**Respecting Personal and Cultural Diversity**

**“No culture can live if**

**it attempts to be exclusive”**

**-Mahatma Gandhi**

In mid of the last month, my mother asked me to accompany her for a social visit to Umreth, a small town nearby my city. My mother’s aunt got some eye problem called colour blindness. I asked my mother about the disease and she told me that it is inability to distinguish between certain colours. I was surprised and was sorry for my aunt that she won’t be able to see different colours of flowers, cloths, fruits created by man and God.

Imagine a world with monocolour. How dull it feels! Not only man, even God likes variety that is why he has made everything of different colours, size and shape. Different colours have different moods too. Whether it is related to age, race, gender, nation, educational qualification, political belief, cast, religion, income, language or even appearance, man has always tried to put an effort to prove himself better than others.

To my understanding, “Diversity is the ability to appreciate both the similarities and differences between and among people.” Trying to be different from others is a natural and positive tendency. But an effort to prove somebody inferiority to you is definitely a matter of concern. This creates an incompatibility between and among people resulting into conflicting behavior. I consider this as a Psychological phenomenon as ‘intolerance’.

“People fail to get along because

they fear each other; they fear

each other because they don’t know

each other; they don’t know each other

because they have not communicated

with each other”

* Dr. Martin Luther King

As rightly said by Dr. Martin Luther King, the biggest reason for intolerant behavior or to say insulting diversity is a poor communication with each other. When an open communication happens both sides are preparedH to listen each other neutrally, patiently and empathetically. No body is in a hurry to prove oneself right or better. This kind of communication brings creative conclusions. But many a times people feel to understand, “When I respect others, I don’t insult me.”

If we slightly go deeper into the root cause I feel “ I can only accept others as they are when I have accepted me as I am.” Though it looks very simple and easy to adopt, infact, it is one of the most difficult task in today’s world. A strong and happy state of mind does not need any external recognition to feel strong. But a weak and fearful mind is always in search of opportunities to rub other’s line in order to prove one’s presence.

Culture is nothing but the attitude, behavior and belief of a particular social group of organization. So culture diversity thus become subset of personal diversity. The person who has conquered his ability to respect personal diversity, he would definitely respect cultural diversity too.

To conclude here I would state that “the antonym of diversity is Pseudo\_Identity”. I pray God to bestow the mankind with a wisdom to respect diversity whether personal or cultural. Let me take the first step:

I commit to accept this intolerant world.

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