

# CULTURAL DIVERSITY



# Topics



- ❧ What is Cultural Diversity?
- ❧ Positive and negative effects of cultural diversity
- ❧ Ethnic and cultural differences
- ❧ The accommodation made among different ethnic groups with respect to space
- ❧ Political and economic power and social visibility

# What is Cultural Diversity?



☞ Refers to people of different origins, cultures and ways of life living alongside each other without one getting in the way of the other and trying to force their ways on other people.

# Cultural Diversity

- Culture is diverse, meaning, people interpret their culture however they want and act from their **social location** i.e. their context.
- Therefore even if the society seems racially or ethnically homogenous the culture isn't necessarily uniform, i.e. we don't experience culture the same way (remember the social?)

# Cultural Diversity



☞ Cultural diversity is having people of different races, cultures, religions, nationalities, ethnic groups and backgrounds making up a community. Cultural diversity is the variety of human society and culture in a specific region or even in the world. It exists between people, such as language, dress, tradition and the way people interact with their environment.



# Cultural Diversity

- People will differ because of ethnic categories such as **religion, traditions and customs** and even if these are all the same we don't all experience them the same way.
- We all have different beliefs and value systems which influence our perceptions and not only that each of us has a unique way of expressing them

# Positive Effects of Cultural Diversity

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- ☞ Cultures mix- that is, bringing different ethnic groups together to create peace and harmony. This is done by incorporating different religions, cultures and beliefs.
- ☞ There is good trade between countries- when countries come together it increases the skills in the labour market, that is, exchanging ideas from one ethnic group for the sole purpose of getting one product.

# Positive Effects of Cultural Diversity

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- ❧ Variety of ethnic celebrations- members are introduced to foods, festivals, music and celebrations, fashion, handicraft and cultural expressions such as dance.
- ❧ People may appreciate other cultures and a range of perspectives by growing up in society. Example, being invited to celebrations and festivals.



## Negative Effects of Cultural Diversity

- ❧ Ethnic prejudices between different groups would lead to disagreements about stature in society. Differences appear to be very great that myths and misconceptions of the other race or ethnic groups are believed as fact.
- ❧ Ethnic politics develop with political parties splitting into opposite sides according to race. Politics becomes a contest between ethnicities.

# Negative Effects of Cultural Diversity

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- ❧ There may be feelings of discrimination which may lead to social unrest such as outbreaks of ethnic violence, labour riots, etc.
- ❧ There may be overpopulation from people coming in where their culture is flourishing.

# Ethnic and Cultural Differences



Just as the development of addictions may be influenced by celebrities, advertising, and the media in the United States, it may also be influenced by culture and ethnicity.

# Ethnic and Cultural Differences

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- ❧ Cultural beliefs and practices do indeed affect how individuals view the use of addictive substances and compulsive behaviors. Some groups still view addictions as moral weaknesses. If an addicted individual is unable to gain control of his addictive process in this manner, he may find himself excluded from the social group. In addition to the problem of addiction, the addicted individual may also suffer the emotional trauma of social ostracism.

# The accommodation made among different ethnic groups with respect to space

- ☞ Years ago Afro-trini, Chinese, Indo-trini living different areas such as Arima, St. Joseph, San Fernando, Debe, etc
- ☞ In recent years different ethnic groups have begun to live together in unity.

# Political and economic power and social visibility

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- ☞ Honourable Prime Minister Miss Kamla Persad Bissessar developed a cabinet comprising of a variety of races and religions.
- ☞ The Housing Development Corporation (HDC) builds houses in rural areas in which they accommodate people of different races and religions.



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**"Not to worry. Diversity can only enrich our culture."**

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*We'd like you to embrace the concept of cultural diversity...*