

Chapter – 1: Understanding Diversity

- 3 children – draw human figure – all 3 drawings – different from each other
- We differ in language, culture, religion, the way we draw
- Many ways – similar to classmates – other ways – different from them

Making friends

- Is it easy to make friends with someone different than you?
- Story by a cyclist
 - Cyclist used to pass an intersection every day
 - There was a newspaper boy screaming headlines in mix of English and Hindi
 - One day cyclist asked for Hindi paper – newspaper boy was amazed – cyclist knew Hindi
 - Newspaper boy – never went to school – family lived in Meerut
 - Another day – had introductions – both Samir – cyclist – Samir *ek* – newspaper boy Samir *do*
 - Next day – newspaper headlines – Communal riots in Meerut – many people killed in riots
 - Samir *do* said – I'm a Muslim Samir – all my people in Meerut
 - Samir *do* – never seen again
- Difference –
 - Samir *ek* –
 - Familiar with English
 - Hindu religion
 - Went to school
 - Samir *do* –
 - Speaks Hindi
 - Muslim religion
 - Sells newspaper – never went to school
- Different culture and religion – diversity
- 3rd difference – education – not diversity but inequality – one person does not get equal opportunities as others
- Caste system – another example – society divided into groups – depend on work – not allowed to change groups
- Since not allowed to change groups – not considered to learn anything new

What does diversity add to our lives?

- Friends – different from you – bring different food – speak different language at home – have different cultures and religions (celebrated different festivals) – wore different clothes
- Read story – different people, animals and even ghosts
- Read good story – get idea for a new story
- People – write books – get idea – different places
- Some – live in forest – other – in cities with kings and queens – some write about their own childhood
- Imagine – all live in the same place – eat same food (potatoes) – wear same colours (red and white) – same pets (deer and cat) – played same game (snake and ladders) – no new stories

Diversity in India

- India – many diversities
- Different –
 - Languages
 - Foods
 - Festivals
 - Religions
- Many things are similar – different ways of doing them

How do we explain Diversity?

- Around 200 years ago – before train, aeroplane, bus, car – people travelled on ships, horses, camels, foot
- Search – new lands to settle, people to trade
- Too long to travel – once reach a place – stay there for longer times
- Many others left homes – famines and droughts
- Some – search for work – others – left for war
- Sometimes – make homes – new place – change a little – other times – prefer old ways
- Language, food, music, religion – mix of old and new – intermixing – something new and different
- History – many places – different cultural influence – shape life and culture – regions – diverse – unique histories
- Diversity – people adapt lives – geographical areas
 - Living near sea is different from living on mountains
- Different clothing and eating – different work
- Cities – difficult to live – life with physical surrounding – people don't grow vegetables – depend on markets
- Historical and geographical feature – influence diversity
 - Ladakh
 - Desert – east of Jammu and Kashmir
 - Very little agriculture – no rain and lots of snow – maximum time
 - Drinking water – depend on melting snow in summer
 - Sheep and goats
 - Goats – special – pashmina wool – pashmina shawl – expensive
 - People – collect wool – sell to buyers in Kashmir – shawl woven here
 - People eat meat and milk products
 - Each family – owns goats, cows and *dzos* (yak-cows)
 - Desert – YET – famous trade route – many passes – caravan travelled to Tibet – carried textiles, spices, raw silk, carpets
 - Buddhism – reached Tibet via Ladakh – little Tibet
 - Islam – 400 years ago – significant Muslim population
 - Rich tradition – songs and poems – local versions of Tibetan epic – Kesar Saga – performed and sung by Muslims and Buddhists
 - Kerala
 - State – south-west corner
 - One side – sea – other side – hills
 - Spices – pepper, cloves, cardamoms – grown here – made this area famous
 - Jewish and Arab traders – came here first

- Apostle of Christ, St. Thomas – came here 2000 years ago – brought Christianity to India
- Arab traders – settled here
- Ibn Battuta – 700 years ago – wrote travelogue – describe life of Muslims – respected community
- Portuguese – discovered sea route from Europe to India – Vasco da Gama landed with ship
- People – different religions – Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism
- Fishing nets – look like Chinese fishing nets – called cheena-vala
- Utensils – cheenachatti – cheen word – believed to come from China
- Fertile land and climate – suitable for rice – people eat – rice, fish and vegetables
- Kerala and Ladakh – different geography – almost same history – influenced by Chinese and Arab traders
- Kerala – famous for spices – Ladakh – famous for wool
- Influence of culture – not only past – present life – moving for work – culture blend in with new place
- Neighbourhood – people several communities

Unity in Diversity

- India – diversity – source of strength
- British ruled India – men and women – different culture, religion, and region – oppose them
- People – different backgrounds – work together – oppose British
- British thought – Indians are different – easy to rule – people showed them – different YET united against British
- Jallianwala Bagh massacre – Amritsar – British General – opened fire – peaceful gathering – killing many
- Everyone – came together against British
- Songs and symbols – serve as reminder – country's tradition – respect diversity
- Indian flag – symbol of protest against British
- *Discovery of India* – book by Jawaharlal Nehru – Indian unity – not forced from outside – something from deep inside our feelings – every variety – accepted
- Nehru – gave “Unity in Diversity” – describe India