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**Society, Communities and
Contemporary Trends of Culture :
Local and Global Perspectives**

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Ancient Indian Culture And Education: An Overview of Vedic Period

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Introduction: The rich heritage of Indian culture can be traced back to ancient times. The practices beliefs and customs that we follow today were established thousands of years back.

The culture of India is one of the oldest and unique in the world. There is amazing cultural diversity throughout the country. There is hardly any culture in the world that is as varied and unique as India. On the basis of division of labour ancient Indian society was mainly divided in to four castes (i) The Brahmanas (ii) The kshatriyas (iii) The Baishyas (iv) The Sudras. The Brahmanas was the priestly class who were also teachers. The Kshatriyas were the princely class who looked after the political affairs of the country. The Baishyas were the business class who controlled the economy. The Sudras were the lowest class who did all other manual work. Hindu or ancient Indian culture had always been influenced by religious beliefs. Religion controlled the lives of the people in every sphere. That time agriculture was the main occupation but there was development of small-scale industries and handicrafts.

In ancient India fine arts, music, dance, theatre were an integral part of the daily culture. The culture of a society has its inevitable impact on its educational system. Whatever we learn through education is immensely influenced by culture. The ancient Indian education system refers to the education that prevailed in the Vedic, Buddhist and Muslim ear. Education in those days was of high order and only people of particular caste (Brahman, Kshatriya and Baishya) could attain education.