



## INDIAN CULTURE AND TRADITION: REVIEW AND OBSERVATION

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### **Abstract**

*In recent years, India has witnessed a transformation not only in economic standards but also in socio-cultural factors. The traditional values, norms, and behaviors are being altered into more Westernized and global values. India is a republic country which is situated in South Asia. It is the most popular democratic country, second most popular country with its population and seventh most largest country by its area. It's culture is also most popular in the world. The culture of India is unique and distinct of all the communities and religions present in India. Its architecture, dance, art, music, food, languages and customs are different from rest of the countries. These different culture also differ from place to place in the country. That's why Indian culture is unique and different in its own way. Present article will discuss the past glory of Indian culture and present situation.*

**Key Words:** *Socio Economic Factors, Traditions, Culture, Languages, Architecture.*

### **Introduction**

In recent years, India has witnessed a transformation not only in economic standards but also in socio-cultural factors. The traditional values, norms, and behaviors are being altered into more Westernized and global values. This is what meets the eyes of a typical observer. This research was directed toward ascertaining the transition of Indian society from a collectivist society to an individualist society with focus on individuals' lifestyles and values. The purpose of the research was to understand the role of collectivist/individualist lifestyle variables on brand meanings by Indian university students. Correlation and multiple regression tests were administered to analyze the data. The findings suggest that Indian youths may appear to endorse Western values, but family traditions, group values, and national traditions play a pivotal role in determining brand meanings.

India is a republic country which is situated in South Asia. It is the most popular democratic country, second most popular country with its population and seventh most largest country by its area. It's culture is also most popular in the world. The culture of India is unique and distinct of all the communities and religions present in India. Its architecture, dance, art, music, food, languages and customs are different from rest of the countries. These different culture also differ from place to place in the country. That's why Indian culture is unique and different in its own way.

Indian culture basically comes from its communities and religions. Every religion or community in India has their own unique specialty. It is a birthplace of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism and other religions. Indian society culture is one of the most religious and ethnical diverse society in the world. Every state in India has their different religion as well as different festivals within the society. With being multi-cultural, India respects every religion and their culture or festivals. These festivals are being celebrated with great enthusiasm among all the religions. Not only with the festivals but also with dance and art of every religion is being appreciated by everyone in the country as well as around the world. It is a specialty of India. With different in art, dance and festivals there also come food. Indian food is also very famous around the world. It carries good cooking technique, styles, unique presentations, etc. which also different in its own way. From vegetarian to non-vegetarian, Indian food has its own style



and specialty. Other than food, Indian culture is also famous for its clothing. Traditional clothing is very popular in India. They know the perfect sense of makeup as well as styling themselves with ornaments and other fashion.

Indian culture is among the world's oldest as the people of India can track their civilization back as far as 4,500 years ago. Many sources describe it as "Sa Prathama Sanskrati Vishvavara" the first and the supreme culture in the world, according to the All World Gayatri Pariwar(opens in new tab) (AWGP) organization.

### **Indian Population**

Today, India is a very diverse country, with more than 1.3 billion people, according to the CIA World Fact book (opens in new tab), making it the second most populous nation in the world after China. Some estimates, such as those by Statista(opens in new tab), place the population at very nearly 1.4 billion. The ethnic makeup of India, according to the CIA is 72 percent Indo-Aryan (a coverall term for people of largely Central Asian descent) and 25 percent are Dravidian (being largely of South Asian descent). About 35 percent of the population lives in urban areas with an estimated annual rate of a little over 2 percent moving to cities each year. New Delhi is the most populous city in India with a population of 31.18 million people, according to the CIA, second only to Tokyo, Japan for its population size. Mumbai is the second largest city in India with 20.67 million people, followed by Kolkata, Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad, all with more than 10 million people.

### **Culture and Heritage**

Cultural advancement is a historical cycle. Our progenitors took in numerous things from their antecedents. With the progression of time they likewise added to it from their own understanding and surrendered those which they didn't think about valuable. We thus have taken in numerous things from our precursors. As time goes we keep on including novel contemplations, ground breaking plans to those effectively existent and now and again we surrender some which we don't think about valuable any more. This is the manner by which culture is sent and conveyed forward from age to people to come. The culture we acquire from our ancestors is called our cultural heritage.

This heritage exists at different levels. Humankind in general has acquired a culture which might be called human heritage. A country likewise acquires a culture which might be named as public cultural heritage. Cultural heritage incorporates each one of those perspectives or estimations of culture communicated to individuals by their predecessors from age to age. They are esteemed, ensured and kept up by them with whole congruity and they feel glad for it. A couple of models would be useful in explaining the idea of heritage. The Taj Mahal, Jain caverns at Khandagiri and Udayagiri, Bhubaneswar, Sun Temple Konarak, Jagannath Temple, Puri, Lingaraja Temple, Bhubaneswar, Red Fort of Agra, Delhi's Qutub Minar, Mysore Palace, Jain Temple of Dilwara (Rajasthan) Nizamuddin Aulia's Dargah, Golden Temple of Amritsar, Gurudwara Sisganj of Delhi, Sanchi Stupa, Christian Church in Goa, India Gate and so on., are terrifically significant spots of our heritage and are to be ensured definitely.

Other than the architectural manifestations, landmarks, material antiques, the scholarly accomplishments, philosophy, fortunes of information, logical developments and disclosures are additionally the piece of heritage. In Indian setting the commitments of Baudhayana, Aryabhata, Bhaskaracharya in the field of Mathematics, Astronomy and Astrology; Varahmihir in the field of Physics; Nagarjuna in the field of Chemistry, Susruta and Charak in the field of Medicines and Patanjali in the field of Yoga are profound fortunes of Indian Cultural heritage. Culture is at risk to change, yet our heritage doesn't. We people,



having a place with a culture or a specific gathering, may get or acquire certain cultural characteristics of different networks/cultures, yet our belongingness to Indian cultural heritage will stay unaltered. Our Indian cultural heritage will tie us together for example Indian literature and sacred texts to be specific Vedas, Upanishads Gita and Yoga System and so on have contributed a great deal by method of giving right information, right activity, conduct and practices as reciprocal to the advancement of civilization.

### **Indian Culture**

Indian culture is one of the most antiquated cultures of the world. The old cultures of Egypt, Greece, Rome, and so on were crushed with time and just their leftovers are left. However, Indian culture is alive till today. Its crucial standards are the equivalent, as were in the antiquated time. One can see town panchayats, standing frameworks and joint family framework. The lessons of Buddha, Mahavira, and Lord Krishna are alive till today likewise and are wellspring of motivation. The estimations of spirituality, asking nature, confidence in karma and rebirth, peacefulness, truth, non-taking, Chastity, Non-Acquisitiveness, and so on move individuals of this country, today too. Material turn of events and materials go under civilization while Art of Living, traditions, traditions go under culture. Material advancement is conceivable as far as possible.

This is the explanation, that the civilizations got obliterated while Indian culture is available till today in light of the fact that the premise of improvement was spirituality and not materialism. In this way, Indian culture can be called an antiquated culture, whose past is alive even in the present. The suggestive of the stone-age found in Pallavaram, Chingalpet, Vellore, Tinnivalli close to Madras, in the valley of stream Sohan, in Pindhighev region in West Punjab, in Rehand territory of Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh, in Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh, in Hoshangabad and Maheshwar, clarify that India has been the place where there is improvement and development of human culture. Based on removal done in places like Harappa and Mohanjodaro and so forth we come to know the created civilization and culture of the pre-historical time, which was prospered around 3000 B.C. Consequently, Indian culture is around 5000 years of age.

### **Indian Languages**

India has 28 states and seven territories, according to the World Health Organization(opens in new tab). There is no official language in India, according to a Gujarat High Court ruling in 2010(opens in new tab), though Hindi is the official language of the government and English is considered a subsidiary official language. The Constitution of India officially recognizes 23 official languages.

Many people living in India write in Devanagari script. In fact, it is a misconception that the majority of people in India speak Hindi. Though many people speak Hindi in India, at least 56 percent of Indian residents speak something other than Hindi, according to the CIA. Bengali,, Marathi, Telugu Tamil, Gujarati and Urdu are some other languages spoken in the country.

Sanskrit, an ancient Indo-European language, came from Northern India. How the language started has been a point of argument amongst linguists. It shares many similarities with English, French, Farsi and Russian languages.

New DNA research in 2017 found that an Aryan migration may have introduced the beginnings of Sanskrit. "People have been debating the arrival of the Indo-European languages in India for hundreds of years," said study co-author Martin Richards, an archaeogeneticist at the University of Huddersfield in England. "There's been a very long-running debate about whether the Indo-European languages were



brought from migrations from outside, which is what most linguists would accept, or if they evolved indigenously."

### **Religions in India**

India is identified as the birthplace of Hinduism and Buddhism, the third and fourth largest religions in the world. About 84 percent of the population identifies as Hindu, according to the "Handbook of Research on Development and Religion(opens in new tab)," edited by Matthew Clarke (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2013).

There are many variations of Hinduism, and four predominant sects — Shaiva, Vaishnava, Shakteya and Smarta.

About 13 percent of Indians are Muslim, making it one of the largest Islamic nations in the world. Christians and Sikhs make up a small percentage of the population, and there are even fewer Buddhists and Jains, according to the "Handbook."

### **Indian Food**

Indian cuisine is especially known for its varied use of spices and is hugely popular around the world. (Image credit: Westend61 via Getty Images)

When the Mughul Empire invaded during the sixteenth century, they left a significant mark on Indian cuisine. "The influence of the Mughal rulers who ruled India is distinctly perceptible in the style of cooking made famous by them. This cuisine is a fusion of Turkish and Persian cuisine, where mostly ground spices are used in the preparation of unique flavor and taste," wrote Krishna Gopal Dubey in "The Indian Cuisine(opens in new tab)" (PHI Publisher, 2010). Indian cuisine is also influenced by many other countries. It is known for its large assortment of dishes and its liberal use of herbs and spices. Cooking styles vary from region to region.

Wheat, Basmati rice and pulses with chana (Bengal gram) are important staples of the Indian diet. The food is rich with curries and spices, including ginger, coriander, cardamom, turmeric, dried hot peppers, and cinnamon, among others. Chutneys — thick condiments and spreads made from assorted fruits and vegetables such as tamarind and tomatoes and mint, cilantro and other herbs — are used generously in Indian cooking.

Many Hindus are vegetarian, but lamb and chicken are common in main dishes for non-vegetarians. "The Guardian(opens in new tab)" reports that between 20 percent and 40 percent of India's population is vegetarian. A tradition of vegetarianism appears to go back to the ancient past. "India may have been vegetarian during the Mohenjodaro and Harappan civilizations. We do not know for sure as its script has not been unlocked, but it has been proven that the ancient Dravidian civilization was truly vegetarian," wrote Dubey.

Much of Indian food is eaten with fingers or bread used as utensils. There are a wide array of breads served with meals, including naan, a leavened, oven-baked flatbread; and bhatoora, a fried, fluffy flatbread common in North India and eaten with chickpea curry.

### **Art and Architecture**

The most well-known example of Indian architecture is the Taj Mahal, built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan to honor his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It combines elements from Islamic, Persian, Ottoman Turkish and Indian architectural styles. India also has many ancient temples.



India is well known for its film industry, which is commonly referred to as Bollywood. The country's movie history began in 1896 when the Lumière brothers demonstrated the art of cinema in Mumbai, according to the Golden Globes (opens in new tab). Today, the films are known for their elaborate singing and dancing as well as their elaborate action sequences.

Indian dance, music and theater traditions span back more than 2,000 years, according to Nilima Bhadbhade, author of "Contract Law in India(opens in new tab)" (Wolters Kluwer, 2016). The major classical dance traditions — Bharata Natyam, Kathak, Odissi, Manipuri, Kuchipudi, Mohiniattam and Kathakali — draw on themes from mythology and literature and have rigid presentation rules.

### **Indian fashion**

The sari can trace its origins back to Ancient India, but has changed with passing generations and new manufacturing techniques. (Image credit: Tuul & Bruno Morandi via Getty Images).

Indian clothing is closely identified with the colorful silk saris worn by many of the country's women. The origins of this garment go back to Ancient India and evolved over time to include more expensive fabrics and adornments as they came to the country, according to "The Times of India (opens in new tab)". A traditional piece of clothing for men is the dhoti, an unstitched piece of cloth that is tied around the waist and legs. Men also wear a kurta, a loose shirt that is worn about knee-length.

For special occasions, men wear a sherwani or achkan, which is a long coat with a collar having no lapel. It is buttoned up to the collar and down to the knees. A shorter version of a sherwani is called a Nehru jacket. It is named after Jawaharlal Nehru, India's prime minister from 1947 to 1964. He actually preferred the achkan, according to Tehelka(opens in new tab), an Indian newspaper. The Nehru jacket was primarily marketed to Westerners and made famous by The Beatles and The Monkees as well as being worn by a number of James Bond villains.

### **Celebrations & festivals**

Diwali is the largest and most important holiday to India. It is a five-day festival known as the festival of lights because of the lights lit during the celebration to symbolize the inner light that protects them from spiritual darkness.

Holi, the festival of colors,also called the festival of love, is popular in the spring. The country also celebrates Republic Day (Jan.26), Independence Day (Aug.15) and Mahatma Gandhi's birthday (Oct. 2).

### **Caste System**

Another attribute of Indian culture is social definition. In each area of India, there are around 200 ranks. The social structure is made of thousands of those ranks and sub-standings, which choose the economic wellbeing of an individual based on birth. As per E.A.H. Blunt, —Caste is an assortment of intermarried or intra-wedded gatherings, which have an overall name, whose enrolment is heredity and put a few boycotts and rules on its individuals living socially together. Its individuals either do conventional business or guarantee their uniform community. Thus, Indian culture has a unique arrangement of definition.

### **Unity in Diversity**

A significant quality of Indian culture is Unity in Diversity. There is a lot of diversity in Indian culture like in geology, in station, in doctrine, in language, in religion, in legislative issues, and so on.



**Dr.R.K.Mukerjee composes;** —India is an exhibition hall of various sorts, networks, customs, traditions, religions, cultures, convictions, dialects, standings and social system. But even in the wake of having such an extensive amount outer diversity, none can keep the inner solidarity from getting Indian culture. In this manner, in Indian culture there is Unity in Diversity. As indicated by Pandit Nehru, —Those who see India, are profoundly moved by its Unity in Diversity. Nobody can break this solidarity. This principal solidarity of India is its extraordinary fundament element.

### **Indian Culture during the Contemporary Period**

The social basic connection of the old style in the customary Indian culture had been comprehensively connected with sovereigns, ministers, priests, munis, sadhus, researchers, society aces and different prosperous gatherings. During the middle age time frame the relationship between the traditional and the society was not upset. In old India the old style custom was connected not exclusively to Sanskrit however there were likewise surges of the old style convention related with Pali and Tamil. Sanskrit was the carrier of the Hindu old style convention and the Mahayana Buddhist custom and a portion of the Jain science traditions too. Pali was the vehicle of the Theravadi Buddhist custom and Tamil was the carrier of the South Indian old style convention.

During the modern time frame, the relationship between the old style spoke to by English and the vernacular people traditions has separated. Customary balance has been influenced by various factors and cycles of modernization. With the effect of modern social powers the relationship between the old style and the people traditions has been upset. In the metropolitan places another working class has been developing and expecting the function of the conveyor of the old style convention. The working class has a world view and viewpoint that is fundamentally unique in relation to the carriers of the people convention. They are generally the conveyors of Western cultural qualities, standards, thoughts, standpoint and establishments, and English has become their predominant language. From the beginning of time, the people and the tribal traditions have remained generally unaffected by changes in political structures. The significance of old style traditions has been changing every once in a while with changes in political force structure however the society and the tribal traditions have remained reliably lively.

### **Parts of Indian culture**

**1. Craftsmanship and Architecture:** Indian workmanship is propelled by religion and base on sacrosanct topics. In any case, there is not all that much or self-denying about it. The endless diversity of life and nature and the human component are completely reflected in Indian works of art. The specialty of engineering and model was all around created during the Indus valley period. India has the biggest assortments of people and tribal ancient rarities.

**2. Music:** The mainstream term for music all through India is Sangit, which included move just as vocal instrumental music. The rhymes of the Rigveda and the Samveda are the most punctual instances of words set up with a good soundtrack. The most established nitty gritty piece of Indian melodic hypothesis is found in Natyashastra, ascribed to the sage Bharata who inhabited the start of the Christian period. North Indian Hindustani old style music and South Indian Karnatak music are the two significant types of traditional music in India. More explicit schools of old style music are related with specific gharanas. This is one part of Indian culture that has accomplished overall acknowledgment. Routine has consistently been a piece of parties and social gatherings in India. Fairs, relationships, celebrations and different festivals are not finished without them. Movies, film tunes and music have had a significant task to carry out in the further advocacy of music among the majority in modern occasions.



**3. Move:** Classical Indian move is a delightful and critical image of the spiritual and creative methodology of the Indian psyche. Conventional Indian sacred texts contain numerous references to nritta (music) and nata (show). Move and music are available at each phase of homegrown life in India. One order separates Indian moving into three angles Natya, Nritya and Nritta. Natya compares to show. Nritya is interpretative move performed to the words sung in a melodic song. Then again, nritta connotes unadulterated move, where the body developments don't communicate any temperament (bhava) nor pass on any importance. There is a rich assortment of traditional and society moves in India. Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh), Odissi (Odisha), Kathakali (Kerala), Mohiniattam (Kerala), Bharatnatyam (Tamil Nadu), Manipuri (Manipur), Kathak (Uttar Pradesh) and Chchau (Orissa, West Bengal and Jharkhand) are probably the most eminent move structures in India. Additionally, India has a rich custom of old stories, legends and myths, which join with tunes and moves into composite works of art.

**4. Theater:** While old style move in India is connected to its divine inceptions', the root of Indian theater lies with the individuals. Bharat's Natyashastra is as yet the most complete manual for conventional Indian theater. Modern Indian theater' of ongoing occasions started in three frontier urban areas—Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai. It is firmly affected by shows and patterns of European theater. Traditional Indian theater' incorporates unmistakable streams. This theater stayed restricted to courts and sanctuaries and showed a refined, deliberately prepared reasonableness. In the second famous stream the communicated in dialects and vernaculars of various regions and districts were utilized. Theater in India is normally arranged in the post-reap season when entertainers just as onlookers have extra time. It is arranged in outside theaters. The narrative, often a myth definitely known to the crowd, is authorized through move, music, mimetic motion and adapted choreography.

### Conclusion

Finally, the Indian culture has many characteristics. Every element of the matter is performed by people, but not by all. Everyone has a good and bad view about it, as one can see, it is a highly traditional society. The Indian culture is thus very distinct and has different customs. While young people do not believe in traditional elements, the culture of contemporary times varies and is no longer conventional. All elements are often exercised, but the generation of future will alter them. Indian culture is very complicated and resembles a hazy mess. India has different languages, religions, arts, architecture this is all unity in diversity.

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