

The Aryan's of Ladakh and Pregnancy Tourism

Zahied Rehman Ganie

Lecturer History SMM Government Degree College Zainapora , Shopian Kashmir Jammu And Kashmir.

Abstract: In the Indus Valley of Ladakh there are about four villages named Dha, Hanu, Garkon, and Darchik located around 200 km from the largest town of the union territory of Ladakh Leh attract women tourists from abroad for pregnancy Tourism. These villages enjoy a population of Brokpas, which is said to be the purest specimen of the Aryan race which makes them look beautiful. It is believed that Brokpas are the descendants of the Army that worked under the Greek emperor Alexander the Great. They are said to have stayed back in the Leh region around 2,000 years ago. German who likes Alexander the Great the most, travel all the way to Leh to get impregnated by the Brokpas as they are said to be the legacy carriers of the Alexander's Army. Initially, the Brokpas men used to impregnate the ladies coming from foreign countries. Later they started charging a hefty amount from them for their services which kick-started a small size tourism industry.

Keywords: Aryan, Brogpas, Drogpas, Mongolian, Polygamy, Endogamy, Brokskad, DNA, USP, Genetics.

INTRODUCTION

At the elevation of 3000 metres (10,000ft) above mean sea level in the state of J&K (India) in Ladakh region are Dah, Hanu, Darchik and Garkon villages. The main occupation in these villages is agriculture. While women folks work in their agricultural fields, men folks mostly work as civil labourers in a nearby army camp. All these four villages are situated on the banks of Indus (Sindhu) River. The inhabitants of these villages called themselves as Brogpas or Drogpas. These Brogpas are believed to have remained isolated both culturally and genetically for centuries. The Dah and Hanu villages fall under the jurisdiction of Leh district, while Darchik and Garkon villages are in Kargil district. The latter two villages were out of bound for all civilians except the locals, due to some security reasons. Their features are pure Indo Aryan/ Mediteranian and they believed to have preserved their racial purity down the centuries. The Aryans of Ladakh are tall statured, sharp-featured with the blue coloured big eyes and a fair complexion, high nose and high cheek bones. Their facial features are totally different from the Mongolian features which the people of Ladakh normally exhibit. The inhabitants of Dah village speak a language known as Brokskad which is quite different from Ladakhi language. The inhabitants of Aryan villages do not marry outsiders. Their first preference is to marry among themselves in the village itself. If not, the second preference is to marry with the inhabitants of other Aryan villages to keep the purity of their Aryan breed intact. But they mainly practice endogamy. They have also started marrying outside their race and clan now. In the recent past, they also practiced polygamy and polyandry. One curious cultural feature of Aryan villages is that the inhabitants of Aryan villages are generally

vegetarian, though during important festivals they indulged in eating non vegetarian. They do not drink cow's milk and milk products though they do own cows and bullocks for agricultural operations. They also do not eat chicken and eggs. For the inhabitants of these villages, sheeps and goats are most sacred and important animals. The Dah and Hanu villages are situated comparatively at lower altitudes, therefore these villages experience a climate that is little warmer than that of Leh. In Pakistan administered Kashmir, the same race is called as Dards. These Aryans believe that they are the descendants of the army of Alexander the great, when some of them stayed back here after Alexander returned back. Besides this, they have many stories and myths to claim of being pure Aryan race.

Who are Aryans?

It is widely believed the Aryans originally belonged to central Asia from where they migrated to India around 2500 B.C. they crossed the north-west passes and settled in the areas around the river Indus and its tributaries, driving the Dravidians inland. "Aryan" is a term meaning "noble", which was used as a self-designation by Indo-Iranian people. The word was used by the Indic people of the Vedic period in India as an ethnic label for themselves and to refer to the noble class as well as the geographic region known as Aryayarta, where Indo-Aryan culture was based. The closely related Iranian people also used the term as an ethnic label for themselves in the Avesta scriptures, and the word forms the etymological source of the country name Iran. It was believed in the 19th century that Aryan was also a self-designation used by all Proto-Indo-Europeans, a theory that has now been abandoned. Scholars point out that, even in ancient times, the

idea of being an "Aryan" was religious, cultural and linguistic, not racial.

Drawing on misinterpreted references in the Rig Veda by Western scholars in the 19th century, the term "Aryan" was adopted as a racial category through the works of Arthur de Gobineau, whose ideology of race was based on an idea of blonde northern European "Aryans" who had migrated across the world and founded all major civilizations, before being degraded through racial mixing with local populations. Through the works of Houston Stewart Chamberlain, Gobineau's ideas later influenced the Nazi racial ideology which

saw "Aryan peoples" as innately superior to other putative racial groups. (Source Wikipedia)

ANALYSIS AND OBSERVATION

Lhamo, a girl from the Brokpa community, says, "We grew up hearing that we are Aryans. You may have heard that Aryans are tall. All the men in our community are like that. We worship nature and this is proof that we are 'pure Aryans'." "

Compared to the rest of Ladakh, the faces of the people of Biana, Garakone, Darchik, Dah and Hanu look very different.

The influence of Vedic culture on the Brokpa people can be seen from their rituals.



Swang, from the Brokpa community, is a teacher at a college in Kargil. He researches the Brokpa complex.

He says, "Our culture is related to the Vedic culture. Our language is also influenced by Sanskrit. For example, we call a horse ashwa. We worship gods and goddesses."

Some historians have also done research on this. A.H. Historian Franki has also mentioned these

'pure Arya' people in his book 'History of Western Tibet'.

"Many authors claim that we are descended from 'Alexander the Great,'" says Swang.

On the other hand, the Kalash tribe of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, the Malana of Himachal Pradesh and the people of Bada Bhangal village also claim to be descendants of Alexander.



A dictionary called ‘Swang O’ has been prepared in their dialect ‘Broksakat’. The Brokpa people claim that Sanskrit and their language share a lot of similarities.

A look at the folklore of the Brokpa people reveals a few things. Their ancestors migrated to the Gilgit-Baltistan region from the Western Himalayas in the 7th century. Currently, this area is currently in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

The Brokpa people organize a festival called Bonona every year in the month of October. This festival is celebrated in every village where

Brokpa people live. But the Aryas living across the border i.e. in Pakistan have now accepted Islam. So there is a doubt whether this festival is celebrated there.

While the Brokpa community depended on agriculture, some took jobs in the army. But their future generations have to learn.

Since the advent of smart phones, their living standards have improved. Through social media, they are also keeping in touch with the people of their society across the border.



“We communicate only in our dialect. They are also proud to be Aryans,”

But unfortunately, there is no authenticity of their claim of being pure Aryan race. Neither any DNA/genetic testing or any scientific measures were taken to authenticate their claims. They claim to be pure Aryans just on the basis of their physical appearance and some inherited stories, folklores, myths, about their being pure Aryans. It may also be a gimmick of the locals of these villages or travel fraternity to attract more and more foreign and domestic tourists to these villages and to get the publicity.

CONCLUSION

With the course of time, Ladakh is attracting more and more both foreign and domestic origin tourists. There are various tourist attractions in Ladakh region, be it a sightseeing, adventure or Buddhist tourism. Now these Aryan villages are also emerging as the main source of attraction, particularly to foreign tourists. But the main thing

is that their claim of being pure Aryan needs to get authenticated by the government authorities or by other agencies. And in case it turns to be correct, it will not only boost tourism to these villages but also their claims of being pure Aryan race could be used as a USP (unique selling proposition) in tourism of J&K.

REFERENCES

1. Ahluwalia, H.P.S. Hermit Kingdom: Ladakh. (1980).
2. Drew, F. The Jammu And Kashmir Territory. (1875).
3. Mukherjee, C. Brokpa: The Outsider (Documentary).
4. Sengupta, S. Alexander's Lost Army: The Brokpa Community of Ladakh, (2015).
5. Singh, R.K. The Aryans (Documentary).
6. Sivan, S. The Achtung Baby. (Documentary).
7. Sivan, S. The Aryan Saga (Documentary).

Source of support: Nil; **Conflict of interest:** Nil.

Cite this article as:

Ganie, Z.R. "The Aryan's of Ladakh and Pregnancy Tourism." *Sarcouncil Journal of Humanities and Cultural Studies* 2.4 (2023): pp 1-4.