

## **Class 6. SOCIAL SCIENCE ( Civics)**

### **Lesson 1. DIVERSITY. (Part 1)**

#### **What Is Diversity ?**

Diversity means that each individual is unique having individual differences. These differences may be because of personal qualities, physical features, social or economic back ground or cultural factors.

India has always been a country with diversity. People belonging to different religions, cultural backgrounds, caste and regions have been living here in harmony for several centuries.

#### **Lets read about India's diversity :**

**1. CULTURAL DIVERSITY** - Though India has preserved it's traditions it has been absorbing customs and traditions from several Invaders who settled down in India. In modern India also, there is a great cultural diversity in various stages and regions of our country.

**2. DIVERSITY IN FESTIVALS** - People of different religions and regions have their own festivals which they celebrate with great enthusiasm. People in India respect the festivals of other religions and take part in their celebrations.

**3. DIVERSITY IN CLOTHES, FOOD and DANCE FORMS IN INDIA** - If we travel from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, we can see the diversity in the clothes and costumes worn by the people.

Indian cuisine varies from one region to another. Indians are known for their love for food and spices.

Each region of India also has its own folk or regional dance.

**4. LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY** - India has a vast linguistic diversity with different languages spoken all around the country. The official languages of the union of India are Hindi and English.

It will be interesting to know that most of Indian languages belong to two broad language groups of families

(a). The Indo Aryan language family

(b). Dravidian Language family

**5. RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY** - India is a birth place for many religions like Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Jainism. Different religions practiced in India are Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism etc. However, Indians respect the religious diversity prevailing in the country.

**6. ECONOMIC DIVERSITY** - Economic diversity in India is clearly visible from the life style of the people. The lifestyle of the rich and wealthy is very different from the middle class, poor or the people living below poverty line.

**7. GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY** - In India some regions like Indo- Gangetic Valley is very fertile whereas some parts of Rajasthan are very barren . The Himalayan ranges are covered with snow whereas the deserts of Rajasthan are unbearably hot.

Because of such contrast in type of land and climatic conditions, people living in such regions have developed different ways of life and varying cultures.

#### **\*\* UNITY IN DIVERSITY \*\***

The phrase 'Unity In Diversity' was given by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It implies that despite all our differences we are one. From time to time India has shown the strength of its unity.

#### **\*\* ADVANTAGES OF DIVERSITY IN INDIA \*\***

It helps us to learn about various cultures, languages, ways of life etc. It teaches us tolerance and helps to build a progressive society.