

# E-Content

**B.Ed.**

**Culture and Education**

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## **Culture and Education**

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## Objectives:

Dear students, after going this e-tutorial you should be able to understand

1. Meaning and characteristics of culture.
2. Relation between culture and education.
3. Different kinds of culture.

## Introduction

Culture is believed the centre of any society and without it, no society can even exist. Horton and Hunt defines, "Culture is everything which is socially shared and learned by the members of a society." Culture is a fundamental concept in anthropology and sociology, encircling the range of phenomena that are transmitted through social learning in human societies. Some definitions of culture are as;

According to E.A. Hoebel,

"Culture is the sum total of integrated learned behaviour patterns which are characteristics of the members of a society and which are therefore not the result of biological inheritance."

The modern term "culture" is based on a term used by the *Ancient Roman orator Cicero* in his *Tusculanae Disputationes*, where he wrote a cultivation of the soul or "*cultura animi*," using an agricultural metaphor for the development of a philosophical soul, understood in teleological aspect as the uppermost possible model for human development.

Philosopher *Edward S. Casey (1986)* describes:

"The very word *culture* meant 'place tilled' in Middle English, and the same word goes back to Latin *colere*, 'to inhabit, care for, till, worship' and *cultus*, 'A cult, especially a religious one.' To be cultural, to have a culture, is to inhabit a place sufficiently intensive to cultivate it—to be responsible for it, to respond to it, to attend to it caringly.

## Meaning of Culture

- In anthropological text the term culture is used in different senses, but in general writing it is used to indicate social behavior, customs, beliefs, norms and intellectual dominance.

- Culture is a combined term for socially transmitted behavior patterns.
- In normal language culture means the customs, ideas, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.
- **Taylor** defines culture as "that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, and law, custom and any other capabilities and habits, acquired by man as a component of society."
- **Ellwood** says that "*culture includes man's entire material civilization, tools, weapons, clothing, shelter, machines and even system of industry.*"
- According to **Brown**, "both material and non-material are dependent upon each other".
- Culture is the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group.
- The culture of a group is the way of life of that group like- the things they value, the things they do not value, their habits of life, their work of art, what they do, what they like etc.

### Types of Culture

- Material culture
- Non material culture

**Material culture** includes all the resources and physical objects that people of the particular society uses to define their culture. For example clothes, machines, industry, factories and plants, means of production, goods and products, and so forth.

**Non material culture** includes all those nonphysical ideas, attitudes and values that people have about their culture, including beliefs, values, religion, norms, morals, language and organizations. For example, the religion consists of a set of ideas and beliefs about God, worship, morals, and ethics.

### Characteristics of Culture

- Culture is sum total of all acquired traits.
- Culture is learned, shared, based on symbols, integrated, and dynamic.
- Culture is Continually Changing.
- Culture is transmissive as it is transmitted from generation to generation through the

process of communication and interaction.

- Culture is Idealistic as it embodies the ideas and norms of a group. .
- Culture is cumulative.
- Culture is adaptive.
- Culture is pervasive as it touches every aspect of life.
- Culture is the products of behaviour.
- Culture changes and nurtures with the time.
- Culture is abstract. It exists in the minds or habits of the members of society and is the shared ways of doing and thinking.
- Cultural traits and patterns are transmitted from generation to generation.
- Culture is dynamic rather static.

### **Education and Culture**

- Cultural and education are interdependent that cannot be separated from each other.
- A society free from any culture will have no definite educational organization.
- The culture of a nation has a very influential impact on its educational patterns.
- It is the culture in which education develops and flourishes as a result exerts a nourishing influence.
- Education as a part of culture has the double functions of conservation and modification of the culture.
- Education is envisaged as a systematic attempt to maintain a culture. In other words,

*"In its technical context, education is the process by which society, through its educational spaces like schools, colleges, universities and other institutions, purposely transmit its cultural heritage, its accumulated knowledge, values and skills from one generation to another."*

- Education is considered as an instrument for cultural change.
- One of the main aims of education is to impart a child his cultural and social heritage.
- Every individual is born into a particular culture that provides him with specific patterns of behavior and values then guide his/her conduct in different situations of life.

## **Major Functions of Culture**

### **Adaptation to the natural environment**

- All over the world humans live in a specific natural environment to which they adapt themselves without this adaptation he cannot survive.
- The differences in natural environment of different communities pave the way for differences in their cultures.
- It is this mode of behavior that makes up culture.

### **Adaptation to the social environment**

- Culture includes customs, traditions, beliefs etc. and all of these helps an individual to adapt to his social environment.
- It must be conceived that all these elements undergo steady changes as there is change in social environment.
- Culture establishes the patterns of social control, through which the individual is subjected to remain attached to that group.
- The advantage in communicating the culture of the group to the child by the means of education is that he/she is thereby familiar with the traditions, customs, values and patterns of conduct existing in his group.
- Therefore this information enables him to adapt to social environment and thus achieve his socialization.

### **Development of personality**

- The personality of the individual is perceptible through his pattern of behavior.
- Culture influences the physical, mental, moral, social, aesthetic and emotional aspects of individual.
- The behavior of the individual is greatly influenced by the culture.

### **School as a Community in Miniature**

- School is a social institution that has been established by the society for the function of conveying those ideas, beliefs, attitudes and dispositions that will make them valuable

members of the society.

- The school is to be thought not as a place where conventional knowledge is transmitted as authoritative but as a place where experiments in life are carried on.

### **Conclusion**

- Culture is an umbrella term which includes all the material and non-material aspect of any human society. Culture consists of the derivatives of experience, more or less organized, learned or created by the individuals of a population, including those images or encodements and their interpretations (meanings) transmitted from past generations, from contemporaries, or formed by individuals themselves.' (T.Schwartz 1992; cited by Avruch 1998: 17). Therefore, we may culture is a social mirror and is always in dynamic change.

### **Check Your Progress**

1. What are the major characteristics of culture?
2. What is the relationship between culture and education?
3. Describe the different types of culture in your own words?

### **➤ Suggested Online Resources**

[www.epgp.inflibnet.ac.in](http://www.epgp.inflibnet.ac.in)

<https://swayam.gov.in/>

<http://cec.nic.in/E-Content/>

[http://emmrc.uok.edu.in/Main/ViewPage.aspx?Page=emrc\\_learning\\_corner](http://emmrc.uok.edu.in/Main/ViewPage.aspx?Page=emrc_learning_corner)

**➤ Suggested Readings**

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Roucek, J. S. (1942). *Sociological foundations of education*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company

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