Society & Social Justice · GS - I

Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2019	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Globalisation; cultural homogenisation; local languages; indigenous knowledge; consumer culture; migration; digital media; cultural hybridisation; regional traditions; cultural preservation; constitutional pluralism

Model Answer

Introduction

Globalisation has intensified the movement of people, capital, goods, information and cultural practices across national boundaries. It has created a more interconnected world, but it has also raised concerns about whether local identities are being weakened by global cultural influences.

Arguments Suggesting Loss of Local Identity

1. Cultural Homogenisation

Global brands, entertainment and consumer lifestyles can encourage similar patterns of consumption across regions, weakening distinctive local practices.

2. Declining Local Languages

Dominant global and national languages may displace smaller languages in education, employment and digital communication. This threatens oral traditions, local histories and indigenous knowledge.

3. Commercialisation of Traditions

Festivals, crafts and cultural performances may be reshaped primarily for tourism or commercial consumption, reducing their original social and spiritual significance.

4. Changing Food and Lifestyle Practices

Globalised food chains, fashion and entertainment can influence traditional diets, clothing and community practices, particularly among younger generations.

Arguments Against Complete Cultural Loss

1. Cultural Adaptation

Local communities often adopt global influences selectively while preserving their own traditions. Cultural change does not necessarily mean cultural disappearance.

2. Digital Revival

Social media and online platforms enable regional artists, language activists and craft producers to reach wider audiences and preserve local knowledge.

3. Cultural Hybridisation

Global and local practices can combine to produce new forms of music, cuisine, art and literature. These hybrid forms can enrich rather than erase identity.

4. Renewed Cultural Awareness

Migration and international exposure may encourage people to rediscover their languages, food traditions and regional histories.

Way Forward

Education in local languages, support for traditional crafts, documentation of indigenous knowledge and inclusive cultural policies can strengthen local identities while encouraging international engagement.

Conclusion

Globalisation can weaken local identity when dominant cultural forms displace smaller traditions, but cultural loss is neither inevitable nor universal. The objective should not be isolation from the world, but a balanced engagement in which local cultures remain living, adaptable and respected components of a broader global identity.

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