



Human and Social Sciences: HSSC4

LESSON 14

Unit Standard: 115480 - SO1

INTRODUCTION

Theme: Diversity in South African society.

Topic: Exploring diversity.

Diversity in the South African society can be explained in various forms. Let us look at the following:

Race: South Africa is divided into four race groups e.g., Blacks. Coloureds, Whites and Indians. All people have to work together irrespective of the colour of their skins. They have to respect and tolerate each other. No one should be discriminated against on the basis of race or status.

The black population of South Africa is divided into four major ethnic groups; namely Nguni (Zulu, Xhosa, Ndebele and Swazi), Sotho, Shangaan-Tsonga and Venda. There are numerous subgroups within these, of which the Zulu and Xhosa (two subgroups of the Nguni group) are the largest.

The majority of the white population (about 60%) is of Afrikaans descent, with many of the remaining 40% being of British or European descent. The coloured population have a mixed lineage (come from other races), which often comprises the indigenous Khoisan genes combined with African slaves that were brought here from all over the continent, and white settlers.

Language: South Africa as democratic country has many languages. There are 11 official languages in South Africa. Everyone is free to communicate in his/her language of choice. In most institutions, English is used as the language of teaching and learning. South African citizens are encouraged to respect and to be free to communicate in their mother tongue.

There eleven official languages in South Africa in terms of their use include **English (9.6%), Afrikaans (13.5%), Ndebele (2.1%), Sepedi (9.1%), Xhosa (16%), Venda (2.4%), Tswana (8%), Southern Sotho (7.6%), Zulu 22.7%), Swazi or SiSwati (2.5%) and Tsonga (4.5%)**. Much of the country's media has been tailored to include as many of these languages as possible. Of course, many other languages from all over the world are spoken here too; including Portuguese, Greek, Italian, French, Chinese, and so on.



Tradition: Tradition is the passing of cultural values and customs from one generation to the other. Tradition comprises of customs, beliefs, and values. Examples of these could be seen in rules of courtship and marriage. People in South Africa have their own demonstration of tradition in the form of cultural clothes, food the kind of houses.

Religion: There are different kinds of religion in South Africa. These include Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism etc. Every person is free to choose and to belong to any kind of religion. People should respect each other's religion and avoid criticising one another. In some religions, people show their beliefs by the attire (uniform) they wear.

People are often discriminated on the basis of race, culture, language, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, religion, social origin, conscience, ethnicity etc.

One of the symbols of diversity in South Africa is the South African Flag

The South African flag

- It was created by **Fred Brownell**. He was a State Herald (messenger of the State)
- Although the flag colours don't hold any official symbolism, they have historical origins and meaning attached to them.
- The black, yellow and green colours on the flag are taken from the ANC party colours.
- Red, white and blue are taken from the flags of the Netherlands and the UK, who ruled South Africa during the colonial era.

What do the different colours of the flag symbolise?

Red – Symbolises bloodshed and sacrifices made in the struggle

White – Stands for the colonial and apartheid past, as well as the peace made between South Africans and the Europeans

Green – Represents the beauty and fertility of South African land

Yellow – Stands for the country's mineral wealth

Black – Represents the native people of South Africa (black, coloured and Indian)

Blue – Represents the African sky and the endless opportunities for South Africans



The flag of South Africa



- The flag of South Africa was designed in March 1994 and adopted on 27 April 1994, at the beginning of South Africa's 1994 general election, to replace the flag that had been used since 1928.
- The lines that form a Y indicate the different races that meet in unity to work together. The flag symbolises unity. It is also called a unity flag because it shows unity.

Work on this Activity ...



- 1.1 Define the concept 'rainbow nation'
- 1.2 How is unity encouraged according to the picture?
- 1.3 What would you do as a 'rainbow person' to promote unity in your community/society?
- 1.4 What evidence is there on the picture that the people are an example of a rainbow nation?
- 1.5 What are the advantages (good things) of a rainbow nation? Mention any three.
- 1.6 Explain the meaning of the different colours found in the South African flag.
- 1.7 What does the Y part of the flag symbolise?



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