*Blood group*	*Number of subjects in a particular group*	*Total number of subjects*	*% of prevalence of blood group*	*Rh factor (%)*	
						(+)	(–)
1.	Male	A	792	2526	31.35	69.9	30.5
2.	"	B	823	"	32.58	88.7	11.3
3.	"	AB	179	"	7.08	84.9	15.0
4.	"	O	732	"	28.97	87.0	12.9
5.	Female	A	50	153	32.6	82.0	18.0
6.	"	B	48	"	31.37	85.41	14.5
7.	"	AB	10	"	6.53	99.0	1.0
8.	"	O	45	"	29.41	93.3	6.6

blood group and Rh-factor were detected. The percentage distribution among these subjects was calculated (Table I).

More prevalence of blood group B was found in men and that of blood group A in women. Rh-negativity was more prevalent in blood group A in both men and women, though in all other groups of both sexes the prevalence of negativity was lower. The lowest prevalence of negativity was found in blood group B in men and blood group AB in women.

The prevalence of a particular blood group in an indication of occurrence of a particular character and race at large extent and simultaneously indicating the tribal population of particular sex in that region. It can be correlated with the earlier findings (7) that serogenetic variations is one of the factors in prevalence of tribal population of Mech-Kachari.

The hightest prevalence of Rh negativity in A blood group of both sexes and the extremely lowest prevalence in AB blood group of female population is an interesting and significant finding.

This study will be continued further to find out correlation between blood group and physiological events related with reproductions.

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