



Cultural Diversity, Its Value and Uniqueness in the State of the Nagaland

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ABSTRACT -

"Diversity is a component of human existence that cannot be erased by terrorism, war, or self-consuming hatred," says the renowned aphorism on cultural diversity. It can only be defeated by acknowledging and grasping the wealth of values that it represents for everyone." In reality, cultivating diversity entails recognizing that society is made up of many diverse groups, each with their own set of interests, skills, talents, and needs. It also implies that you understand that people in society can hold a variety of religious views and sexual orientations. To be more precise, variety encompasses all of the various aspects that make up a person, such as age, gender, culture, religion, personality, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation. Over a billion people live in India, which has incredible cultural diversity in terms of languages, geographic regions, religious traditions, and socioeconomic stratifications. India's distinct cultural variety can be witnessed in practically every corner of the country. Nagaland isn't an outlier in this regard. It is a separate state in India's north-east that is home to a diverse population; thus, the focus of this paper will be on Nagaland's cultural variety and the government's role in this regard

Key Words : Cultural, diversity, Socialization, Religion, Tradition.

Objectives

The objectives of this paper are following –

- i) to highlight the unique cultural diversity that runs in the state of Nagaland.
- ii) to point out the roles performed by the Nagamises to achieve the diversity in their state.
- iii) to make an analysis of the various issues that may break the diversity.
- iv) to underline the role of government to achieve the unique diversity in respect of culture in the state.

Literature Review –

Cultural diversity has become one of the world's most prominent themes in recent years. It has, in fact, enticed scientists, researchers, and writers to pursue the subject over the years. Many people have produced countless books, articles, and editorials on this topic. Vinita Pandey's "Indian society and culture" is one such remarkable piece. The author has beautifully depicted India's unique culture and its significance in having diversity in the book. "India Diversity," by Hilda David, is another seminal work on the subject. This book is also a fantastic account of India's diversity.

Cultural Diversity

The United Nations General Assembly has recognized May 21st as World Day of Cultural Diversity. UNESCO issued a universal declaration on cultural variety in 2001, recognizing cultural diversity as a "shared legacy of humanity." This recognizes cultural variety as a fundamental right of all people and protects their interests. Some of the groups that work to conserve imperiled societies and traditions are Survival International and UNESCO. Misuse of cultural variety, on the other hand, involves the fostering of poverty in developing countries. Polygamy, child marriages, human sacrifice, and female genital mutilation are among the other immoral behaviors recognized by the WHO and UN. Under the guise of "cultural diversity," they should not be practiced.

Nagaland, as it is commonly called, is a mountainous state in India's northeast. Due to the enormous number of tribes that encircle a large portion of the state, the diversity observed here is extremely impressive. Each tribe in Nagaland is considered to have its own set of beliefs and customs that are unique to them. Every tribe has its own festivities, which gave rise to the title 'Land of Festivals.' As a result, it's no surprise that Nagaland's enthusiasm is largely due to its people. According to statistics, Nagaland has roughly 66 tribes and sub-tribes, with the majority of them practicing Christianity. While Hinduism, Jainism, and other religions are popular, they are only practiced by a small percentage of the population.

Nagaland is home to a diverse range of languages. Despite the fact that Nagamese is spoken by the bulk of the population, each region in this diversified state has its own language. Nagamese, like many other languages spoken in Nagaland, lacks a written script. Furthermore, Sanskrit words are frequently

used in their local dialects. Despite the fact that English is the official state language, it is only spoken among the educated. Hindi is a rare and underappreciated language. Moving on to another major feature of Naga culture, marital culture, which is a significant part of their identity. Every region in India has its own manner of celebrating the marriage of two souls, and Nagaland is no exception. Nagaland's marriage customs are fascinating, despite their diversity, and each tribe has its own set of ceremonies to follow. Members of the Angami tribe, for example, announce the couple's doom by strangling a fowl's neck. According to legend, the dead bird's stance reflects the couple's fate.

In films, the world has witnessed a variety of images and perceptions of what indigenous people look like. While the most of them are incredibly presumptuous, none of them are usually accurate. Nagaland's tribes take great pride in their ethnicity. The way they dress, conduct themselves, and even dance speaks of a particular style that, sadly, most of us are oblivious of.

The Nagas, in particular, are known for wearing clothing that reflects their heritage. The Naga men wear stunning crimson headdresses. The conical hat is studded with a boar's canine teeth and a Hornbill's feathers. A person's social rank in society is also shown by the famous shawl worn by members of a tribe. Furthermore, the colourful tattoos and jewelry that they wear distinguish them from one another. If you think that's impressive, wait till you hear about this magnificent state's folk dance and music.

Nagaland's culture is deeply rooted in music and dance.

Witnessing these indigenous tribes' folk dances is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and if you ever have the chance, you should not pass it up. Nagaland's folk dances are done in big groups. They expertly coordinate the dance to the tribe's folk music/song, turning the performance into a show-stopper. Throughout the performance, numerous instruments such as the Mouth Organ, Flute, Drums, and others are used extensively. The upbeat music, combined with the dancers' energetic and beautiful moves, is infectious. There's no doubt that savoring every moment of the day is a worthwhile goal. After all, tribal dancers aren't known for their energy and excitement.

Cultivation supports the majority of Nagaland's people. Their artistry, on the other hand, is as impressive. If you visit Nagaland, make sure to get your hands on some of the exquisite jewelry and metalwork that can be found there. Iron and brass decorations like as anklets, armllets, and earrings are popular throughout the state. They also utilize colorful beads to create the most stunning four neckpieces. Aside from that, anyone who is unmoved by conventional fashion should not be concerned. Nagaland's tribes create the most enticing and unusual shoulder bags, shawls, and skirts to meet your fashion needs. Every year, a large number of tourists are enthralled by these crafts and purchase some for themselves or as gifts. Such exquisite craftsmanship is certain to impress.

Nagaland, in reality, is located in the eastern region of India and offers a revitalizing experience. It is a land with a diverse cultural heritage and welcoming people.

With friendship bonds all around, it is a nation of optimism rather than despair. We know that our forebears lived in caves, but revolution built buildings and cities for them, and today we are living happily in their hard-earned effort, which is all for the competitive world. Culture has nothing in common with each other, yet it offers delight and nostalgia for the past and the ways of our forebears.

Because we know that the word 'culture' is not a conceivable flight in the minds of humans, but it is a word that nothing in the world can compare with the prospects it gives to our dreams and imagination, Nagaland has an eternal cultural diversity. Among Nagaland's various tribe festivals is Moatsu, which is celebrated by the Ao tribe of Nagaland in the first week of May. Among all the festivities, the Hornbill Festival, also known as the Festival of Festivals, is a common one for all tribes. This Hornbill festival brings together cultural troupes from many tribes to demonstrate their own cultural style through songs and dances. Since the time of the forebears or headhunters, all of Nagaland's traditional groups have engaged in various cultural activities. Nagaland has a fascinating culture that connects it to the rest of the globe.

Conclusion

One can reasonably conclude the preceding debate by stating that Nagaland is absolutely fantastic. For nature lovers, it's a dream come true, and for travelers, it's a godsend in disguise. Nagaland has a reputation for being a fantastic place to visit with friends or even for a rejuvenating solo trip.

Despite this, there are numerous cultures of various races and social classes. They did, however, create unity in variety, which is the true secret of Nagaland's uniqueness as a state.

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