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MS. KHAN ZARIN SULTAN,

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND COMMERCE, SANQUELIM

CULTURE AND HERITAGE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE

Culture

'The word "culture" derives from the Latin word "colere," which means to tend to the earth and grow, or cultivation and nurture.'

'Culture is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people encompassing language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts.'

The unity of India lies in its diversity- people bound together by centuries of common traditions, faith and philosophy. Popularly called composite culture of India, it is the second millenniums greatest gift, the finest legacy which has not been erased inspite of the ravages of time and vicissitudes of history.

It must be remembered that India was already a land of many religion which included Buddhism and Jainism, apart from Hinduism. Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians were already settled in South India. Even the Muslims were there in Sind and on the West Coast.

The millennium, therefore presents a unique mosaic of culture, a cultural kaleidoscope which attracted people of other countries as no other country did.

The central theme of the Indian civilization is dharma which is something much more than a religion or creed. It is a moral law governing of man. Kind charity, compassion, generosity and humility are the main features of the combined culture of India as practised through ages.

A nation's cultural history can be appreciated through its architecture. Architecture, paintings, literature and music are the soul of a Nation. The people of India were world'.

Culture was once linked to the achievements of a society in literature, the visual and performing arts, architecture, philosophy, and in extending the frontiers of knowledge of what we would call the life of mind.

Culture came to mean both the pattern of life of the segments that constituted a society, and the forms in which they expressed their ideas.

Significance of Culture

Culture is the identity of Nation. Without culture society is impossible. Root of any community. It is the representative of community and provides solution to critical problems of community. It is the part and parcel of daily life. Though divided by geographical borders it connects one with another. It makes us unique

Heritage

‘Features belonging to the culture of a particular society, such as traditions, languages, or buildings that were created in the past and still have historical importance.’

Heritage is that which is inherited and can refer to objects, ideas, or practices. It is organised in various ways- from genes to geometrical structures, from the ways in which societies were organised to how people belonging to various strata of society were treated, from property to economic activities. It goes into the making of our cultures and our civilizations linking the past to present.

It was once assumed that heritage was what was handed down to us by our ancestors, neatly packaged, which we then passed on to our descendants, unchanged. Heritage is thought of as static whereas tradition is said to mould our way of life.

Heritage can be of two kinds. One is natural heritage that came from physical creation of the earth. The other heritage is the one that was cultivated and created by human effort. This becomes what we call ‘cultural heritage.’

Heritage is a possession – an object, or an idea that is expressed in an act- and is inherited from the past. It can also be used to define an identity in the present. It carries a meaning from the past yet its meaning in the present could be similar or dissimilar.

It comprises both the natural heritage of landscape and environment and the one created by men and women. This latter can be either tangible or intangible.

Heritage of any kind requires patronage to survive. It is of course central to the construction of the golden ages of the past.

Significance of Heritage

Historically the age or relationship to historical era, person or event. Socially this refers to the social, spiritual and other community oriented values attributed to a place. Aesthetically in terms of architecture, scale or even the designs seen on the place. Scientifically it refers to the scope or possibility of scientific findings from a site, monument or place.

Conclusion

Our culture and heritage plays a very important role in our life. It keeps us attached to our religion, traditions, and beliefs. It gives people a connection to certain social values, beliefs, religions and customs. It helps to identify oneself with others of similar mindsets and backgrounds. It provide automatic sense of unity. Helps us understand previous generations and the history of where we come from.