



Does Diversity Unite or Divide ?

Our country, India, is rich in diversities. Not only in our country, but also in other countries and in other regions, we can see diversity in every aspects. If we focus on India, which is an ideal country to understand the diversity, it unites as well as divides one another. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gujarat to ~~Andhra~~^{Jharkhand} Pradesh, we can see diversity.

India is such a country that has a number of diversities in every aspects. There is none other country like India which has so many diversity in every aspects. India is the only state that has diversity in languages, culture, customs, religions, beliefs, climate, physiography, etc.

Before coming to the main topic, let us analyse the two types of diversities : natural diversity and man-made diversity. Natural diversity refers to the diversity which is on the basis of weather, climate, physiography, etc. For instance, in our country, we can see diversities, naturally, that is,

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In most of the north-Indian regions, there are full of snow-clad mountains and the climate experienced is chilly cold. Coming towards the south, we can see deserts, plateaus, coastlands, etc. Especially, in the God's own country, Kerala, it is divided into highland, midland and lowland, on the basis of the variations in physiology, climate and natural vegetation. But in ~~it~~ cultural ^{or} man-made diversity, it mainly refers to the diversity in language, beliefs, customs, etc. For instance, all people do not belong to the same religion. Some are Hindus, while others are Christians. Some are Muslims, while some are Sikhs and so on. For every religion, there is difference in beliefs and customs. Also, all people do not speak the same language. In Kashmir, the language will be Urdu, but coming to Kerala, it is Malayalam. Each people in ~~the~~ ^a state speak different languages. Also, each people living in ~~the~~ ^a state may not be wearing same costumes. The costumes that the people of Kashmir or north-Indian regions is not

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similar to the costumes people wear ^{by} ~~the~~ south-Indians and so on. Likewise, we can see diversity in every aspects of human life. Now, let us analyse whether diversity unites or divides. It is mainly the man-made or cultural diversity that makes one different from others.

India celebrates different festivals in different states. Coming to foreign countries, ~~the~~ their religions, customs and beliefs are utterly different from us. Even though India has diversity in every aspects, there is always a unity. For instance, if we celebrate Christmas, which is the birthday of Jesus Christ, not only Christians, but also people belonging to other religions celebrate this festival with great pomp. And, if we celebrate Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala, not only Keralites, but also, foreign people celebrate and enjoy onam and so on. If we celebrate Diwali, Holi or Eid, all people wish them and exchange gifts and sweets to all, regardless of caste, creed, religion, etc.

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Not only in festivities, but also, if we consider education sector, all are gaining equal knowledge and education provided by teachers. Earlier, our education or other sectors was subjected to various discriminations based on caste, creed, colour, gender, etc. But now, it is not so. Upto a certain extent, in most of the countries and regions, this discrimination was thwarted and all are considered as equal in every aspects. ^{It is} All the diversities ^{that} makes a country ideal from one another. In short, we can say that diversity unites one another.

But it is unfortunate to say that diversity divides one another. Even though diversity exists in every aspects, most of the people do not understand the importance of this diversity. Most of the people criticize one's beliefs and traditions. And this leads to division among the people. Earlier, it was not so. People in olden ages used to recognize, understand and respect one another's religion, culture and traditions. But now, it is too sorry to

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say that modern man does not understand the significance of each and every religion, culture, traditions, etc. existing in one country and criticises it. They usually used to promote some other sorts existing in other country and gets attracted to it. For instance, in the ^{case of} costumes worn by people ~~in~~ belonging to different states in a country, some people usually disagree with it and They don't understand the rich and varied heritage existing in one country. Instead, they accept foreign costumes and consider it as ideal. In our country itself, especially in Kerala, most of the people living among us wear western clothes instead of traditional ones. It is not their fault. Actually, it is their belief and that prompts them to do so. Not only in the case of costumes, but also in our eating habits and so on. As a result, the western cultures are taking dominion over the traditional ones and leads to division among people. Some support traditional ones, while others prefer some other sorts. At some instan

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ce, it leads to various riots and bloodsheds, which we never want to witness it. This is not a hysteria or illusion. It is a fact. Not only in this, diversities among various rituals, beliefs and customs have also become a serious problem nowadays.

Allama Muhammed Iqbal, the famous Urdu poet, praises the beauty and cultural diversity of our country through these lines:

"Saare Jahaan se Achcha, Hindustan Hamara
Har Bul Bule he iski, he gul sita hamara"

That is, India, or Hindustan is the world's best nation.

In a nutshell, we can say that diversity unites as well as divides one another. Unity in diversity is the solid foundation of every nation.

All people should recognise the importance of diversity, acknowledge it, understand it and respect it. People living in each and every region must understand its significance and acknowledge that it is the diversity that makes something ideal.

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Everyone should be proud of the diversities existing in a country and must realize the fact that diversity makes something great. All people should understand diversity and it should unite one another, not divide one another. Just as a farmer in a story that we have learned or listened ~~at~~ in our children, the advice of the farmer given to his sons should always echo in our ears:

"United we stand, divided, we fall!"

Thank You!

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