**Question: Define Culture. Discuss the features of culture.**

**Answer:**

**Features of Culture:**

**Introduction:** There are different characteristics of culture. Now let us discuss some general characteristics, which are common to different cultures throughout the world.

1. **Culture is learned and acquired:** There are certain behaviors which the people acquire through heredity. Individuals inherit certain qualities from their parents but socio-cultural patterns which are regarded as the part of culture are not inherited. These are learnt from family members, from the group and the society in which they live.
2. **Culture is Social:**  Culture exists only in society. Man is social animal and as social animal he lives in society and adopts the cultural norms in society. In turn, it can be said that it is the culture which helps the people to live in society as social animal.
3. **Culture is shared by a group of people:** A thought or action may be called culture if it is shared and believed or practiced by a group of people. It is not possible for the people to possess cultural traits without its sharing with other. The ideal of great men which are also considered as the part of culture are shared in family, educational institutions and in society by the people. The traditions, customs, belief, morals, etc are shared by each other in groups and society.
4. **Culture is transmitted:** Through socialization process culture is transmitted from one generation to another. Language is one of the most important vehicles through which culture is transmitted and first of all this transmission begins in family. The parents transmit culture to their children and the children transmit to their own children and thus the process runs continue. It is like stream flowing down through the centuries from one generation to another.
5. **Culture is integrated:** Cultural traits are interconnected. For instance, the value which is also a part of culture has close relationship with other traits of culture like morality, customs, traditions, belief and faith etc.
6. **Culture is cumulative:** Different knowledge embodied in culture can be passed from one generation to another generation. More and more knowledge is added in the particular culture as the time passes. Each may work out solution to problems in life that passes from one generation to another. This cycle remains as the particular culture goes with time.
7. **Culture changes:** There is knowledge, thoughts or traditions that are lost as new cultural traits are added. There are possibilities of cultural changes within the particular culture as time passes.
8. **Culture is dynamic:** No culture remains on the permanent state. Culture is changing constantly as new ideas and new techniques are added as time passes modifying or changing the old ways. This is the characteristics of culture that stems from the culture’s cumulative quality. When there is cultural exchange among various society or people come close to other society, new cultural traits emerge replacing the old.
9. **Culture varies society to society:**  Culture is not uniform; it is vary from society to society. The way of eating, dressing, greetings, clothing, entertaining differ from society to society. The traditions, customs, belief, faith, social and religious institutions are also not similar. The culture of Indian is not similar with the culture China or western countries. Not only this but also the culture varies from period to period. The culture of ancient cannot match with the culture of medieval period or the culture of medieval period is totally different from the culture of modern period.
10. **Culture is diverse:** It is a system that has several mutually interdependent parts. Although these parts are separate, they are interdependent with one another forming culture as whole. For instance, there are four ‘Varnas’ or castes in Hindu society. Each caste has their sub- separate culture. But all castes belong to Hindu society altogether have created the whole Hindu culture.
11. **Culture is not organic:** Culture is not organic; it is super organic in its nature. The meaning of super organic is that the cultural traits are not considered only as the physical or physiological act. It is more than that. It has social meaning and dignity. For instances, though physically the national flag in outer sight is a piece of cloth, yet it has much dignity because both nationally and internationally represents a country. Some persons in our society are not mere biological animals. The farmers, teachers, doctors, engineer; advocates have their dignity as part of culture not because of their physical existence but for their separate status as.
12. **Culture is ideational:** Cultures cannot be judged as good or bad. The individuals may have their negative impression to the culture of others and may have feelings that their culture is good and the cultures of other people are bad. But it is not that. Naturally each individual feel that their culture is ideal and valuable. They are aware and proud of their cultural heritage and try utmost to preserve the same.

**Conclusion:**

In conclusion, it can be traced that culture is most phenomena of society. People follow different kinds of culture. Culture is transformed from one generation to another through process of socialization.Culture is learned and acquired, shared by a group of people, it is integrated, changeable and varies from society to society and super organic in nature.