



Inspiring Excellence

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Answer to the question no. 1

As a Bangladeshi citizen, I have always been fascinated by the rich history and the struggles that shape our national identity. Bangladesh has a long history of culture, language and struggle. Many bigger events and movements help to create the idea to make Bangladesh an independent country. These events and movements are important in the history of Bangladesh as they show how brave and strong the people of Bangladesh are. Now, Bangladesh is growing faster with a glorious culture and a lot of energy. The story of Bangladesh is the story of hope, courage and never giving up.

The land we know as Bangladesh has a rich history that has a very long past event before the independence of the country. Long ago, it was a part of Bengal, a region known for the mix of different religions like Hinduism, buddhism and islam. Over the time, The land was ruled by different dynastics, including Mauraya, gupta, pala and sena. Each and every ruler had left something unique behind which makes the country's culture and tradition so rich. When Islam arrived in the 13th century, the land, bengal became an important place for islamic culture, education and practice. The Sultans and the Mughal Empires played a significant role to shape the region's identity and culture. In the 18th century, the British east India company took over Bengal and reshaped the economy and culture. The British introduced western-style education, new law and the administrative system, which had a major impact on the people and their way of life.

The partition of British India took place in 1947 which changed Bengal in a big way. Bengal was divided into two parts. One was West Bengal which was part of India and the other part, east Bengal, which became part of Pakistan. This split caused major problems, mainly religion based, like people had to leave their homes, violent conflicts between religious groups and lasting tensions. Although East Bengal was part of Pakistan and later it was called East Pakistan. But there was a huge difference between West Pakistan and East Pakistan. The difference between culture and language started to create problems among the people in East Pakistan.

The 1952 Language Movement was a major movement in the history of Bangladeshi national identity. The government of West Pakistan tried to make Urdu as the only national Language, even though the majority of the people in East Bengal spoke Bengali. This was disrespectful toward Bengali culture and language. Which made the people of East Pakistan protest against West Pakistan. Which led to one of the most tragic events of the history of Bangladesh. On February 21, 1952, several students were killed during a peaceful demonstration. The Language Movement became a powerful symbol against the cultural oppression. It also create the spark of freedom inside the people of the East Pakistan. Today, 21st February is remembered every year as the International Mother Language Day. The day is celebrated to honor linguistic diversity and cultural identity and remember those who sacrificed their lives for the right to speak to their own language.

In the era of 1960s, people of East Pakistan started to sense that the government of West Pakistan was treating East Pakistan unfairly, both politically and economically. The Six-Point Movement, led by the Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Awami League, demanded more autonomy and a federal system. This movement led to large scale of protests and set the stage fir the broader struggle for independence that would follow in the coming years. The election of the 1970 was the key movement in the history of Bangladesh. The Awami league won the most seats in the Pakistani National Assembly. But the Pakistani Government did not hand over the power to the leader of east Pakistan. Which then created a huge political crisis. This refusal to hand over the power made the people of East Pakistan even more determined to have more autonomy and added to the disgust toward West Pakistan's rule. The Liberation War of Bangladesh was the ultimate result of the political and cultural struggle of the people of East Pakistan. After the refusal to hand over the power even after winning the huge number of seats in the whole Pakistan. This action, the violence toward the Bengali leaders and The brutal attack of the pakistani turned into a full scale war. The war brought a lot of pain and displacement but ended with the victory of the independence of the bangladesh. After independence, Bangladesh had to deal with big problems such as political instability, economic difficulties and natural disaster. By the 1990s, Bangladesh had moved back to democracy and established a parliamentary system and regular elections.

The evolution of the Bangladeshi national identity has been shifted by the historical events and movements that were crucial for the autonomy, cultural recognition and political independence. From the partition in India and Pakistan in 1947, the language movement in 1952 and the independent war in 1971 were the important events in the history of Bangladesh and these events has a deep meaning for the people of the Bangladesh. The political movements of the 1960s and 70s played a vital role as they represented the struggle for democracy and groundwork for Bangladesh to become a sovereign nation. These movements and the events show the strength and the determination of the people of Bangladesh to fight for their identity, independence and the voice against oppression and injustice. Each movement has a great significance of the spirit of each Bangladeshi people, how they stayed united in every situation and how they fought for what is right.

The history of Bangladesh is the story of strength, unity, resistance and the ultimate victory. From fighting against the cultural and linguistic oppression to the struggle for independence, Bangladesh has always shown the strong sense of pride and unity. Understanding the historical background and the evolution of Bangladeshi national identity, it gives us the idea of the dedication to preserve the culture and linguistic heritage. The sacrifices and the struggle for independence is a great reminder for the young generation to stand with what is right.

Answer the Question No. 2

In today's world, talking about surrounding ethnic and national identities can cause a lot of arguments and disagreements. We, Bangladeshis have a unique identity which is shaped by the history, culture and experiences of our ancestors. But there are many debates and arguments happening around us about what it truly means to be a Bangladeshi in today's world.

In Bangladesh, while the whole world is getting connected with each other, we are worrying about to keep our culture alive. The Western ideas and culture are spreading so fast that we have to be concerned about our own culture. The western ideology has made a great impact in our lifestyle, even our religion.

Multiculturalism refers to a culture where different cultures live together in one place. It is about to respect and celebrating each other's differences while living together. Identity Politics explains the background of people and their thoughts and beliefs that shapes the politics. Nationalist Movements talk about the unity to fight for the country's right and freedom. These ideas sometimes clash with each other but they are the part of how we understand the society and politics.

In Bangladesh, nowadays we are picking up the English and the western culture as our own which is creating a worry that our own language, culture and custom might fade away. We are adopting the education system and the lifestyle at a fast pace. The events like Halloween or Valentine's Day were not a big deal before, but now they are catching up so fast in the cities. Now it is getting tougher to keep our own identity strong. Nowadays, the meaning of nationalists movements mean different things. Now the discouragement to protect our existing industries like Jute and Textile sector is increasing, and protecting our businesses from the foreigners is a new kind of nationalist movement in our current economic system.

Now the western culture is influencing our culture including our Music. Few years ago, folk songs were like they used to be. But after the influence, they are not authentic anymore. The instruments that were used with the music have been replaced by the western musical

instruments. Coke Studio Bangla, Wind of change and other platforms are mixing up the traditional songs with foreign languages. On a post from Reddit thread discussion, some felt the music sounded too Westernized and the fusion of genres seemed forced, with a preference for more authentic Bangla songs and famous artists over new ones.

Many older folk and people from the rural areas are too keen about the idea of western culture. They worry that the western culture might wash out our culture and the values we hold. Younger folks, especially those who live in the cities think that the influence of the westers is a good thing. They believe that it is good to stay up to date with the current world. The Business People see the influence of western is the key to making money. They think that bringing new ideas and technology to the market can help the economy grow easily. The religious are not happy that the western influence as the lifestyle of the western culture clashes with the religious belief.

Talking about our cultural identity can make us feel more connected as a nation. It reminds us of where we came from and what we believe in together. It can make us stay together to keep our culture strong even though the rest of the world is changing. But the idea of adapting the western culture can create debate between different groups. Sometimes the rich city folks start living like westerners which makes others doubt their lifestyle. The discussion of the western culture not only affects how we see ourselves but also how other countries see us. Some might think that adapting to a foreign culture might be cool but others may think that we are losing our own culture.

After looking into how the Western culture is influencing our country, I have realized that to stay up to date with the rapidly changing world, it is becoming harder for us to hold into our culture. To deal with this, some suggestions may work effectively. School, college and universities could teach more about our own culture. This would help the young generation to know more about our culture. We should support and appreciate the local artists, musicians, filmmakers and writers. This way we can keep our culture alive. This way we can spread our tradition and culture to everyone. We can organize more programmes related to our own culture and help us to understand our culture. We can establish discussion in our communities about how the Western

culture is affecting our culture. These activities can help us to understand each other's perspectives better.

It is clear that the Western culture has a major impact on Bangladesh's identity. It has marked its trace from how we celebrate to what we learn. These discussions are important as they shape how we see ourselves and how we see each other. They help us understand the changes in our culture and how we can keep our culture alive while still being open to the end ideas. To sum up, respecting and appreciating different cultures while keeping one's culture can make the world a more interesting and respectful place.