

CULTURE AND SOCIALIZATION ONE SHOT





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CULTURE

Culture is the **way of life of a society**, including values, beliefs, knowledge, customs and behaviour learned by people.

Culture is:

- A way of **thinking, feeling and believing**
- **Learned behaviour**
- **Social heritage** passed from one generation to another
- Helps regulate behaviour in society

Example: Greeting elders by touching feet, saying "Namaste".

Definitions of Culture

E.B. Tylor:

Culture is a **complex whole** including knowledge, beliefs, art, morals, law and customs.

Bronislaw Malinowski:

Culture includes **artifacts, goods, technical processes, ideas, habits and values.**

Clifford Geertz:

Humans live in **webs of significance**; culture gives meaning to actions.

Leslie White:

Culture adds **meaning to reality.**

Dimensions of Culture

1. Cognitive Dimension

Refers to how people **understand and interpret information** around them.

Example: Recognising a political cartoon or mobile ringtone.

2. Normative Dimension

Refers to **rules and values** guiding behaviour.

Includes:

Folkways: Everyday habits
Example: Greeting others

Mores: Important moral rules
Example: Respecting elders

Customs: Traditional practices
Example: Festivals

Laws: Rules made by the state

3. Material Dimension

Includes physical objects and technology used by society.

Examples: Mobile phones, machines, buildings, ATM, vehicles.

Culture Lag:

When **material culture** changes faster than **non-material culture**, creating imbalance.

Culture and Identity

Identity develops through **social roles and interactions**.

Examples of roles:

- Student
- Daughter/Son
- Friend

People create identities through:

- Language
- Behaviour
- Relationships

Subculture

A **smaller group within a larger culture** having its own style, values and behaviour.

Examples:

- Youth culture
- Student groups

Ethnocentrism

Judging other cultures using one's **own culture as superior**.

Example: Believing one's traditions are better than others.

Cosmopolitanism

Respecting and accepting **different cultures**.

Example: Adopting food, language or music from different cultures.

Difference:

Ethnocentrism → Cultural superiority

Cosmopolitanism → Cultural acceptance

Cultural Change

Meaning:

Change in cultural patterns and practices over time.

Causes of Cultural Change

Internal causes

- New technology
- New agricultural methods

External causes

- Colonisation
- Contact with other cultures

Natural causes

- Environmental changes

Types:

Evolutionary change

- Slow and gradual change

Revolutionary change

- Rapid and radical change

Example: French Revolution

Socialisation

Meaning:

Socialisation is the process through which an individual learns **values, norms, skills and behaviour** of society.

It makes a person a functioning member of society.

Features:

- **Lifelong process**
- Starts at birth
- Shapes personality

Primary and Secondary Socialisation

Primary Socialisation

- Occurs in early childhood
- Mainly through **family**

Secondary Socialisation

- Continues throughout life
- Through school, peers, media, workplace

Agencies of Socialisation

Family

- First and most important agency
- Teaches language, values and behaviour

Peer Group

- Friends of similar age
- Develop cooperation and interaction

School

- Provides formal education
- Teaches discipline and social values

Mass Media

- Television, internet, newspapers
- Influences attitudes and behaviour

Other Agencies

- Neighbourhood
- Religion
- Workplace
- Region

Socialisation and Individual Freedom

Socialisation does **not completely remove individuality**.

It:

- Shapes behaviour
- Develops self-identity
- Helps independent thinking

Gendered Socialisation

Society often teaches **different expectations for boys and girls.**

Examples:

- Boys encouraged to play outside
- Girls expected to be more restricted

This creates **gender differences in behaviour and opportunities**

H/W

1. Write E.B. Tylor's definition of culture.
2. What is meant by culture lag?

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