The “Many” Cultures of India

Trevor Faw
Informative Outline

Topic: Indian Culture

General Purpose: To Inform

Specific Purpose: To inform people of the widely unknown, yet incredibly historic Indian Culture and what it is like today.

Thesis: From British Colony to Independent nation, India is a marvel of intellectual advancement, yet lacks opportunity to harness the overwhelming potential its citizens have to offer.

I. Introduction
    A. Attention Getter: India is one of the most intellectually advanced nations on earth, yet it is widely overlooked by the rest of the world. India is a paradox because it is a country of unprecedented technological advances including nuclear technologies, ballistic missiles, and groundbreaking space satellites. Even so, in the midst of alluring landscapes, and beautiful temples dotting the land, it also a country of abject poverty.
    B. Reason to Listen: India is a land of great potential, yet the chance for opportunity is limited to a select few.
    C. Thesis Statement: From British Colony to Independent nation, India is a marvel of intellectual advancement, yet lacks opportunity to harness the overwhelming potential its citizens have to offer.
    D. Credibility Statement:
        1. Indian is a fascinating culture, one that has peaked my interest on multiple levels.
        2. I have conducted interviews with University of Kentucky students from India and researched the topics being discussed on the internet.
    E. Preview of Main Points:
        1. First, I will discuss language in Indian culture.
        2. Second, I will discuss politics in Indian culture.
        3. Finally, I will discuss education in Indian culture.

II. From its language to its educational system, India showcases impressive aspects and some that aren't quite so impressive.
    A. Language, in many ways, is the most diverse part of Indian culture, with over 1,000 languages being spoken at any given time.
        1. From the more than 1,000 languages spoken today in India, only eighteen have a system of writing, or script, which directly links them to the Indian culture.
a) This is more clearly defined as Brahmi script, the mother language of more modern languages spoken throughout the country today.

b) Hindi accounts for over 40 percent of speakers in India; however, it is not derived from Brahmi script and therefore is not considered to be derived from ancient Indian culture.

c) English accounts for about nine percent of speakers in India, making it the second most common language in the country.

2. Legally, there is not an official language in India; however English is the only language spoken in a business or professional context today.

   a) Citizens of India are not obligated to speak or study a specific language.

3. Languages in India are generally separated by region with one part of the country speaking a specific language opposed to the other.

   a) The northern portion of India is widely viewed as the more traditional, with the population speaking Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, and Gujarati, to name a few.

   b) The southern part of the country is viewed as the English-speaking area.

III. Transition: Now that I’ve discussed India’s many languages, I will now discuss politics within the country and its influence on the lives of Indian citizens.

A. The Indian Democracy, more formally known as the Republic of India, is the world’s most populous democracy, boasting more than 1.2 billion citizens.

   1. Since the beginning of the 16th century, the British Empire had a hold on the area known as the Indian Subcontinent or the Indian Empire.

      a) The subcontinent was much bigger than present day India, encompassing modern countries including Pakistan and Bangladesh.

      b) The East India Company, Great Britain’s eastern body of commerce, used the area as a means of colonization and trade with the East Indies.

      c) India gained its independence in 1950 following the partition of the Pakistan and Indian Dominions.

   2. Though India prides itself on having the largest democracy in the world, it is also the most corrupt.

      a) Many administrative officials within the Indian government give and accept bribes.

      b) Nearly six hundred of these officials have committed criminal acts such as rape and murder.

      c) According to the 2013 Corruption Perceptions Index, India is ranked eighty-third in a list of most corrupt nations.

IV. Transition: Now that I’ve discussed India’s political situation, I will now discuss its educational system.

A. India’s school system includes four levels, lower primary, upper primary, high and higher secondary, after which, scholars are able to attend post-secondary education.

   1. The educational system in India is much different than that of other nations and lacks in many aspects.

      a) Many Indian students, after graduating from public school, tend to pursue secondary education in other nations, mainly the U.S.
b) “There is so much more educational opportunity in the U.S.,” “education is very diverse in the states, the curriculum is more rounded and it presents a very enriching challenge.”

c) Though there is a lot of intellectual talent in India, the lack of a stable government and economic infrastructure do not allow for good colleges and universities.

V. Conclusion

A. Review of Main Points:
   1. Today, I first discussed language in India culture.
   2. Second, I discussed politics in Indian culture.
   3. Finally, I discussed education in Indian culture.

B. Restate Thesis: From British Colony to Independent nation, India is a marvel of intellectual advancement, yet lacks opportunity to harness the overwhelming potential its citizens have to offer.

C. Closure: India is a nation of rich heritage and history, from its many languages, to its religions, culture is abundant. Many other nations are benefitting from the intellectual abilities of the Indian people and their coincidence in society is paramount. It has the cultural backbone to do amazing things, it just needs a government to back it up.