**Diversity Studies**

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Diversity is an all encompassing terminology which means understanding each individual as unique, and recognizing individual differences. In other words, diversity is about understanding each other and moving beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each individual.

Diversity can be observed and experienced in everyday life situation along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, culture, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, language, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies. It is the exploration of these differences in a safe, positive, and nurturing environment to accept and respect its existence.

**Why Diversity Studies:**

The Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts aims to see its students inculcate values and habits which will assist them to become productive and effective citizens making a positive difference in the lives of their families, communities, organizations and countries.

Keeping in sync with the aim of the school, Diversity Studies aims to enable student **to develop an alternate gaze which would accommodate and celebrate difference in a positive way,** appreciate the richness of the society and contribute to knowledge building.

**A broad outline of the course to be taught:**

1. Theories of diversity: Marxist and Post-modernist standpoint on diversity.
2. Indian context: Diversity as understood through caste, class, culture, ethnicity (indigenous people of the land) gender and sexuality.
3. Global context: Diversity as understood through race and nation state
4. Political diversity
5. Religion: fundamentalism, extremism, communalism
6. Linguistic diversity and regionalism
7. Disability: assertion of differences as diversity
8. Diversity as portrayed in popular media
9. Diversity and conflicts
10. Project work (On issues of diversity. Topics to be decided by students)