

Paragraph 01

Initially, in the first few years of Pakistan, people were very conscious of their ethnicity, *i.e.*, where they came from to Pakistan. Even if they were from the same province, the exact location made a difference. If one was from across the border, then too it mattered exactly where one came from. But as time went by and people assimilated—they grouped together in the neighbourhoods and localities they lived in. A new identity began to emerge.

Differences are always present and should be seen like different flavours of a common dish. Differences should not be used to divide people but to make them understand and appreciate one another. With time, there has been a growing intermingling amongst Pakistanis through friendships, neighbourhoods, good and bad times, working as colleagues, and marriages. A new Pakistani DNA is gradually being created, and a new ethnic Pakistani identity has emerged. Many who grew up and grew old with the country view it as their home. Their primary identity today is of being a Pakistani—where their ancestors came from comes second.

Pakistan is composed of diverse ethnicities, languages, features, cultures, etc., which, in the larger context, merge into one identity—Pakistani. This coming together as one, especially in times of celebration and joy and times of anxiety and sadness, is a precious and strong trait in our people. This shared evolution is what makes us Pakistanis, and this should be preserved.

 Title: Pakistani Identity: A binding force 

A new Pakistani identity has mitigated the ethnic affiliations of the migrated people. It has provided them a new identity. Although, differences still exist, these can not make them apart. Now, Pakistan has become a new permanent home of the migrated people. The merger of different ethnicities, languages, and cultures has created a strong bond among them. The preservation of this bond is mandatory for Pakistan.