

## Chapter- 1

# Human Diversity

### STUDY NOTES

Diversity: State of being different and unique is known as diversity. It includes factors like age, gender, ability, race, religion, education, occupation and food.

#### **Diversity as a beautiful component of life:-**

1. Each of us are different.
2. We do things differently.
3. We pray differently, eat different meals, prefer different subjects etc.
4. It adds beauty with differences.
5. It helps with many options in life.
6. It gives ways to keep us engaged and entertained with differences

#### **The Need for diversity:-**

(i) Humans have different ideas. Different ideas create a beautiful society which is diverse in nature.

(ii) Humans have different skills, some are painters, carpenters, some prefer to write and some to read. Differences in interests and skills are a necessity for society.

(iii) Diversity enriches our lives. It breaks the boredom of identical people of the society doing the same things, looking the same, behaving the same and so on. When we live with a diverse group of people, we learn from them. We absorb different cultures, we become more tolerant and broad-minded.

#### **India-Unity in diversity:-**

India is one of the most diverse countries in the world. India's civilisation is 5000 years old.

(i) India is a land of varied cultures and religions.

(ii) More than 1600 languages, ethnically different communities, lifestyles and traditions.

(iii) In spite of all differences there has always been interaction, exchange and a Unity among Indians.

**Characteristics of India's Diversity can be studied as :-**

1. Economic Inequality
2. Social Diversity
3. Regional Diversity

**Economic Inequality:-**

1. In India there are richest people of the world and also some of the poorest in the world, this difference in economic level is economic inequality.

2. Indian Government has a way of calculating this inequality through Poverty Line, the poverty line is the minimum level of income needed to achieve an adequate standard of living. The poverty line for rural areas is INR816 per month or INR27 per day and for urban areas is INR1000 per month or INR33 per day.

**Social Diversity:-**

(i) Caste System – This existed in India for 2000 years and has created unequal divisions in society, there are many castes and hundreds of sub-castes even today. People are identified with their caste and treated badly by some sections of the society.

(ii) Family System- Joint Family and Nuclear Family

Large family consisting of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins are joint family system.

Nuclear family is of only parents and siblings.

(iii) Religion System- We have variety of celebrations, prayers, rituals, festivals like Dusshera, Muharram, Christmas, Diwali, Buddha Jayanti, Jamshed Navroz depending upon people with different faiths. We observe festivals in a spirit of harmony.

Some social customs and festivals are typical of a particular region, for example:-

1. Pongal is celebrated in TamilNadu.
2. The cattle fair is celebrated annually in Pushkar, Rajasthan.
3. Bogali Bihu is celebrated in Assam.

4. Different classical dance forms like Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Manipuri, Mohiniattam etc.

### Regional Diversity:-

Differences between two places of any area in terms of their cultures, eating habits, costumes, lifestyles is called regional diversity. People living on the coast have different food habits, enjoys different culture from those who lives in the mountains.

For example differences between Punjab (North Indian State) and Kerala (South Indian State).

PUNJAB	KERALA
North-West State of India	Southern State of India
It is the land of the five rivers.	It is the land of mountains.
Fertile area of the country.	Most Literate and high life expectancy rate state in India.
Dry climate	Wet and maritime tropical climate
Occupation-Agriculture	Occupation- Service Sector(tourism, IT, Banking, transportation etc)
It is also called 'granary of India' or India's bread-basket'.	It is also called as "God's own land"
Major religion -Sikh	Diverse religion-Hindu,Muslims, Christians
They eat wheat based food more.	They eat Sea food, banana and coconut more.