

# Review on Plural Cultures and Plural Identities of South Asian Societies

Likitha VS

Assistant Professor, Department of Management, Center for Management Studies

JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), Bangalore, India

Email: likitha\_vs@cms.ac.in

**ABSTRACT:** *This review paper is not intended to discuss different theoretical concepts of identity. In the intercultural classroom it will concentrate on an educational concept to discuss cultural identities. In south Asian countries people from different cultures get into fights and clashes to show their superiority state compels everyone to follow 'mutual-coexistence' principle and live with each other with 'peace and amity'. Social injustice is the main philosophical complication which is the most important issues in politics, society and religion. Present time is a dramatic global development period which is making progress at a very rapid rate. But at the same time these are still needed for the interdisciplinary perspective for religion politics. That can be seen in many countries. Societies is made of many religions and every religion has its own importance. This paper helps to understand the South Asian communities are not intertwined with the state but with their pluralistic cultures and identities.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Asian, Cultural, Plural Identities, Societies.*

## INTRODUCTION

South Asia or southern Asia is the southern part of Asia. This region consists of India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka. These societies are woven around their cultural and plural identities. They all are related with each other in some or other way. In the 1950's and 60's most of these nations wrote their own constitution and established their law. People of these societies have seen both ancientness and modernness in their countries. Life of these peoples is influenced by their state's rule and law constitution etc. These states maintain their proper armed forces that help them to run the system and save them from external aggression and threat. People of these societies are free to practice them religiously but that is also within the constitutional PARAM. In south Asian societies there is a two-way process i.e. state on one hand and identity on other south Asian states are nascent and helped in coalescing their cultures and societies. But if proper measures are not taken than these then these different cultures and people got into fights as seen in Afghanistan and Pakistan[1].

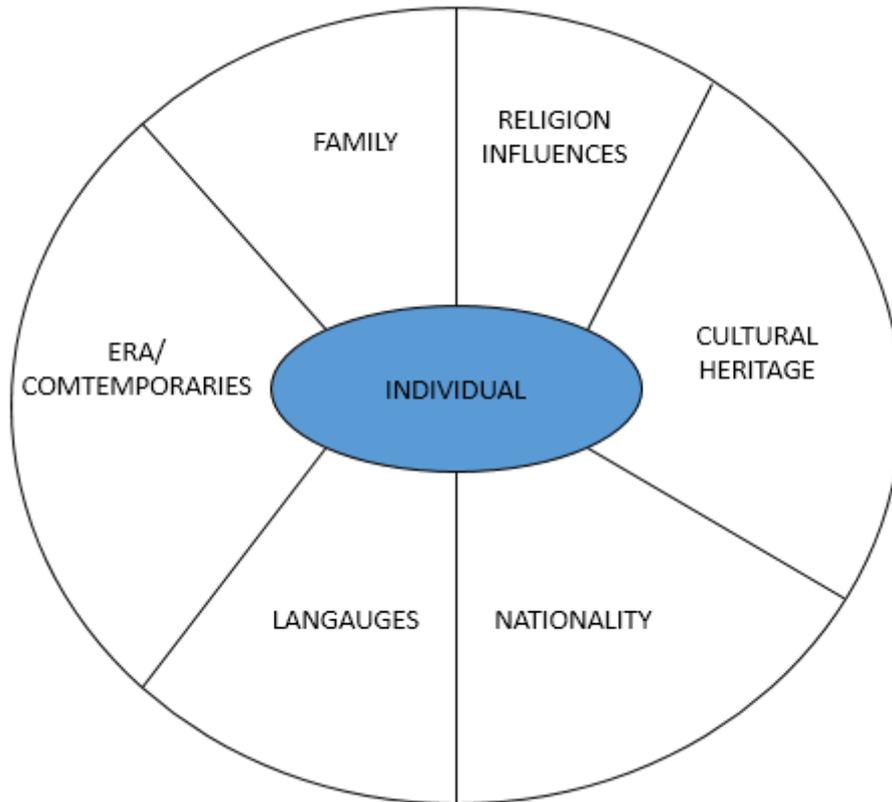
In these countries people from different cultures get into fights and clashes to show their superiority state compels everyone to follow 'mutual-coexistence' principle and live with each other with 'peace and amity'. In these societies people have seen threats to their culture and lives and these tendencies lead to fear of social conflict, tension, riots etc. And political leaders tend to see their advantage in such complicated matters and fuel this violence in the name of religion. But every society has diverse cultures and identities and they are bound by proper constitution and law, shared aspirations, administration, infrastructure and governance made by states[2], [3].

In politics, society and religion social injustice are the main philosopher's complications. The conjecture of fairness in immediate states is a problem in the circumstances of internationalism. Old political philosophers like Socrates, Aristotle and Plato spoke in antiquity of justice, virtue, democracy, rights, freedom, equality and ethics, mainly around Athens, and the plan of justice spread. These political theoreticians transfer concepts such as society, natural law and humanity to ideas such as justice, public virtue, social order participation and hierarchy. 'The Republic' works of Plato are systematic and scientific work in so many countries and the concept of justice divided between work and classes in society. Plato's idea of justice, which has been envisaged on two points of view: separately, justice which is a human moral which combines an autonomous and good person and social justice which is a social response that makes an internal society harmonious and good[4].

## DISCUSSION

### 1. State and Societies Notion on an Individual Level:

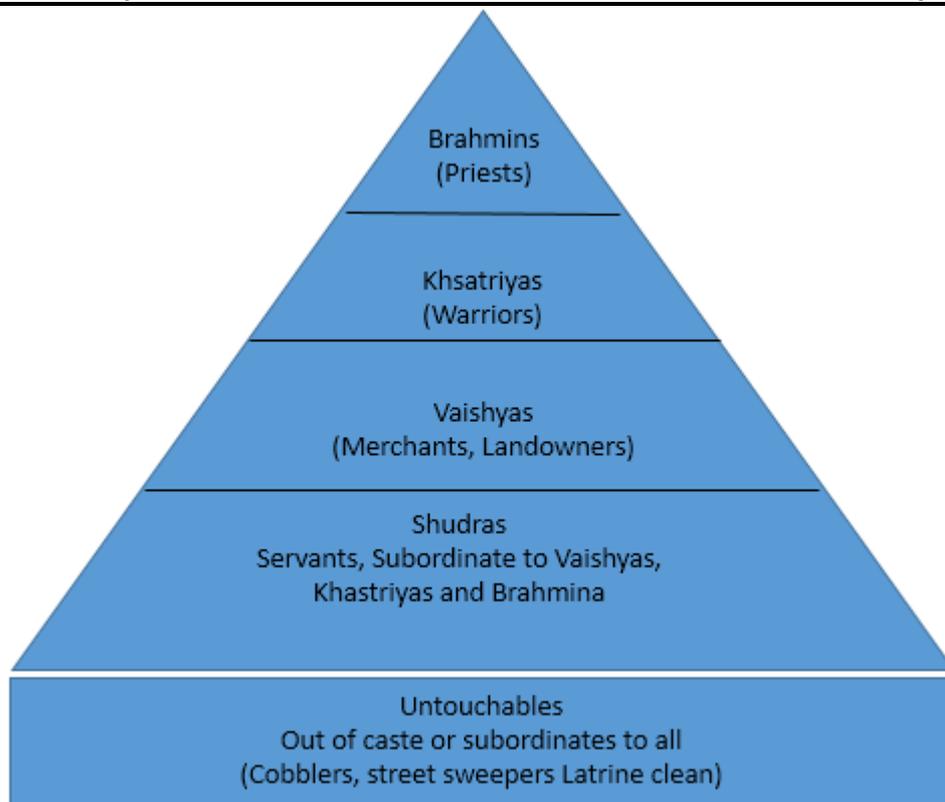
States and societies are made by people. But state and society have their own history, culture and respective nation means Territory containing organized political communities under one government societies are made by people and bound by their cultural and values and by living together with the people of other cultures. But at the same time identity is also very important for every community that helps in making of state but living of diverse societies has its own limitations too. People start thinking themselves higher from other societies or cultures and this leads to tension riots and violence between them. The main thing depends on how effectively it is able to maintain peace between people of different cultures and society and how effectively people follow state rules and regulations[5]. In Figure 1 the state and society's notion on an individual level.



**Figure 1: This Diagram Shows The State And Societies Notion On An Individual Level.**

## 2. South Asian Societies:

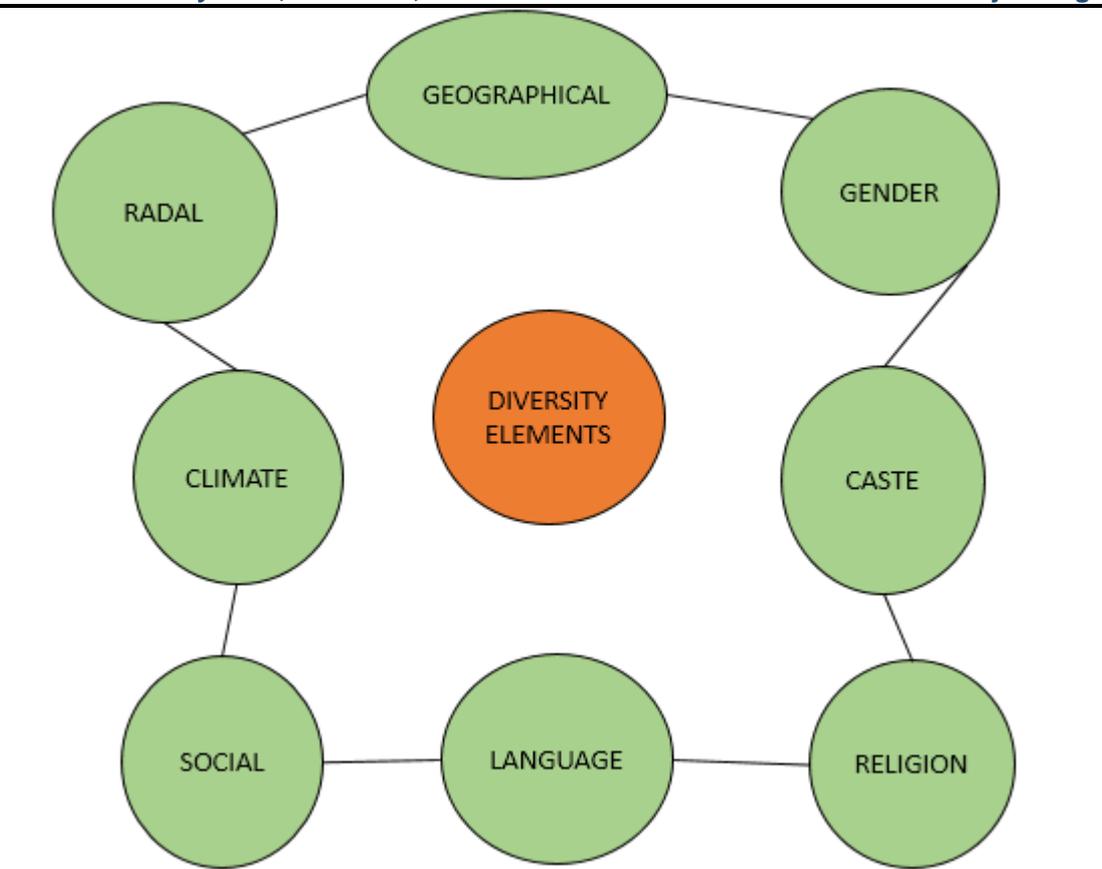
Southern Asia is the southernmost part of the Asian continent comprising countries. Every country has its own rich culture and value. Pakistan is one of the countries that is formed from other nations and that is why it consists of two such religions that are said to be not compatible with each other. First is Islam and other one is Hinduism. At the time of partition Pakistan's leader thought to make it a theorist state. Under democracy framework, whereas India decided to make a secular, pluralism and democratic country. Nepal is Hindu country with and follow democracy and same is done by Bhutan, Bangladesh is a Muslim country with Hindu minorities and Sri Lanka has population of Sinhalese, Jamil Hindu and Muslim minorities but both the countries follow democratic rule. South Asian societies are very ancient and are very rich in their history and culture. These societies have undergone a lot of transformation since age[6]. In Figure 2 shown the hierarchy of countries system.



**Figure 2: This Diagram Shows the Hierarchy Of Countries System.**

### 3. Diversity in States:

There is a lot of diversity in south Asian societies from demographic and cultural point of view seen from a religious perspective there are Hindu, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains and Buddhist. And from a historical perspective there were different groups like Dravidians, Aryans etc. These are variations in languages also there are many language usages spoken in this area. The largest spoken language in this area is Hindi, followed by Bengali, Jamil, Urdu, deluge, Marathi, Punjabi and Gujarat. Punjabi language spans three religions. Islam, Skhisims and Hinduism. Though spoken language is similar but their written form is different. Muslim, Punjabi of Pakistan use nastalig script, Sikh uses Gurumukhi alpha bat, Hindu Punjabi in India use Gurumukhi or nagari script. Gurumukhi and Nagri script is different but close in their structure. This is why South Asian societies are known for their diversification[7][8]. In Figure 3 shown the diversity in states in Asian countries

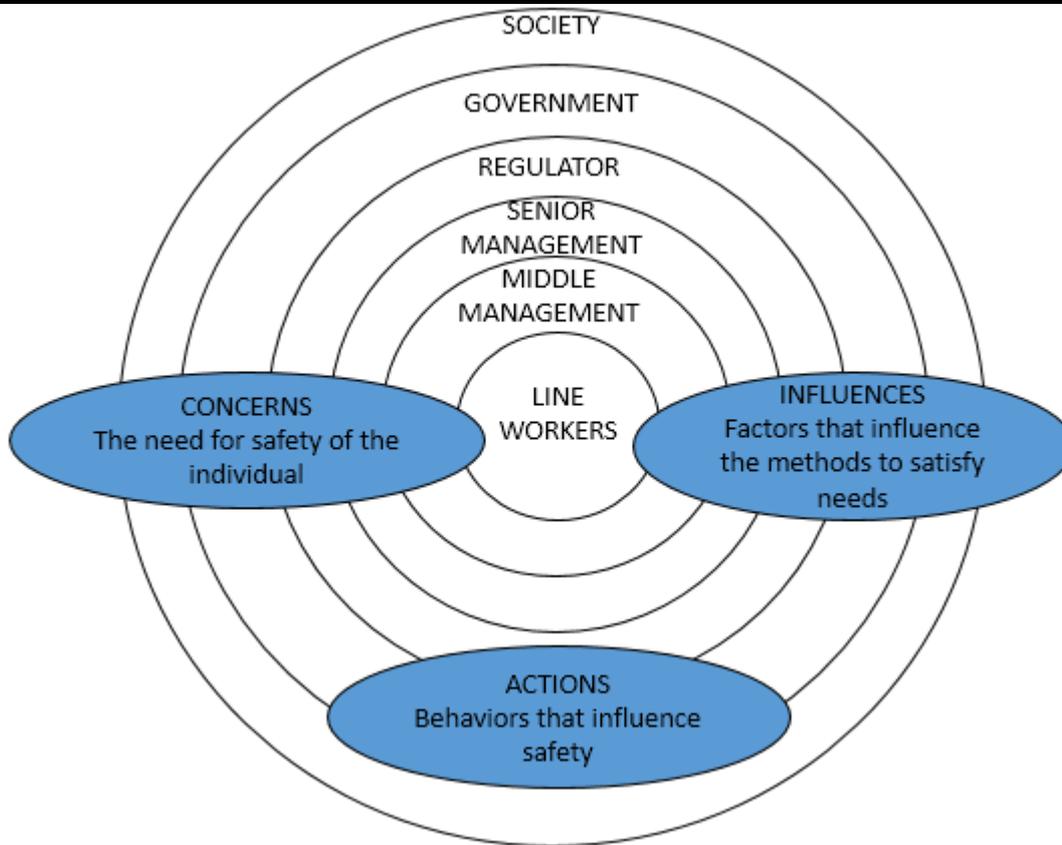


**Figure 3: This flow diagram shows diversity in states in Asian countries.**

#### 4. Influence of Culture and Society:

It is seen that there is diversity in south Asian society but sometimes this becomes a hurdle in making a peaceful and prosperous society. But history shows that this society has learnt over the years to coexist. Their religious Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism bound these societies together and help them to learn their customs and values. Diverse culture and identities also divided people according to their caste into majority and minority. This leads to social discrimination and leads to social conflicts. These societies are known for their patriarchal where gender discrimination can be seen through during some period in history women's are treated equally. But still today women are facing social barriers in many parts.[9]

Influence of society and culture on behaviors and attitudes object to build the employ social, political and cultural data-driven structure to explain and explore behaviors and attitudes. The efforts require classifying the elements that play remarkable roles in behaviors and attitudes, abstracting general order from traditional research for sociological cases studies, studying the inferencing infrastructure that allow several elements to influence the decision-making, reasoning from several points of views, and applying them in predicting behavior. In Figure 4 shown the influence of culture and society at different levels.



**Figure 4: This Diagram Shows The Influence Of Culture And Society At Different Levels.**

### CONCLUSION

Present time is a dramatic global development period which is making progress at a very rapid rate. But at the same time these are still needed for the interdisciplinary perspective for religion politics. That can be seen in many countries. Societies is made of many religions and every religion has its own importance. In keeping with the division of labour, these classes do different work. Justice is a matter for each organism Researchers found that Plato's justice is based on discrimination of class, work and society. Plato's Justice reflects Indian and Hindu castes such as Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishya and Shudras. In modern democratic countries, Plato's concept of justice is not acceptable. But in a welfare society all human beings live. The rule of law is maintained by democracy and laws are adopted to establish a welfare state. The welfare state is a society, according to Cole, in which every citizen possesses an assured minimum standard of living and chance. The justice of Plato does not concentrate on the welfare state. For him it is more important to divide labour. People of these societies are free to practice them religiously but that is also within the constitutional PARAM. In south Asian societies there is a two-way process i.e. state on one hand and identity on other south Asian states are nascent and helped in coalescing their cultures and societies.

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