

INDIAN CULTURE

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ABSTRACT:

Life style has a major importance from ancient times. In various countries, people will adopt various cultures. India also has a culture from ancient times and the people of India also adapted to that culture. India's culture is considered to be the oldest culture that people had followed. Whole world will give respect to the India's culture as we know that, "India defined the culture to the world". The study revealed that present system of culture in India was not in practice and getting down. In order to save our Indian culture, people should not encourage the foreign products and their traditions. Instead they should use Swadeshi products and services. So the various different cultures in India laid a pathway to foreign culture which intends results in change of life style in India.

INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN LIFE STYLE:

The culture of India refers to a collection of minor unique cultures. The culture of India comprises of clothing, festivals, languages, religions, music, dance, architecture, food, and art in India. Most noteworthy, Indian culture has been influenced by several foreign cultures throughout its history. The culture mainly depends on how people live in India and their way of language. India was said to be the oldest country. But as we see the present situation they crossed us in every aspect. The only aspect we crossed among all the major countries is in terms of population. India stands in 2nd place in population. India's civilization was also considered to be the oldest civilization in the world. Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro are the two cities that paved the path for the Indus valley civilization. It is also said that India has defined the culture to various countries as we observe the well planned drainage system and other sophisticated facilities like Great bath, Granaries, Weight measures Street Planning and also their Social life in ancient Indian civilization.

Cultural Diversity in India

The Indian culture is a blend of its ethics, values, morals, practices, goals, and shared beliefs. The world admires us for our astounding rituals, unique traditions, diverse customs, and intriguing beliefs that are part of our vibrant culture. We represent a strong united nation despite our cultural diversity. Here is a peek through some unique elements of divergent cultures in India that make it such a great nation

Religious Diversity That Bind India In to One Nation

India has witnessed the rise and fall of great empires. They all converge into significant religions in India. In the secular state of India, everyone has an equal right to choose and practice a religion. Here, you will find Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, and Zoroastrians under the same roof dining in a restaurant. That is the beauty of religious diversity found only in our motherland.

Northern India is famous for its sacred religious places to worship God Shiva and Goddess Durga. Likewise, Southern India is renowned for the temples of Rameshwaram, Sabrimala, Sringeri, and Dakshineswar-Belur math. Many of the Hindu temples are located in symmetry with the magnetic wave lines of Earth. Such a disposition maximizes the available positive energy. Also, Muslims have well-known pilgrimages to Mecca and Dargah Sharif.

Sikhs have famous temples like Harmandir Sahib and Tarn Taran in Amritsar, Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib in Anandpur, and Talwandi Sabo in Bathinda. The intriguing anecdotes about the hot springs of the Manikaran Gurudwara in Himachal Pradesh are also world-famous. Furthermore, India has innumerable churches in every state.

Inspiring Cultural Practices and Religious Customs

One of the astounding practices in Hindu culture is Upvas or Fasting. People practice fasting to express their gratitude towards the deity. People observe fasts on various religious occasions. Hindus strongly believe that depriving your body of food can cleanse off your sins and shower heavenly blessings. Various animals are considered sacred in India. For example, Cow and Bull are considered holy animals in Indian culture. People worship cows on different religious occasions. You can also find various mentions to protect cows in Vedic scriptures.

Different Languages and Vibrant Attire

You can notice the diversity in Indian culture also in the languages and attire of Indian people. Although the widely spoken languages are Hindi and English. People in different states of India speak over 400 languages with differing dialects. You can notice the change in dialect even in adjoining states located a few kilometers away.

Many of the ancient languages have gone extinct over time. About 190 languages have been considered endangered because of the few people who can speak them now. Even clothing varies according to religion, region, and ethnicity in India. Our contemporary yet traditional Indian saris in beautiful colors and designs are famous worldwide. Women in traditional regional attire look graceful and noteworthy. Further, similar traditional clothing is available for Indian men in different religions.

Vibrant Festivals and Sacred Symbols

Different religions celebrate numerous festivals in India. For example, Hindus celebrate Diwali, Makar Sankranti, and Holi. Muslims celebrate Eid. While Sikhs celebrate Baisakhi and Guru Purab. Christians celebrate Christmas and Good Friday. While Jains celebrate Mahavir Jayanti. Also, Buddha Purnima is a famous festival of Buddhists.

You can find various sacred symbols associated with different religions. They indeed have profound meaning for the Indians. Some of these symbols are part of daily worship rituals. You can find many of them in religious texts and ancient scriptures. Every religion gets equal respect and space to flourish in India. Our nation depicts 'unity in diversity.' Here, people stay united despite diverse religious practices and different cultural beliefs.

Greetings - Unique Methods of Welcoming Guests

The greeting customs in India are as diverse as the Indian religions. For instance, Hindus greet elders and guests with folded hands or 'Namaste'. During the desperate times of pandemic, even different nations of the world have adopted this safe custom of greeting people. On the other hand, Muslims address outsiders by raising their right hand to their forehead or 'Adab'.

However, the significance of a simple Namaste is much more than what first meets the eye. According to Vedas, the ancient Hindu scriptures; Namaste is one of the five traditional forms of greetings. Indians go by the Sanskrit verse from sacred Hindu scripture that says 'Atithi Devo Bhavah'. It means guests are equivalent to god. Some people also put flower garlands around the neck of the guests to welcome them. Indeed, no other western greeting custom can create the magic as reflected by the Indian customs of greeting people. Indian landscape has numerous architectural masterpieces and heritage sites. Each of them has a story to decipher. There are about 37 breathtakingly beautiful UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India. Tourists from all over the world frequently visit these places.

CONCLUSION

To conclude with, there are different aspects of the Indian culture. Each aspect is practiced by people but not everyone believes in the different aspects. As you can see it is a very traditional culture, everyone has their opinion towards it, positive and negative. Therefore the Indian Culture is a very unique culture and has various practices. Although the youth do not believe in the traditional aspects, the culture will vary with time and will not be traditional anymore because of the modern world. All in all the aspects are frequently practiced but tomorrow's generation are going to change it.