

A Descriptive Study on Cultural Impact On Celebrating Festivals Of India

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Abstract: - Festivals In India Is Regarded As Most Significant Occasion Celebrated By People As Part Of Their Culture. Especially In India Ignoring Region, Religion, Caste And Creed They Celebrate The Festivals With Togetherness In Joy And Happiness. The Celebration Leads To Get Together Of Families, Friends And Neighbours To Come Out From Monotonous Lifestyle And Share Joy And Peace. India Is Known For Its High Cultural Heritage, In This Article The Author Attempt To Establish The Cultural Impact On Celebrating Festivals Of India By Demonstrating The Relationship Between Culture And Festivals, Culture In Human Values And Understanding Indian Festivals.

Keywords: - Culture, Festivals, Region And Religion And Celebration.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF INDIAN CULTURE AND FESTIVAL

Yet It Is Argued By Some Scholars That The Concept Of Culture Is The Single Most Difficult Term In Anthropology. Kroeber And Kluckhohn's (1952) Identifies 162 Different Formal Definition. There Is A General Agreement That Culture Is Learned That It Enables Humans To Adapt Themselves To Their Natural And Social Setting, That It Is Greatly Variable And That It Is Manifested In Institution, Thought Pattern, Material Objects And Artifact (Herskovits In 1955). Often It Is Used Synonymously With Society. The Distinction Made By Anthropologist Between These Seemingly Interchangeable Terms Is As Follows. Culture Is A Way Of Life Of People While Society In An Organized And Interacting Aggregate Of Individuals Who Follow A Given Way Of Life (Herskovits 1955). Society Implies Relationship And Grouping While Culture Implies Ways Of Acting And _____. In The Words Of Herskovits, "A Society Is Composed Of People, The Way They Behave In Their Culture.

Society Is Also Defined By Some Scholars As A Group Of People Who Occupy A Particular Territory And Speak A Common Language. By Definition Society May Or May Not Correspond To The Contemporary Categories' Nations, States Or Countries. Many Centres Including India Have Within Their Boundary Groups Of People Speaking Different Languages Which May Not Be Understood By Other Groups And Therefore May Be Said To Comprise A Number Of Societies With Distinct Cultures. By The Same Logic We May Say That Some Societies May Include More Than One Nation Or Country. Bangladesh And West Bengal In India For Example Share A Common Language Bangla. Punjabi And Sindhi Are Spoken On Both Sides Of The Indo-Pak Border, Can We Then Speak Of Bangla Or Punjabi Society And Culture That Cut Across National Boundaries. Does This Come In Conflict With The Idea Of Pan-Indian Culture. What About Ethnic, Religious And Minority Cultures Which Fear That They Are Being Subsumed Or Swallowed Up The Majority. These Days We Also Hear The Term 'Multi-Culture Societies Further Complication The Concept. Thus, We See That Culture Is Indeed A Very Porous And Politically Loaded Concept.

One Of The Most Durable And Widely Used Definitions Of The Term Was Given Way Back In The Year 1871 By The British Anthropologist E.B Taylor. According To Taylor, Culture Is The Complex Whole Which Includes Knowledge, Belief, Art, Morals, Customs And Any Capabilities Acquired By Man As A Member Of The Society. Note That Culture Includes Both Material And Nonmaterial Dimensions. Material Culture Includes Houses, Tools, Musical Instruments Etc., While Nonmaterial Culture Refers To Learned Behaviour And Ideas Including Beliefs, Values, Attitudes And Ideals That Are Characteristics Of A Particular Social Group. Material And Nonmaterial Are Intricately Interconnected. If We Take The Example Of Material Culture Like The Hand-Woven Silk Sarees, We Find That The Entire System Of Values Underlying Production. The Designs Or Motifs Handed Down Through Generations, The Myths, The Legends Associated With It. The Specific System Of Power Relation And Hierarchies That Mark Production And Consumption (It May Be A Valuable Item Of Upper Caste Or Lower Caste Bride But The Weavers Who Make It Are Very Poor), Gender Relation And So On.

Thus, Production Of A Material Artifact Is Steeped In Complex Layers Of Culture And Politics That Must Be Delicately Teased Out To Understand Properly. India Is One Country Where Every Religion And Community Celebrates Their Culture. There Are Festivals Of India State Wise, Religion-Based, And Community-Wise. So, Every Day Is A New Celebration In This Country. You Also Enjoy Lots Of Gazetted Holidays That Gives You An Opportunity To Plan A Trip Across The Country. India Is A Land Of Festivals, Where People From Different Religions Coexist Harmoniously. The Wide Variety Of Festivals Celebrated In India Is A True Manifestation Of Its Rich Culture And Traditions. There Are Many Indian Festivals And Celebrations, The Most Exciting Of Which Are Mentioned Below. While The Celebrations Happen All Over The Year, October Till January Is The Time When The Country Can Be Seen At Its Vibrant Best.

INTRODUCTION

Culture Refers To The Patterns Of Thought And Behaviour Of People. It Includes Values, Beliefs, Rules Of Conduct, And Patterns Of Social, Political And Economic Organisation. These Are Passed On From One Generation To The Next By Formal As Well As Informal Processes. Culture Consists Of The Ways In Which We Think And Act As Members Of A Society. Thus, All The Achievements Of Group Life Are Collectively Called Culture. In Popular Parlance, The Material Aspects Of Culture, Such As Scientific And Technological Achievements Are Seen As Distinct From Culture Which Is Left With The Non-Material, Higher Achievements Of Group Life (Art, Music, Literature, Philosophy, Religion And Science). Culture Is The Product Of Such An Organization And Expresses Itself Through Language And Art, Philosophy And Religion. It Also Expresses Itself Through Social Habits, Customs, Economic Organisations And Political Institutions. Culture Has Two Types: (I) Material, And (Ii) Non-Material. The First Includes Technologies, Instruments, Material Goods, Consumer Goods, Household Design And Architecture, Modes Of Production, Trade, Commerce, Welfare And Other Social Activities. The Latter Includes Norms, Values, Beliefs, Myths, Legends, Literature, Ritual, Art Forms And Other Intellectual-Literary Activities. The Material And Non-Material Aspects Of Any Culture Are Usually Interdependent On Each Other. Sometimes, However, Material Culture May Change Quickly But The Non-Material May Take Longer Time To Change. According To Indologists, Indian Culture Stands Not Only For A Traditional Social Code But Also For A Spiritual Foundation Of Life. Indian Culture Is An Invaluable Possession Of Our Society. Indian Culture Is The Oldest Of All The Cultures Of The World. In spite Of Facing Many Ups And Downs Indian Culture Is Shining With All Its Glory And Splendor. Culture Is The Soul Of Nation. On The Basis Of Culture, We Can Experience The Prosperity Of Its Past And Present. Culture Is Collection Of Values Of Human Life, Which Establishes It Specifically And Ideally Separate From Other Groups.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To Understand The Concept And Meaning Of Culture
- To Understand The Relationship Between Culture And Festivals
- To Understand The Impact Of Culture On Indian Festivals
- To Understand The Impact Of Geographical Features In Indian Culture
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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The Study Will Employ A Descriptive Method. This Method That Is Used To Explain About The Cultural Impact On Celebrating Indian Festivals.

Data Collection Strategy

Data Has Collected Through Secondary Methods.

IMPULSE OF FESTIVALS

Numerous Indian Festivals Are Started From Different Religions Which Interlink Social And Strict Centrality And Traditionally Perform Socio-Strict Exercises. Accordingly, Celebrations Of Festivals Are A Basic Bit Of The Life Of Each Indian. The Main Strict Festivals Are Considered As Christmas, Rosh Hashanah, Diwali, Eid Al-Fitr, And So On Which Are Commended For Solidarity, Compromise, Fellowship, And So On Holi, Dusshera, Krishna Janmashtmi, Hanuman Jayanti, Ganesh Chaturthi, Muharram, Shivratri And Numerous Others Are Traditionally Commended Exceptionally In An Open Country And These Are Still Transcendently Connected With Harmony, Courage, Commitment Of Individuals And Better Reaping Of Different Yields. The Facts Confirm That In South India, Pongal Sankranti Is Praised To Make

Commemorative Of The Holy Binds With The Land And Inhabitants. Recognition Of Karwa Chauth Is Carefully Done By Hindu Hitched Ladies For The Long Existence Of Their Spouses. It Is Most Noteworthy That Diwali, Holi And Numerous Such Festivals Are Discovered Instrumental To Reestablish The Ties Among More Seasoned Diasporic Indian People Group And The Individuals Who By And By In Propensity In India.

It Could Be Referenced Here That Festivals Typically Express The 'Diva' Which Guarantees The Part Of Cultivating Public Mix And Concedes The 'Great Indian Diversity'. As Model, We Can Zero In On The Festival 'Diwali' Which Brings Heavenly Sensation Of Coordination Among Various Gatherings Of The General Public. This Get-Together Is Praised As 'Festival Of Lights' Across The World. Here, Festival Of Light Characterizes Triumph Of Good Over The Perniciousness, Present In Numerous Individuals. Mathura And Vrindavan Are Considered As The Essential Issues Of Holi Festival. The Shades Of The Holi Festival Are Extended Everywhere On The Nation Via Conveying A Message Of Truth, Love And Fellowship. By Sprinkling Holi Colors On One Another, Individuals Go To A Guarantee Of Being Consistently Honest, Keep Up Fellowship For Deep Rooted And Promise For Giving All The Conceivable Love For The Duration Of The Life. Taking Care Of Desserts Of This Festival Is Additionally Accepted To Make Solid Relationship Among All.

Celebrations Of Vasant Panchami, Ratha-Yatra Or Chariot Moving, Sivaratri, Raksha Bandhan And Various Other Hindu Festivals Are Refined All Over India With Having Energy Of Merriment And Invigoration. The Muslims Praise A Few Festivals Like-Eid-E-Milad-Un-Nabi, Muharram, Eid-UI-Fitr, Eid-UI-Adha And Others For Massing Harmony, Joy, Fellowship, And So On The Sacrosanct Birthday Of Lord Jesus Christ, Easter, Good Friday And Others Are Commended By The Christians. The Sikhs Watch Guru Nanak's Birth Day. Master Gobind Singh Jayanti, Lohri, And So Forth Buddha Purnima Is Praised By The Buddhists Though; Mahavir Jayanti, Paryushan And Others Are Commended By The Jains. All Such Festivals Are Associated With Socio-Cultural Viewpoints. These Festivals Assist Us With Establishing A Typical Stage For Trading Cultural Exercises And Give The Joy And Present The Way Of Dedication Which Is Related As The Significant Piece Of Good Schooling. Ultimately, We May Cite A Line Of Rabindranath Tagore 'You Are Welcome To The Festival Of This World And Your Life Is Honored'.

MAJOR PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT

History Depicts That A Significant Portion Of Tradition And Culture, In India People Use To Organize And Celebrate Various Festivals Throughout The Year. The Celebration Leads To Get Together Of Families, Friends And Neighbors To Come Out From Monotonous Lifestyle And Share Joy And Peace. Hence, All Traditional Activities Of Specific Group Were Performed By The Celebration Of Festival. The Globalizations Brough A Huge Change Not Only In Economy, But Also In Culture, Tradition And Celebrating Festivals. People Are Become Very Busy Due To Work Culture. The Wide Variety Of Festivals Celebrated In India Is A True Manifestation Of Its Rich Culture And Traditions. There Are Many Indian Festivals And Celebrations, The Most Exciting Of Which Are Mentioned Below. While The Celebrations Happen All Over The Year, October Till January Is The Time When The Country Can Be Seen At Its Vibrant Best.

I. HOLI CELEBRATION

As Per Our Mythology, Hiranyakashyap, Who Is Known As King Of Demons, Spread His Fear Everywhere. Unfortunately, One Day, His Order Was Disobeyed By His Son, Prahlad. His Son, Prahalad, Was A True Devotee Of Lord Vishnu. Despite If The Consistent Warning From His Father, Prahalad Did Not Change His Decision And Continues To Worship Lord Vishnu. As An Outcome To Violating Order Of Hiranaykashyap, Many Times He Tried To Kill His Own Son But He Could Not Get Success. Then By The Order Of King, Holika, Sister Of Hiranaykashyap, Received Prahalad On Her Lap And Sit On A Burning Fire With Intention To Kill Prahlad. King Already Knew That Holika Had A Blessing And Must Be Protected From The Fire But At The End Even Prahalad Survived But Holika Was Died Due To Fire. Prahalad Was Protected From Harm Whereas The Devil Activities Of The Demon King Results Into The Death Of Holika. From That Time, Holi Festival Was Started From The Death Of Holika. Currently, We Followed An Old Tradition That Bonfire Is Lit On The Evening Of Holi Whereas People Pray And Celebrate The Victory Of Good Over Evil Power.

II . DIWALI CELEBRATION

One Of The Popular Epic Stories Ramayana Of Valmiki Wrote That Lord Of Ayodhya, Ram, His Wife Sita And His Brother Laxman Were Sent Out For A Period Of 14 Years. This Is Very Famous Story Dating Back To 1500B.C. At The Time Of This Period Of 14 Years, They Faced Several Incidents, One Of The Popular Incidents Waste Battles Between Lord Ram And Demon King Ravan Of Lanka To Save Sita Ji From Demon Ravan. At The End, Lord Ram Defeated Ravan And Attained Victory Over Evil. With Beauty And Glory, Lord Ram, Sita Ji And Laxman Returned To Ayodhya And

People Of Ayodhya Celebrate That Day By Lighting The Oil Lamps And Celebrate This Day As A Notable And Significant Returning Event Of Lord Ram, Sita Ji And Laxman.

As Per The Myths In Sikh Religion, They Celebrate Diwali On The Basis Of Various Events. Sixth Guru, Shri Harigobind Ji Defeated Emperor Jahangir And Disconnected 52 Hindu Kings Who Were Caged In The Gwalior Fort. Victory Of This War Was Celebrated By Sikhs As 'Deepavali' Or 'Bandi Chhorh Divas' Or The Day Of The Release Of Detainees Whereas Jain Celebrate Diwali Because Of 'Nirvana Kalayanaka Of Lord Mahavir'. In The Unavailability Of The Mahavir Swami, He Recognized That The Mourn Contemplated That His Soul Was Become Free From All The Bondages Of Karmas. Therefore, All Jains Have Celebrated Diwali As The New Day Of The Life.

III. EID AL-FITR CELEBRATION

Eid Al-Fitr Is Basically Known For Feast Of Breaking The Fast. It Is Very Important Muslim Religious Holiday, Which Is Celebrated To Mark The End Of The Ramadan Which Generally Means The Islamic Holy Months Of Fasting. As Per The Contemplations, Hijri Calendar Is Lunar Calendars Which Have Overall 354 Days In A Year. Hence, Each Of The Twelve Months Of Lunar Calendar Comprised Of 29 Or 30 Days At The Beginning Of The Crescent Moon In The Sky. As An Outcomes, The Year Overall Losses 11 Days As Per To The Gregorian Solar Calendar. As Per To That, The Months Of Ramadan Shifts 11 Days Forward At Every Year. Therefore, Eid-Al-Fitr Always Falls 11 Days Earlier Than The Previous Year. Most Of The Academicians Believes That After A Final Victory At The Battle Of Jang-E-Badr, The First Eid Al-Fitr Was Basically Celebrated In The Year 624 CE By The Prophet Mohammad And His Followers. In The Entire Month Of Ramadan, All Muslims Highly Followed The Fast And Involve In The Diff6reemt Types Of Charitable And Peace Making Moral Programmes. Each Muslim Family Donates Some Amount To The Poor Peoples In The Last Few Days Of The Ramadan. This Donation Basically Includes Rice, Dates, And Barley Etc., All The Needy People Are Permitted To Participate In The Celebration And Spread Happiness By Everyone. Nonetheless, This Holy Festival Is Basically Celebrated With Family, Groups, And Friends And Other. This Festival Spread The Message Of Peach, Happiness Among All.

IV. CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

There Is A Belief That Jesus Christ Is The Son Of The God. So, In The Christian Community, Celebration Of Christmas Or Birth Day Of Jesus Is The Very Important Festival. Also There Is A Little Argument On The Issue Of Birth Day Of Jesus Christ As Many Of The Academicians Are Not Agree With This Birthday Date Of Jesus. Subsequently, Most Of The Approved Christian Generally Celebrates Christmas Day On 7 January. On This Day, People Visit The Church And Pray To Jesus Christ. The Basic Issues Of Christmas Are Focused On Essential Issues Of Doing Prayer And Wearing Of Modern Clothes And Also Decorate Their Houses Completely. After Pray To Their God, Peoples Met With Their Family Members, Relatives, Neighbors And Friends. They Also Get Together In A Place And Sing Song Of Christmas. They Also Send Festivals Messages To Their Friends And Relatives And Other To Be Happy And Good Luck For Their Future Time Whereas Children Are Very Excited To Get The Gifts For The Santa Claus. These Gifts Are Distributed Intentionally For Improve Their Behaviour In A Positive Way.

V. LOHRI CELEBRATIONS

Lohri Festivals Are Basically Very Popular Festivals Among The Singh Community. Just Before A Week Of Lohri, The Younger Collect Firewood To Burn Well. At The Evening Time Of Cold Winter Night Of January, Every One Gathers At Same Place And Forms A Circle Around Firewood And Burns It. This Festival Is A Joyous Time For Everyone And Celebrated By Eating Molasses And Peanuts. Around The Firewood, They Sing A Song And Also Show Their Respect And Spread Love And Happiness Among Everyone. Lohri Celebration Generally Dedicated To The Sun God. Here Is Recognition That Sun Moves Towards The Uttarayan And This Arrangement Consults Warmth T The Earth. So, It Is Highly Respected As A Festival Of Harvest. Only Boys Have Permission To Celebrate Lohri And Punjabis Are Allowed To Celebrate Lohri. Basically General Hindus Are Also Restricted To Celebrate Lohri. There Is Also Some Recognition In The Relation Of Holi And Lohri As There Are Many Similarities Between Celebration Of Lohri And Holi Therefore Most Of The People Think That Holika Is Related To The Lohri As A Younger Sister. But At Present Time, Celebration Of Lohri Is Not Limited To Its Previous Boundaries As Now Girls Are Also Starts To Celebrate The Festivals And Except Punjabis, People Of Other Groups Are Also Participate In This Festival. Everyone Wish For Happiness, Love And Prosperity Among Everyone.

VI. BUDDHA PURNIMA OR BUDDHA JAYANTHI

This Is Very Promising Day Of Birth And Death Of Gautama Buddha Also Known As Lord Buddha , This Festival Is Basically Celebrated On The Full Moon Day In The Month Of April Or May Every Year. Celebration Of This Festivals Are Continues For 3 Or More Days. In The First Phase, Statue Of Lord Buddha Is Worshipped By Giving Flowers, Fruits And Candles. At The Time Of These Days, Most Of The Buddhist Organizes Different Types Of Social, Cultural And Many Religious Events And Prayer Meetings Related To Panchasheel, Sutrapath, Ashtasheel, And Sutrasraban. On This Day, Several People Participate In The Special Events And Celebration Of Buddha Jayanti And Take Oath To Follow The Path Of Peace, Love, Happiness And Truth.

VII. CELEBRATION OF MAHAVIR JAYANTI

Jainism Celebrated The Last Tirthankara Is Celebrated As Mahavir Jayanti As The Name Of The Mahavir Janma Kalayanak Every Year In The Month Of The April Or March. Celebration Of This Festival Is Basically Organized At All The Jain Temples In The Entire Nation. At The Beginning Of The Day, The Idol Mahavira Is Brought For A Usual Ritual Bath And Then Organizes The Worship With Having A Big And Grand Procession. In This Festivals Of Jain, They Decorate Their Temples With The Flowers, Lights Etc. Generally, All Jain People Come To The Jain Temples For Prayers. On This Day, They Basically Follow Their Rituals And Distribute Money, Foods, Clothes Etc. To The Needy People. They Also Take Oath To Follow The Path Of The Mahavir I.E. Non-Violence, Truth, Inner Peace, Calmness Of Mind And Kindness Towards Others Etc.

CONCLUSSION

Globalization Affected India And The Indian Culture. It Has Brought A Tremendous Impact Upon Human Civilization. The Strategies To Cope With The Globalization Are Not Sufficient To Revolutionize Anti-Globalization Approach. Is Globalization A Boon Or Curse To Our Culture? That Is Really A Question Of Thought For All Of Us. Indian Culture Has Certainly Done Least In Holding Its Own Relative To The Dominant Cultures, As The Indian Economy Has Done Relative To The Dominant Economies. India's Cultural Identity Is Not About To Be Blown Away By Western Influences Even As We Become More Active Players In This Increasingly Borderless World. With Some Positivity Of Having A Generalised Knowledge Of The Culture Throughout The World And The Happening And Incidences Globally, Still The Major Negative Impacts Are Quite Alarming For Our Country.

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