

The Mundari Dialects, an Archeological View

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People who speak the Mundari language are the DNA O, a subgroup of the DNA F. Currently, they are scattered in small pockets only in the Nagpur plateau. They are found in high concentrations only in South East Asia.

The C and F, also known as the Asia Clade of Homo Sapiens, voluntarily left Ethiopia (Africa) 100,000 years ago in search of dependable perennial rainwater resources. At that time, much of the world was covered with glaciers and the seawater was far below the current levels, and the current Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman were fertile valleys called Balochistan. The C and F were in Balochistan 80,000 years ago.

The F were subdivided into the H, J2b, and O and spread out in different directions. The C and O moved from Balochistan to Punjab the current Thar desert that was a fertile valley at that time. From Punjab, they moved along the Yamuna river, to the Bay of Bengal that stretched from Bangladesh to Australia called Sunda. Sunda was a giant fertile valley with rainwater rivers. The C and O lived in Sunda 60,000 years ago.

Twenty thousand years ago, the glaciers started to melt and Sunda was submerged under 500 feet of water. The C moved east to China. The O retreated to the Sone river of the Vindhya. They moved to the Trikuta the headwaters of the Sone.

The O lived only along the Sone, in the Nagpur plateau. Around 2,200 BCE, there was a global drought that lasted for almost 200 years. Majority of the O returned to Sunda. A few people were left behind. They lived mostly in the current Odisha State at higher elevations. They did not move along the Mahanadi and Brahmani rivers to the lowlands on the coast because at that time the lowlands were flood prone.

Mundari (O) lived along the Sone only from 20,000 BCE to 2,200 BCE. They were along the Yamuna river 60,000 years ago when they moved from Balochistan to Sunda. They were aware of the Sone. They lived in Sunda from 60,000 BCE to 20,000 BCE. Currently, they live in what is left of Sunda.

Unlike the other languages of the South India such as Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu the Mundari dialects in India did not evolve into a formal language. Languages emerged from dialects only when there was a need for mass communications (books, newspapers). Mundari evolved into several formal languages only in South East Asia.

According to the Census 2011 data, the following map shows pockets of Mundari dialects currently present in the Nagpur plateau.

- 101 Mahali
- 102 Koda
- 103 Dhimal
- 104 Kodaku
- 105 Asuri
- 106 Birhar
- 107 Bijori
- 108 Korwa
- 109 Turi
- 110 Kharia
- 111 Mundari
- 112 Munda
- 113 Ho
- 114 Parenga
- 115 Juang
- 116 Sora
- 117 Juray
- 118 Bodo
- Gadaba
- 119 Bondo
- 120 Gata

