

## COSMOPOLIATNISM

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### ABSTRACT

*The conception or meaning of Cosmopolitanism" is broad and one cannot narrow down to one single definition for the term as it would not be sufficient to incorporate all its meanings. There are varieties of ways in which one can distinguish cosmopolitanism as moral, cultural and political. In its ethical stance, cosmopolitanism can be understood wherein individuals from all over the world engage together in a dialogue and interact beyond the borders of their states. In its cultural sense, it could be seen as people identifying and accepting different lifestyles. The idea that humans are free to assemble (or reassemble) for themselves a unique cultural identity by their choice and not determined as a product of culture into which they were born as a matter of chance is deep-rooted in the ideology of cosmopolitanism.*

**KEYWORDS:** Cosmopolitanism, Nation.

### INTRODUCTION

The word „cosmopolitan“, is derived from the Greek word kosmopolites which means citizen of the world. The term was defined almost two and a half thousand years ago by the Diogenes of Sinope. He described himself as a *kosmopolites* when asked from where he belongs. Later, the word was used in identifying people belonging from two distinct communities namely; the local and the wider „common“ by the Stoics. The idea that the cosmopolitan view holds is that, regardless of their political identity, all the human beings are citizens or part of a single community. The word „cosmopolitan“ have different connotations when used differently but at its center, it identifies including people from all over the globe. A cosmopolitan is a person who has an understanding and respect for foreign cultures, who is well-travelled and can interact well with people from many communities and societies. Similarly, different groups and persons with varied ethnicities, cultures, languages, religions, etc when live or reside in a city or place, then that is termed as a „Cosmopolitan“ state or city.[1]

## NEED OF COSMOPOLITANISM

The concept of cosmopolitanism is not a unfamiliar one, but something which have been sidelined for long and recently have come into the picture due to varied reasons like inter-connectedness of states, globalization, common issues faced by different nation-states, human rights, trade and commerce etc.

The globalized interdependence in fields such as security of nation states, regularizing trade and commerce, environmental protection and climate change, human rights such as in the case of immigrants, refugees etc., combating crime and law enforcement demand a sense of shared responsibility as these issues cannot be tackled single-handedly or in isolation, instead, they call for a collective participation. [2]

The emerging popularity of using the approach of „cosmopolitanism“ can be understood in terms of two broad reasons – firstly, in response to new challenges like the ones stated above such as immigration, globalization, ecological threats, etc. and secondly, bringing out the idea of common humanity and fostering the sense of shared responsibility. The term „cosmopolitanism“, thus in current scenario of moral and political theory, means that all human beings are equal, and that the issues or problems faced by them should be solved with the idea of Global Justice serving the needs and interests of human beings individually rather than restricting it to membership of their own states.[3]

## CONCLUSION

Cosmopolitanism is often criticized as utopian concept and is side-lined under the stronger concepts of Nationalism. But as we see, with the international institutions coming up in place, and helping in governing the relations between the states and keeping individuals as important and central as states, it is necessary that a more positive and sensitive approach towards the disadvantaged section of the globe should be maintained.

## REFERENCES

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