
INDIAN AND BATSWANA CULTURE- A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Introduction

Culture refers to a human-made environment which includes all the material and nonmaterial products of group life that are transmitted from one generation to the next. There is a general agreement among social scientists that culture consists of explicit and implicit patterns of behaviour acquired by human beings. These may be transmitted through symbols, constituting the distinctive achievements of human groups, including their embodiment as artefacts. The essential core of culture thus lies in those finer ideas which are transmitted within a group-both historically derived as well as selected with their attached value. More recently, culture denotes historically transmitted patterns of meanings embodied in symbols, by means of which people communicate, perpetuate and develop their knowledge about and express their attitudes toward life. Culture is the expression of our nature in our modes of living and thinking. It may be seen in our literature, in religious practices, in recreation and enjoyment. Culture has two distinctive components, namely, material and non-material. Material culture consists of objects that are related to the material aspect of our life such as our dress, food, and household goods. Non-material culture refers to ideas, ideals, thoughts and belief. Culture varies from place to place and country to country. Its development is based on the historical process operating in a local, regional or national context. For example, we differ in our ways of greeting others, our clothing, food habits, social and religious customs and practices from the West. In other words, the people of any country are characterised by their distinctive cultural traditions

OBJECTIVE:

Is to study the culture of Indian and the Botswana people.

Is to see the difference in two cultures and how one can adjust to one another's culture.

METHODOLOGY:

The study is based on secondary data collected from various books, internet and journals. Identification of Botswana: Formerly Bechuanaland Protectorate under the British, Botswana became independent in 1966. Botswana means "place of Tswana" in the dominant national language (Setswana), and the citizenry are called Batswana, or Tswana people. The term Batswana, however, bears a double meaning. In government rhetoric, it refers to all citizens of Botswana. But the word also refers to ethnically "Tswana" people, as distinct from the other ethnic groups present in the country. This double meaning allows for both the expression of strong civic national sentiments and debate about the dominance of Tswana people and ideology over the broader population. The double meaning has also permitted the fiction, widely accepted in outside reporting, that Botswana's success as a multiparty liberal democracy is based on an ethnically homogeneous population, when abundant state resources based upon diamond mining, responsibly and equitably distributed, are the more likely source of stability. This fiction may indeed have supported the building of an officially nonethnic, state-oriented society, but has come under sharp challenge in the 1990s, as minority groups request the privileges of official recognition.

Identification Of India: The uniqueness of such country as India is indisputable. The culture of this country is so rich that many of its aspects are easily recognized and well known around the world. Not many countries can boast with such worldwide recognition. It is no wonder, as Indian culture is one of the oldest cultures of all times. Let's have a look at the traditions and customs in India that make this country so unique.

Indians cherish traditions. It is a wisdom that is passed from generation to generation. Due to respect for the traditions for many centuries, India managed to keep its unity, originality and identity.

THE TABLE BELOW WILL COMPARE THE CULTURE OF BOTSWANA AND INDIA BASED ON

1. Food
2. Marriage

ASPECT	BOTSWANA	INDIA
Food	Sorghum or corn meal porridge is the staple of most Botswana meals. People wake in the morning to a thinner version of the porridge, sometimes enriched with soured milk and/or sugar, and tea. A thicker version of the porridge, known as <i>asbogobe</i> , anchors the substantial midday meal, accompanied by a stew of meat and/or cabbage, spinach (or wild greens), or beans. People also use rice, but it is considered more expensive and associated with Europeans. Meats include chicken, goat, sheep, cattle, fish, a caterpillar known as <i>phane</i> and various wild games. Village evening meals may include leftovers from midday, but for many people is often just tea and buttered bread.	The traditional food of India has been widely appreciated for its fabulous use of herbs and spices. Indian cuisine is known for its large assortment of dishes. The cooking style varies from region to region and is largely divided into South Indian & North Indian cuisine. India is quite famous for its diverse multi cuisine available in a large number of restaurants and hotel resorts, which is reminiscent of unity in diversity. The staple food in India includes wheat, rice and pulses with chana (Bengal Gram) being the most important one. In modern times Indian palette has undergone a lot of change. In the last decade, as a result of globalisation, a lot of Indians have travelled to different parts of the world and vice versa there has been a massive influx of people of different nationalities in India. This has resulted in Indianisation of various international cuisines. Nowadays, in big metro cities one can find specialised food joints of international cuisines.
Marriage	The various ethnic groups have different marriage traditions. In past practices, most groups permitted polygyny (the taking of more than one wife), a girl's first marriage would be arranged by her family, and marriages involved bride-wealth or bride-service. Tswana marriages in the past were best described as a process, attaining the full definition of marriage often only after many years; steps in the process included requesting marriage. Most Botswana register a civil marriage, as well as conduct marriage ceremonies according to custom at home, and many have a church wedding too. People may marry according to customary property provisions or civil community property arrangements, but in both the woman is disadvantaged, and the husband is likely to control the property.	Marriage is deemed essential for virtually everyone in India. For the individual, marriage is the great watershed in life, marking the transition to adulthood. Arranging a marriage is a critical responsibility for parents and other relatives of both bride and groom. In most of North India, the Hindu bride goes to live with strangers in a home she has never visited. In South India, in sharp contrast, marriages are preferred between cousins (especially cross-cousins, that is, the children of a brother and sister) and even between uncles and nieces.

CONCLUSION

The findings about culture can help leaders understand their own cultural biases and preferences. Different cultures have different ideas about what they want from their leaders, and these findings help our leaders adapt their style to be more effective in different cultural settings. The findings can help global leaders communicate more effectively across cultural and geographic boundaries. Information on culture and leadership can be used to build culturally sensitive Web sites, design new employee orientation programs, conduct programs in relocation training, and improve global team effectiveness.

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