

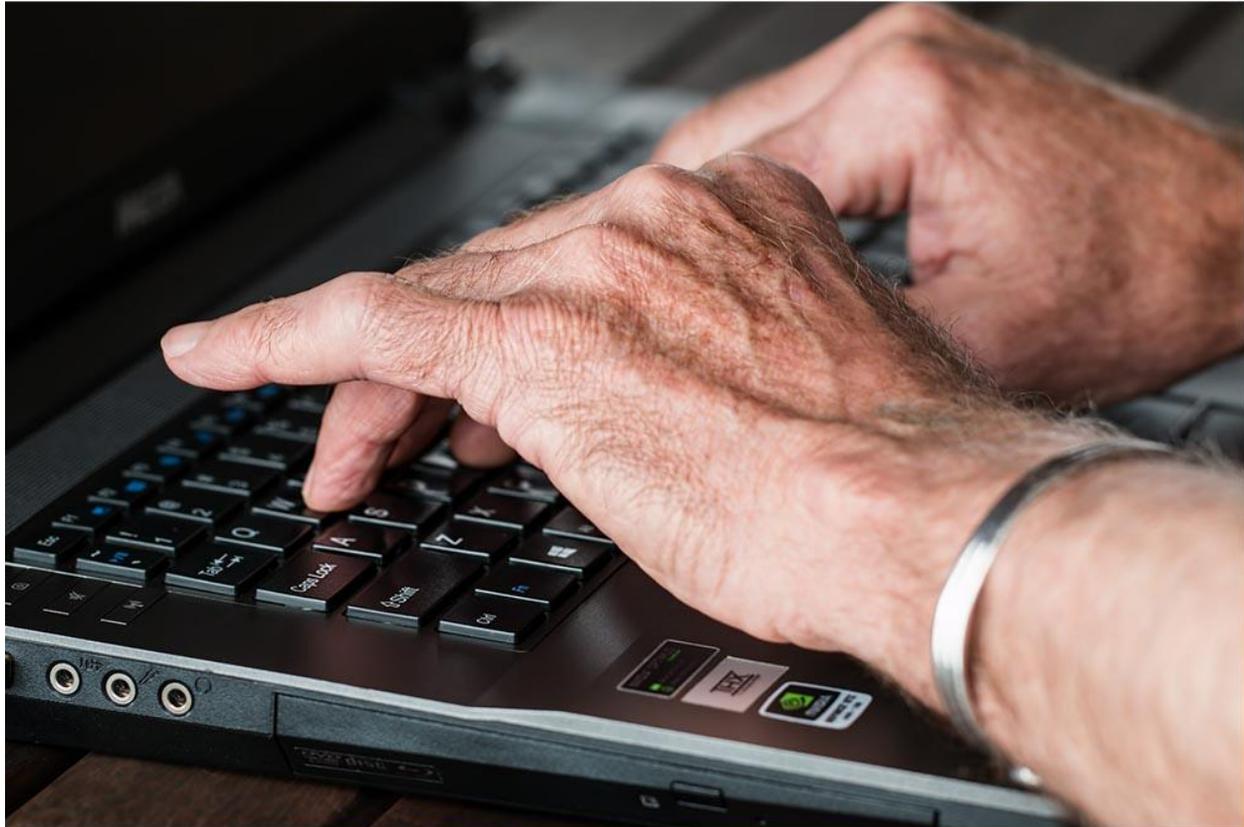
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Role of Culture and Society on ‘Identity’

Abstract

In any era, culture of the society works like a pool. It moulds the identity of a person not individually but wholly. In this way, Cultural identity refers to that network which imitates the social norms made by the prevailing society. This type of identity can be defined as a feeling of representation of a group to depict the nationality, religion, ethnicity, generation, locality, regional preferences and the class in terms of their upbringing. Culture: as a pool not only influences the identity but it provides a tag to the society you belongs to. The reason of this is that culture exists with the help of customs, language, beliefs and life-style. It is a fact that the problem based on identity rises when the feeling of “me” comes on the top. The questions like- Who am I, what others think about me and how an individual acts? No person is alone. Every

one of us has to live in the society so there is no existence of “me”. Human being can survive in the society only through “we” because we define ourselves through the culture in front of any peer group.

Introduction

Understanding of a culture begins with the birth of an individual which is shaped by the moral and ethical values prevalent in the surrounding of an individual. Though we live in a society but personal experiences of an individual plays a tremendous role in establishment of an identity because every individual is unique. It is better to speak that the way relationships are changing constantly, it can be said that changes or addition in culture moulds the identity of an individual also. It is a universally acclaimed fact that Human being is a social animal and culture is that glue which holds the groups of human beings in a bond together. It's a big challenge for the human beings to live and let live peacefully. It is analyzed that Identity can never be determined biologically; it is formed by social and environmental influences. For instance: language defines the identity and it is identified from birth by culture and environment of an individual. Thus, in this way cultural identity is a subset of the communication theory of identity which establishes the identity of an individual in the context of culture. It can be interpreted here that:

“Categorizations about identity, even when codified and hardened into clear typologies through colonization, state formation or general modernizing processes, are always full of tensions and contradictions which are destructive sometimes but with creativity and positivity”.

It is analyzed that in terms of historical pool, ‘culture is a factor which shapes identity. In the formation of this, all the peer groups enjoy reformations to strengthen their cultural heritage

consciously or unconsciously. Nation plays a big role in shaping the identity because it works as a foundation for individual's identity. For better understanding, an example of an immigrant can be taken where they feel the need to change their culture just in order to become fit for the culture in which they are spending their time to live properly. But this change can be counted as a conflict with the current or their existing beliefs. Few people adjust themselves in various cultures as they are fond of wandering and interaction with the people of diverse and this habit provides several ways of adjustment. Now a days, due to internet cultural impact is changing constantly and getting helpful in bringing the people more closure to each other. A certain type of virtual culture is flourishing through the internet as there is no need to go to meet the dear ones personally because internet fulfills that condition in the form of chatting. According to the present scenario, one must have the capability to project themselves within two cultures without losing the current identity. Today's youth is a firm believer of internet and online activities. So, dual culture is getting developed day by day as they speak something and does something else. In this manner, the efforts to establish the identity for an individual become more difficult where limitations do not permit to flourish the culture because they emerges them to their own surroundings and homes as well and in these circumstances the chances to know the culture becomes limited. Today's youth does not believe in flourishing or enhancement of culture. They are focused on posing photographs, uploading, cropping, liking and so on and due to this virtual culture is flourishing instead of real culture. It is easily interpreted that, in the era of technology and industrialization the role of culture is not only to portray the art and its products through culture but it plays a vital role in getting employment and education to make the economic conditions of the nation better to develop the culture.

Language plays an important role in shaping the identity of a human being in the context of culture because its development depicts the particular period of time which further enhances the culture. Somewhere, language is that kind of medium which depicts the way of life in the cultural spheres of any nation where communication influences the ancestral roots. It is an analyzed or acclaimed fact that the process of learning a language can be affected by cultural identity because it works as a component for the establishment of cultural identity. To enhance further, it can be said that it is the process to explore and to enhance one's culture through language to learn more and more about it. During this process, the person will arise the question that why they are leading their life with in the customs and beliefs of their culture. The hidden fact behind this is that everyone wants to know about heritage, museums, sources of reading about the cultural sources and this can be possible only through the language. For instance, someone is living in the midst of French people, so it becomes obvious for the person to know that "who is he" because he is the only person who does not belongs to French culture. When a person feels comfortable in terms of language, they want to enhance their role in leading a life through the brought up of their children with confidence just in order to enrich their cultural identity. Within the context of culture, identity can never be made individually because culture never gives opportunity to develop to an individual. In other words, no one can imagine one's identity outside the culture.

For the better understanding of this, the perfect example can be seen in the form of 'Queen Elizabeth' from 16th century.

To understand this in a better way, the perfect example of 16th century Queen Elizabeth can be taken. She is counted as one of the longest reigning lady in the history. Elizabethan era is known as era of cultural movements with the artifacts as well as literature. Elizabeth

was the lady, who inspires us to pen down the masterpieces with a quality to inspire the humanity and especially women to lead the life with charm. It is her fame due to which billions of stamps, millions of coins, administration ways and postcards are released in her memory. She projects a personality which reveals her own quality as well as she is the representative of a cultural legacy of her times. She is the lady who is full of strength and motivates other women to show their strength and consistency for long term influence by never supporting the sex. She is the lady who is more famous as an icon for the world instead of a patron. She is the canvas on whom many colours of bravery, comradeship, strength and visionary are showered. She depicted herself as a fashion icon in front of the world to promote the superiority in front of males in the society. In this way, it is easily interpreted that Elizabeth projected the valuable culture which is counted as an important era from the context of identity of her time by throwing the lights on British culture and empire from which a woman rose and became a monarch. It is well evaluated that her role was inevitably masculine in the society. So, from this context, it is necessary to know that whether her language was feminine or masculine? And the response to this question on the basis of proclamation of personal letters is that though she was playing the role of a masculine figure but she resembled to feminine qualities but her usage of language was connecting her with males in comparison to females. Her own opinion was that God had placed her on the throne, to ignore the male biasness. It is a fact that- the society of that time was highly patriarchal and each and every sphere of life was dominated by males. So, she was a target for the male society but it looks the result of her intelligence and humour as well that despite dominance, she proved an intelligent, successful, and extremely popular ruler of the time and for the centuries. If we talk about male dominancy then it is better to refer her as a “Prince”

according to the letters found which she wrote to King James VI. The example can be seen here as:

“And, that you may knowe I am that prince that neuer can indure a menace at my ennemys hand, muche les of one so dearly traictid, I wyl giue you this bond, that affection and kind traicement shal euer preuaile, but feare or doute shal neuer procure aught from me”.

It is inferred after the research that she adopted the features of masculine language just to adjust herself and to attain the credibility. It is analyzed through the personal autographical letters with the letters written by educated men and women of the court of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It is also analyzed that she maintained her feminine identity after becoming a queen despite the dealing with male dominated society. It is well evaluated that she referred to herself as a prince just to fight prejudice and underline her position. It is more appropriate to speak that social roles control the behavior of human being more than biological hierarchy and it is ‘Gender roles’ which silently impose norms of behaviour as well as innate characteristics on human beings. Being a queen, she had to follow the church from every respect. In short, she belonged to a free country but she was not free from the male dominance. But despite these hurdles she acted her part very well.

Elizabeth I’s era is counted as one of the Golden Era’s because of extravagance and luxury which was flourished by the popular culture with the help of Shakespeare and explorers like Drake and Raleigh. This dazzling life style was wonderfully embodied by Queen Elizabeth who was very fond of lavishing costumes and jewellery. She was the lady who used to enter in style at her court. So, it is interpreted that the sixteenth century was marked as a time when the

poor became poorer, books and opinions were suppressed, and plots to overthrow the Queen were rife. John Knox- the Protestant Preacher wrote in 1558 that:

“It is more than a monster in nature that a woman should reign and bear empire over man.’ So was he right? Were women fit to rule the country? The people had lived through the unpopular reign of Mary I, known as 'Bloody Mary' for her merciless persecution of Protestants”.

The evaluation of Elizabeth’s behavioural traits reveals that she is a lady who can be counted not only quick-witted and clever but was able to use feminine wiles to get her own way. Despite ruthlessness, she was a lady who no less than a king but simultaneously she was full of sentiments and easily swayed by flattery of others. Elizabeth used to like to surround herself in the huge fraternity of attractive people. It reveals that she believed in establishing relationships. After observing Elizabeth’s keen interest in studies, Henry's sixth wife- Katherine Parr ensured her education up to the highest standard where she learnt the art of public speaking and unheard of female voice and their suppression at the time. Among the males, she knew the art of turning the tide of opinion in her favour. This became possible because of her deep and thorough insights. In other words, it is better to speak that she knew it properly that she is abided by the society so she has to win the faith not only the poor but poorest beggar because the man folk plays an important role in politics. Being a woman or as a queen she recognized that- how important it is to establish an identity to make a mark in the society to fight for the women rights. It is evaluated that, welfare of the community can be counted as her top most priority instead of marriage. She was abided by the rules of society but still she chose the community as her priority. For further analysis, it can be said that – it does not mean that she did not like males. In fact she used flirt as a weapon to get her work done by the males. She attracted the attention of several dukes and kings to make the alliance with European countries.

During her last years up to 24th March 1603 Elizabeth- the Queen showed the strength of a female up to the end of life as the year 1590 is counted as a difficult decade for her. She had to face 'Nine Years War' which brought lots of destruction. In her later years, she was not so active, due to which her Ministers started to deal with the matters without getting her consent and she became paranoid about the threat of assassination. The whole fraternity had enjoyed stable government. In this way it can be interpreted that Elizabeth's greatest achievement can be counted in the form of relationship she has shaped with her people with loyalty due to which her popularity is still unquestioned.

In the continuity to this, an example of 21st century can be taken which is considered as a century to promote woman empowerment. It is worldwide acclaimed that wrestler siblings Geeta Phogat and Babita Phogat from the small village Balali from Haryana in India broke all the stereotypes and established their own identity through a game like 'Wrestling' which was considered as a game for males before their arrival. It is the result of the constant efforts of their father Sh.Mahabir Phogat, who has remained also a wrestler of his own time. Phogat sisters touched the sky because of their father's belief that "Daughters are no less than a son"! Geeta Phogat is counted as a woman Gold Medalist in freestyle wrestling and as a woman who made the way for other women to come in front row by their hard work and dedication in this male dominated society where each and everything is distributed to males first. On the other side of the pole, while Babita followed the footsteps of her elder sister and won "Silver medal" in 'Common Wealth Games' in the year 2010. Today, both of the sisters have become an icon for the females of the nation. To elaborate this fame, an example can be taken in the form of the production of the movie 'Dangal' which is based on the life of Phogat sisters. Both of the sisters achieved the heights at the very tender age when every girl child likes to play with dolls and mud

houses. Due to dominating nature of the society, they suffered a lot in the very beginning but it was their passion, dream or muscle power which they inherited from their father, due to which, they became able to win a laurel for the country as well as for themselves and established their own identity on worldwide platform. They began an era, in which people started to believe in the power of females and started to spend money for the well being of their daughters. Both of the sisters got success and succeed in establishing their own identity because they did not sit idle in a corner after losing a match.

Conclusion

So, On the basis of the description, it can be concluded that each of us strives to establish the identity and some gets success while some gets failure. It is a hard fact that identity plays a crucial role in the management of the social system. Identity refers to a group and these groups provides opportunity to resolve the issues related to the problems of identity by doing hard work to make the mark like Queen Elizabeth and Phogat sisters in the society. In this way, identity becomes a way for those people who have experienced relocation, disruptions and cultural colonization and indifferences and it is inferred that cultural identity plays a crucial role for the wellness of the youth because it becomes a link to support the youngsters. Hence, it is proved that culture has a major role in shaping our identity. Identity has become an expression which is defined by the culture on a big platform in order to demolish the differences prevailed in the society from the early times. Somewhere, it is better to speak that culture provides a framework to set the target to establish the identity of an individual.

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