

Q No # 4

Introduction: culture is how peoples are living and sharing their ideas. There are different characteristics of culture such as culture is relative, Adoptive, Dynamic, social, learned, variable and transmitted. The different functions of culture are culture molds the personality of an individual, culture shares knowledge to one another, culture defines situation. The different elements of culture are: Norms, values, beliefs and sanctions.

Definition of culture: The term culture was coined by R.B Taylor.

"A totality of learned socially transmitted behaviours is called culture."

~ RT Schoefer

RT Schoefer defined culture as the totality of learning in a society in which individual is learning is culture. An individual can learn different norms, values, folkway, as well as morals.

"set of values, beliefs, norms, rituals that together constitute people's way of life is called culture."

~ **Maionis**

Maionis has defined culture as set of all the beliefs, norms, and values that are encountered in an individual through different agents of socialization is the culture.

⇒ **Characteristics of a culture:**

The various characteristics of a culture are:

i) culture is learned: culture is learned through different agents of socialization that is family, peers, social circle and institutions.

• **example:** Giving respect to every progeny is learned by the parents.

ii) Culture is Dynamic: culture is not static (unchangeable) rather culture is dynamic (changeable). It means that culture in one region is different from that of another region.

• **example:** culture of Sindh (Sindhis) is somehow different from that of Punjab (Punjabis).

(iii) culture is **Adaptive**: culture is Adaptive. It means that one may adapt new things, ways, ^{dress} in one's culture.

• **Example**: Nowadays ^{through} social media, communication all over the globe is become easy so people adopt new ways of learning, clothing etc.

(iv) culture is **social**: culture is social, It means one can not live in an isolate, in a society. An individual can interact with each other in a society this is called socialization.

"Man is a social animal." ~ Aristotle

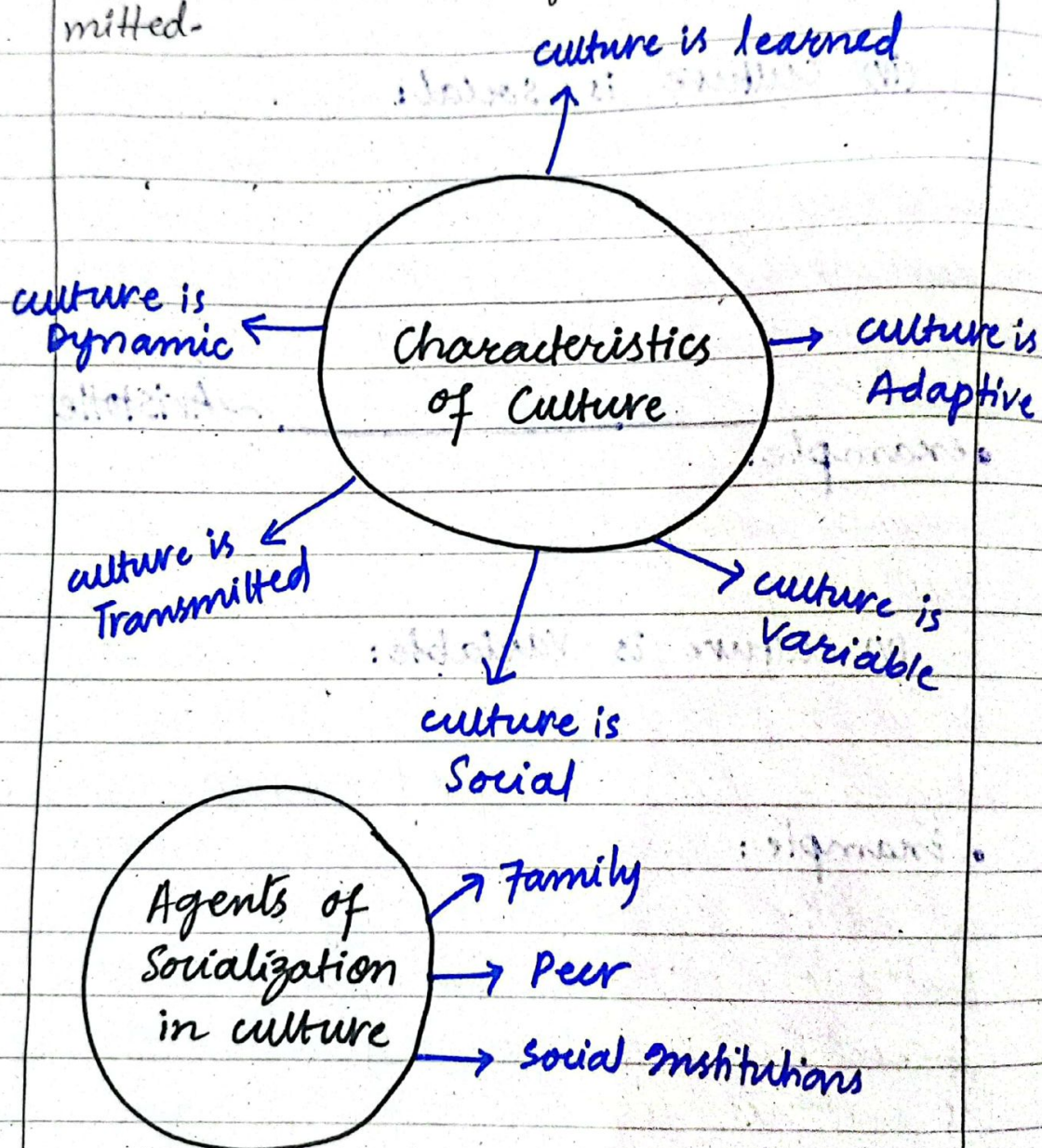
• **example**: A child learns primarily from parents, then peers, friends, and other social institutions -

(v) **Culture is variable**: culture is variable. It means that culture of one society is different from that of other region.

• **Example**: Marriage customs are different in Sindhi culture from punjabi, etc. pashto or balochi culture. Therefore, culture is variable and different from one region to another region.

(vi) culture is transmitted: culture is transmitted from one culture to another culture.

• example: Nowadays; western clothes (western culture) is very much transmitted in other cultures. Therefore, culture is transmitted.



⇒ Functions of culture:

The different functions of culture are:

1) **Molds personality of an individual:**
culture can mold the personality of an individual.

• **For example:** If a person is living in culture relativism society; it can definitely mold the personality of an individual.

2) **culture shares knowledge to one another:**

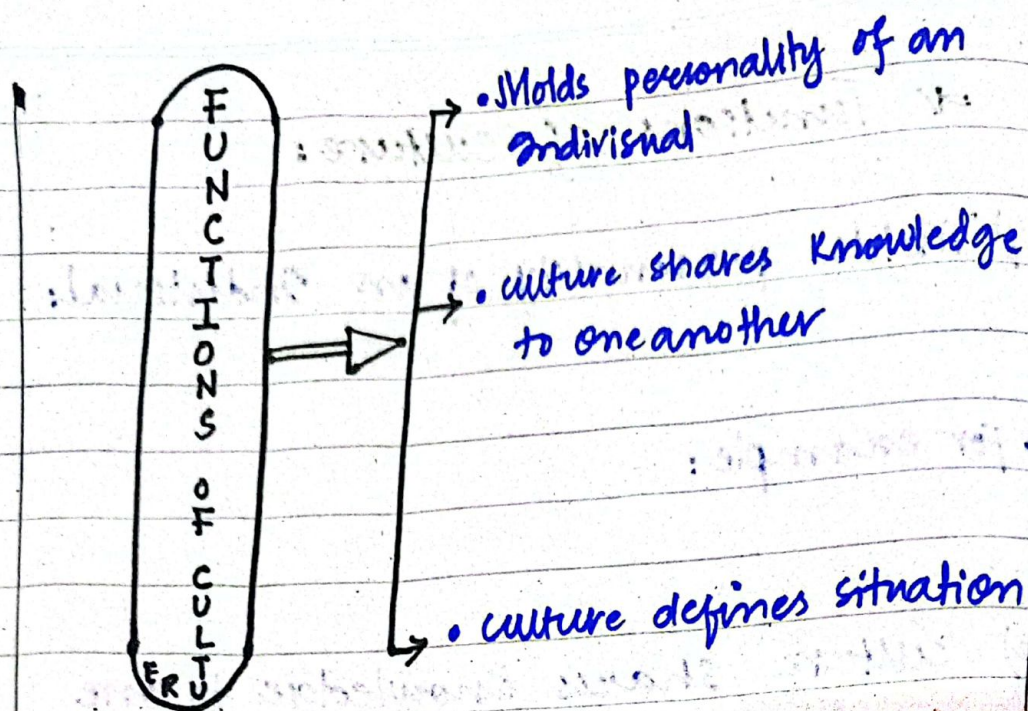
A culture can share knowledge to other culture.

• **for example:** On Dec 5, every year culture day is celebrated in which Sindhis share their cultural knowledge to Punjabis, Balochis, and vice versa.

3) **culture defines situation:**

culture functions in a way that it defines the situation.

• **for example:** Greeting teachers in a classroom when teacher enters in a classroom; standing up and showing respect to a teacher is a part of culture that defines a situation.



⇒ Elements of culture:

There are different elements of culture:

- Norms
- values
- Beliefs
- Sanctions

↑
Graham's division of the elements of the culture.
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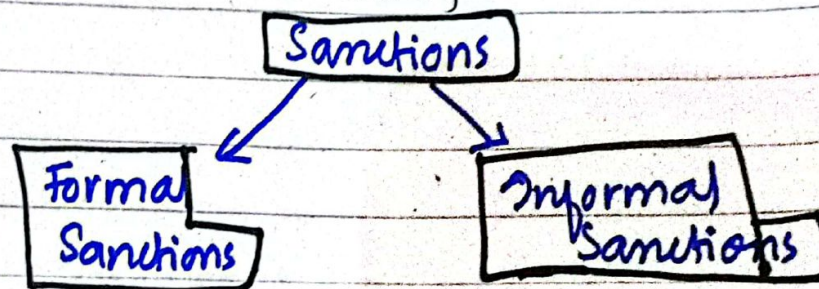
- **Norms**: Norms are the expected behaviours of an individual to behave in a society.

→ 2 types of Norms:

1) **Prescriptive Norm**: These are the expected behaviours and norms of an individual.

2) **Proscriptive Norm**: These are the discouraged norms and behaviours of an individual.

- **values:** values are what is Good and what is Bad in a Society in which individual lives-
- **for example:** The values in a Pakistani society are: Hospitality, Humble, kindness etc.
- **Beliefs:** Beliefs are on God. Based on religion, every culture has different beliefs-
- **for example:** Muslims have strong belief in Allah, while Hindus on Bhgwan.
- **Sanctions:** Sanctions are considered as bad; and not to do in a society.



Conclusion: Different scholars have defined the term culture. Culture is totality of learned behaviour. There are different characteristics of culture that is culture is learned, adoptive, dynamic, relative, and adoptive. However, culture also has different functions that is it molds the personality of an individual, shares knowledge, and defines situation. There are different elements in culture such as: Norms, values, beliefs and sanctions.