

# Interpretation and Importance of Culture

## OPEN ACCESS

Volume: 12

Special Issue: 1

Month: December

Year: 2023

P-ISSN: 2320-2645

E-ISSN: 2582-3531

Received: 28.10.2023

Accepted: 05.12.2023

Published: 14.12.2023

Citation:

Mythili Devi, M.  
“Interpretation and  
Importance of Culture.”  
*Shanlax International  
Journal of English*,  
vol. 12, no. S1, 2023,  
pp. 472–78.

DOI:

[https://doi.org/10.34293/  
rtdh.v12iS1-Dec.75](https://doi.org/10.34293/rtdh.v12iS1-Dec.75)

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### Abstract

*Cultural value and relevance are acknowledged by people not just in India but also in other parts of the world. Cultural differences have an impact on people's general living conditions. People learn about conventions, values, standards, and principles through cultures, and these things are thought to be extremely important for improving people's lives. People learn about other cultures from their teachers and family members starting in their early years. The implementation of cultures is necessary for individuals to enhance their life as they mature. Different communities, such as rural, urban, and tribal ones, have distinct cultures. Every one of these communities lives according to its own set of customs, values, beliefs, and tenets. People from different backgrounds, age groups, and communities will be able to accomplish their professional and personal goals as well as become productive members of society when they understand the value of culture and incorporate it into their daily lives. This study work has focused on three primary areas: the meaning and relevance of culture, the characteristics of culture, and the role of culture in the lives of humans.*

**Keywords: Norms, Values, Enrichment, Culture, Communication Skills, and Individuals**

Culture is the environment that has been created by humans and is passed down from one generation to the next. It comprises both material and immaterial artifacts. A person's communication skills need to be improved when they are expected to pass along knowledge or cultural elements from one generation to the next. People can convey cultural knowledge and understanding to others in an orderly manner when their communication procedures are valuable and meaningful. It is possible to communicate cultural information orally as well as in writing. These, along with their manifestations as artifacts, are transmitted through symbols and make up the unique accomplishments of humanity. The higher concepts that are passed down within a community and are chosen with significance and historical origins constitute the fundamental essence of culture. Cultural patterns are meanings that have been passed down through history and are represented by symbols. These symbols are used by people to communicate, maintain, and advance their knowledge (Culture: An Introduction, n.d.).

A person's manner of living and thinking is how they represent their culture. Social, religious, political, and economic domains are among the ones in which it can be seen. Material and non-material elements make up culture's two parts. All things associated with the

material side of life, such as clothing, food, and other products, are considered to be part of material culture. According to *Culture: An Introduction* (n.d.), on the other hand, non-material components include norms, values, beliefs, and so off. People who come from different states, regions, and nations have different cultural characteristics. Nonetheless, people must adopt positive attitudes and embrace those perspectives when they are producing information about different cultures.

### **The Significance and Meaning of Culture**

The Latin word *cultus*, which means tilling, cultivating, refining, and worship, is where the word “culture” originates. It refers to developing or perfecting anything to the point where the final result inspires awe and respect in people (*Culture: An Introduction*, n.d.). A culture is thought of as a way of life. Everyone believes that culture is one of the most important factors that affects living conditions, regardless of caste, creed, color, religion and ethnicity, and occupation, level of education, gender, age, or socioeconomic status. Culture is the communication through symbols that is passed down from one generation to the next. Despite individual distinctions, culture fosters togetherness among people.

It is essential that people respect one another’s cultures when they have to collaborate and integrate with one another, especially in educational settings and other kinds of organizations. One of the most crucial things to remember is that no one should be treated unfairly and that everyone should develop positive attitudes toward other cultures.

One can comprehend that culture is made up of patterned ways of feeling, thinking, and acting when performing research on the subject (*The Concept of Culture*, n.d.). People consider these elements to be essential to their life. While someone is thinking, feeling, or responding, it is important for them to consider the cultural context. People must demonstrate optimism when carrying out different duties, responsibilities, and activities. Through culture, people can also comprehend the significance and meaning of positive. They are aware that positivism will successfully aid in pointing out their shortcomings and facilitating improvements. People must learn to apply cultural characteristics in an orderly way if they are to enrich their lives. Scholars have carried out research on culture. These researchers have defined its bounds and contents in terms of the academic interests of the scholars involved. As such, cultural study is considered to be among the most important components of gaining a thorough understanding of culture.

Both those living within and those living outside of a community can conceptualize and build objective culture. Arts, crafts, food, apparel, tools, materials, and equipment are among the many elements that are seen to be significant in highlighting a culture. For instance, when someone visits the home of a friend or coworker who lives in a different community and has distinct cultural characteristics, they will also notice variances in the previously mentioned aspects. Some circumstances result in an appreciation of these factors, whereas other situations do not. It is obvious that one should interact with people in a good and courteous way when they are not appreciated. People that possess culture are aware of how to interact with other people in a productive way. In addition, when people perform study on culture, they might produce information about different chores and activities that need to be completed in an ordered way. As a result, people consider culture’s importance and meaning to be vital.

A culture is characterized as a complex whole that consists of the knowledge, morality, laws, conventions, arts, and any other skills and behaviors that people must practice in order to function as members of society. The distinctive accomplishments of human communities are made up of implicit and explicit patterns of behavior that are learned and passed down through symbols, including the manifestation of these patterns in artifacts. Traditional, historically derived, and chosen ideas—and particularly the values they have attracted—make up the fundamental building

blocks of the culture. It is possible to think of cultural systems as both the results of past action and the components of future action. The ability of culture to set one group of people apart from another is a crucial feature. It refers to a collection of behaviors, standards, attitudes, and ideas that people must consider and apply to their daily life. According to Spencer-Oatey (2012), these are passed down from generation to generation.

Three crucial aspects need to be considered while analyzing different cultures: artifacts, values, and fundamental presumptions. From an early age, people create understanding about different cultures, which they must employ throughout their life. An individual receives instruction regarding rules, values, conventions, and principles when they enroll in school or are hired by an organization. The individuals must not only be committed to achieving goals and objectives, but also have sufficient understanding of and ability to apply various cultures. People raise consciousness about proper behavior through their cultures. In addition, they produce data regarding how to improve their personality attributes and interact with others. Many factors must be considered when implementing cultures. According to Spencer-Oatey (2012), they include interpersonal communication styles, the state of the environment, emotional intensity, and tasks and activities like holding meetings and creating documents and reports, among other things. Cultures can be implemented effectively when people consider these things.

Engaging in social interactions is essential for people to gain a useful comprehension of culture. When people communicate with their parents in their early childhood, they start to impart cultural knowledge to them. Here, they are instructed to be courteous and respectful in their interactions with others, to model morality, ethics, righteousness, and truthfulness, to instill the qualities of diligence, resourcefulness, and conscientiousness, to focus on fostering the development of positive personality traits, and to raise awareness of one's obligations and duties at work. When people consider these factors, they make sure to implement them in their daily life. As a result of putting principles into practice, people become decent people and useful members of the community in addition to making a substantial contribution to the accomplishment of their professional and personal objectives. In light of this, it can be said that culture significantly improves people's quality of life overall and helps them develop into decent human beings.

### **Traits of Culture**

Among the key aspects that are said to control people's life are their habits, traditions, norms, patterns, attitudes, values, principles, standards, ideals, and symbols. These factors govern the way that each person behaves and acts. When people act in a morally and ethically acceptable manner within society, it is assumed that they possess a broad understanding of numerous facets of culture. Everyone has a responsibility to act in a way that upholds these principles both inside the community and the country at large. In addition to these factors, people must raise awareness of cultural traits. According to Samicksha (n.d.), socialization is thought to be one of the most important processes by which people become aware of the many facets and traits of culture. In addition to socializing, people use books, technology, and other reading materials to increase their comprehension of various cultures. The following is a list of cultural traits: (Culture: An Introduction, n.d.).

### **A Person's Culture is Taught to them and Acquired Throughout Time**

A person learns their culture throughout their lifetime (Culture is Learned, n.d). People should endeavor to produce knowledge about different facets of culture throughout their life. This is because cultures are changing throughout time in a variety of ways, therefore people need to constantly learn and put these changes into practice. A person's family is thought to be the starting point for their education. Therefore, it is believed that parents are children's first and most important

teachers, passing on cultural knowledge to them. Additionally, in order to improve their chances of landing a job and advancing their education, people must become aware of different cultures when they enroll in different levels of education or are hired by firms. In addition to imparting knowledge about the workplace, educators, supervisors, and employers also convey knowledge about culture. However, the knowledge that is linked to both work and culture must be understood and applied by both students and employees. Thus, it may be said that culture is something that is acquired and learnt.

### **Individuals in a Group Share Culture**

The individuals in a Group share culture. Regardless of whether the people are coworkers, students enrolled in the same course of study, or relatives living in the same residence. Culture is said to be shared by a group of people when those people share the same norms, values, beliefs, and points of view. As an illustration, it is evident that three people who are collaborating on a project may hold similar opinions. Collaboration and integration between persons are necessary to foster mutual understanding and produce the intended results. This is one way that a group of people share the culture associated with their employment. Additionally, the social and physical environments in which people live have an impact on their cultures. Thus, it is possible to say that a group of people share a common culture.

### **The Accumulation of Culture**

In other words, knowledge and comprehension of diverse cultural elements are transmitted, or modified, from one generation to the next. Parents teach their children about culture, which is then passed on to their offspring. In order to improve their quality of life, people should make sure they apply their newly acquired cultural knowledge. In addition, it is seen to be crucial to practice and raise the positive aspects of culture in order to support wellbeing. Over time, these individuals play a significant role in contributing to the advancement of cultural knowledge. Stated differently, the value and relevance of culture are enhanced and recognized. Sufficient cultural comprehension plays a crucial role in offering answers for a wide range of issues. Consequently, cumulateness is thought to be a crucial aspect of culture.

### **Over Time, Culture Undergoes Changes**

The people alter many different facets of the situation. They include things like the atmosphere at home, how one looks, what they do for a living, daily routine, and so on. The culture is also altered when these kinds of changes occur. Additionally, the individuals modify behavioral patterns and attitudes. Cultural changes have resulted in the recognition and application of some information, conventions, traditions, and norms being rendered obsolete. However, people must make sure that the cultural changes they are bringing about will benefit, be worthwhile, and have an impact on their own life. Although changing an organization's culture is not seen as bad, it should be done so in order to improve both the well-being and welfare of its members. Changes within culture are therefore considered to be a significant aspect of culture.

### **Culture is Dynamic**

Culture is a dynamic entity that never stays the same. Over time, the individuals originate new cultures and bring in fresh ideas and viewpoints. For example, there is a widespread idea among people that one should pray to God first thing in the morning. In certain homes, one showers first thing in the morning and then goes into the kitchen to make food. The members of the household adhere to these beliefs. However, not every home will adhere to these ideals. Sometimes someone

will go into the kitchen to make breakfast and then go take a shower. Thus, the example given above concentrates on the dynamic aspect of culture. Thus, it can be said that people in all communities and areas recognize the changing aspect of culture on a large scale.

### **The Range of Behavior Patterns that are Acceptable Depends on Culture**

The knowledge that people need to implement regarding standards, values, beliefs, and behavioral traits is generated by their culture. In order to succeed in their personal and professional endeavors, keep amicable and pleasant relationships with people both inside and outside of their homes, and enhance their lives, individuals must put specific behavioral patterns into practice. Culture has a significant role in educating people about behavior patterns and providing them with knowledge and insight into them. The key behavioral patterns that are accepted in the community include being courteous and respectful when interacting with others, instilling morality, ethics, diligence, and conscientiousness, modeling helpfulness and cooperation, acknowledging one's obligations, and having a sharing disposition. Individuals must produce sufficient information to carry out diverse chores and activities both within and outside of their homes in order to do so effectively and to accomplish their intended goals. It is widely accepted, then, that culture determines the spectrum of acceptable behavioral behaviors.

### **Diversity in Culture**

Culture is a system of interrelated pieces. Even though these components are distinct, they work together to build culture as a whole. It is widely acknowledged that there are several groups and backgrounds of people with distinct cultural identities not just in India but also in other parts of the world. Cultural diversity plays a significant role in improving people's quality of life in general. Stated differently, there is a great deal of recognition regarding the impact of cultures on the lives of individuals. People who live in rural and tribal communities are not the same as people who live in urban areas. Therefore, it is not thought that cultural diversity is bad. Presently, people from other cultures share the same objectives of receiving education and training, engaging in career opportunities, producing a source of income, and ultimately improving their general quality of life. In light of this, diversity is thought to be an essential aspect of culture.

### **Culture is Ideational**

When culture is described as ideational, it establishes an ideal behavioral pattern that is primarily to be followed by the individuals. Regardless of one's background, profession, or other classification, socialization and effective communication are considered critical components that people should prioritize. Through their cultural practices, people raise knowledge of the necessary communication styles. Using appropriate language and expressions, grinning and wishing, addressing others in a friendly manner, expressing gratitude and offering an apology when something goes wrong, exercising patience, waiting one's turn and giving others an opportunity, managing feelings of rage and frustration, having an adaptable attitude, and having a cooperative and approachable demeanor are certain examples. It is imperative that people use these considerations both inside and outside of their homes, especially when interacting with other people with whom they must cooperate. Ideational nature is therefore considered to be one of the key aspects of culture.

### **Solution-Givers can Benefit from Culture**

It is clear that people deal with a variety of issues and difficulties throughout their lives. Solutions to issues and challenges must be offered by the people if they are to improve their lives. People can handle problems on their own in certain situations, but they also need assistance and support from

others in other situations. Individuals must build cordial terms and connections with others who can assist and support them when they need it—whether those people are friends, family, teachers, fellow students, coworkers, bosses, employers, and so on. Effective communication is one of the main elements that aids in building friendly terms and connections with others. Individuals are taught through culture the information and comprehension that they require in order to build amicable and social interactions with others and get their support and cooperation in finding answers to a variety of difficulties. It is thus possible to say that one key aspect of culture is its ability to help solve issues.

### **Culture Affects People’s Ability to Develop and Grow Effectively**

It is well acknowledged that from an early age, both parents at home and educators in schools transfer cultural information and awareness to their students. People can reap several benefits and make a significant contribution to their own effective growth and development when they successfully comprehend and use cultures in their daily lives. Parents are tasked with implementing strategies and tactics that can promote their children’s healthy growth and development starting in their early years of life. Nonetheless, as people mature, it is their responsibility to become knowledgeable about the actions and strategies that will promote their advancement and well-being. When carrying out duties and activities, consideration must be given to the elements that are valuable and advantageous. People raise knowledge of the techniques and approaches required to produce the intended results and promote efficient growth and development through their culture. Thus, it can be said that a basic aspect of culture is its ability to effectively contribute to the growth and development of individuals.

### **Culture’s Function in People’s Lives**

Personal experiences and culture are intimately related. Making people become moral, ethical, and productive human beings is the function that culture plays in their lives. In addition to social and religious duties and activities, people are also involved in family, political, economic, and other spheres of life. In addition, individuals seek education, engage in employment opportunities, concentrate on improving their professional prospects, and participate in a variety of chores and activities. Employees use their skills and expertise to produce the intended results as they engage in a variety of tasks and activities. Through culture, people are able to raise awareness of the need to use their skills, knowledge, and abilities to their fullest potential in order to accomplish their goals. To carry out duties and activities in an efficient manner, it is necessary to identify the customs, norms, and values that comprise the culture. Consequently, one of culture’s most important functions is to make it easier for chores and activities to be carried out in an orderly fashion.

The application of religious convictions and symbolic language is a fundamental component of culture. It is important to cherish one’s religious identity and spread knowledge of its tenets. People are using modern, scientific, and technical means to carry out jobs and activities as a result of developments, modernization, and globalization. But one must consider the qualities of morality, ethics, decency, righteousness, and truthfulness when utilizing a variety of technologies as well as cutting-edge and inventive approaches. People get the understanding that they must conduct honorably when performing different jobs and activities through their cultures. When it comes to reaching one’s personal and professional objectives and improving one’s life, instilling the virtues of morality, ethics, decency, righteousness, and truthfulness is thought to be fundamental. As such, one of culture’s primary functions is to educate people about morality, ethics, decency, righteousness, and truthfulness.

These people do a variety of violent and illegal activities, according to study studies. Theft, robbery, rape, severe injuries, physical and verbal abuse, sexual harassment, and even murder are among them. Individuals that possess cultural awareness realize they shouldn't take such behaviors since they could have negative consequences for other people. To put it another way, when people raise cultural awareness, nothing bad will come of their acts. Culture has a tight relationship with the three timeless, universal qualities of goodness, beauty, and truth. People acknowledge that culture has a part in guiding people toward truth, philosophy, and religion. Through the arts, it enriches people's lives with beauty and supports their development into artistic persons. People become morally upright people as a result of their culture. Culture instills in people the principles of peace and tolerance (Culture: An Introduction, n.d.). As such, there is a general understanding that culture plays an important role in fostering well-being and friendliness among people.

The human-made environment, which comprises both material and non-material artifacts passed down from one generation to the next, is referred to as culture. Throughout their lifetimes, people must deepen their awareness of culture if they are to use it to promote goodwill and wellbeing. Stated differently, it ought to be viewed as an enduring pursuit. Despite variations amongst people in terms of a variety of elements, culture fosters solidarity among them. Positive attitudes and acceptance of one another's cultures are essential when people must collaborate and integrate with one another, especially in educational institutions and other kinds of organizations.

The attributes of culture are as follows: culture is ingrained and acquired, shared by a group of people, culture is cumulative, culture is transformed, culture is dynamic, it offers a range of acceptable behavioral patterns, it is diverse, it is ideational, it aids in problem solving, and it promotes the efficient growth and development of individuals. Additionally, it is understood that culture has a part in educating people about a variety of topics that could aid in their development into moral, ethical, and productive adults.

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