CHAPTER - ONE

Introducing the Research Theme

Culture is the expression of thoughts, ideas, relationship, literature, education etc. among different groups of people in any society. The some total of these manifestations take the shape of culture when transmitted from generations to generations as the way of living.

The culture of India is pre-Aryan in origin. The Indian culture and tradition nurtured over the years have faced onslaught of various foreign invasions.

The basic fabric of Indian culture remained intact even as foreign powers ruled India for many centuries. Indians never lost touch with the goal of human life despite provocation by foreign powers. India’s cultural ethics did not bow down to any kind of pressure from outside world.

India is generally known as the classic land of castes and creeds. There are nearly 3000 castes and tribes in India.

A caste is a small group of people pursuing same occupations and lives in a clusters. The mutual trust and obligations are the important strings which unite a particular caste like a family circle. However, the circle has been widened by extension of relations through marriages.

The joint family is the basic family set-up of the Hindu social structure. But modern Indian culture is increasingly moving towards individual family.

In India marriage is not the absolute affair of individuals. It is very much family affair and as such becomes social affairs.

Divorce and separation are look upon with great disfavor in Indian society. Even as separation is considered as necessary in a given circumstances, the second marriage of a divorced wife is not permitted in Indian society. Widow marriage is also not found favor with Indian Society. Indian music is essentially melodious. The studies in music is so designed as to help one to play classical compositions with ease and a wonderful degree of perfection.
The classical traditional dances of some regions of India explain at length the aesthetics of Indian dance. India has a great heritage of both folk and classical dances. The image of God Siva in a dancing pose as 'Nataraja' symbolizes the theory of atom. This posture in dancing goes to explain that the universe consists of moving matter.

The ancient system of education in India was based on the 'Gurukula' system, where a student is attached to a particular master who took personal interest in the development of his ward's knowledge and health.

The Hindus in Indian society believe in one God. He is the Supreme Being known as Paramatma as opposed to 'Jeevatma', the individual soul.

**Review of Literature:**

It cannot be denied that in Bengal and Tamil Nadu there were so many writers who had focused their cultural views through their immortal works. A.L. Basham, 'Aspects of Ancient Indian Culture', D.N. Majumdar, 'Races and Cultures of India', C. Rajagopalachari, 'Our Culture', K.M. Panikkar, 'Essential Features of Indian Culture' were the best contribution of Bengali and Tamil Literature.

**Objective of Study:**

The principal objective of this Thesis is to compare the lives and cultures of Bengali and Tamil Societies in the backdrop of their social, economical, cultural and aesthetical traditions.

**Research Methodology:**

The methodology that will be followed in the present work agrees with that as enunciated by Halliday, McIntosh and Strevens. They have stated — “Every comparative statement presupposes three steps: First, the separate description of the relevant features of each language; Second, the establishment of comparability; Third, the comparison itself”.

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Since these criteria of contrastive study are well accepted in the field of research, the researcher goes by them in the present investigation. The different stages of analysis are as follows:

First, the researcher will try to examine History of Bengal and Tamil Land. Second, examine the culture of Bengal and Tamil Land. Third, discuss the comparative study of Tamil and Bengali culture. Particularly the following documents will be help for the research:
