BANC 112: ANTHROPOLOGY IN PRACTICE
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT
(TMA)
Course Code: BANC 112
Assignment Code: BANC 112/ASST/TMA/July 2026- January 2027
Total Marks: 100

There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all questions in all the Sections.

Assignment – I

Answer the following in about 500 words each. 2X20= 40

a. Delineate the challenges and dilemmas faced by practicing anthropologists.
b. Explain business and corporate anthropology with suitable examples.

Assignment – II

Answer the following in about 250 words each. 2X10=20

a. Summarize the differences between academic and practicing anthropologist.
b. What is the role of practicing anthropologist in forensic anthropology? Discuss.

Answer the following questions in about 150 words each. 5X2=10

a. Epidemiology and public health
b. Genetic screening and counselling
c. Anthropology in advocacy and research policy
d. Ethnomedicine
e. Population dynamics and culture

Assignment – III

a. Prepare a synopsis to understand people's awareness and preparedness for earthquake. Which tools are you going to use? Explain with suitable examples. **20**
b. What is participatory rural appraisal? Explain its advantages and disadvantages. **10**

a. Delineate the challenges and dilemmas faced by practicing anthropologists.

Answer

Practicing anthropologists use the knowledge and methods of anthropology to deal with problems in everyday life. They may work with government departments, voluntary organisations, hospitals, companies or local communities. Unlike a researcher who mainly aims to develop knowledge, a practicing anthropologist is often expected to suggest a useful action within a fixed time and budget. This creates several practical challenges and ethical dilemmas.

Working with different expectations

An anthropologist may be employed by an agency that wants quick results, while community members may have very different needs. For example, a development agency may want to build a road through a settlement, but residents may fear losing land, trees or sacred places. The anthropologist has to understand both positions without automatically accepting the employer's view. The difficulty becomes greater when powerful officials and less powerful residents do not have equal opportunities to speak.

The problem of neutrality and commitment

Anthropology values careful observation and an effort to understand people's behaviour in its own cultural setting. In practice, researchers may also feel a responsibility to oppose discrimination, exploitation or harmful policies. This raises a difficult question: should they remain neutral observers or openly support a vulnerable community? Complete neutrality may be impossible when research findings affect people's lives. Yet strong personal involvement can also influence how evidence is collected or interpreted. The responsible approach is to make one's position clear, check facts and distinguish evidence from personal judgement.

Consent, privacy and confidentiality

Practicing anthropologists often learn sensitive details about family disputes, illness, income, caste relations or community beliefs. Participants should understand the purpose of the research and be free to refuse or withdraw, wherever possible. Obtaining a signature alone does not ensure informed consent; explanations must be given in a language people understand. The anthropologist must protect names and identifying details, especially when employers request raw interview records. In small communities, even an anonymous description may reveal a person's identity. Data storage and the use of photographs or recordings therefore require special care.