My Culture

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Introduction

Cultures play an important role in society. A society that is culturally diverse helps individuals learn from each other and their experiences.

Cross Cultural experience takes place when people of different cultures connect with each other and share their knowledge on their culture.

Guyana

I was born in Georgetown, Guyana and moved to Queens, New York when I was two years old.

Guyanese culture is the result of many different cultures fused together. There is a heavy influence of Indian and African cultures.

Guyana had many different cultures who ruled it at some point. So there are more cultures that influenced Guyanese culture.

Guyana Carnival

The picture posted on the left shows the clothing worn during a cultural event called Carnival.

Guyana carnival is an event where all cultures come out and celebrate using music, clothing, food, entertainment, and so on. This usually lasts a few days.

Gender Roles

The gender roles in Guyana stay true to the traditional gender roles across cultures.

Men usually are expected to work and be the breadwinner while women are expected to take care of the children, cook, clean, and tend to her husband.

Women are still highly objectified in Guyanese culture and even with the new roles women are taking on, they still are not taken seriously.

Guyanese Cuisine

The foods shown on the left are some of Guyana's staple dishes.

Chicken Curry

Cookup Rice

Roti

Chow-Mein

Guyanese Norms and Values

There are many norms and values that are a part of Guyanese culture.

According to Lumen Learning "**Values** are abstract concepts that certain kinds of behaviors are good, right, ethical, moral and therefore desirable." (Evans, 2020)

Lumen also states "There are two main categories of social control: **norms** and **laws**. A norm is a standard of behavior. At some point people in the society agree that these are standards. Some people learn by being taught, but mostly we pick them up just by being exposed to them." (Evans, 2020)

Some Social Norms Include

- Women moving out only after they have been married
- Women do not travel to places like the club or large gatherings alone
- We must respect our elders because they are wiser than us
- Living together before marriage is frowned upon

Taboos

Taboos are practices that are frown upon in ones culture

In Guyanese Culture the following is considered Taboo

- Sex-Work
- Identifying as part of the LGBT+ Community
- Living together before Marriage
- Having a child/intercourse before marriage

Socialization and My Cross Cultural Experience

Socialization is defined as " Socialization is the process through which people are taught to be proficient members of a society. It describes the ways that people come to understand societal norms and expectations, to accept society's beliefs, and to be aware of societal values." (Vyain et al, 2014)

Media outlets such a social media, tv, magazines and so on set the norm for what is considered beautifuk or not, how people should dress, which trends are in and so on.

Growing up in America where a lot of emphasis was put on outer appearance, that shows that the expectations for this society was.

Language

Guyana is considered part of the Caribbean because it is the only country in South America where its first language is English

While we speak English in Guyana it is a form of Broken English or Patois

Langauge is very different in different parts of guyana

Festivals celebrated in Guyana vs. New York

Guyana Holi and Diwali

New York Holi and Diwali

References

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