

Civilization and Culture

Maclver uses word civilization for physical culture and culture for non-physical culture. **Maclver** regards culture as the last stage of development, that is, a higher level of civilization.

The word **Civilization** came from the **Latin** adjective **civilized**, a reference to **citizen**. Citizen willingly being themselves together political, social, economic and religious organizations- they merge together that is in the interests of larger Community.

Its original meaning is the **manner or condition in which men live together as citizens**. A Civilization is a **complex society or Culture group** characterized by dependence on agriculture, long distance trade, state form of Government, occupational specialization urbanism and class stratification. **Along with this core elements, Civilization is often marked by** combination of a number of secondary elements, including a developed transportation system, writing, standards of measurement, formal legal system, great art style, monumental architecture, the mathematics sophisticated metallurgy and astronomy.

A civilization is a complex human society that may have certain characteristics of cultural & Technological development. It is a complex society characterized by urban development, social stratification a form of govt. & symbolic system of communication beyond natural spoken language. Civilization are intimately associated with additional characteristics such as centralization, the domestication of plant & animal species (including human), specialization of labour, culturally-ingrained ideologies of progress, monumental architecture, Taxation, Societal dependence upon farming & expansionism.

Definitions of Civilization according to scholars and dictionaries -

- **German Dictionary:** Civilization is the stage, by which the people of barbarism enter the area of culture, industry, arts, science and mortality in an orderly fashion.
- **Taylor:** Civilization is that developed stage of mankind, in which high-grade individual social organization is found, whose purpose is to increase the qualities, strength and happiness of human beings.
- **Maclver and page:** The whole mechanism and organization which man has devised in his endeavor to control the condition of his life." Such as, typewriter, telephone, press, factory, bank, post-office, transportation, weapon etc.

Characteristics of Civilization

- **Civilization Distinguished by Traits:** Civilization have been distinguished by their means of subsistence, types of livelihood, settlement patterns, forms of government, social stratification, economic systems, literacy and other cultural traits.
- **Civilizations have depended on Agriculture for Subsistence**
- **Different Settlement Patterns:** Civilizations have distinctly different settlement patterns from other societies.
- **Complex Political Structure:** Compared with other societies Civilizations have moved to complex political structure namely the State. There is a greater difference among the social classes. The ruling class normally concentrated in the cities, has

control over much of the surplus and exercises through the actions of a government or bureaucracy.

- **Display more Complex Patterns of Ownership:** Living in one place allows people to accumulate more personal possessions than nomadic people. Some people also acquire landed property or private ownership of the land.
- **Development of Writing**

Key traits of Civilization

- Advanced Cities – birthplaces of first civilisations
 - Specialised Workers – growth of cities require more skilled workers
 - Complex Institutions – leaders, emerge to maintain the order among people
 - Record-Keeping – record maintenance is significant in a complex economy
 - Improved Technology – problem-solving tools and techniques for a new emerging economy
- Civilization can be easily transferred and spread.
 - Civilization expresses the high level of development of culture.
 - The change which happens in the civilization is an immediate change.
 - The physical items made by humans, are included in the civilization.
 - Civilization is abstract.
 - Civilization is progressive and always runs forward.

Culture

It is a set of traditional beliefs and values that are transmitted and shared in a given society. It is the way of life and thinking patterns, speech, action and artifacts that are passed from generation to generation. However, this is dependent on the man's capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations.

The English word 'Culture' is derived from the **Latin** term **cult** or **cultus** meaning tilling, or cultivating or refining **and worship**. In sum, it means cultivating and refining a thing to such an extent that its end product evokes our admiration and respect. This is practically the same as '**Sanskriti**' of the Sanskrit language.

Definitions of Culture according to Scholars

- **Herskovits** tells us that, "Culture is the man-made part of the environment".
- **Maclver** "Culture is the expression of our nature in our modes of living and of thinking in our everyday intercourse in art, in literature, in religion, in recreation and enjoyments".
- **Taylor** "Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, law, morals, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society".
- **Landis** "Culture is the world in which a person lives, moves and sustains existence from birth to death".

Culture is **the way of life, the food you eat, the clothes you wear, the language you speak and the spirit you worship**, all these are aspects of culture. It signifies the way in which we think and act, including the things we have acquired as members of a society. Therefore, all the achievements of man as a member of a society can be called culture. **Art, music, literature, religion, philosophy and science** are all aspects of culture.

Components of Culture

- Belief
- Values
- Customs
- Rituals
- Language and Symbols
- Stories
- Economic System
- Political System
- Art & Dance

Characteristics of Culture

- **Culture is Learned:** Culture is not inherited generally but **it must be learned and acquired.**
- **Culture is Shared:** Culture is socially shared, based on social interaction and creation. It cannot exist by itself. It must be shared by the members of a society.
- **Culture Changes:** There is knowledge, thoughts or traditions that are lost as new cultural traits are added. There are possibilities of cultural changes within the particular culture as time passes.
- **Culture is Dynamic:** No Culture remains on the permanent state. Culture is changing constantly as new ideas and new techniques are added.
- **Culture gives us a range of permissible behavior patterns:** It involves how an activity should be conducted, how an individual should act appropriately.
- **Culture is Cumulative**
- **Social Quality is Inherent in Culture:** Culture is not the gift of any particular person, but it is the gift of the whole society. Culture cannot be imagined in the absence of society. Culture is the product of collective habits, behaviors and experiences.
- **Culture is Ideal for the Group**
- **Culture fulfills Human Needs**
- **Culture has the Ability to Adapt**
- **Culture is Fundamental in the formation of Human Personality:** A human being is brought up in a cultural environment. After birth, the child learns his culture and assimilates it. The personality of a person brought up in one culture is different from that of a person from another culture.

Material culture- It consist man-made objects

Characteristics of Material Culture

- Material culture is cumulative, so its organs are constantly, growing.
- Material culture is tangible, means it can be measured.
- The evaluation of usefulness and benefit of material culture is easy.
- The changes are immediate in the material culture.
- It can be transferred.

Non-material Culture

Non-material Culture includes words we use, the language we speak, our belief held, values we cherish and all the ceremonies observed. Non-material Culture is passed on from generation to generation through the process of socialization and learning.

Characteristics of Non-material Culture

- Non-material culture is intangible or abstract, means it cannot be measured.
- Non-material culture is complex.
- The evaluation of usefulness and benefits of non-material culture cannot be presented similar to the evaluation of material items.
- The changes in the non-material culture are very slow.
- The non-material culture is related to **spiritual** and **internal life of human**.

Concepts of Culture

There are many concepts of Culture which also includes many differences among them-

- **Cultural Relativism:** Cultural relativism is the practice of assessing a Culture by its own standards rather than viewing it through the lens of one's own Culture. Practicing cultural relativism requires an open mind and a willingness to consider, and even adapt to, new values and norms. However, indiscriminately embracing everything about a new Culture is not always possible.
- **Ethnocentrism:** Literally, 'ethno' mean people. Hence, sticking or centering of people to certain attitude or thing is called **ethnocentrism**. This term was coined by an eminent **American sociologist W.G. Sumner** in 1906, used to describe prejudicial attitudes between in-groups and out-groups. Anthropologists used this term to analyze the bent of mind of the people towards other cultures in terms of their own culture using one's own rating scales.
- **Xenocentrism:** Xenocentrism is the **opposite of ethnocentrism**, and refers to the belief that another culture is superior to one's own. **(The Greek root word xeno pronounced "ZEE-no," means "stranger" or "foreign guest.")** An exchange student who goes home after a semester abroad or a sociologist who returns from the field may find it difficult to associate with the values of their own culture after having experienced what they deem a more upright or nobler way of living.
- **Cultural Reproduction:** Cultural reproduction is the social process through which culture is reproduced across generations, especially through the socializing

influence of major institutions. Cultural reproduction is part of a larger process of social reproduction through which entire societies and their cultural, structural, and ecological characteristics are reproduced through a process that invariably involves a certain amount of social change.

- **Cultural Deprivation:** Cultural Deprivation is a term referring to the absence of certain expected and acceptable cultural phenomena in the environment which results in the failure of the individual to communicate and respond in the most appropriate manner within the context of society. Language acquisition and language use are commonly used in assessing this concept.
- **Culture of Poverty:** Lewis propounded the concept of culture of poverty in He said that the culture of poverty is not a characteristic of a poor traditional society, but it is a characteristic of a developed society based on the capitalist system. This type of culture is found in the society where there is exploitation, unemployment, poverty as a result of capitalist system.
- **Cultural Conflict:** When there is any ideological difference or conflict between two groups or communities, it is called 'culture conflict'. This is an example of the medieval (or **Jihad**) culture conflict. Conflict or conflict often prevails between two societies at the level of beliefs, ideas, ideals and beliefs, so it can be said that **cultural conflict is a process of eternal struggle.**

Functions of Culture

Culture is that achievement of society, which is constant; therefore there are many functions of culture in life of a person and whole society. Following are the functions of culture-

- Culture is considered as the base of social structure.
- Culture develops the feeling of social unity, which provides support to the feeling of national unity.
- Broaden the vision of individuals.
- Provide behaviour patterns and relationship with others.
- Keep the individual behaviour intact.
- Moulds national character.
- Define myths, legends, super natural believes.
- Creates new needs and interests.
- Provide a social structure for reproduction and mutual support.
- Ensures the biological continuity of its members.

Impact of Culture on Human Life

- Culture fulfills Human Needs
- Culture is Fundamental in Personality Development
- Culture determines Human Habits
- Culture brings Uniformity in Behavior
- Culture provides Values and Ideals to Human Beings
- Culture provides Protection to the Individual

- Culture Solves the Problems
- Culture determines the Status and Role

Role of Culture in Social Life

- **Culture determines the Structure of Society:** The structure of society is determined by culture, because the practices, traditions and values in society are the product of culture. The structure of society is created by culture, which is culture has an important place in the structure of society.
- **The Nature of Social Organization is determined by Culture:** Social organization is the system through which the parts of the whole society are purposefully connected. Culture has an important place in keeping them connected. Culture interconnects the physical and spiritual parts of society. Families and religious institutions, families and markets, nations and citizens language, etiquette systems governing behavior etc.
- **Culture helps in Social Control:** Every Culture has practices customs, ethos, traditions etc. These determine the conduct and behaviour of the person and maintain control over the person. Social control remains only through personal control.
- **Creation of Institution:** There is a difference between the institutions of different societies; this difference is due to their culture because institutions are built on the basis of non-material culture. The culture of any society determines how it will be like social, economic, religious political institutions.
- **Stratification:** Different levels of individuals are determined in different societies. Indian society has been stratified mainly on the basis of gender, age group, wealth, caste. For example in India, the stratification was classified on the basis of the Varna system and in some tribal societies, women have a high position, so we can say that cultural values are the basis of stratification in society.

Cultural Lag

The term was coined by **sociologist William F. Ogburn** in 1922. Ogburn has a concept that material culture changes fast in comparison to the non-material culture. Due to this material culture progressed and the pace of change in non-material culture related to or dependent on it remained slow, this condition is called Ogburn cultural backwardness. Cultural Lag is the notion that culture takes time to catch up with technological innovations, and that social problems and conflicts are caused by this lag.

Relationship between Culture and Civilization

What we consider to be a civilization is also a culture. Where railways, aircraft are part of civilization, there is also a culture in their construction. The journey of civilization and culture is parallel in human life. Both these relationship have been expressed by Maclver and Page in the following forms –

- **Civilization is the Carrier of Culture:** Culture is passed from one society to another by civilization itself. The means of transport and communication have

played an important role in the propagation of culture. The development of the means of communication has had a serious impact on those modes of expression, which are essential for cultural activities; hence civilization is called the carrier of culture.

- **Civilization Empowers Cultural Activities:** Civilization indirectly helps in the development of culture. The more the means of production have increased in quantity, the more has been the development of culture. In the absence of those resources, man constantly struggles with nature to fulfill his needs and he is able to devote less time in the development of culture. Due to the development of invention and technology, time and labor were saved in the human being and it was used in the upliftment of culture. In this way, the development of civilization made an important contribution to man in conquering nature and making culture rich.
- **Civilization is the Environment of Culture:** The characteristics of a culture are affected by the environment created by the civilization. The culture of today's machine age is different from the culture of the bullock cart age of the past, because the physical tools of the civilization of both the eras are not similar. The civilization which took birth as a result of industrialization and urbanization has played a special role in giving new direction to our culture.

The religions, customs, family, marriage, ethos, beliefs, thoughts, behaviour, morals and values prevalent in the society before industrialization were different from the industrial and complex societies of the present day. Human reached the moon through rocket and that changed our religious views only. **Now the moon is considered as a satellite instead of a deity.** It is clear from the above description that civilization creates environment for culture.

- **Culture Influences the Direction of Civilization:** Just as civilization affects culture, in the same culture also determines the direction of civilization. What is the culture of a society? What way are its socio-religious values, practices? What are the types of religion, philosophy, moral model? On the basis of these things are made. How will we use which tool? It depends on the culture there. Like a ship is a part of civilization, but how will it be built? How will he work? Which ports will you stay at? It depends on the cultural values of that society. **Clothing is a part of civilization, but how will they be made?** It is determined by our culture.

Relation between Culture and Civilisation

Culture is a part of civilization. The community's diverse culture acts as a fragment to form a civilisation. **Culture and civilisation** are associated with each other in that culture is a precondition for developing civilisation, and civilisation represents a platform for cultural advancement. Both are contingent, and change in either two leads to variation in the other.

Culture and civilisation require some medium of expression, like society, though tangible or intangible. There is a need for means to demonstrate their existence; it can also be through actions, preferences, behaviour, etc. The culture and civilisation of any nation or society define the people living there. It helps other people to know them based on where they

come from. Like, the Indian culture is very rich, and we have a variety of everything here. Most people from outside India love it and come to visit it because of the culture here; to know more about the people.

In recent decades there has been an emphasis on the “thick description” of culture and civilisation, which forces us to believe that cultures and civilisations are not essences floating in the air but directly rooted in well-established geographical and cultural codes. They encompass the political and religious conflicts of the times and are increasingly given to incommensurability, relativism and perspectivism. But cultures, languages, civilisations and traditions cannot be incommensurable.

Culture V/S Civilisation

- Culture exists within civilisation as it is the behavioural aspect of some individuals or groups, but civilisation is a vast community that can be made up of several cultures
- There is a considerable variation in the timeline of **culture and civilization**
- The culture was developed earlier than civilisation
- Culture can exist without a certain civilisation, but it cannot exist without a certain culture
- Culture is present in tangible and intangible forms, whereas civilisation has various more or less tangible aspects.
- Culture transfers from generation to generation and thus cannot be said to be advancing, but civilisation is always evolving
- All societies consist of culture, but only a few comprises civilisation
- **Culture and civilization** have different expansions
- Culture is a part of civilisation whereas civilisation combines various cultures
- There are no standards for measuring culture but civilisation has an abstract measurement standard
- Culture is an end; it has no measurement standards. As against this, civilization has precise measurement standards, because it is a means.
- Culture is more stable than civilization—cultural change takes place in years or in centuries but civilization changes very rapidly.
- Culture is smaller than a civilization , civilization is bigger unit
- Culture can grow without civilization but civilization can not grow without culture.
- Culture is in an intangible state whereas civilization is in a tangible state
- Culture can not be easily evaluated but civilization can be.
- Culture has no fixed direction and it does not always move forward but civilization always progresses.
- Culture is related to the thought and the internal qualities of human in which change or improvement can not be possible without hard work, whereas civilization is related to material thing in which it is easy to change and improve
- A person has a mental attachment with culture but there is no attachment with civilization.