The Sidhis of North Kanara, India

—Having Negroid Characters in Their Physical Appearances—

Kunio ABE

Asian Institute of Anthropology

Abstract Thirteen items of measurements done for each individual consisting of 27 males and 31 females of the Sidhis living in North Kanara, India, are provided. Basic statistical values, findings of the classification of data on major observation items and several photographs are added.

INTRODUCTION

Very few anthropologists (CHOUDHURY, 1957) know that ethnic group having Negroid characters, the Sidhis, in their physical appearances are living in small number scattered here and there in jungles of Western Ghats.

A series of physical anthropologic studies on ethnic groups living in limited areas in South India has been conducted between January 23 and February 28, 1982, from which data on the Sidhis was obtained at Kirwatti (village), Yellapur (taluk), North Kanara (district) of Karnataka State. Thirteen somatometric measurements and thirty one somatoscopic observations were taken on each individual person.

Rare or valuable data itself may hold vital and fundamental information equivalent to or better than the presentation of statistically treated data or findings.

FIELD WORK

Kirwatti is a village located southeast about 120 km, in the straight distance on the map, from Panaji, Goa. The author departed Panaji by omnibus on the morning of January 26, arrived at Sirsi in the evening, and on the following day, travelled via Yellapur for Kirwatti by changing jeeps provided by forest rangers, arriving at the Circuit House in Kirwatti. On January 28, people were gathered in the office of Panchayat (traditional village assembly of India) for study.

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PEOPLE

The population of the Sidhis in the Kirwatti amounted to 500 persons or so; according to the census conducted in 1971, the Sidhis in North Kanara had accounted for 1,822 males and 1,644 females. Most of them are low class daily workers engaged in forestry work or carrying timbers. Cultivators, on the other hands, account for only 2 to 3% of the total. The religion held by the majority is Islam, and their language is Masalmani, a corrupt form of Urdu. A few Sidhis are Hindu and Christians, and the language spoken by both of them is Marathi. To these languages, Masalmani and Marathi, a local language called Konkini, without letters, is mixed. They are not segregated from other ethnic groups, it may be therefore said that they are not outcaste. The Sidhis is not a Scheduled caste or tribe designated by the Government of India (1961).

Although there are various interpretations to the origin of the word "Sidhi", there is a Sanskrit word with the same pronunciation which means "one who has achieved special power" according to Prof. MENON, E. P. (Friends World College, Bangalore). It, "Sidhi", may be a name given by other ethnic groups living around there to the people who have peculiar features and great physical structures.

As for the origin of the Sidhis, there are two theories; one is that they were imported from Africa in the 14th Century by a Muslim king of Deccan, and the other theory is that

Table 1. Measurements of stature, head and face for individual person of the Sidhis. (unit: mm)

Serial number	Stature	Head length	Head breadth	Bizygomatic breadth	Bigonial breadth	Morphologic facial height*	Nose height**
Males							
1	1740	187	142	141	98	123	60
2	1598	190	142	131	96	115	63
3	1494	197	142	139	109	135	71
4	1613	193	145	145	109	125	60
5	1610	197	126	132	102	121	62
6	1671	196	142	143	112	118	59
7	1651	206	152	143	115	134	70
8	1668	194	150	145	106	128	64
9	1713	185	142	150	103	135	65
10	1726	208	151	149	111	135	64
11	1656	166	140	138	102	129	64
12	1696	182	143	136	104	123	58
13	1629	196	142	142	110	123	61
14	1586	182	144	136	101	127	66
15	1633	190	142	138	102	124	61
16	1683	220	142	149	117	142	67
17	1663	200	146	134	114	135	64
18	1563	206	139	141	116	133	67
19	1666	197	149	141	105	135	68
20	1559	186	136	136	96	124	61
21	1734	194	138	138	117	130	66
22	1717	180	144	146	113	124	59
23	1665	187	146	142	101	134	66
24	1571	184	138	136	104	124	63
25	1553	180	152	142	111	126	60
26	1627	193	140	137	107	120	61
27	1689	197	144	146	116	122	65
Females							
28	1499	186	139	132	98	119	67
29	1573	185	137	135	94	120	62
30	1581	181	136	129	92	119	61
31	1477	184	137	131	96	115	58
32	1563	184	137	133	92	120	63
33	1516	185	135	132	103	132	62
34	1657	201	138	132	104	126	61
35	1545	182	136	129	99	125	62
36	1447	183	134	126	102	127	63
37	1474	181	138	131	93	114	56
38	1467	188	137	131	100	114	57
39	1529	182	140	132	106	126	62
40	1512	174	134	130	94	119	59
41	1641	193	146	131	109	134	67
42	1612	186	149	138	101	122	61
43	1624	178	143	145	114	123	63
44	1537	187	141	131	101	126	65
45	1468	171	134	132	93	118	58
46	1435	184	146	135	99	128	63
47	1424	198	140	129	100	126	64
48	1526	182	135	135	111	124	65
49	1485	182	148	133	94	123	62
50	1487	169	151	132	96	126	63
51	1550	191	142	136	108	124	69
52	1444	176	140	131	100	123	61
53	1576	186	143	140	107	129	59
54	1496	180	137	130	100	111	57
55	1582	180	131	132	105	118	66
56	1594	186	142	134	104	122	59
57	1457	189	137	126	94	112	55
58	1560	185	137	133	100	123	64

* Morphologic facial height: supraorbitale-gnathion

** Nose height: supraorbitale-subnasale

Nose breadth	Mouth breadth	Internal bi-ocular brd.	External bi-ocular brd.	Physiognomic ear length	Physiognomic ear breadth
46	57	45	92	57	34
42	55	36	91	57	35
41	60	35	98	57	34
44	54	40	98	50	32
44	54	37	94	61	35
48	56	43	106	71	38
44	57	37	97	68	37
41	50	35	97	57	32
45	53	36	99	59	33
47	56	40	96	61	40
36	52	32	94	64	38
38	50	34	93	57	31
45	57	37	95	57	31
47	60	39	97	60	36
40	49	37	94	67	35
42	56	49	103	58	35
35	51	32	92	65	38
40	53	39	96	59	36
38	47	36	99	59	34
46	56	36	95	56	33
47	57	37	101	59	32
45	58	37	92	56	32
43	55	39	96	61	36
38	49	39	90	60	32
45	55	40	97	56	34
42	46	31	86	61	33
46	55	34	90	57	34
37	49	39	90	59	33
33	44	33	89	61	32
38	50	37	93	58	31
40	51	34	93	59	32
39	56	36	94	62	33
30	39	33	91	59	33
43	63	40	97	64	38
32	51	31	88	46	29
41	59	34	86	47	31
35	51	37	98	52	32
38	55	35	91	57	32
35	51	35	93	55	27
40	53	39	90	55	33
35	50	38	88	65	37
43	50	37	99	57	31
40	52	42	101	56	34
37	52	33	89	52	27
41	52	41	97	56	32
37	43	34	85	60	33
42	53	33	87	53	30
39	46	31	88	52	32
37	51	35	94	60	34
36	50	36	94	55	32
41	50	31	88	60	33
38	51	36	95	55	32
39	56	36	99	59	34
41	55	37	91	60	36
40	50	34	88	59	33
38	47	39	94	54	35
39	45	33	93	56	30
32	53	37	94	54	33

they were brought to India by Portuguesees as slaves in the end of the 17th Century. In any case, they are not native people of India, but they appear to be the descendents of African Negroes who were forced to move, from the middle ages to the beginning of modern ages, into the west coast of India from Africa against their will. It is interesting to note that their Negroid physical appearances, that can be recognized at a glance, are still preserved after the elaps of some centuries, which reflects the rigidness of the caste system in India.

METHODS

Measurements consist of 13 items of head length (1), head breadth (3), bizygomatic breadth (6), bigonial breadth (8), morphologic facial height (so-gn), nose height (so-sn), nose bread-

Table 2. Means and standard errors of measurements and indices for the Sidhis. (mm)

	Males	Females
Sample size	27	31
Estimated age	38	34
Measurements	M±m	M±m
Stature	1643.5±12.2	1527.0±11.5
Head length	192.3± 2.1	183.8± 1.2
Head breadth	142.9± 1.1	139.4± 0.9
Bizygomatic breadth	140.6± 1.0	132.5± 0.7
Bigonial breadth	107.3± 1.3	100.3± 1.1
Morphologic facial height	127.6± 1.3	122.2± 1.0
Nose height	63.5± 0.7	61.7± 0.6
Nose breadth	42.8± 0.7	37.9± 0.6
Indices		
Cephalic	74.5± 0.9	75.9± 0.7
Morphologic facial	91.1± 0.8	92.3± 0.8
Jugomandibular	76.3± 0.8	75.7± 0.7
Nasal	67.6± 1.4	61.7± 1.2

Table 3. Classifications of somatoscopic observations for the Sidhis.

Head hair

Sex	Sample size	Smooth hair				Wavy hair						Kinky hair	
		Coarse		Fine		Wide		Narrow		Curly			
		n.	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.	%
Males	27	0		0		0		7	25.9	7	25.9	13	48.1
Females	31	0		2	6.5	1	3.2	5	16.1	8	25.8	15	48.4

Quantity of hairs on face for men

Sample size	None		Very few		Few		Thick		Very thick	
	n.	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.	%
27	0		1	3.7	7	25.9	19	70.4	0	

Lateral view of nose

Sex	Sample size	Concave		Straight		Convex & Aquiline	
		n.	%	n.	%	n.	%
Males	27	8	29.6	15	55.6	4	14.8
Females	31	15	48.4	11	35.5	5	16.1

Thickness of lower lip

Sex	Sample size	Thin		Middle		Thick		Everted	
		n.	%	n.	%	n.	%	n.	%
Males	27	1	3.7	10	37.0	14	51.9	2	7.4
Females	31	0		13	41.9	14	45.2	4	12.9

th (13), mouth breadth (14), internal bi-ocular breadth (9), external bi-ocular breadth (10), physiognomic ear length (29), physiognomic ear breadth (30), and stature. The numbers in parentheses represent respective measurement numbers specified by MARTIN & SALLER (1957), and these measurements were done according to their rules. Others indicate measuring points; so (supraorbitale), gn (gnathion), and sn (subnasale). From the above mentioned measurements, 4 indices i.e., cephalic, morphologic facial, jugomandibular, and nasal indices have been calculated.

Out of 31 items of the observations, 4 characters are shown in this report; form of head hair, nasal form in profile, and thickness of lips were classified according to the schemata

of MARTIN & SALLER (1957), and Tubaki's schema (ABE, 1975) was adopted for the classification of quantity of beard and whiskers.

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インド・北カナラ地方のシディ族

——ネグロイド的形質を保有する部族——

安 部 国 雄

Asian Institute of Anthropology

1982年1月、西ガーツのジャングルに住むシディ族を調査して男27人女31人の形質人類学的資料を得た。その体格は南または中央インドの諸部族よりも少し大きく、長頭型、広顔型の上界、中鼻型、中顎型に属す。頭髮は男女共に約半数が糸球毛で、これに彎曲毛と短波状毛を合わせると90%以上となり、長波状毛と直毛は極めて少ない。このようにネグロイド的形質を強く保有するシディ族は、また一方で、それらの形質の中に顔ヒゲの比較的に濃い等の南インド住民（ドラビダ語族）的要素の混入もみられて遺伝的に興味深い。

ここには資料として各個人別の全計測値13項目を提供すると共に、代表的な統計値と観察値および、顔の写真数葉を付した。

Serial no. 3

Serial no. 9

Serial no.11

Serial no.33

Serial no.34

Serial no.14

Serial no.52

Serial no.57

Serial no.55

Serial no.53

Serial no.24

Serial no.30