

Assignment - 1

1. What is culture. Explain its components, characteristics and importance.

A Culture refers to the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours and artifacts that characterize a group of people. It encompasses the way of life and the learned patterns of thought and behaviour that are passed down from one generation to the next within a society. Culture plays a critical role in the shaping individual and collective identities and influences.

- Components of culture:-

1. Symbols: There are words, images or objects that carry a particular meaning within a culture.

2. Language:

Communication is a fundamental aspect of culture and language is the primary medium through which people convey their thoughts, values.

3. Values:

These are shared beliefs about what is considered good, right and important within a particular culture.

4. Norms:

Norms are established rules or exceptions regarding appropriate behaviour within a society.

• Characteristics of culture:

- Learned: Culture is acquired through socialization and education. Individuals learn the customs, values and norms of their family.

- Shared:

Culture is a collective phenomenon. It is not held btw individuals in isolation but is a shared set of beliefs and practices within a society.

- Dynamic:

Culture is not static. It involves and changes over time. In response to various internal and external factors.

• Importance of culture:

→ Identity formation:

Culture provide individuals with a sense of identity and belonging.

→ Influence and behaviour:

Cultural values and norms guide individual and collective behaviour, influencing from interpersonal relations.

→ Communication and understanding:

Culture knowledge facilitates effective communication and understanding among the people.

Explain ethics in hinduism - vedas and vedantic schools?

The word "ethics" is derived from the Greek word *ethos* and from the Latin word which means, "way of living". ethics is the branch of philosophy.

Indian ethics objective is to give a short survey of the ethical foundation of Hindu religion philosophy.

Ethics in Hinduism:

Traditional Indian thinking is mainly spiritualistic with a firm belief that man has a soul within him as his real being.

Vedic and Vedantic Schools of Ethics:

An outline of the ethical vision and moral content of five representative vedic and vedantic texts namely vedas, the upanishads, the laws of Manu, the gita and the Ramayana.

Vedas: The vedas are a large body of religious texts originating in ancient India. composed in Vedic Sanskrit, the text constitute the oldest layer of Sanskrit literature and the oldest scripture of Hinduism.

These are:

Rig veda: The Rigveda is an ancient Indian collection of vedic Sanskrit hymns. It contains numerous secrets and clarifications about the origin of the world. Somaveda, soma - melody and veda means knowledge. It is described as the book of song.

Yajurveda: Also known as worship knowledge or Ritual knowledge. It is a collection of recitations, ritual worship formulas, mantras and chants.

Atharveda: Is also known by the name of Brahmaveda. This veda is the storehouse of procedure of everyday life.

Six Vedic Schools of India

1. Nyaya: It means "justice", "rules", "method" or judgement. It is one of the six traditional schools of Hindu philosophy. Gautama who is also known as author of Nyaya sutra had developed this school of thought.

2. Sathya: Samkhya: It refers to the philosophical school in Hinduism, based on systematic enumeration and rational examination. It believes that self-knowledge rather than any external influence or agent, leads to freedom.

3. Yoga: Yoga philosophy is one of the six major orthodox schools of Hindu philosophy. Vedic Mantra and Prana Yogas include Pranayama and Pratyahara control of senses of Raja yoga System.

4. Vaisheshika: Vaisheshika school deals with metaphysics. It was founded by the sage Kanada. It is an objective and realistic philosophy of the universe. According to this school the universe is reducible to finite no. of atoms.

5. Purva Mimamsa: This school believes in the complete authority of vedas. It is based on the sage jaimini's Mimamsa Sutra.

6. Uttara Mimamsa: The vedanta or uttara Mimamsa school concentrates on the philosophical teachings of Upanishads, rather than the Brahmanas. This school is a monistic school of philosophy that believes that the world is unreal and only reality is Brahman.

3 Describe the holy regions of India and its tourism.

A. India the melting pot of cultures is also known for its religious diversity. Religion forms the basis in its diverse that has a history dating back to the centuries.

Concept of Holy Geographical Regions in India:

The Himalaya or Devbhaya where gods dwell. Places loved by gods and where they have been manifest have further sacred associations, while the seven places where the godness body fell on earth are the shaktipithas.

List of most Religious Places in India and its Tourism.

- Ladakh and Leh - An Oyster for those seeking Nirvana
- Spiti :- A place where god lives
- Varanasi :- The second city of life
- Haridwar and Rishikesh: The Mystic twin cities
- Pushkar: Spirited hues for the soul.
- Madurai: An ancient city.
- Puri: Gateway to Sea and Chilika
- Allahabad: The House of Holy Sangam

Char Dham in India:

The char Dham are Badrinath, Dwarka, Tagonath and Rameswaram

It is believed that every hindu should visit the char Dham during one's lifetime. The char Dham are defined as Adishankara (686-717 CE) consists of four Hindu pilgrimage etc.

The major religions are: 1. Hinduism 2. Islam 3. Christianity 4. Sikhism 5. Buddhism 6. Jainism

Varanasi: is the oldest living city in the world constitutes the heart of hinduism. Located on the bank of holy river ganga. The city has rooted identity and is linked to lord shiva.

Dwaraka: is the ancient city in the northwestern India state of Gujarat. Its known as Hindu pilgrimage site. It has carved entrance and a black idol of marble of lord Krishna.

Ayodhya: is regarded as one of the seven sacred cities of Hindus, because of its association in the great indian epic Ramayana

Places of worship for muslims in India

Agra: The most sought after holy places are the Moti Masjid and the Jama Masjid, built during the time of emperor shah Jahan.

Ajmer: Ajmer Sharif Dargah also known as Ajmer Dargah is the tomb of Moinuddin is one of the holiest places of worship in India not only for Muslims but followers of every faith.

Places of worship for Christianity in India:

Goa: As a Christian religious destination is well known across the globe, there is an end number of churches and most popular is Basilica of Bon Jesus that houses the tomb of St. Francis Xavier.

Chennai:-

St. Thomas Cathedral Basilica and National Shrine of Saint Thomas is a minor basilica of the Catholic Church in India, at the Santhome neighbourhood of Chennai.

Places of worship for Sikhism:

Amritsar: Sikhism is a comparatively new religion that originated in Punjab. The Golden Temple in Amritsar is the holiest Gurudwara in India and abroad.

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