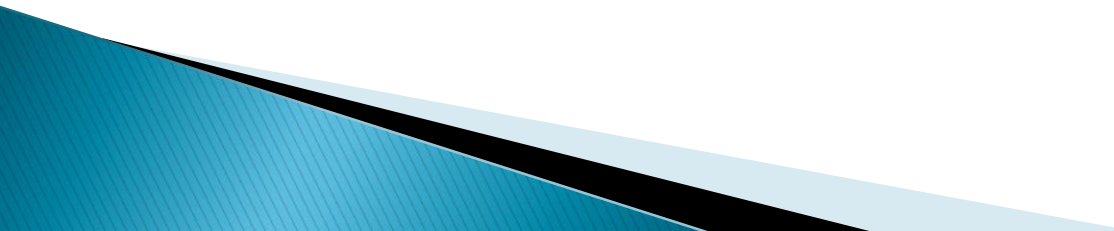
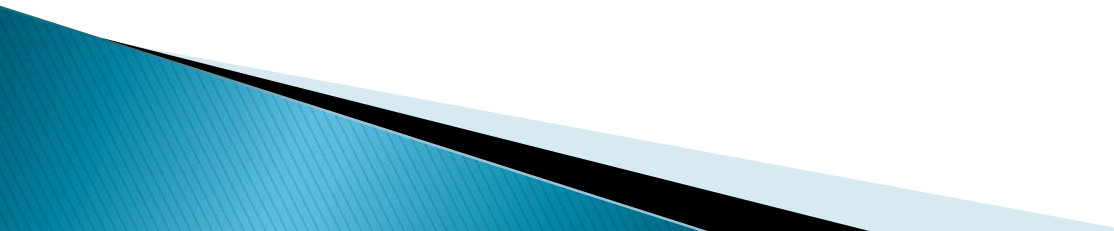


# Topic: Culture

Meaning,  
Characteristics, Elements, and  
Cultural Lag



- ▶ **Culture is the centre of society and without culture no society can even exist. It is the main difference between human being and animal. It is a heritage transmitted from one generation to another generation. It includes all the way and behaviour of culture. Culture is the entire way of life for a group of people.**
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## ▶ **Some important definition of culture**

- ▶ 1. **Robert Bierstedt**: culture is the complex whole that consist of everything we think and do and have as a member of society.
- ▶ 2. **Edward B Tylor**: culture as that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society.
- ▶ 3. **Malinowski**: culture is the handwork of man and medium through which he achieves his ends.
- ▶ 4. **C.C North**: culture consist in the instruments constituted by men assist him in satisfying his wants.

## ▶ Features and characteristics of culture

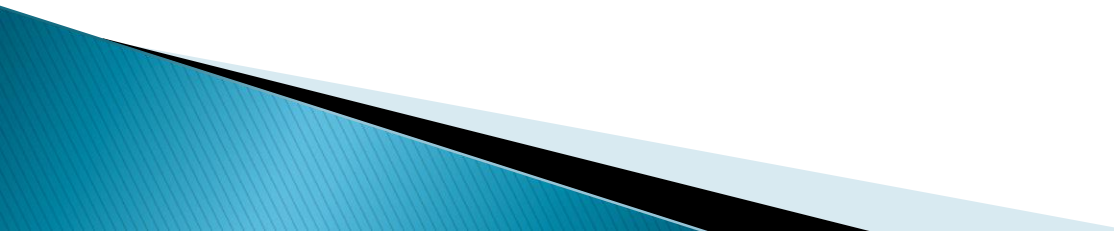
Some of the important characteristics of culture

1. **Culture is social**: culture does not exist in isolation neither it is an individual phenomenon. It is product of society. It originates and develops through social interaction. It is shared by the member of society. Man becomes man only among men.

**2.Culture is learned behaviour:** Culture is not inherited biologically but it is learnt socially by a man in a society. It is not an inborn tendency but acquired by man from the association of other, e.g. drinking, eating, dressing, walking, behaving, reading are all learnt by man.

- ▶ **3. Culture is transmitted:** Culture is capable of transmitted from one generation to next. Parents pass on culture traits to their children and they in turn to their children and so on. Culture is transmitted not through genes but by means of language. Language is the main vehicle of culture

- ▶ 4 **Culture gratifying**: Culture provides proper opportunities and prescribes means for the satisfaction of our needs and desires.
- ▶ These needs may be biological or social in nature but it is responsible for satisfy it. Our need for food, shelter and clothing and desires are status, fame, money etc. are all for the examples which fulfilled according to the cultural ways
- ▶ 5 **Culture varies from society to society**: Every society has its own culture and way of behaving. It is not uniform. Every culture is unique in itself is a specific society. For example values, customs, tradition, religion, belief are not uniform everywhere.

- ▶ 6. **Culture is continuous and cumulative:** Culture exists as a continuous process. Culture is the memory of human race. Culture is not a matter of month or year. It is continuous process and adding new cultural traits
  - ▶ 7. **Culture is dynamic:** It remains changing but not static. Cultural process undergoes changes but with different speed from society to society and generation to generation.
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- ▶ **A number of sociologists have classified the culture in two types.**
- ▶ There **Type of Culture:**
- ▶ are two types of culture.
- ▶ 1. Material culture
- ▶ 2. Non material culture

**Material culture** – It consist of manmade object such as tools, furniture, automobile, building, road, and in fact the physical substance which has been changed and used by man. It includes our bank, parliaments, currency systems etc. it is referred to as civilisation

- ▶ **Non material culture** -The term culture when used in the ordinary sense means non material culture. It is something internal. Non material culture consist of the words the people use or the language they speak the belief they hold habit they follows rituals and practices that they do and the ceremonies they observe. It also includes our way of acting, feeling and thinking.

▶ **According to H. M Johnson.**

▶ The main elements of culture are:

▶ 1. Cognitive Elements

▶ 2. Beliefs

▶ 3. Values

▶ 4. Symbols

▶ 5. Language

1. **Cognitive Elements** - culture of all societies whether pre-literate or literate include a vast amount of knowledge about the physical and social world. The possession of this knowledge is referred to as the cognitive elements.

▶ 2. **Beliefs** - Every sect within a culture having some beliefs for cultural refuge. These beliefs are responsible for the spiritual fulfilment of needs and wants. Beliefs in empirical terms are neither true nor false for example- Sikh wear bangle in one hand, keeping a dagger. The water of Ganga is sacred for Hindus.

- ▶ **3. Values and norms** – Values may be defined as measures of goodness or desirability. Anything getting importance in our daily life becomes our values. The origin of values is not biological but it is social production while living in society and values develop.
  
- ▶ **4. Symbols**– Culture is system of symbols. Symbols are anything used to represent express and stand for an event situation. Sign direct to guide our behaviour. It is used to show an event of past, present or future. A number of invented or artificial symbols are used in social life which assumes importance. Bowing head, whistling, winking of eyes situation all are the symbols, which express a specific object idea about other. Example flag, anthem, picture, statues are symbols

- ▶ 5. **Language**- A group of words or ideas having common meaning and is shared to a social situation Is called *language*. Language is the entrance to a culture. Language is a source of communication and to transmit message from one person to another. Language differs from culture to culture. Language is like vehicle through which we can carry out our complex social activities

## ▶ **CULTURAL LAG-**

- ▶ The concept of **cultural lag** was first introduced by **William F. Ogburn** in the study of social change. Ogburn has divided culture into two parts namely- material and non-material culture. By material culture means, civilisation which includes tools, utensil, machines, science, means of transport and technology. By non-material culture means just 'Culture' in its ordinary sense which includes beliefs, practices, customs, tradition, moral, values and institution like family, religion, education etc.





# Material

# Culture

## Simple Machines



Lever



Inclined Plane



Wedge



Pulley



Wheel and Axle



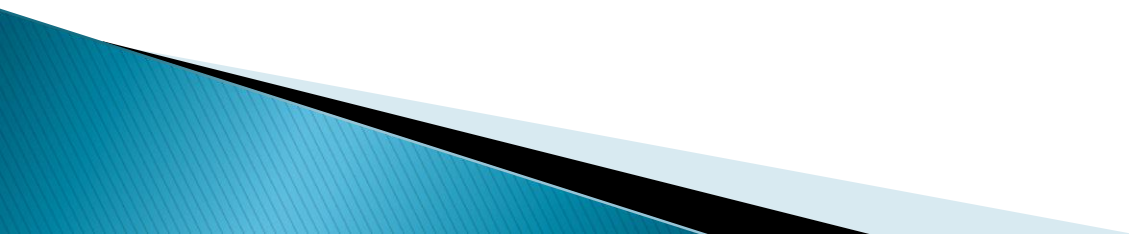
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# Non-material culture :



- ▶ Cultural lag according to Ogburn refers to the imbalance in the rate and speed of change between these two parts of culture. Changes are quick to take place in the material culture. These in turn stimulate changes in the non-material culture. But the non-material culture may be slow to respond giving rise to a gap or a lag between the material and non-material culture. This lag is called **cultural lag**. For example a good number of Indians have adopted western technology but they have not changes their traditional beliefs, customs etc.



▶ *PRESENTED*

*BY -*

*TAHERA KHATOON*



**THANK**

**YOU**

