

QUESTION # 01:

SALIENT FEATURES OF PAKISTANI

CULTURE?

Culture of Pakistan:

Pakistan is an ideological Islamic state. Its very existence is due to Islam, so Pakistani culture is primarily based on the Islamic way of life. All other ingredients of culture are inspired by Islam. Pakistani culture is highlighted by its grandeur, simplicity, firm convictions, noble deeds and ideas.

Salient Features of Pakistani Culture:

Religious Uniformity:

- Pakistan's existence is based on Islam, with all people practicing the religion.
- Despite differences in languages, customs, and traditions, all Pakistanis follow the same religion.

Language:

- Urdu is the official language and the medium of communication for all religions.
- Urdu literature features works by Maulana Azad, Iqbal, Shibli, Hali Ghalib, Aga Hashar, Manto, and Fayaz.
- Punjabi literature includes notable figures like Waris Shah, Sultan Bahu, Ghulam Farid, Bulleh Shah, and Shah Hussain.
- Sindhi literature features works by Shah Abdul Latif, Sachal Sarmast, Shah Qadir Bakhsh, and Fakir Nabi Bakhsh.
- Pashto literature includes Sheikh Saleh, Rangoon Khan, Akhund Dardeez, Khushal Khan Khattak, and Rahman Baba.
- Baluchi literature includes works by Jam Durk, Muhammad Ali Zemi, Zahoor

shah hashmi, ghani Parvez, hasart Baluch, and Aziz bugti.

Dress and Diet:

- Dress is a significant cultural manifestation, with regional variations influenced by local traditions and economic conditions.
- Salwar kameez is the standard dress in all provinces.

Social Life:

- Social life is simple and modest, with a combined family system and respect for elders.

National Population:

- Majority of the population lives in villages, with farming and livestock management as primary livelihoods.
- Urban areas primarily employ commerce, industrial works, and service sector.
- Traditional marriage ceremonies and religious festivals are prevalent.

Hospitality of Citizens:

- Guests, tourists, and visitors are welcomed with open arms, with even the poorest laborers showing love and respect.
- Islam views a guest as a blessing from God, emphasizing the importance of best treatment.

Strong Family Bonding:

- Family is prioritized in Pakistan due to religious, cultural, economic, and societal values.
- Pakistani society is characterized by collectivism, fostering strong family and relationship relationships.

Mixed Culture:

- Pakistani culture is a mix of Indian, Persian, Afghan, Central Asian, South Asian, and western Asian influences.
- Over 15 major ethnic groups exist, varying in physical features, historical bloodlines, customs, dress, food, and music.

Male-Dominated Society:

- The male family member holds the key position in Pakistani society, often being the sole source of income.
- Non-urban regions have varying levels of gender segregation, while big cities have conservative expectations.

Friendliness and Cooperativeness:

- Pakistani people are friendly, approachable, and humble, despite varying levels of gender segregation.

Arts and Architecture:

- Islamic iconoclasm influences the use of elegant designs in architecture, such as the shahjahan masjid, Shalimar garden, badshahi masjid, and shahi qila.

Handicrafts:

- Pakistani craftsmen are known for high-quality works, which are popular in foreign countries.

Recreational Activities:

- Popular games like cricket, hockey football, and kabaddi reflect Pakistan's cultural identity.
- Sporting events and fairs are important aspects of Pakistani culture, with people from all walks of life participating.

Education:

- Education plays a vital role in developing national character and forming a nation's culture, unity, and solidarity.

Celebration of Cultural Rituals:

- Islamic rituals and festivals are observed with enthusiasm, with high attendance at Hajj and Eid ul fitr.

Ulema, Mushaikh, and Sufi Poets:

- Sufis like IalShahbaz, Data Ganj Baksh, Shah Abdul Latif, Sachal Sarmast Hazart Sultan Bahu, and Waris Shah are highly respected in Pakistani society.

Resilience and Hard Work:

- Despite economic struggles, Pakistan's spirit lives on, with the nation continuing to hope and work for a better future.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS:

Pakistani culture is a rich and complex tapestry, woven from diverse threads of history, religion, and regional traditions. Here's a critical analysis of some aspects:

Strengths:

- Hospitality (Mehmankhawazi): Pakistanis are renowned for their warm welcomes and generous treatment of guests.
- Resilience: The nation has faced numerous challenges, yet its people have consistently demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability.
- Cultural Heritage: Pakistan is home to ancient civilizations, such as Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, and boasts a rich cultural legacy.

Weaknesses:

- Gender Inequality: Despite progress, gender-based discrimination and inequality persist, hindering social development.
- Religious Intolerance: Extremism and sectarianism have led to violence and discrimination against minorities.
- Corruption: Pakistan struggles with widespread corruption, affecting governance and economic growth.

Challenges:

- Modernization vs. Traditional Values: The tension between embracing modernity and preserving traditional values creates cultural conflicts.
- Regional Disparities: Economic and social disparities exist between provinces, fueling feelings of marginalization.
- Political Instability: Political unrest and frequent changes in government hinder progress and development.

Opportunities:

- Youth Bulge: Pakistan has a large young population, offering potential for innovation, entrepreneurship, and cultural revival.
- Cultural Exchange: Increased global connectivity allows for cross-cultural exchange, enriching Pakistani culture.
- Digital Age: The rise of digital media and technology offers new platforms for artistic expression, education, and social activism.

This analysis highlights both the beauty and the challenges of Pakistani culture, acknowledging its strengths while encouraging critical reflection and growth.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, Pakistani culture is a rich and complex tapestry, with both strengths and weaknesses. By acknowledging and addressing its challenges, Pakistan can unlock its full potential and create a vibrant cultural landscape that enriches both its people and the world at large.

Through a journey of self-reflection, cultural exchange, and progress, Pakistan can:

- Harness the power of its youth bulge
- Celebrate its cultural heritage and diversity
- Foster inclusivity and gender equality
- Encourage innovation and creativity
- Build a brighter future for all

By embracing its unique cultural identity and confronting its challenges, Pakistan can emerge as a beacon of hope, peace, and prosperity, inspiring generations to come.