



CULTURE & SOCIALIZATION

RAPID REVISION

 **20** MINUTES
TO SCORE HIGH!

CLASS 11

CULTURE

- Everyday comparison is common field of study
- Used to understand everyday life of certain classes
- Culture is learned, not inherited
- Culture includes values, beliefs, norms, symbols

Sociology → Culture

- Social institutions
- Shared meanings
- Learned, transmitted, accumulated
- Culture helps in adapting, survival & identity

Definition of Culture

Edward Tylor –

“Culture or civilisation taken in its wide ethnographic sense is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society.”

Bronislaw Malinowski –

→ Inherited artefacts, goods, technical processes, ideas, habits and values.

Clifford Geertz –

→ Man is an animal suspended in webs of significance he himself has spun.
→ Culture is those webs.

Leslie White –

→ Culture as a means of adding meaning to objects
→ Reality regarding ideas, particular events & beliefs

Characteristics of Culture

- It is not an individual but collective
- Individuals are born into culture
- Culture is shared by all members of society
- Culture develops through interaction over time

DIMENSIONS OF CULTURE

1. Cognitive

- Knowledge, beliefs, ideas
- What we know, believe, understand
- E.g. language, symbols, meanings

2. Normative

- Norms, values, rules
- Social expectations
- Includes customs, traditions, laws
- Regulates behaviour

3. Material

- Objects created by humans
- Tools, technology, buildings
- Physical products of culture

Ethnocentrism

- Application of one's own cultural values in judging other cultures
- Evaluating behaviour & beliefs of others by standards of one's own culture
- Opposite of cultural relativism

Ethnocentrism example

Culture A ↑

Culture B ↓

- No exchange
- One culture considered superior
- Found in traditional societies

Cosmopolitanism

- Respect for other cultures
- Exchange between cultures
- Modern societies
- Values culture A + culture B

Subculture

- Marked by style, taste & association
- Identified by shared dress, speech, lifestyle
- Preference sets
- Acceptance + recognition = identity → subculture

Identity

- Not inherited but fashioned
- Through social relationships & interaction

SOCIALIZATION

- Lifelong process
- Process of learning
- Through which individual becomes social being.

Characteristics

- Cultural transmission
- Learning
- Sharing
- Assimilation
- Lifelong

Agencies of Socialization

Family: Parents, grandparents, uncles; first and key socializing agent

Peer Group: Equal and friendly relations

School: Formal organisation with a defined curriculum

Mass Media: Important source of information; films, serials (e.g. *Shaktiman*)

Workplace Groups: Socialization into work roles

Neighbourhood: Informal social influence

Religion, Caste and Class: Shape values, beliefs, and behaviour

Region: Influences language, food, and customs

Culture and Socialization: Interdependent; **culture** is the way of life, **socialization** is the process of learning it

Society: Human interaction forms relationships; relationships create groups; groups together form society

1. According to Clifford Geertz, culture can best be understood as:

- a) A system of laws and customs
- b) Biological inheritance of traits
- c) Webs of significance spun by humans
- d) Material objects created by society

2. Which of the following is an agency of socialization that provides a *formal* and *defined curriculum*?

- a) Family
- b) Peer group
- c) School
- d) Mass media



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