

WEEK ELEVEN (11)

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURE

Culture is defined as the total way of life of a people. It is culture that differentiates one particular community or ethnic group from the other.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTURE

- Culture defines a group of people.
- Culture is not static rather it is dynamic. It changes with time. As technology changes and as people interact with one another.
- It is not inborn rather it is learnt through the agents of socialization like family, religious organization, peer group ,etc...
- Culture is a collective experience of a community or a group of people.
- Culture is usually acquired, it is a continuous process passed from one generation to the other.
- It is created by a community in order to ensure harmonious and progressive living of its members.

FEATURES (or Components) OF CULTURE

1. **Language:** it is one of the most important ways of identifying a group of people. Through language, we can quickly state what or which culture one belongs. It is an avenue through which our culture is passed from one generation to the other.
2. **Mode of dressing:** this is another way of identifying a group of people or their culture. For instance, a typical Yoruba man or woman wherever he or she is, will still occasionally dress in 'buba and sokoto' or 'iro and buba'
3. **Folklores:** these are invented stories about man and animal kingdoms. Through folklores, children are entertained and taught one moral lesson or the other.
4. **Legend:** each ethnic group has its belief and story pertaining to the origin of man and the world.
5. **Skills and Tools (Technology):** Nigeria had small industries made up of small workshops where skilled works were carried out before the advent of the Europeans. Binis were involved in ivory making and brass wares. The Ijaws and Itsekiri were noted for salt making while native soaps were the products of the Yorubas and Edos etc.
6. **Games and Entertainment:** games also bring out a particular culture. For instance 'Ayo' and 'Okoto' are peculiar to Yorubas. Entertainment is majorly in form of singing; 'Shantu and Samban' are sets of drums among the Hausa Fulanis while 'gangan, bata etc.' are Yorubas' musical instruments.
7. **Buildings:** before the arrival of the European, each ethnic group builds its houses in a way different from others.
8. **Food and Drink:** pounded yam and yam flour are common solid food in Yorubaland while tuwo and danwanke are popular among the Hausa Fulani. While the Hausas enjoy Burukutu and Sekete as their drinks, Yorubas and Igbos like palm wine.
9. **Religion:** the way a group of people relate to the supernatural and its belief is a feature of culture. Each cultural group has its own way of relating to the supreme being before the introduction of Christianity and Islam.
10. **Arts and Crafts:** arts and crafts are products of our physical environment and as such each cultural group has its unique art and craft in form of carvings, metal works, painting, sculpture, wood work etc.

ASSIGNMENT:

1. What is culture?
2. List four components of culture.
3. Briefly explain the features of culture.