

## UNIT –3

# EVOLUTION OF EARLY MAN

### Lesson Structure

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### **3.0 Objective:**

The objective of this believe is to introduce students to the evolution of Man. How and when did early man emerge on this planet is a matter of enquiry in this lesson.

### **3.1 Origin of Early Man:**

The origin and evolution of Early Man is a highly controversial topic of pre-history. It is now proved after excavation of Olduvai Gorge, 3° south of equator in Tanzania (East Africa) that the spucus namely zinzanthropous Erect was the earliest man so far known.

### **3.2 Age of evolution:**

In the second pluvial in the Olduvai Gorge of East Africa. The emergence of man was conditioned by the environment and climate. In the pleistocene when Europe was under intense cold and glaciation, it was quite difficult for a man to live.

### **3.3 Suitability of Climate:**

But the climate of Africa was suitable. The level of sea water suited the settlement of mankind. When there was rise in the level of sea water, the animals which were living in the bed of sea started coming up in search of food. It may be safely concluded that the emergence of man was conditioned by the level of sea water. Similar was the case with vegetation. Existence and survival of vegetation was conditioned by the enviornment and climate. In the pleistocene when Europe was under intence cold and glaciation it was quite difficult for man to survive.

### **3.4 Settlement of Difference between Man on and Ape :**

The Zinzanthropous man was of the Australopithecine group. The australopithecine remains have been found in the Transwal of Africa. They settled the difference between man and ape. It has the features of walking upright on two feet. Lower portion is heavy. The skull, the jaw and the teeth are more man like. But the brain is very small. The australopithecines have been divided into two classes. Australopithecines. They are small in the build the other group is paranthropous and are vegetarians. This branch of hominid must have lived in open grassy land and rocky shelters. The australopithecine must have moved in the open grassland and rocky shelters. There is some evidence that they used tools. This has been proved by excavations at Olduvai Gorge. Here in the lowest bed was found the remains of man who has been named Zinzanthropous. They belonged to the austrarlopithecine group. With them have been found the pebble tools. The zinzanthropous man was a tool making animal. Small animals like lemur, young ones of leuger animal group remains have been found. That Zinzanthropous man was of flesh eater is proved by the presence of anfect and the animal bones. They might have used their tools for killing the prey. By and large he was a vegetarian because enormous molars have been found. It is interesting to note that the period has been shown to be as early as 7 1/2 million years. This is the earliest date assigned to a man community.

#### **3.4.1 Homo habilis**

What is more important is that below this strat were found another type of man Homohabilis. Homohabilis appears to be more manlike than Zinzanthropous. Now with homohabilis Zinzanthropous is also found. Tools are also found. Pre-historians susped that home-habilis was killed by Zinzanthropous who used tools.

#### **3.4.2 Co-existance of Homo-habilis and Zinzanthropous**

Another theory is that Homo-hobilis also made tools like Zinzanthropous. They existed together may be as rival groups. From bed II at Olduvai we have the beginning of Chelean handaxe. Now these people appear to have been advanced in hunting. They were meateater. We can say that very early types of human beings with ability to make tools were evolving in tropical Africa and the Australopithecine type appears to have been the genus evolving human type in tropical Africa. The Zinzanthropous had a large brain case and even much more advanced than the Peking man. Olduvain man, the hunter had learnt the way of working in the group and presumably this implies that he communicated with his follows in some form of language more advanced than grouts. Packs of wolves had learnt the principle of cooperation million of years before and group hunting is in itself nothing new but whereas it is essential in the way of life of carnivora. It was something that had to be learned by the predominantly vegetarian primates. So the contention of Charles Darwin that our early progenitors lived in Africa came true. Actually speaking, the climate of Africa during the inter glacial period favoured the settlement of early man the most. This is because in central Africa or Olduvai gorge the earliest evidence of human remains and activities have been found. It is not necessary to assume that man first emerged is tropical Africa What was happening in Asia ? Was man evolving only in Africa ?

### **3.5 Order of Emergence of Early Man :**

The order of emergence of early man is as follows :

- (i) Driopithecus
- (ii) Australopithecus Ziathropous Erectus
- (iii) Homo-habilis
- (iv) Pithecanthropous Erectis Java Man
- (v) Sivanthropous Pekensis
- (vi) Ramapithecus
- (vii) Homo-Neanderthalensis 1450 CC
- (viii) Cro-Magnon Man. 1100 CC

The order of appearance of early man has been given above.

### **3.6 Question for Exercise :**

1. Where did Man emerge first ?
2. Write a note on the physical features of early man.
3. Who was Zinzanthropous ? What do you know about his physical features ?

### **3.7 Suggested Reading :**

1. Howells–Maakind in the Makings
2. Lewis Leakey–Adam’s Ancestors
3. E. F. Hootau–Up from the Ape.

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