

Study of Restriction Fragment Length of mtDNA in the “DROG-PA” the Purest of Pure Aryan Race from Himalaya

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ABSTRACT

The Drog-Pas are 3000 endogamous, purest of pure Aryan tribal race of Himalayas, Ladakh, India, preserved their pure bloodline from generation to generation, settled in between Khaltse village and river Shayok-indus confluence. Some believe that they migrated thousands of years ago from central Asia. Others believe that they are the descendants of the army of Alexander the great. Because of conflicting view of origin of Drog-Pas, we undertook a study of variations in Mitochondrial DNA to understand the origin and distinctness of Drog-Pas from other population of the region. Four locus haplotypes namely-I, II, III, IV were constructed and their frequencies were estimated. In comparison to published data unique haplotype ‘1111’ was observed in Drog-Pa population. Three times high frequency of 13259 loss, established Drog-Pas distinctness. High frequency of 12808 gain indicates a high Caucasoid admixture. Our finding supports that Drog-Pa people have still retained most of the trait.