

SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND CULTURE

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CGNS DEPARTMENT

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CULTURE

Functions of culture in the society

- Culture is relative in any given society, thus,
 - ☐ It ensures and guarantees the continuity of the society.
 - ☐ It identifies people in the society.
 - ☐ It aids uniformity among certain groups of people in the society.
 - ☐ Culture determines how people behave and live.
 - ☐ It differentiates one society from another.



Elements of Culture

- ☐ Custom
- ☐ Language
- ☐ Symbols
- ☐ Folkways
- ☐ Mores
- ☐ Norms
- ☐ Values
- ☐ Laws



Custom

- ❑ Custom is a traditional way of doing things specifically attributed to a particular society.
- ❑ It is also anything people do, and have done for a long time in the society. Usually, the people come from the same country, community or ethnic group.

Custom

- ❑ For instance, tradition in different societies, among the Yoruba in southwest Nigeria, it is a custom for the naming ceremony to hold eight days after the birth of a child. While the Igbo custom do not necessarily demand for the naming ceremony after the birth of a child.
- ❑ Again, in some parts of Hausa society, a man is made to receive some strokes of the cane before he can be deemed fit to marry or to take her bride home. These explain the various customs in Nigerian society.
- ❑ **Totem** is an object(s) that is held sacred in different societies.

Language

- ❑ Language delineates the identity of people in a society.
- ❑ Language is a method of human communication for interaction and it is either spoken or written. It consists of the use of words in structured and conventional ways.
- ❑ Language is a system of communication used and understood by a particular country, community or ethnic group.
- ❑ In Nigeria there are about 521 languages and dialects with 250 ethnic groups. The official language in Nigeria is English, with Pidgin English sometimes spoken by many Nigerians.

Symbols



Symbol

- ❑ A **symbol** is an object that is embedded with meaning that represents, stands for, or suggests an idea, belief, action, or material entity of people in a society.
- ❑ Symbols take the form of words, art, sounds, images, gestures and are used to convey ideas and beliefs of a particular group of people in a community.
- ❑ Examples of the national symbols are, currency, international passport, the flag and Coat of arms of Nigeria.

Symbol

- ❑ Names are also symbols that represent individuals and their ethnicity, names like Oluwapelumi, Chukwuemeka and Zainab portray the identity of the ethnic groups in Nigeria.
- ❑ Tribal mark is symbol of identity, mode of dressing is also a symbol that represents the culture of an ethnic group.

ANY QUESTION?

