

B.A. 4TH SEM (Education)(Gen.)

Paper: Sociological Foundations of
Education(4.1)

Topic: Education and Culture

Ajanta Saikia
Associate Professor,
Deptt. Of Education,
S.B.Deorah College, Guwahati

Meaning of Culture

Culture is one of the important concepts of Social Science. The word “Culture” has been derived from the Latin word ‘Cultra’ which means “to cultivate”/ “to till the soil”. If we analyze the meaning it can be said that culture can develop social, moral, and spiritual values in the mind of the individual. In broad sense, it includes knowledge, behaviour, religious belief, art, morals, law, custom, tradition, food habit , education, music and dance, etc. Therefore culture may be considered as a way of life.

**WE CANNOT STUDY THE SOCIETY WITHOUT
STUDYING ITS CULTURE**

Society and culture go together.

Definition of Culture

According to Edward B. Taylor, “Culture is the complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, morals, law, customs and any other capabilities acquired by men as a member of society.

Nature of Culture

From the meaning and definition of culture we can know about the nature of culture. Some of the aspects regarding the nature of culture are as follows:-

- **Learned Quality:** Culture is an acquired quality and not an inborn quality of men. The individual can learn about the concept, values and attitude through social interaction and imitation.
- **Social Quality:** Culture is the product of society. None can acquire culture without interaction by the members of the society. It is culture through which the members of the society can develop their values in a human environment.



➤ **Transmission Quality:** Culture is a transmission quality. Cultural traits and pattern are transmitted from one generation to the other. Transmission is possible through education, imitation and advice.

➤ **Continuous process:** Culture is a continuous process which continues from one generation to the other. Generally present culture of the society is followed by its past culture.

➤ **Culture is a dynamic process:** Culture is not static, it is dynamic. The cultural aspects like thinking pattern, values, belief, behavior, ideals and so on changes according to the changing nature of the environment.

➤ **Idealized quality:** Culture is based on ideals. The members of the society can take and apply the ideals and transmit it to the next generation.

Importance of Culture

Society and culture are closely related. Culture is the gateway of human society. Culture is also essential for both individual and society.

Importance of Culture on Individual life

There is an impact of culture on the individual life. These are mentioned below:

➤ The culture can influence on personality development of the individual. It can prepare the individual for preparation of group life and develop the standard of individual life.

- 
- Culture can help to develop the human qualities. Generally the people face many problems in their social life. But culture can help us how to face these problems. Because culture can help to develop the human values among the individuals through which they can live peacefully and co-operatively.
 - Culture is a way of life. It can give the proper way of life of the individual. The impacts of culture is very significant for solving the complex problems of the individual.

Importance of Culture on Group Life

There is an influence of culture on group life. These are as follows:

- a. Culture can help to keep the social balance. It can keep the people to live in the society by satisfying the fundamental needs i.e. food, clothes and shelter. Social life of the individual always depends on culture.
- b. Culture teach everyone to think himself/herself as part of the society in large. This means that culture lead one's mind to a broader aspect.

- 
- c. Culture creates new hope and ambition. That means it fulfils the ambitious mind in different aspects namely religion, moral, social and many more. Without culture there is no existence of society
 - d. Culture connects the present with past and thereby the upcoming generation can able to lead a well defined life



Bibliography:

Prepared with inputs from:

1. Sociological Foundation of Education by Dr.Meena Kumari Devi, Dr. Juri Mahanta and Dr. Chitra Sarma.
2. Snatok Moholar Shikshar Samajhtatik Dhara by Dr. Phunu Das Sarmah and Dr. Utpal Kalita