**Pakistan Studies**

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**Section:** A

**Assignment:** 02

**Question 01: [CLO: 03]**

**What do you understand by the word culture? How Pakistan is a multicultural and socially diversified country? State some of the DOs and DONTs of the Pakistani culture.**

A group of people's shared values, beliefs, customs, traditions, behaviors, and activities are all included in the broad and multidimensional term "culture." It consists of a variety of components, including social norms, language, religion, art, music, food, and more, all of which influence how members of that group interact and go about their lives. Culture is dynamic; historical, social, and environmental influences can all have an impact on how it changes over time.

Pakistan is a multicultural and diversified nation, with a complex tapestry of diverse traditions and influences forming its culture. A blend of Middle Eastern, South Asian, Central Asian, and British colonial influences defines it. Pakistan is culturally and socially diverse in the following ways:

1. **Ethnic Diversity:** There are numerous different ethnic groups living in Pakistan, each having their own language, traditions, and customs, such as the Punjabis, Sindhis, Pashtuns, Balochis, and many more.
2. **Religious Diversity:** Although Muslims make up most of the population, there are also other religious minorities in the nation, including Christians, Sikhs, Hindus, and others, all of whom add to the mosaic of cultures.
3. **Linguistic Variety:** The national language of Pakistan, Urdu, as well as other regional languages, Punjabi, Sindhi, and Pashto, are among the many languages spoken there.
4. **Cultural Festivals:** The nation observes a wide range of cultural holidays and events, including Christmas, Holi, Eid, and Diwali, which represent the diversity of religious and cultural customs.
5. **Regional Cuisine:** Pakistan is home to a variety of distinct cuisines, with national favorites including chapli kebabs, nihari, and biryani.

Regarding the DOs and DON'Ts of Pakistani culture, it's important to realize that because of the country's many ethnic and regional influences, culture can vary greatly within Pakistan. Nonetheless, there are a few broad principles to consider:

**Dos:**

1. **Respect for Elders:** Show respect to elders and greet them with courtesy.
2. **Hospitality:** Pakistani culture is known for its hospitality; it's customary to offer tea or refreshments to guests.
3. **Modesty in Dress:** Dress modestly, especially in more conservative areas.
4. **Religious Respect:** Show respect for religious customs and traditions, even if you do not share the same beliefs.
5. **Use Right Hand:** When giving or receiving something, use your right hand as the left hand is traditionally considered less clean.

**DON’TS:**

1. **Public Displays of Affection:** Avoid public displays of affection, as they are generally considered inappropriate.
2. **Disrespecting Religious Customs:** Do not disrespect religious customs or practices, including during Ramadan when Muslims fast from dawn to dusk.
3. **Criticism of Pakistan:** Avoid making negative comments about Pakistan or its culture, as this can be seen as disrespectful.
4. **Inappropriate Dress:** Avoid wearing revealing or overly casual clothing, especially in more conservative areas.
5. **Pointing with Feet:** Pointing at people or religious objects with your feet is considered disrespectful.

These are cultural norms that are generally considered impolite or offensive in Pakistani culture, but it's important to remember that individual attitudes and customs may vary, and it's always a good idea to be respectful and observe local behavior when in a different culture.

The End