



Culture and identity

Every culture is a remarkable and unrepeatable body of values that gives a unique identity to the group of people that upholds those values.

Massmedia, broadcast media and online social media has opened the gateway to other cultures around the world.

Whether culture needs protection or not – both can be attributed to factors such as influence of other cultures and modernization – making the question more debatable.

Cultural protection measures are practiced in a number of countries including Bangladesh.



Debate: Does culture need protection?

Yes!

Protection of cultural environment is needed to preserve diversity, uniqueness, and to prevent moral and ideological decay.

External influence can taint the uniqueness and plurality of the identities and cultural expressions.

No!

External influences are like temporary fashions most of which do not survive long.

Cultural exchange can enrich the host culture. Protection on the other hand can stop cultural enrichment and development.

Noted external influences on Bangladesh

Arabization

Arabization is NOT Islamization. It's the intake of Arab rituals and Arab identity by non-Arab areas

Because of Islam's origin in Arab, non-religious elements of Arab culture also gets promoted in Bangladesh.

Westernization

Western culture particularly movies, music, fashion trends, language and social events are quite popular in Bangladesh.

Both historical impact of western colonization, and easy access to western media through modern technology have fueled westernization.

Indianization

Indian culture has strong influence in Bangladesh.

A close similarity between language and culture of the two countries has facilitated Indianization.

Broadcast media is the single largest contributor of Indianization in Bangladesh.

Existing legal and policy instruments in Bangladesh for cultural protection

