

Introduction

The present day society is one that is extremely complex. Economic, social, political and cultural factors have influenced this complexity. Apart from these, reasons like geography migrations, invasions have influenced. Therefore, modern society is comprised of differences like diverse ethnic groups, diverse languages, diverse religions, beliefs, customs and manners. Social systems with such diversity are called plural societies by sociologists. The different ethnic groups living in such plural societies practise customs, manners, languages, religions, beliefs, aspirations, traditions etc., unique to them in the order to safeguard their identity. Because of this, the culture of even a single country can be diverse. Societies that comprise such cultures are called "Multi - cultural Societies". This unit anticipates provision of correct understanding regarding multicultural societies and the creation of a generation of citizens endowed with the competencies necessary to contribute to the building of the atmosphere essential for peaceful co-existence in such a society.

Let's identify the Multicultural Society

Various sociologists and philosophers have put forward definitions in order to explain what "Culture" means. Given below are a few of them;

Culture is the knowledge, beliefs, arts, habits, values and the behaviours, proactivities and abilities acquired by man as an individual living in society.

T.B. Tyler

Culture is the collective name that can be given to all behaviour patterns required socially, by means of symbols or inheritance.

Charles A. Elwood

Culture means the socially as well as traditionally accepted forms of implementation of beliefs, styles of thought, applied arts, life styles, customs and manners.

E.T. Healar

From the expressions above it is evident that all our activities and thoughts and desires belong to the category of culture. All of us have got habituated to an accepted life style within society. This habituation or moulding is also culture. As an individual, from birth to death we behave according to the culture we have inherited. All the features that manipulate the forces evident in society belong to culture. Some of them are given below;

- Religion
- Language
- Knowledge
- Clothes
- Food and Drink
- Arts
- Rules and regulations
- Faiths
- Customs
- Ethics
- Values
- Family background
- Economic background
- Beliefs
- Equipment used
- Friends associated with
- Education
- Politics
- Technology
- Habitat
- Infrastructure

In every society an important function is performed by culture for the continuance of that society. Culture continues to change and develop within society, with time.

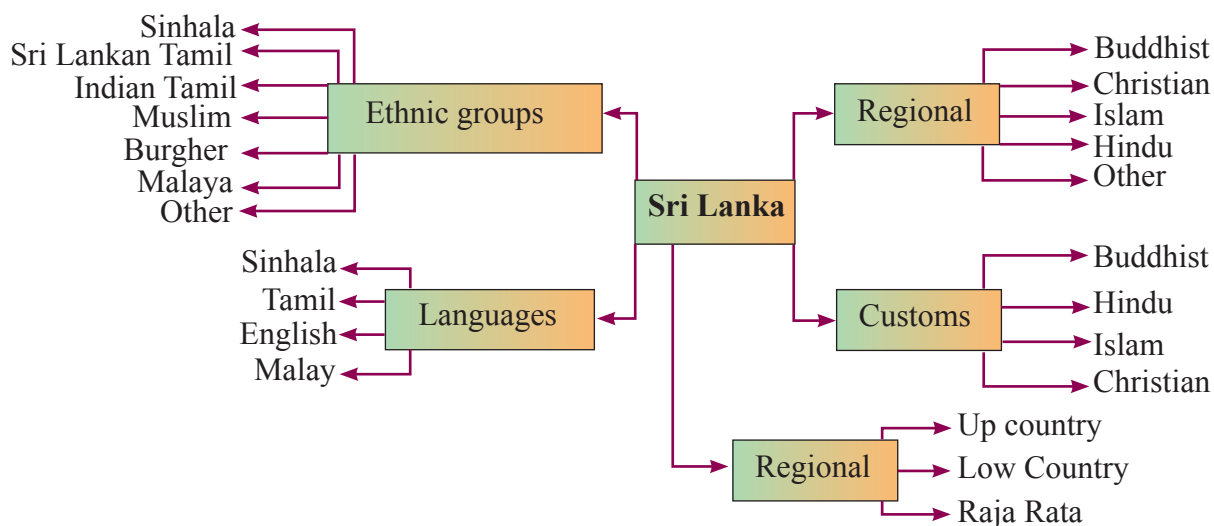
The culture varies in terms of society in which the individual lives. As a result, in different societies, a culture that is unique to that society is evident.

Activity

- Observe well the process from the beginning to the end at a particular festive occasion you participated in. Note, step by step the cultural features evoked in it.
- Eg - The occasion of a wedding or a funeral.

Basic features of a multi - cultural society

1. Coexistence of different ethnic groups, different religious beliefs, individuals speaking different languages.
2. The existence of a system and manners, ethics and values unique to each culture because of the diversity above.
3. Visibility of regional diversity even in each social group.
4. The attempt made by groups of people belonging to each culture to congregate forming multi-cultural societies.
5. Due to globalization, advancement of Communication Technology and tourism the world has become a global village accelerating the cultural integrity.



Activity

Write examples of different customs and traditions related to different religions and ethnic groups.

- Buddhist customs and traditions
- Hindu customs and traditions
- Muslim customs and traditions
- Christian customs and traditions

(for this, make use of the material learned in Grades 6,7,8,9)

People speaking different languages, observing different religions, observing different customs co-exist in a multi-cultural society. Multicultural societies can be identified in most countries in the present-day world. Our country, Sri Lanka, is a good example of a multi-cultural society yet it is not much complex. Countries such as, India, United States of America can be cited as multi-cultural countries with complexity.

- Population of Sri Lanka according to ethnicity

Ethnic group	Population	Percentage
Sinhala	15,173,820	74.9%
Sri Lankan Tamil	2,270,924	11.2%
Indian Tamil	842,323	4.1%
Sri Lanka Moor	1,869,820	9.2%
Other	106,836	0.5%

Table No. 3.1

Source - Population Census 2012

Department of Population and Statistics

Activity

- Examine the multicultural features of a country like India or U.S.A and prepare an article to be presented on a wall paper.

- Population of Sri Lanka according to Religion

Religion	Population	Percentage
Buddhist	14,222,844	70.2%
Hindu	2,554,606	12.6%
Islam	1,967,227	9.7%
Christian	1,509,606	7.4%
Other	9,440	0.1%

Table No. 3.2

Source - Population Census 2012

Department of Population and Statistics

Although the composition of the ethnic groups and religions is as above, ethnic groups following different religions can be seen.

eg :- Sinhala people - Buddhist, Catholic
Tamil people - Hindu, Buddhist, Christian



Fig 3.1 - Several religious places of Sri Lanka

Even though people are classified according to ethnicity as Sinhala, Tamil and Muslims, Sinhala speaking Tamils or Muslims and Tamil speaking Sinhalese can be seen in the country.

Factors that influenced Sri Lanka for the existence of a multicultural society

Location

- Geographical location
- Centralized location in the Indian Ocean
- Located close to India
- Located as an East - West trade centre

Migrations

- Arrival of Vijaya and his retinue
- Arrival of a princess and her retinue for the coronation of Vijaya
- Arrival of Panduwasdeva and retinue
- Arrival of Bhadda Kachchayana and retinue
- Arrival of Arahath Mihindu and retinue
- Arrival of Therini Sangamitta and retinue
- Migration from country takes place at present for various reasons like tourism, employment, education etc.

Invasion

- The Sena - Guttika invasion
- The invasion by Pandu - Parinda and retinue
- The Kalinga Maagha invasion
- Invasion by Western European nations

Arrival of Various nations for trade

- Arabs
- Indians
- Chinese
- European

Import of labourers

Due to import of labourers from South India for cash crop cultivation when Sri Lanka was a British colony the heritage and identity of those people has caused cultural diversity in Sri Lanka.

Existence of a multi-cultural society and the necessity of good governance

Introduction of good governance

Good Governance can be defined as a concept that was born consequent to the factors influenced the collapse of social justice as well as the lethargy in the economic development of certain countries where there was no lack of either economic or human resources.

Given below are some of the reasons regarding as to why economic development has become lethargic as a result of the failure of the economic and human resources of these countries to be properly managed.

- Power becoming unnecessarily centralized
- Inefficiency of governance
- Politicization of public services
- Bureaucracy
- Absence of public participation in deciding on state policy and its implementation
- Escalation of bribery and corruption
- State administration becoming irresponsible etc.
- Negligence of national goals by the private sector

While emphasizing the necessity of getting rid of the weaknesses above in order to rescue themselves, faced especially by most countries, from these crises, the concept of good governance is one possible solution put forward in that regard.

Good Governance is a process of deciding government policies and implementing them. The responsibility of those who govern is to be accountable for the wellbeing of citizens to the maximum, protecting civil rights and social justice by being law abiding and having transparency without corruptions and malpractices

Basic Qualities of Good Governance

1. State control and administration free of corruption and fraud
2. Confirmation of freedom and equity
3. Respecting the supremacy of law and safeguarding the independence of the judiciary
4. Individuals responsible for the implementation of state control being accountable to the public
5. Safeguarding and confirming rights
6. Safeguarding media freedom
7. Making use of resources efficiently and productively
8. Acting with transparency
9. Preparation of the background for political socialization
10. Safeguarding and securing constitutionality

Importance of respecting political, socio-economic and cultural identity of each other for a good governance

For good governance, respecting political, socio-economic and cultural identity of each other is an essential factor. For this purpose confirmation of the above qualities of good governance in society, is essential. It is essential to confirm the above qualities in society for this purpose.

Further more, paying attention to the following facts is important.

Political

- Respecting the political identity of each other
- Bearing any political ideology of one's choice
- Respecting political leadership
- Acting independently when taking political decisions and conclusions
- Such decisions not being obstructive to others
- Conducting free and fair elections

Economic

- Getting involved in a legitimate employment or trade of one's choice.
- Organization and implementation of trade unions.
- Taking steps for the minimization of discrepancies in the distribution of income.
- Development of infrastructural facilities.

Social and Cultural

- Adherence to a religion of one's choice
- Following customs
- Holding various celebrations
- Reside in a region of one's choice
- Learning and using different languages
- Travelling freely
- Respecting cultures of others

Acting with respect for political, socio-economic and cultural identity with respect to the above is essential for the wellbeing of a multicultural society.

Through the implementation of Good Governance in a multicultural society,

- Mutual trust between ethnic groups, is confirmed
- Understanding between each other is broadened
- Participation of all ethnic groups for administrative purposes develops
- Learn to respect each other
- Act irrespective of religious and cultural diversity
- Learn to live as a law-abiding citizen
- Act with transparency

Multicultural Society and the Modern States

The modern idea of a national government is one Government for a single nation. This implies that a state is a nation. Even though people who belong to different cultures live in a country, they should operate as a single nation.

Although Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and other races as well as people of different cultures live in Sri Lanka, they have to be treated as Sri Lankans.

Modern states where democratic governance is implemented endeavour to integrate diversities and march towards development independently while respecting the diverse cultural identities.

Most of the developed countries have made use of multi-culturalism in their economic, social and political process. Their theme is "Unity in Diversity." Countries like Singapore and Switzerland can be taken as examples.

Activity

- Write an essay of no less than 250 words on the topic "Let us implement multicultural sociality for the well - being of the country" Display the best compositions in the classroom.

Characteristics a citizen should inculcate for the wellbeing of a Multicultural Society

- Understanding the actions in cultures of each other, acting consciously and respecting each other
- Avoiding insulting other religions
- Respecting other cultures
- Acting so as to avoid conflicts
- Developing mutuality
- Understanding that acting in co-operation facilitates achievement of victory
- Learning and using the language of other ethnic groups
- Implementation of multi - religious programs
- Respecting and tolerance of other views
- Equality

National importance of living in unity as members of a multicultural society

Through the people of a multicultural society acting cohesively,

- National unity and co-existence develop
- Conflicts are minimized
- Mutual goodwill and trust develop
- The feeling of one nation, one country develop
- Human freedom and democracy are confirmed
- Every citizen is motivated to act with determination, for the development of the country as a national duty
- Act so as not to display disrespect for other religions

Achievement of victory is made easy by acting with the objective of co-existence in a multi-cultural society. Every citizen is entitled to peace, security and justice without discrimination. If everyone is to live happily in peace we should be united in building a strong united country. It is our responsibility that we commit ourselves to it.

Let us consider that it is our duty to ensure that the implementation of the great expression in our National Anthem "As children of a single mother," blooms.

Activity

- Inquire about the other ethnic groups living along with you in your region and what their religions are,
- Discuss with your class teacher and invite a priest or a religious leader of another ethnic group for a discussion.
- Why is it important that we learn the main languages used in our country? (Tamil language by the Sinhalese and Sinhala language by the Tamils) Present 05 points.