

Unity and pluralism

Sociology



How to Achieve Unity in a Pluralist

Pluralism in society is the acceptance of the diverse human beliefs and ways of life (Held, 2006). These range from social, political, religious, cultural and even economic undertakings. Such a society has two or more sources of political power/authority, groups and standpoints. Individuals have the liberty to view issues in society differently without hindrance. People who are inclined to different ideologies appreciate one another's views. In this respect, the greatest principle in a pluralistic society is the principle of accommodation as noted by Held (2006).

For a society practicing pluralism, the existence of peace, understanding and unity is difficult to achieve, though not impossible. For unity to exist in the state, first there must be tolerance (Held, 2006). This does not mean that one becomes oblivious of others' beliefs and ways. All it requires is acceptance of such ways and giving little relevance to it. Secondly is that there must exist the idea of commitment. One has to hold his/her differences in all perspectives of life not in seclusion but in affiliation with other individuals. Yet again, there must exist effective dialogue between the individuals with divergent ideologies so as to foster mutual understanding and appreciation (Held, 2006). Dialogue in this respect means that people should be able to sit together and agree or disagree on an issue. The principle of give and take, condemnation and self-condemnation must also apply in the situation if unity must be realized. Lastly one has to try and engage with the diversity around. A relationship should be nurtured with those of divergent views and encounters kept at arms length. Without this, tension would still reign in the pluralistic society.

References

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Held, D. (2006). *Models of Democracy*. Cowell Lane, United Kingdom.
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