

# Lesson Five

## Understanding Multiculturalism, Social Inclusion and Diversity



**Learning  
for Living  
Together**  
Project

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## Lesson Five


# Understanding Multiculturalism, Social Inclusion and Diversity

### Learning Outcomes

5.1 By the end of this session you should be able to describe

- (a) Multiculturalism
- (b) Assimilation
- (c) Interculturalism
- (d) Integration
- (e) Cultural diversity

5.2 Describe the benefits and challenges of living in a multicultural society



# Task

Working in groups


Discuss What is meant by the following terms

- (a) Multiculturalism
- (b) Assimilation
- (c) Interculturalism
- (d) Integration
- (e) Cultural diversity



# Responses from Group members

1,  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  
6.  
7.  
8.  
9.  
10.






# Multiculturalism



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## Multiculturalism Definition

- ▶ "Multiculturalism" is the co-existence of diverse cultures, where culture includes racial, religious, or cultural groups and is manifested in customary behaviours, cultural assumptions and values, patterns of thinking, and communicative styles.
  - ▶ Multiculturalism is concerned with acknowledging the need or recognition and celebration of different cultures.
  - ▶ The emphasis of the multicultural approach is on the need for tolerance and 'better community relations' rather than on acknowledging the need to change the attitudes and practices of the majority population.
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# Assimilation

- Assimilation is an adaptation of one ethnic or social group, usually a minority, to another.
- Absorption of minorities into the dominant culture, It is the belief that the socialisation of all into a shared value system is the only way forward
- The aim of this approach is to make minority ethnic groups as invisible as possible
- Ethnic diversity viewed as a source of conflict

IOM 2004) International Migration Law Glossary on Migration 2004, (p. 7)





# Assimilation – Example


some countries e.g Denmark ban the wearing of the burqa




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# Interculturalism

- Interculturalism is essentially about interaction between majority and minority cultures to foster understanding and respect.
  - It is about ensuring that cultural diversity is acknowledged and catered for.
  - It is about inclusion of ethnic minority groups by design and planning, not as a default or add-on
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# Interculturalism


- Racism is a recognised issue that has to be tackled
  - This approach implies the development of policies that promote interaction, understanding, and integration among and between different cultures and ethnic groups
  - The concept of interculturalism is widely advocated by the European Commission in its policy statements and through specific programmes.
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# Integration

Integration: Is about social inclusion of minority ethnic groups and equality of opportunities



# Cultural Diversity

- ▶ The phrase 'cultural diversity' means a range of different societies or peoples with different origins, religions and traditions all living and interacting together
  - ▶ The food we eat, the music we listen to and the clothes we wear have all been influenced by different cultures coming into one country. Even the language we speak is influenced by our culture
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# Cultural Diversity

- ▶ Valuing cultural diversity is about learning from others who are not the same, about dignity and respect for all and about creating environments that encourage learning from others
- ▶ Diversity makes a rich tapestry and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter the colour

# Advantages and Disadvantages of multiculturalism

Advantages	Disadvantages
People learn about different ways of life	Can lead to prejudice, discrimination , racism
Breaking down barriers between ethnic groups	Some people think they are superior
Better understanding of another cultures, religions	Living in a multicultural society, even a cosmopolitan city for that matter, may inculcate a fear among individuals or minority groups, that they would lose their original ethnic identities or lifestyle.
Opportunity to learn a different language for both the receiving country and the migrant communities	The language barrier (in the beginning mostly) can be a big trouble maker. Some natives are even concerned that the newcomers can change the way their language sound in the near future.

# Film illustration – Perspective on multiculturalism

Unit 5.1 [https://youtu.be/FkR\\_T5nmdpM](https://youtu.be/FkR_T5nmdpM)



# Summary of Lesson 5

- ▶ Multiculturalism
  - ▶ Assimilation
  - ▶ Interculturalism
  - ▶ Integration
  - ▶ Cultural Diversity
  - ▶ Benefits and challenges of living in a multicultural society
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