

# The Faces of Humanity

An examination of humanity automatically points to an examination of social norms and expectations; coupled with the issues that are intimately associated with both. It has been suggested that humankind is a social being which means that we exist within a realm of issue-driven relationships. Theorists continue to probe and master their understanding of the phenomena that define humanity. These studies are all done to explain why individuals behave the way they do and what motivates them. Therefore, there is always a purposed approach to determine how social issues transform individuals.

Writers are equally intrigued by this phenomena, and as such, present these social issues in their work. The more complicated a social issue becomes, the more complicated the life of an individual becomes, as there is a direct interface between individual and social issues. This interface may be perceived as **conflict**. The repertoire of our life experiences is defined by how we behave in the face of conflict. Our characters are molded, strenghtened and sometimes sullied depending on how we choose to treat with/address conflict. Likewise we depend on this repertoire to interpret and analyse literary work and social issues on a whole.

So, when we are told that our worldview is determined by our social background, it essentially points to how our upbringing colours our attitude. The **character** that we become depends on the **themes** that we are exposed to. This concept constitutes our **cultural reality** - the sum of/collective human intellectual achievement as it relates to customs, arts, attitudes and behaviour, institutions of a nation of people.