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Unity in Diversity

Understanding of diversity

Our country is a country of diversity. It has a unique identity having diversity in religion, language, caste and economic equality.

Apart from food, festival, customs, rituals and attire variation is also seen in social life. Let us see what we can do for unity and equality in our country.

Think

- In what ways do you differ from the children in your class ? Students in your class differ from you in many ways still why are they your friends ?

The diversity which is seen in Indians is rarely seen in other countries of the world. India has become a sub-continent due to these diversities. In our country, diversity is seen in the colour-complexion, attire, religion, language, food etc. from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh.

Religion

People having faith in different religion live in our country. People following various religion like Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism and Judaism live together harmoniously, inspite of religious diversity. All the religions are given equal importance in our country with good intension that all can practise or follow their religion equally.

Language

Hindi, English, Gujarati, Bengali, Marathi, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Udiya and Konkani etc. languages are spoken in our country. Inspite of existing diversity in language various languages have importance to maintain unity of our country.

Culture

Cultural diversity is widely seen in our country due to differences in religion and language. Cultural diversity can easily be seen in various regions or states.

People living in different parts of the country celebrate festivals like Diwali, Holi, Uttarayan, Dusshera, Shivratri, Ganesh-Chaturthi, Eid, Christmas, Ashadhi-Duj, Mohurram, Buddha Jayanti, Mahavir Jayanti, Onam, Pateti, Baishakhi etc. together.

Things to know

- People living in the different parts of our country have expertise in different types of dances like Ras, Garba (Gujarat), Bhangra (Punjab), Kathak (Uttar Pradesh), Kuchi-pudi (Andhra Pradesh), Kathakali (Kerala), Bharatnatyam (Tamil nadu), Bihu (Assam), Odishi (Odisha), Ghoomar (Rajasthan) etc.



Along with diversities, there are also many variations in people's food, attire, residence, customs and traditions etc. India has become a country with diversity because of geographical factors like climate, topography, farming, forests etc.

• Activity •

- See the map of India. Find out the location of Assam and Kerala. How does geographical condition of both the state affect their food, attire, farming, occupation etc. of the people of the these states ? Make a list of it with the help of your teacher.
- Make a list of festivals with the help of calender.
- Names of some festivals are given below. Write down in the given box people of which religion celebrate them :

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Pateti | <input type="text"/> | 2. Eid | <input type="text"/> |
| 3. Shivratri | <input type="text"/> | 4. Baisakhi | <input type="text"/> |
| 5. Christmas | <input type="text"/> | 6. Mahavir Jayanti | <input type="text"/> |
- Name of some of the dances are given below. Fill in the blanks with the name of state associated with dance.

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. Kathakali | _____ | 2. Ghoomar | _____ |
| 3. Ras-garba | _____ | 4. Bhangra | _____ |

Unity in Diversity

Indian culture is one of the ancient culture of the world. People of our country differ from one another in many ways such as attire, food, residence, religion, language, custom, festival etc. Yet there is emotional unity. Unity in diversity is a unique feature of our country.

People of different religions, languages and castes, love and honour their country, they have a feeling of sacrifice and co-operation for their nation, it is called national unity.

Development in the economic, social, industrial field occurs because of national unity. People maintain peace, security and prosperity inspite of the diversities. That's why Dr. Radha Krishnan stated that "If we want to survive as a nation, we must accept need of national unity." During the freedom movement our countrymen made the vision of unity possible through the feeling of patriotism and sacrifice. Unity in diversity is a special feature of our country.

• Think •

- Indian unity is also expressed in our national anthem which is composed by Rabindranath Tagore. Describe what does national anthem explain about unity ?

Different castes, religions, customs, cultures, languages etc. are integrated in India. Since India has a diverse culture, it has been able to create a variety in culture. India has followed the principle of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (The whole world is a family). India in true sense spreads the feeling of religious tolerance and equality in the world. India is a secular country. Unity in diversity is a unique feature of Indian cultures. In our country we see combination of various religions, castes, languages and festivals. People of India live a life of co-existence. Indian people have developed and conserved this unique diversity.

Efforts for diversity and Equality

Various types of diversities are seen in our country. Discrimination is seen due to these diversities. Discrimination on the basis of rich-poor, male-female, literate-illiterate, urban-rural and castes are seen in our country. In the ancient time, social structure was occupation based varna system. Due to this many groups remained backward socially and economically. Hence differences based on castes came into existence. Most of the literate people earn more so their living standard is high. They maintain reputed status in the society. Differences based on literate and illiterate can also be seen. Most of the people in India are living in rural area. Urban people are quite less as compared to rural people. Due to major difference in their living standard differences have arisen among rural and urban people. Since Right to equality is given in our constitution after independence untouchability is removed. Now the right to equality is granted to everybody so all the people get equal opportunity, justice and status. RTE has given the right to free and compulsory education to children, so everybody has got an opportunity of primary education. Government has enhanced the educational and infrastructure facilities like village roads, primary health centre, electricity, drinking water etc. for the community development. Equal opportunities are granted to women according to the constitutional provisions so that their honor and respect can be maintained.

Because of getting constitutional right, people follow their own religion, speak their own language, celebrate their own festival, discrimination is decreasing after independence. Some seats are kept reserved for the people of certain caste in the election of Gram Panchayat to Parliament. Same thing is considered in the matter of jobs also. Hostels, scholarships and schemes of financial assistance for the students are implemented so that all can get opportunity for the further development in social, economical, cultural and political field.

Discrimination between Girls and Boys

Not only in India but also in the world women play a major role as a resource in national development. Due to biological differences with a social and cultural view point, there is a difference in the upbringing of girls and boys. So we find difference in their development also. Today, majority of women remain engaged in cooking household chores and up bringing children. Women don't have importance to take decision regarding family matters. Girls are deprived of health care, education and economical rights. Girls are not given equal opportunities in the field of sports, education. They are deprived of moving freely and thinking independently. They are not even treated equally. Girls are victims of child marriages, parda system, dowry system and other evil customs because of low literacy rate. Birth of boy is given preference so girls become victims of female foeticide. Less number of female in various fields show the discrimination between male and female clearly. With the rising level of education this discrimination is gradually disappearing.



• Things to know •

● Efforts to remove differences towards female

- National commission for women was formed in 1992.
- Nari Adalat have been established so that women can easily get justice.
- Women welfare centres were formed to solve problems of women.
- Society and government have made combined efforts to increase ratio of girl education.
- Laws have been framed to ensure equal ownership in family property.
- Strict laws have been framed to prohibit child marriages, dowry system and female foeticide.
- Many programmes have been implemented since 1980 in our country to ensure that women receive equal status, education and security.

Exercises

1. Answer the following questions in short :

- (1) Which languages are spoken in our country ?
- (2) Which religions do people follow in our country ?
- (3) Why is our country, the country of diversity ?
- (4) What is national unity ?

2. Explain in short :

- (1) 'Unity in diversity' is seen among people.
- (2) Efforts for diversity and equality.

3. State whether the following statements are true or false :

- (1) In the post-independence years, discrimination is gradually decreasing.
- (2) Our country is made up of cities.
- (3) Some seats are not reserved in election.

4. Answer the following questions :

- (1) Write in short about discrimination between girls and boys.
- (2) India is a secular country. Explain the statement.

5. Fill in the blanks :

- (1) People of Maharashtra speaks mostly language.
- (2) People of Punjab are known for dance.
- (3) People celebrating Mahavir Jayanti follow religion.
- (4) Ras-garba of state is famous in India.