

Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit.

The human female has a narrow birth canal. A child born to her cannot have a large head as it could lead to a difficult child-birth. This restriction on the size of the head means our brains are not fully developed in womb. Most of the brain development takes place after birth, as our head grows in size. A child learns most of the things needed to make sense of the world around him during ^{his} early years.

reliance on
This ^ learned behaviour underlines the importance of culture for humans. Anthropologists argue that it is culture which distinguishes

This is quote is given by Jawaharlal Nehru. If you know this you can write otherwise no problem

well introduced to the topic

Interlinking is good

us from other non-human primates.

Culture is a system of values,
beliefs, customs, mores, arts and
any other behaviour that a man
learns by being a member of society.

Defined
well

This highlights that culture is learned
and not innate. It is passed from
one generation to another through

socialization. Secondly, culture is
shared by most members of the
society. This is possible through a
shared system of symbols in a
culture also known as language.

Explanation
of culture
is
excellent.

Each culture has a language associated
with it. A language provides a
unique worldview associated with
a particular culture and an
identity to the individual.

The importance of culture is manyfold.
It is an apparatus for satisfaction

Start a new
paragraph by
giving
some space

of individual needs. For instance, hunting is the cultural response to early humans' need for food. Similarly, it also ensures the stability of the society by providing a code for social conduct. It also provides an individual his role and status in the society.

Relevant
to the
topic

The above discussion highlights the impact of culture on an individual.

Maintained
the flow of
the essay

Culture - ~~To~~ Broadening horizon or
narrowing worldview:

Any culture provides an individual with a ready system of symbols so that he can make sense of the world around him. Culture in this sense plays a psychological role. This involves categorization of things into abstract categories. The categorization of things also shows the values enforced by

a cultural system. What is valued in a society has an impact on an individual's thought process.

For example, a culture which promotes critical thinking generally has better outcomes on the research and development front. A case in point is Germany where teachers in schools emphasize on peer learning & practical application of concepts. Germany invests more than 3% of its GDP on research & development.

Excellent use of example to substantiate your argument

Appreciated

On the other hand, societies which encourage a rigid adherence to rules and norms of conduct have conformist individuals with little scope for questioning. They show a lack of tendency to question the existing socio-political structure. A case in point is the erstwhile USSR under the leadership of Stalin.

Again very relevant argument with suitable example

In the same context, the Indian Curriculum system of the past focussed on holistic development of an individual ranging from textual knowledge to physical well-being. This widened the horizon of thinking of a disciple providing them with necessary life-skills. Contrast that to today's education system in India. The focus on competition and 'winner takes it all' mindset has led to limited development of life skills. The fear of failure exists throughout life which limits them ~~from~~ from trying new ideas. It also points to the reason for low innovation in India & minimal entrepreneurial spirit compared to global standards.

Shorten this paragraph

Relevant arguments

You have underlined the keywords

Moreover the norms of conduct in a society are governed by its culture. The do's and don'ts and what is normal or taboo

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in social conversations hugely
impacts an individual. For instance,
there is normally a taboo on
conversations related to sex in
Indian society. It is considered a
private space thing & not the
point of a public conversation. This
is manifested in girls shying away
from talking & acting on menstrual
health, lack of understanding among
males of their sexual counterpart.
This has wider implications for
gender equality. In sharp contrast,
Indian tribes like Muria, Gond
and Ko have youth dormitories
where they get sexual training and
male-female bonding develops in the
process. It has been observed that
in these tribal societies, the time
of puberty is not stressful and is
like any other life event.

In this

context, Talcott Parsons has called

These socio
political
differences
lead to
formation of
different
laws
For example
insect
is taboo in
many
cultures

Relevant
argument
which is
reflecting
the
society's
point of
view

Concise
this
paragraph

the birth of a child in a society
as a recurrent barbarian invasion.
A child is confronted by a society
which is ready with its socialization
process to make sure that the
child does not go against social norms
of the society. The early socialization
process greatly influences the
personality and thought process of an
individual also evident in the
examples above.

Good
argument
and
mentioned
sociologist
's view

The human history has instances
where an individual's ideas
clashed with values of the society.
The example of Galileo who
claimed that the Earth revolves
around the Sun and not the other
way around bore the brunt of
the church. It went against the
teachings of the Bible.

Culture is
almost
reflection
of the
unique
history of
the
geographical
region. For
example
Indian
subcontinent
developed a
common
culture due
to shared
history

Lack of
coherence

The society
imposes restrictions on individual's

UPSC

Conduct in many ways. For instance, what is considered anti-social in a society can be observed through the attributes associated with a witch in society. In most cultures, witches are shown as cannibalistic, nocturnal, abducting children, establishing sexual relations. These traits are considered anti-social & association of these traits with a witch reinforces the idea of normal social conduct expected from an individual.

Suitable
argument

In general, culture is a historically created knowledge with contributions from individuals through inventions at various points of time. How culture influences the human mind can be seen from the major periods of human history with significant innovations. For example, 6th century BC saw the rise of philosophical scholars across the world ranging from Buddha, Chanakya &

Culture governs our customs, rituals, clothing, shelter, food habits etc.,

Mahavira in India to scholars in ancient Greece. Similarly, Newton and Leibnitz invented Calculus at the same time. This highlights the fact that the culture at that point was ready for these inventions and humans were merely a neurological medium for culture to express itself. This underlines the superorganic view of culture.

Excellent argument in line with the given topic

Therefore culture can be seen as a large body consisting of smaller units which are individuals who have a consciousness of their own. Both influence each other. For example, Lord Buddha with his teachings of equality, non-violence and spirit of love and sacrifice, greatly influenced the socio-economic conditions of the time bringing social change. In the present age, the liberal viewpoint emphasizes on individualism and freedoms of thought and speech.

Highly relevant argument involving history aspect

This cultural emphasis on individualism leads to better innovations and emergence of views that might not align with that of the majority. The pride movement stressing the rights of transgenders is a case in point. Compare it to the fascist forces of the time - Germany, Italy and Russia under Stalin. The dominant ideology provided no room for dissent or critical viewpoint. The state revolved around a supreme leader & his worship. George Orwell, in his novel "1984", has commented on the same where he says "Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength.", highlighting the shaping of narrative by the government through media control. The individual had no identity in front of the national identity.

In the Indian context, the Hindu religion promotes peace and co-existence among people of different faiths. It allows

Relevant
quote
and
examples
to
substantiate
your
argument

Appreciated

for multiplicity of viewpoints, each having
its own merit. But its deformed
byproduct, the caste system, limits
individual rights. It provides an
identity based on birth which cannot
be changed by individual efforts. It
is based on the flawed logic of
purity & pollution. In essence, it
limits an individual's occupation choices
and his role in social hierarchy.

No culture
can be called
right or
wrong, it is
the
acceptance
and
understanding
of other
cultures

In conclusion, it can be noted that
each culture has its own system
of values & beliefs which influence
an individual's mind and spirit.
This is possible through a system
of social norms taught to members
through socialization. Depending on
these values, an individual is able
to shape his worldview and moral
viewpoint. However, inspite of the
coercive nature of cultural norms,
individuals can often go against the
prevailing norms highlighting their

You can
mention how
India is
using its
soft power

Concise
in short

own identity. Both culture and the individual therefore influence each other. We must see every culture & its practices in its own social context - with its limitations and opportunities. However, an effort should be made to have universal human rights across cultures ensuring individual freedom and values like equality & minimizing torture, slavery & discrimination.

Conclusion is appealing and gives a sense of completion

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Dear Apeksh,

Area of strength

- * You have fair understanding of the topic
- * Mentioned quotes, examples to substantiate your arguments
- * Good command over language, maintained the flow almost throughout the essay

Area of improvement

- * In some Paragraphs coherence is missing, work on it
- * Use multiple dimensions to make your essay more comprehensive

keep writing...

All the best!