



Salient Features of Indian Society



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Indian society is diverse and complex, with various ethnic, linguistic, religious and caste groups. It includes people from rural, urban and tribal areas, all sharing a common Indian identity.

Salient Features

Cultural Diversity

- ↳ Large population of **Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs** and others
- ↳ Numerous **languages** spoken across different regions carry **unique heritage**

Mix of Spirituality and Materialism

- ↳ Unique **blend** of spirituality and materialism, reflecting its **rich cultural heritage**, diverse religious practices, and evolving **economic aspirations**
- ↳ Contribute to mental and **emotional well-being**, promoting **inner peace**

Mix of Individualism and Collectivism

- ↳ Increasing access to **education** and **career opportunities** has led to a rise in **individual aspirations**
- ↳ But people still live in **families** where they **share resources**, responsibilities, and decision-making

Caste System

- ↳ **Social stratification** affects access to resources, opportunities, and **social mobility**

Patriarchy

- ↳ **Men** hold primary power and enjoy **greater status** than women
- ↳ Preference for **male child**

Festivals

- ↳ Foster **community spirit**, joy, and cultural continuity

Community Support

- ↳ Fosters **solidarity** and strengthens **social cohesion**
- ↳ Encourage **mutual assistance** and vigilance

Strong Family Bonds

- ↳ Help preserve cultural and **religious traditions**, rituals and values
- ↳ **Caregiving roles** like raising children, caring for the elderly, and support during crises

Shortcomings

Gender Inequality

- ↳ **Less** access to **economic opportunities** such as jobs and **equal pay** for females
- ↳ Confined to domestic responsibilities and face **gender-based violence**

Illiteracy and Lack of Awareness

- ↳ Limits the earning potential contributing to **economic disparity**
- ↳ Exacerbate **inequalities** and hampers social mobility

Corruption

- ↳ Leads to **substandard services** and deprives citizens of essential resources
- ↳ Erodes **public trust** in government institutions leading to reduced **civic participation**

Untouchability

- ↳ Imposes strict social penalties on members of lower castes located at the bottom of the caste hierarchy

Effects of Globalisation on Indian Society

- ↳ Increase in **nuclear families** and number of **old age homes**
- ↳ Fast food leading to homogenisation of food
- ↳ Foreign languages like French, German and Spanish being increasingly taught in schools
- ↳ Within marital institutions, adopting **professional** and **contractual** approaches has led to a rise in **divorces**, **live-in relationships** and **single parenting**