

CONSERVATION OF CULTURE AND HERITAGE THROUGH GENERATIONS

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Introduction:-

Cultural heritage is the legacy of physical artefacts and intangible attributes of a group of society that are inherited from past generation, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. Cultural heritage includes tangible culture (buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, works of art, and artefacts). It also includes intangible culture traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts intangible culture such as (folklore, traditions, language and knowledge) and nature heritage (including naturally significant landscapes and biodiversity). Whatever shape they take, these things form part of a heritage and this heritage requires active effort on our part in order to safeguard it. They may be significant due to their present or possible economic value, but also because they create a certain emotion within us, or because they make us feel as though we belong to something of a country, a tradition, a way of life. The best way to preserve our cultural heritage, whatever it may be, is to share it with others.

The Importance of Conserving heritage, tradition and race

Cultural heritage and natural history of a nation has a very high value and is unique. It is an identity that can be introduced to the world.

Culture heritage affirms our identity as a people because it creates a comprehensive framework for the preservation of cultural heritage including cultural sites, old buildings, monuments, shrines and landmarks that have cultural significance and historical value. The importance of intangible culture heritage is not the cultural manifestation itself but rather the wealth of knowledge and skill that is transmitted through it from one generation to the next. The social and economic value of this transmission of knowledge is relevant and minority groups and for mainstream social groups within a state, and is important for developing states as for developed ones.

How do we conserve heritage, tradition and culture in culturally diverse societies?

While fragile intangible cultural heritage is an important factor in maintaining cultural diversity in the face of growing globalisation. An understanding of the intangible cultural heritage of different communities helps with intercultural dialogue, and encourages mutual respect for other ways of life.

There is a risk that certain elements of intangible cultural heritage could die out or disappear without help, but how can we safeguard and manage a heritage that is constantly changing and part of 'live culture' without freezing or trivialising it? Safeguarding them is about the transferring of knowledge, skill and meaning.

Conservation of culture and heritage through education

The appreciation of cultural heritage should be communicated through an integrated education approach in this society. Sustainability in the conservation of cultural heritage through education should be encouraged. It is a way of how tangible and intangible cultural heritage can be safeguarded.

The role of media in conserving culture and heritage

Digital storage has played a large role in the conservation of cultural heritage. It has enabled the sharing of cultural and historical heritage around the world. Digital storage is not only the most popular method of conservation, but it is the trend for the future.

How do the arts strengthen cultural values ?

People pursue artistic and creative expression through a variety of outlets : formal theatrical performances, sculptures, paintings and buildings, as well as the less formal arts, music and food festivals, celebrations and informal culture gatherings, pickupbands and crafts groups. Together, these formal and informal, tangible and intangible, professional and amateur, artistic and cultural activities constitute a community's cultural assets. These activities which encompass a diverse set of locations, spaces, levels of professionalism and participation. products, events, consumers, creators and critics are essential to a community's well being economic and cultural vitality sense of identity and heritage.

Protecting culture and heritage

To be kept alive tangible cultural heritage must remain relevant to a culture and be regularly practiced and learned within communities and between

generations. Safeguarding measures to ensure that intangible cultural heritage can be transmitted from one generation to another are considerably different from those required for protecting tangible heritage (natural and cultural).

There is a risk that certain elements of intangible cultural heritage could die out or disappear without help, but safeguarding does not mean fixing or freezing intangible cultural heritage in some pure or primordial form. Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage is about the transferring of knowledge, skills and meaning.

Cultural rights and freedom

Cultural rights are human rights that aim at assuring the enjoyment of culture and its components in condition of equality, human dignity and non-discrimination. They are rights related to themes such as language; cultural and artistic production, participation in cultural life; cultural heritage; intellectual property rights; authors rights, minorities and access to culture, among others.

All persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial or linguistic background must not be denied the right, in community with other persons of that background, to enjoy his or her culture to declare and practise his or her religion and to use his or her language.

The Conservation of cultural heritage in times of conflict

Theft, war, Civil disorder, terrorism, neglect and vandalism are human factors in the accidental or willful destruction of our heritage. Of these threats, armed conflict remains particularly intractable and disturbing. Regrettably, of late we have experienced more than once how shocking the effects of a violent struggle can be on the heritage of countries. Undoubtedly the final decade of the 20th century marked by destruction of heritage on a symbolic scale that has been unrivalled for the past several centuries.

Disasters need to be managed in order to control them, or at least to mitigate the effects. Disaster Management Cycle should address issues relevant to all phases of the disaster cycle; preparedness, response, recovery, rebuilding, prevention and mitigation. Yet it should be realized that each collection, each building and each situation is unique and that every institution has to prepare for disasters with its own unique plan.

Conserving our heritage and improving our environment

It is recognized that the retention of heritage has environmental sustainability benefits. Conserving heritage buildings reduces energy usage associated with demolition waste disposal and new construction and promotes

sustainable development by conserving the embodied energy in the existing buildings.

Cultural heritage is under attack- from environmental degradation and climate change, from socio-economic pressure and the acceleration pace of urbanization from the strains of global tourism.

The Role of civil society in conversing heritage and culture

This panel session will explore how the active involvement of civil society is the best way to safeguard heritage and create opportunities for human and economic development. The session will explore best practice on experience.

It will involve state of the art theories, methodologies and good practice in mobilizing civil society around cultural heritage and their impact on its healthy development.

Approach to conservation of heritage

The heritage recovery programme will promote a wide range of approaches to heritage on case by basis. The ICOMOS New Zealand charter 2010 provides useful guidance. The approaches property owners may adopt include;

1. Stabilising structures and making them safe.
2. Repairing maintaining restoring and reconstructing structure.
3. Adapting buildings to new uses (known as adaptive reuse)
4. Retaining damaged heritage buildings as ruins, subject to public safety objectives being met.
5. Reusing parts of heritage buildings from damaged to more stable land if this enables buildings to be conserved that would not otherwise be saved.
6. Making additional in modern styles where this approach facilitates.

Conclusion

Heritage can play a role in redress, especially in situations where histories have been suppressed, distorted or silenced. If a particular framework is used, it opens and generates either a different understanding that would challenge past and present prejudices while also allowing for an acceptance of diversity.

Because heritage is not homogeneous, its role is also to encourage people to accept diversity as the wealth of a nation. Like culture and like identity

people can assume diverse cultural practices and can obviously also assume diverse identities. So too can they assume and accept the diverse from heritage.

A conceptual problem exists between the skill need in terms of the heritage sector, those in terms of tourism sector. It is essential when we look at the skills needs of the sectors, while we can begin to see what the roles and responsibilities of the heritage sectors really are. It is not a situation of the one being better than the other, as has been perceived for so long now, but it should rather be situation of understanding their symbiosis within industrial as well as cultural frameworks.

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