

Why should one conform to societal Norm?

## Outline

### → Introduction

Thesis Statement:

Man must conform to the societal norms to fulfill his needs as a social man and for the development of the society. Drifting away from societal norms causes disharmony in personal and social life. However, toxic social norms must be identified and eradicated.

### → Importance of conforming to societal norms in Individual life

- a. Man is a social animal, hence he needs to live in a societal set up
- b. Conforming to societal norms promotes individual development.
- c. Family, and social lives depend on societal norms and professional
- d. Conforming to societal norms provide ease in life by creating a support system.
- e. ~~Societal norms~~ Conforming to societal norms provides one with security.

→ Importance of conforming to societal norms in society

- a. Conforming to societal norms promotes harmony
- b. Adhering to societal norms unites people and infuses in them a sense of patriotism
- c. Unity achieved by conforming to social norms leads to victory, advancement and innovation.
- d. System of ~~Values~~ Education and Politics based on societal norms
- e. ~~Value~~ Promoting societal norms and culture promotes tourism.

→ Drawbacks of going against social norms

- a. Going against societal norms affects personal and social relations negatively.
- b. Rebellious behaviour makes professional life difficult
- c. Drifting away from societal norms ultimately leads to isolation, depression and anxiety
- d. Antisocial behaviour promotes criminal behaviour

→ Identifying Four Societal Norms

- a. Oppression of women
- b. Extremism is a major issue in Pakistan
- c. Pro individualism is discouraged

→ ~~Conclusion~~ Going against four societal norms is necessary

→ Conclusion

Essay

Man must conform to <sup>the</sup> societal norms to fulfill his needs as a social man and for the development of the society. Drifting away from societal norms causes disharmony in personal and social life. However, toxic social norms must be identified and eradicated. Marcus Garvey says, "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots." Man is social by nature. He fulfills himself by being part of a society, community and culture. One must know his roots in order to grow as an individual. Conforming to social norms holds a great deal in individual and societal life. Conforming to social norms promotes individualism and ~~promotes~~ improves relations with friends and family. It provides one with a support system and security and hence eases life. For peace and harmony to prevail in a society, individuals are required to adhere to ~~norms~~ the standard norms. This will infuse in them a sense of patriotism, uniting the people in the process. When people help one another in all spheres of life, ~~including~~ technology it promotes the public welfare. When people unite, they end up victorious in different

dimensions of life. Institutions of communities such as politics and system of education, are based on standard norms. Hence, conforming to societal norms also improves the educational development and political sense of an individual and society. Promoting culture attracts foreigners to the arts and crafts of a society, hence, one must stick to it. Drifting away from social norms, on the other hand, promotes antisocial and rebellious behaviour which consequently impacts relations negatively and leads to criminal behaviour. As much as conforming to societal norms is ~~so~~ crucial, one must identify the toxic traits of a society and not conform to it. The toxic traits must be eradicated.

A community is based on many societal norms which serves as a standard for human behaviour and are a basis on which the society is set up.

Adhering to such ~~norms~~ rules and regulations hold great importance in individual life.

Man is social by nature and therefore he needs to live in a societal set up for his fulfillment. Man cannot live ~~in~~ alone in the state of nature. As social

Contract Theory of the Philosophers: Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau, implies that ~~man~~ humans need to create social contract among

themselves and conform to the rules of the contract. Although, the Contract Theory of the three philosophers differ from each other, they all imply the formation of a social set up and conforming to the mutually agreed rules and regulations, standards, and norms is necessary. Hence, to fulfill his needs as a social animal, man must adhere to the societal norms.

As the social needs of man are fulfilled by adhering to societal norms, he develops himself as an individual. By interacting with other human beings, a person learns about life, ethics, morals, skills and good behaviour. If a person were to drift away from the norms, he would not be able to learn about the broad spectrum of human emotions and how to handle them. By sticking to societal norms one can adopt the good traits of the society. For instance, Japanese are known for their kindness, hence, sticking to the societal norms of Japan will instill kindness in a person. Similarly, on a broader spectrum, Asians are known for their intellect. So by conforming to the typical Asian societal norms, one can develop the faculty of intellect. Hence, one must conform to societal norms for individual development.

As individuals grow, they realise the importance of family and other relations. Family, social and professional lives are based on the societal standards and therefore, for a good family and social lives, conforming to social norms is crucial. Societal norms set standards for a family and professional lives, so one can know what to expect and what to give in different relations. For example, in the institution of marriage, one can expect specific circumstances such as moving out of your parents house. Similarly, in an office environment, ~~as~~ one ~~is~~ can expect a formal set up. By conforming to such societal norms, one can have a blissful family life and a good professional life.

Conforming to ~~the~~ societal norms improves ties with family and peers which ~~subseqe~~ subsequently provides a person with a support system. Good family, friends and ~~peer~~ colleagues provide emotional as well as physical support. No man on earth is fully self-sufficient and needs the help of others. From the moment a person is born till death, he is dependent on others one way or the other. ~~Another~~ As a ~~bad~~ baby, baby, ~~a~~ a person is fed and clothed by his parents. As they

reach adulthood, he needs his family for emotional support and as an aged man, he needs his family and friends to curb his loneliness. Therefore good relations are necessary ~~where~~ for the required support for which conforming to the societal norms is a must.

Along with a support system, one also requires a sense of security, both physically and mentally. Conforming to societal norms can provide one with needed security. The laws and the living standards are based on societal norms. Hence, conforming to societal norms means conforming to the law of the land. This will provide the support of the people in terms of physical, ~~and~~ financial and emotional security. For instance, a man is ~~supp~~ supposed to provide for his wife and children. In case of divorce, if a woman holds on to social norms, she will gain the support of people and will be provided with child support by his divorced husband. One also needs to confide in at least one person ~~who knows~~ for emotional security. As ties get better with people, one can have that trust and emotional security. Similarly, sticking to societal norms can help one get support in terms of security, in case of need. For instance, if one is in good

M T W T F S

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

terms with everyone, by following the norms, in case of a theft, he or she will ~~be~~ have a good chance of ~~having~~ receiving help. Therefore, it is necessary to adhere to societal norms to acquire a sense of security.

Conformity to societal norms is not only beneficial to individual life but it is also significant in the society and social lives of people. If individuals hold on to the social norms, it will promote peace and harmony. Following common societal norms will create lesser chances of conflict in the community. ~~For~~ For instance, when politicians follow the Pakistani dress code, it promotes ~~or~~ support for each other and our culture, lesser conflict and hence, more balance and harmony. Therefore, to ensure harmony in a society, ~~the~~ individuals must conform to societal standards.

with a sense of patriotism. It gives us our identity.

Another influence of adhering to the social norms is that it unites the people of a nation or community, gives them an identity and infuses in them a sense of patriotism. These norms, including culture, religion and common practices, give <sup>a common</sup> meaning ~~to~~ and a common cause to the lives of the people. As Allah says in the Quran: "O mankind, indeed We have created you from a male and a female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another." If we observe, globally our religion Islam, unites the Muslims. Striving to ~~act~~ their religious norms, Muslims are infused with a sense of patriotism." ~~In the current wave of war in Palestine, Muslims around the world have shown support for Palestine.~~ Therefore, conforming to ~~re~~ societal norms ensures unity and patriotism among people.

Unity in a community and identity of its people achieved by adhering to societal norms and customs, leads a nation and its people to victory, advancement and innovation. When people join hands to work with each other in harmony, they

take up and succeed at the difficult task of nation building. History has <sup>time and</sup> again given us with examples of how nations have succeeded by sticking to their common norms. One such example is the movement for ~~the~~ independence in the subcontinent. Indian Muslims joined hands because of their common social and religious norms and put the "two nation theory" into action. As a result, they gained independence and Pakistan ~~was~~ came into being in 1947. Another example is that of China. After gaining independence, Chinese people by sticking to their norms and relying on each other instead of foreign aids, built up their nation until they became a superpower. Therefore, to achieve success, ~~the~~ people of a nation should conform to its social norms.

The achieved unity among people leads to development of institutions based on common societal norms. Institutions such as system of education and politics, are based on societal norms. To improve such institutions, individuals should unite and improve themselves as a nation. One way to achieve this unity, as discussed before, is by sticking to ~~one~~ common societal norms.

Adhering to societal norms and promoting these norms and culture can attract tourists. Many foreigners are inspired by the rich culture of many Asian countries. Therefore, many countries like China, Japan and Pakistan stick to their norms and culture and promote them. Different festivals and international exposure to these norms attract tourists. This can also boost the economy. Therefore, conforming to societal norms is important for the sake of tourist attraction.

Conforming to societal norms can enhance one's life, meanwhile going against them can create disturbance and havoc in an individual's personal life as well as in the society. Going against social norms affects the personal and social life of a person. The "odd one out" in the family or social set up usually has the most difficult time. For instance Socrates, a famous Greek philosopher, was sentenced to death by drinking poison, even though his efforts in the field of political science were exceptional. Therefore, to have a peaceful and blissful life, one should stick to societal norms.

The rebellious behaviour of going against societal norms also affects one's professional life. If career of a person is likely to get negatively affected because of one's rebellious behaviour. Different organizations around the world are discouraged to employ individuals who go against the social norms. For instance, law firms are less likely to employ a lawyer. For instance, many organizations and institutions, ~~for ex~~ such as some law firms or Korean music industries, prohibit tattoos. ~~They are~~ Similarly, educational institutions are less likely to employ a cross dresser as a teacher. Therefore, one's rebellious nature can affect his or her professional life.

Drifting away from societal norms ~~so ultimately leads~~ affects personal, social and professional lives which ultimately leads to isolation, depression and anxiety. For instance drug abuse which is not only against the social norm but a ~~more~~ worse in the modern age, disturbs the personal, familial and professional life of an individual. This leads to isolation which intensifies the depressive state of the person. Its withdrawal is accompanied by anxiety. Even after withdrawal, the lives of the people who once used drugs are not the same anymore. Therefore, drifting away from societal norms

to development of psychological issues such as depression or anxiety.

The antisocial behaviour due to going against societal norms and isolation, makes a person liable to criminal behaviour. According to criminologists and different theories of criminology, the people in isolation and those who are alienated by the society & for standing out, ~~are~~ seek refuge in criminal groups and resort to criminal behaviour to have that sense of belonging. Hence, it can be said that anti-social behaviour promotes criminal behaviour.

Although, there are various beneficial implications of ~~go~~ conforming to the social norms, ~~not~~ it must be understood that not all norms of a society are toxic and must be eradicated. Many societal norms promote social ills. Some societal norms, for example, promote oppression of women. Women are wired to ~~comfot~~ conform to norms oppressing them in order to be good women of the society. For instance, in Pakistan, many people yet do not realize the importance of women employment and force women to resign from their jobs. Such norms must be eradicated.