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## What is Culture?

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Culture is totally, social learners' behavior of the way of people. Culture is one of the important concept in sociology. Its significance in sociology is quite different from everybody. Popular meaning of culture knows human society cannot exist and develop without its culture. The main difference between the animals and human society is of culture only. Animal society doesn't have culture because they don't have the system of learning and transmitting social experience. Sociologists are only interested in the study of culture because the study of human society is incomplete without it.

### **Definition**

Culture has been defined differently by different sociologists and social scientists. Some important definitions of culture are the followings.

1. **Taylor** "Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, believe, law, art, customs and any other capabilities and habits acquired by men as a member of society."
2. **Herskovits** "Culture is man-made of environment is called culture."
3. **Johns** "Culture is the way of life which is transmitted from one generation to another."

### **Conclusion**

On the basis of above definitions we can conclude that culture is the design, pattern, way and procedure of different activities follow and transmitted from one generation to another.

### **Characteristics of Culture**

Sociologically culture has specific meaning and characteristics. It is the product of human behavior and gaining knowledge through varies groups. It is a system of learn behavior and set procedure.

Some important characteristics are the following.

1. Culture is learned
2. Culture is a social concept
3. Culture is actually shared behavior
4. Culture is transmitted
5. Culture is ever changing
6. Culture is accumulative
7. Culture is linked with the past
8. Culture manifest man's mind

### **Types of Culture**

Sociologically culture has specific meanings and types:

Culture is the design, pattern, way and procedure of different activities. It is the product of human behavior and some important types of culture are the following.

1. **Material Culture**
2. **Non-material Culture**
3. **Real Culture**
4. **Ideal Culture**

### 1. Material Culture

From material culture we understand material and physical objects such as radio, TV, chairs and books. These are the products of human efforts to control his environment and make his life comfortable and safe. It is also consider as including natural objects that have meaning to man and are used by him and her or modified by him or her.

### 2. Non-material Culture

In this culture we include non-material objects such as religion, customs, values, systems and attitude. It doesn't have a physical shape and it is very important in determining in human behavior and his strong hold on individual both parts are enter-related with each other.

### 3. Real Culture

It is a culture which can be observed in social life. The culture on which we act upon in daily life is called real culture. It is that part of culture which the people adopt in their social life, for example if a person says that he/she is a Muslim will be, when followed all the principles of Islam is the real culture.

### 4. Ideal Culture

It is that culture which is presented as a pattern to the people is called ideal culture. It is the goal of society and never achieve fully because some parts remain out of practice and this culture is explaining in books and in speeches.

## Our Culture

Pashtun culture (Pashto: پښتني هڅوب) is based on Pashtunwali, which is an ancient way of life, as well as speaking of the Pashto language and wearing Pashtun dress.

### Holidays and special events

The biggest holidays for Pashtuns are the Islamic Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, followed by Afghan Independence Day (August 19) and Pakistan Independence Day (August 14). The arrival of Sparlay or spring, known as Nawa-Wraz (New Day), is also celebrated by some Pashtuns. It is an ancient annual Pashtun festival which celebrates both the beginning of spring and the New Year. Amongst some Pashtuns, Sheshbeeyeh, a prelude festival to Nawroz, is also celebrated. This tradition still survives, mainly amongst the southerners, in Bannu and Waziristan. During holidays, Pashtuns set up festivals in which they usually attend mosques to make special prayers, have cookouts in parks, and go to fairs.

### Pashto poetry

Afghanistan and Pakhtunkhwa. were noted for its poetic language even before the Islamic conquest of Afghanistan. The Pata Khazana contains Pashto poetry written as far back as the 8th century. Some notable poets from the region of Afghanistan-Pakistan include Pir Roshan, Amir Kror Suri, Khushal Khan Khattak, Rahman Baba, Nazo Tokhi, Ahmad Shah

Durrani, Timur Shah Durrani, Shuja Shah Durrani, Ghulam Muhammad Tarzi, and Khan Abdul Ghani Khan.

Pashtun men usually gather at special events and listen to Pashto poetry. There are TV programs which broadcast such events to the wider Pashtun audiences. One such program is on AVT Khyber channel in Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, with Amanullah Kakar as the presenter.

### **Attan dance**

In this dance, the dancers perform to the beat of the music. It is typically performed by men and women. It involves 2–5 steps, ending with a clap given while facing the centre, after which the process is repeated. The hips and arms are put in a sequential movement including left and right tilts, with the wrists twisting in sequence. Ultimately a hand is projected outward and brought in a 'scoop-like' fashion towards the centre where the other hand meets it for a clap. This dance is typically performed with the musician dictating the duration and speed.

### **Clothing**

Pashtun men usually wear a Partūg-Kamees in Pashto (sometimes worn with a pakul or paṭkay). In the Kandahar region young men usually wear different type of hat similar to a topi and in the Peshawar region they wear white kufis instead. Leaders or tribal chiefs sometimes wear a karakul hat, like Hamid Karzai and others. The Pashtun Lungai (or Paṭkay) is the most worn headpiece in Afghanistan, with different tribes having different styles and colours to indicate what tribe or region they come from.

Women and girls wear traditional long dresses and cover their hair with a light piece of cloth.

### **Cuisine**

Pashtun cuisine varies among districts in Afghanistan. Pashtuns are known for their large varieties of dried fruit and yogurt based dishes. Yogurt called 'maasta' is usually made by the Pashtuns themselves in their own homes. The national dish of Afghanistan is "Qabili Pulaw" and is served in the Pashtun areas of Pakistan as well. Chai (tea) plays a big role in Pashtun gatherings and is served with dried fruits and kulcha (biscuit). Desserts such as firni (custard) are also very popular.



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## Has social media affected our society or not?

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"Social media is changing the way we communicate and the way we are perceived, both positively and negatively. Every time you post a photo, or update your status, you are contributing to your own digital footprint and personal brand." --Amy Jo Martin

It is quite tricky to put an answer to the question of whether or not social media enhances or detracts from society. I feel that there is a very split view on this question, and that view does have to do a lot with age. Typically, you see most Baby Boomers who aren't fond or knowledgeable of any social media besides Facebook (this is you, Mom and Dad!) On the contrary, you see young adults and adolescents from Generations Y and Z who are completely consumed by social media, some making their living off of being a social media star, on platforms such as Vine or YouTube.

As a member of Generation Z, I have a pretty split opinion myself on this issue of the pros or cons of social media in our society. I think any member of society with Wi-Fi and a device to connect to can see there are both positives and negatives to social media, however, I feel that many people perceive the negatives to outshine the positives.

### **Social Media Has a Negative Impact Because...**

Social media unfortunately has a negative impact on society, because instead of people having to build up their own strength to be mean and say horrible things to someone in person, face-to-face, they can hide behind their phone, tablet, computer, or any sort of virtual shield that will keep them from having to confront anyone, all the while spreading hate and pettiness. When you leave a hurtful remark on someone's Instagram picture, you don't have to visually react to that person being hurt and you can say those mean things, and then just leave them to be crushed by your words and not know why or if there is any real reason you may have said those things. Social media apps such as Twitter fuel the fire between teenagers trying to get the most retweets and likes, even if that means bashing on someone else's tweets, pictures, etc. Instagram is similar, where even if no one is directly hating on your posts, many teenagers are constantly in dire need to have their photo get more likes than the next girl or guy, to feel a sense of fulfillment or accomplishment. Numbers are a **HUGE** thing with social media.

"Those two girls posted the same picture, but one of them got 50 more likes! How embarrassing for the other girl."

"How did he get so many likes on that tweet? He literally just tweeted 'Man, I love college', like that's not even creative or funny!"

Those are both things I've actually heard people say, which just reemphasizes how many people are possessed by social media and the fame and popularity that *can* come with it, but doesn't always follow suit to one amazing tweet or a super artsy Instagram picture. It is the drive to reach that "status" of fame or popularity that ultimately corrupts so many girls and guys, and the image they have of themselves and their peers.

**Social Media Has a Positive Impact Because...**

Social media doesn't have to always be perceived as something negative and harmful to anyone it touches. Social media has shown it can be a great, uplifting tool for many youths and young adults in our society.

As you have probably seen on Instagram, almost any time a girl posts a pretty picture of herself, she gets resounding praise from her friends and peers (at least that's what I've seen).

So many people comment about how beautiful she is or how she is #goals

Social media has been a major outlet for people who have come out as homosexual, seen on places such as YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, and Facebook (once in a blue moon though). These individuals confide in their social media, and from what most can see, there is a tremendous amount of love and support shown towards those individuals who share their story. But, it's not just people sharing their coming out story. People can share their experiences, both good and bad, things they've had to overcome, amazing stories of memories they will cherish for their lifetime, and even just maybe sharing about themselves in a very general way.

With all of this sharing in a very virtual community, there is the opportunity to put others down and tell them they're ugly, stupid, useless, etc. However, there is also room for people to bring each other up and make our peers feel accepted, loved, and like they belong. You don't have to tell each stranger you encounter on social media that you love them and can't live without them, but you shouldn't drop horrible comments on someone's social media posts when you don't even know them, or even if you do.

So what do you think? Is social media enhancing or detracting from society? And what about your contribution? Does your activity on social media help society or take away from it?

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## What are the drawbacks of Western culture in our society?

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I would like to draw the attention of government, print media, electronic media and the policy makers of the state towards the effect of westernisation on the culture of Pakistan. Culture is very important for one's society, it is the invisible bond which ties people together. The art, literature, language, and religion of a community represent its culture. Pakistan has a rich and unique culture that has preserved, established traditions throughout history. But with the passing time the western culture, not only influenced Pakistan politically, economically, and socially, but it also influenced their minds and culture to such an extent that even subsequent generations have absorbed the influence as well. Westernisation has been spread throughout our country because of media. The TV channels show various newscasters and different characters in the dramas wearing westernised clothes. Even our TV shows are now depicting the western style of dressing and decor. The media of today is exploiting the personalities of the new generation. It presents the western world in such a glittering way that anybody can become its victim. Westernisation fades away our religious values. Media shows different programs that leave a negative impact on the children about drugs, disobedience, unnecessary freedom. Media plays a prominent role in ruining the culture and moral values and is encouraging youth to adopt western culture in the name of modernisation.

It's wrong to presume that western culture is inferior. Western culture is in fact superior.

What we all think that they have bad culture in the west is about the personal and individual behaviour and habits like having and not having close-knit family, dating, free sex, individuality, independence, freedom, strict and stringent rule of law, discipline, no nonsense approach and attitude, work holism, materialism, lack of family values, atheism, variety of religious and cultural activities, attitude towards money are in fact our weaknesses and their strengths. The opposite of these are our weaknesses! There is too much of all these in both west and east. What they are is because of their culture. What we are is because of our culture. What is our ranking in the world? Now, tell me who is superior?

How many westerners are living in India? How many Indian companies give employment to westerners in India? How many tourists visit India in a year? What are your popular things popular abroad? How many you have converted to Hinduism or any other religion in the west, except Yoga?

How this superior culture marries only within same caste, same sub caste, gothra, same job, same status, same income? Superiority! Of one over the other!

Too much choice and no boundaries - OK that can be good and bad but for those who cannot handle the responsibility of their own lives - it's bad.

Drugs, gambling and other human software glitches are ruining many lives.

Some might say - it's not their fault it's so piety or its how they were raised. Well choice in how you raise your kids is also a choice. Choice in how you select your options from the infinite possibilities available also is part of the issue.

What I am saying is that for most people their worst enemy is themselves.

I still prefer my western lifestyle and my bad choices to others though.

There are bad aspects to western cultures like the destruction of the family structure it's no longer a family friendly culture. Over indulgence in food sex etc... and a lack of temperance in the manners. There is no philosophical tradition or religious tradition that canalize the human being like in other cultures. The obsession with the youth and a fear of getting hold. An irrational fear of death.



Kids will be kids, boys will be boys and so on, it cleans up as it gets older... but, my complaint about it would be it's so easy to satisfy... in the sense of its very mainstream, people are easy going so... I guess that's the positive to that con, but pop culture I find a little embarrassing personally, as much as I've been a fashion victim to it in youth. Western culture sucks because it's not all ages anymore, from the elderly to the children dancing together anymore, too much red tape, too many law suits, now it's dim lights and pretty smutty instead which is a loss...

Who said that? Western culture has a Greek -Roman -Christian heritage. Western culture has always had a great respect for individual freedom and human rights. Eastern culture has always been more concerned about the group and traditions than to the individual. Of course I am speaking in general and you have great philosophers, rulers, religions, traditions and everything in both cultures. And also terrible mistakes in both of them.

When it comes to culture, be it any, it is wrong to bring yardsticks to assess or analyse it. No culture is superior or inferior. They are just different and has evolved over times. There is no 'western' culture as well as 'eastern' culture. Even if you take something as 'western' culture, there again would be question as to what exactly can come under such a tag. So the question of which culture is superior or inferior, bad or good, is basically void.

### **Social Tension**

Social tension can occur as a result of cultural and linguistic differences. In Europe, for instance, tension between the Muslim minority and the largely secular majority is frequently attributed to the incommensurability of Islamic and Secular values. The tensions caused by culture are thought to be exacerbated by economic differences, as European Muslim populations are frequently disadvantaged in employment due to a lack of educational opportunities. According to Harvard professor Robert B. Putnam, these kinds of tensions often result in populations "hunkering down" in their homes instead of interacting with their neighbours.

### **Civic Disengagement**

Civic disengagement is not a consequence one would expect from social diversity. However, studies have shown that civic disengagement is more likely to occur in diverse communities than in relatively homogeneous communities. According to an aggregate study by Matthew Kahn and Dora Costa, when cultural diversity is combined with income inequality, members of all cultural and income groups are less likely to volunteer or become politically involved. This effect is most likely to be observed when an immigrants are systematically placed at an economic disadvantage, whether due to immigration policy or workplace discrimination.

### **Workplace Issues**

Occasionally, workplace issues can arise from cultural diversity. White employees sometimes feel institutionally discriminated against in diverse workplaces, perceiving diversity instruments (e.g., the disparate impact test) to be a form of reverse discrimination.

Conversely, African-American employees often feel socially discriminated against in diverse workplaces, especially when the workplace has an all-white management team. According to one study, African American employees are 2.5 times as likely to resign from a job at a diverse workplace than a white employee is, while a female employee is twice as likely to leave a diverse workplace than a male employee is. These numbers add some statistical weight to reports of discrimination and exclusion directed toward minority and female employees at diverse workplaces.