

Student Essay

Respect for cultural diversity

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“We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.”

Jimmy Carter greatly depicts that there is beauty in our diversity.

Cultural diversity refers to the quality of diverse or different cultures in the society or nation as a whole. It is one that prospers from distinctiveness because they bring something magnificent to the societal table. We do not think nor solve problems in a similar way. Neither do we create the same – and that is exactly what makes diversity so essential and valuable. However, a question arises of “how can we attain or get there?” The answer is simple – “Respect for Cultural Diversity”.

The fight for cultural diversity is one our nation has toiled over since its conception. Struggling over how to accept and integrate a wide variety of beliefs, opinions, religions and outlooks, many groups in the nation have historically chosen to sequester themselves instead. Rather than a melting pot where cultures mixed, evolved, learned from each other and grew, we had a segregated society where groups stayed in their place and never ventured into enemy territory.

“No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive” – Mahatma Gandhi.

Diversity is what brings colours to our world. The mindset that thinks that betterment is possible only by sticking to its own culture and thus refusing to mix with others lacks respect for diversity. Respect for cultural diversity enables us to embrace our differences. We live in a world of vivid colours and traditions, of differences and similarities, each equally beautiful and unique and thus by embracing variations we learn and inculcate peace and humanity.

Respect for this diversity simply means looking beyond all cultural practices, race, religion and each and every difference and for once stand as a single human race as said by Kofi Annan – *“We may have different religions, different languages, different coloured skin, but we all belong to one human race”*, this reminding us of humanity.

“Peace is not unity in similarity but unity in diversity, in the comparison and conciliation of differences” – Mikhail Gorbachev. These words remind us that peace can only be attained when we learn to appreciate the occurrence of differences of every group in society.

Every country, every community are strongly tied together by an intricate tapestry of individual values, norms and a specific history, so to understand their culture is to understand and respect them. Speaking to a person in a way which is sensitive to their own distinct, unique culture enables a brand to not only elicit the intended emotional response through branded communications, but also shows that the brand can be trusted to understand their consumer.

Last but not least, *“A nation’s culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people”* – Mahatma Gandhi.

These words flash the truth that cultural diversity lies in our hearts and once we can visualize the joy of it, we can learn to respect and celebrate our cultural differences.

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