**Question:**  **Describe the factors of cultural variability. (2015)**

**Answer:**

**Variability of Culture:**

**Factors responsible for the variability of Culture:**

**Introduction:** Variability is one of most important features of culture. People follow different kinds of cultural traits in simple social phenomena. For instance, marriage is common social common phenomena for all section of people. But different kinds of marriage system are followed by different society. Some follow monogamy, some prefer to polygamy or polyandry. Like this, in all cultural traits so many differences are found in each group. Then, the questions arise that why so many differences are seen in among the different sections of people in same cultural traits. There are different kinds of factors which are responsible for variability of culture. These factors are elaborately explained as follows:

1. **Historical Accident:** In society there are some cultures which are practiced by the individual without knowing their origin. The origins of these practices are not found in history. Probably some parson or group of person consciously or unconsciously did something as their behavior and other people followed them and ultimately they become custom or part of culture for that society.
2. **Geographical Location:** The geographical location or environment has a great impact on culture. It is environment for which variability of culture is seen in different society. Environment determines the cultural life style of the people. The Eskimos build their house in polar areas, because these areas are covered by snow forever. The Manus of Guinea live wooden huts due to availability of woods, the people in desert areas wear long cloth to protect them from dust storm, production of pottery is mostly depends upon where supply of clay is available. The fact is that in different parts of world different material are found and on the basis of materials different kinds of material culture grow up. Thus, geographical location set up the basis of various cultures. But it should be remembered that geography is not the sole factor that determines the culture. The people living in same geographical area practice different kinds of culture
3. **Constant Adjustment:** Human nature is mobile and flexible. They can easily accept and adjust themselves with new customs and culture. Migration of human being is natural phenomena. Since the ancient period people have been migrating and living in different society leaving their own original society. It is observed that as immigrants assimilate themselves with new environment and consciously or unconsciously follow the culture of other where they migrate and this assimilation with other culture creates a new mix culture. Therefore, cultural variability is seen in society.
4. **Discoveries and Inventions:** Discoveries and inventions are also brings about cultural variability in society. The modern technologies tremendously have changed the culture of different society. The technologies not only change the material culture but also the non-material culture like traditions, customs, belief and faith etc. People new judge every aspects of social life from scientific points of view. A state which is technologically advanced will have different culture from the state which is technologically backward.
5. **Influence of Dignitaries:** The charismatic personality of an individual can also influence the culture of society. Mahatma Gandhi was an influential leader during freedom movement. Therefore, Gandhi cap was more popular in that period. Even after independent the cap was considered as part of dignity and culture. The change to kahdi has also an economic change started by Gandhi. Sometime the efforts of influential leaders totally change the existing culture and it is replaced by another. Lenin and Mao respectively in Russia and China destroying capitalist culture established communist cultures. Therefore, cultural variability may occur due to the influence of charismatic personality of person.
6. **Mode of Production:** Karl Marx, the father of scientific socialism says that the mode of production is the main thing which changes the social life of the people. Mode of production Changes art and literature, the morals, customs and traditions, laws, political and social institutions. Any changes in mode of production affect the cultural traits in society. The culture of capitalist society is fully different from that socialist society. In capitalist society no restrictions are imposed on individuals to establish their private industries. On the other hand, in socialist society all financial institutions are controlled and nationalized by the state. Due to following of different kinds of production system, different cultures are practiced by the people.
7. **Impact of Dominant Themes:** The impact of dominant them is one of the most important factor for variability of culture. Maurice Opler views that dominant theme is the dynamic force of culture. For instances, in Indian society the dominant of male over the female is socially recognized, In European society the husband and wife are considered as equal partner and therefore, family life is equally shared by them, The dominant theme of American society is free enterprise and equality. As a result liberal culture is practiced by American people. Russian dominant cultural theme is Marxism and therefore, the people of Russia follow the ideals of socialism as their culture.

**Conclusion:**

Whereas the factors as mentioned above explain the cause of cultural variability in culture they also have focused the points that there is no any common culture in the world. Though all society has similar basic needs, institutions and social structures yet, these are satisfied in different ways and these different ways of practicing culture is called cultural variability.