

The significance of culture

The significance culture has on our life

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Culture is a big part of everyone's life, It shapes who we are and how we think how we view things and how we act. We all have different cultures depending on where we are from. We didn't always understand each other's culture. We only tend to know about our own because it is ours and we understand it. When we met new people and they have a different culture than us we don't understand it and we just think it isn't right. As society is changing and evolving hopefully to a better one. I have noticed that people are doing a better job on understanding other cultures instead of just criticizing them. Understanding other people culture, religion and race can bring a lot of benefits to the society. For example, some benefits can be to lower discrimination based on race, religion and culture. It can lower racism and even bullying in school for kids. Culture has a big significance on everyone life and it shapes everyone's identity. This is Cross culture. Cross culture is the understanding that we all have different culture and learning how to appreciate other culture accept them, learn about them, and enjoy them as if they were your own. In the United States there are a lot of people from all over the world.

Culture shapes our identity because we are introduced to our culture since a very young age. We grow up learning about it and basically following it. It is what is normal to us. Our culture Influences our everyday thoughts and actions. For example, our culture and religion both are together most of the time. Our religion determines what we believe in and in what we have faith in. It determines our thoughts and view in situations. Sharing the same culture and religion with other people also gives us a group of people to relate to and have connects with because

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they have the same beliefs and customs as you. When we are growing up our parents and family teach us our culture without even us knowing that we are being taught and we are learning it. It starts off with native languages. Based off where our family are from, we all have different languages. After that we all learn English in school if that is not our first language. WE also learn our culture's traditional food. We all eat different things and we are all used. To what we were given from our childhood at home. Growing up we also are taught our culture's norms and customs and beliefs. We are taught what is wrong and right in some situations and what type of people we are supposed to grow up to be. WE are taught in what we are supposed to believe in as well. Meaning the type of gods or spirits that we have to believe in because it is the only right thing for our family. After we grow up with all of these things we understand our own culture and have already shaped what type of people we are because of the beliefs and customs that we are taught at home.

When we start going to school, we are put in situations with a lot of different people. Meaning different races, religions and cultures. We start socializing with other and see how different we are.

Having the ability to understand other people's cultures comes from how people are raised or taught at home. Parents can show kids to be accepting of others if they are different because we are all different. They can show kids that it is not okay to point out other kids because they look different or eat different things or do not dress the same. If this was taught from a young age, we can avoid discrimination and racism and it will make a really big difference. WE would not have the problems that we have right now in society. Like police brutality or immigrant Discrimination or racism. Etc.

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Some benefits of showing kids from a young age to be accepting or respectful of other no matter their race, religion and culture is avoiding bullying. In school kids can be bullied for a lot of different reason that should not even be a thing. For example, some kids can be bullied because of their race. Meaning the color of their skin. There are some schools that have majority white kids so a kid of other race/ color can get bullied in a place like that because they look different. In other cases, kids that dress differently also can get bullied. For example, in some cultures it is traditional to wear a hijab. In other cultures, women cannot wear pants, only skirts and dresses. This can cause kids to see them differently because of the way that they are dresses. It can cause to pointing out or bullying.

In the article “THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY & CULTURAL AWARENESS IN THE CLASSROOM” by the Drexel University School of Education states “The classroom environment is important for fostering cultural awareness, but you also should ensure diversity is represented in your actual lesson plan. For example, broaden history lessons so that they encompass the world beyond United States history and culture.” (Education.) This quote shows that different cultures can be brought up in the classroom so that kids can learn how to accepting of another and create a safe classroom for every student.

If kids were taught to respect other aside from difference, we can avoid big society problems like racism and discrimination. It is like everything else that is taught from a young age, it sticks to the kids and they won't do it when they are older. Avoiding violent hate crimes and discrimination that we see now happening. It starts off at school and eventually moves on to their work place when they are older.

A lot of racism and discrimination occur even in work places. People that are not accepting of other races or cultures and religions discriminate other in work spaces. For example,

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when people are applying to a job, they will be judged based off their looks rather if they are qualified for the job. Some jobs will not hire a person of color even if they are more qualified for the job. Some won't hire people that dress according to their culture/religion. For example, people that wear hijabs or for the religions that women cannot wear jeans or pants only skirts and dresses. All of our cultures are very unique and great but they also have parts that other are not accepting of. That's why we all struggle in our culture in different ways.

In the article "New Research Says Company Culture Problems Start With Leadership. Here's How to Fix Them by Adam Robison" it states "beyond driving job seekers away, a poor company culture can cause overall business success to take a hit. As outlined in a recent study from PwC, corporate culture problems have been in the news a lot lately--making headlines in relation hostile work environments, defrauding customers, and other issues." (Robison) This quote shows how even in work place culture has a big impact on that environment . It can be because they are not accepting of people because they are different or for the people that work with other a like as them it create a safe work place. In it can also create and unsafe and unaccepting work place. Cultural has an impact in all aspects of our lives.

In the article "Racism in the Structure of Everyday Worlds: A Cultural-Psychological Perspective" by Phila S. Salter it states "A cultural-psychology approach adds to this discussion by considering racism as a set of ideas, practices, and materials embedded in the structure of everyday cultural worlds." (Salter). This quote shows how racism can be taught to people thorough culture and its idea that it has of others. The same way that it can be taught it can be taught not to be racist or point out others.

Our culture also determines the type of role that we play on our society. The type of individual that we are and how we act in society and whether or not we participate in it. And do

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our best to change it for the better. If we are help to society standards and if we give in to them.

In the article “Culture, Creativity and the Economy: An Annotated Bibliography of Selected Sources” by Alan Schussman1 Kieran Healy it states “An early effort to integrate the concept of the culture industries into a more general analysis of postmodern/postindustrial capitalism.”. This shows how culture has an effect on everything like capitalism and our society.

We all have different cultures and religion based off where we are from. All of our cultures have some differences and some similarities but they are all unique in their own way. We don't always understand other's cultures because they could be very different. We all have different customs and norms. In the article Research on Getting Along Across Differences: An Annotated Bibliography by Shahla Maghzi it states “In addition to studies of social dominance orientation, social psychologists have pointed out that a group's norms surrounding interpersonal behavior among individuals of different groups is especially important in determining the nature of inter-group encounters(Maghzi)”.

It can be very hard for people to accept other cultures or hard for them not to judge. But it is okay if we do not agree with each other's culture or believe the same. It doesn't mean that we are wrong but it doesn't mean that they are wrong either. All that we have to do is respect one others culture and beliefs and customs. Because we wouldn't like it if they judged us either. We can learn about each other beliefs and customs and respect each other for it.

When we meet new people that have a different culture then us, we learn a lot about it if we are open and they learn about us. For example, when you share your beliefs and customs with one another you will see the differences that they have and you will also see some similarities. If you are really close to your friend for example if you go over to their house and have met their families you get to see how really different their culture is from yours because you get to see

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their customs instead of them just telling you. Something that can happen when you learn about other cultures is that you can adapt their customs or ideas. This is because you may like the way they do things or you just think that it can be better than the way that you are used to. This is a great benefit of living in a very diverse place. Because we all learn from each other and adopt different things from one another and that is how we create a great society where everyone is accepting of one another.

Culture has set norms our customs and ideas. There are times where people that are expected to follow their culture and the customs but they just can't. They are unable to do what they are expected to because no matter how long they have been told that is the only right way to do things, they just cannot accept it because they are the opposite of what they are supposed to be. We are shown the do's and don'ts for people based off our culture. But there are times where people go against those do's and don'ts' and do the opposite of what they are expected to do. In the article Readings in Culture and Sexuality: An Annotated Bibliography Prepared for the Rainbow SIG of NAFSA By Kevin Morrison it states " In an attempt to paint a descriptive picture of how homosexuality is viewed across the spectrum of Latin American cultures, ... The examination of these works' wrestles with such issues as homosexual identity. (Morrison)". Culture's ideas and beliefs sometimes aren't always followed. And for those that go against them it is very hard for them to be accepted by people of their same culture and of course by their own families. Because that have always been taught and believed that things are supposed to be a certain way and that is normal. If it is a different way it isn't normal or accepted. Like this example for people that struggle with their sexuality and coming out can be very hard. Because of how their cultures has set the do's and don'ts and they are doing the don'ts. They can be cared of their family reaction and how they will treat them after because in some cultures that can be

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like the worse thing. They do not believe that is right. In some cultures, they believe that people like that should be killed or that they are not worthy of their beliefs. In many cases for people that struggle with this their family don't accept and can kick them and pretend like they aren't even part of their family. But there are also cultures and families that are accepting or just because they have so much love for love for their child more than their customs and beliefs can be accepting and understand it to be there for their family.

Another example of people not being able to follow the do's and don'ts of their culture or be what they are expected to be is the idea that in most cultures' women have no power and men are the dominant over them. Of course, women now have more power than many years ago in society overall. But there are still some cultures that believe that should not be right. For example, some culture's still have the idea that women are supposed to be married off at young age and that they should not study further because they will be stay at home Wives either way. Women are just expected to be good house Wives be able to cook and clean and take care of children. While men work. They are not free to handle money because they have to depend on their husband. A lot of women from all cultures hate this idea. Everyday there are women that stand up for their self's either to their husbands or to their parents. To break this idea to be able to study and not depend of other people. To become independent.

There have been many cases where people of different sexuality / members of the lgbtq are discriminated because of that. This can be based of culture as well. Because in a lot of cultures that is seen as something that is not right at all people think that they need to fix it or just act hateful towards them. This is a bad effects of cultures beliefs / religion because it leads to a lot of violence. People have been really hurt over this or even killed in some cases. This is why it

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is important to teach people from young age to just be accepting or respectful of other people to avoid situations like this and not create violent situations.

If people were more accepting of them, they can feel safer and accepted by their family. In the article “Cultural change in acceptance of LGBT people: lessons from social marketing “ By Bob Witeck . It states “Many people are both astonished and cheered by the accelerating pace of change in acceptance of LGBT people. Surveys now show that about 60% of Americans support marriage equality so that gay couples may wed. Less than a decade ago, that proportion of Americans opposed gay weddings.” (Witeck)This quote shows how if people can be accepting of other and just be happy for other because they are different, we can create a happier and safer society for everyone. They can understand us and our beliefs and we can understand they're without being hateful or judgmental.

Culture determines how we react in situations. How we act in public, how we act at home and how we act in our everyday life's. It determines our reactions and actions when we are faced with problems and our daily actions. It affects our emotions because we know how to act in situations or how we are expected to act and feel. In the article Culture and Socialization by Xinyin Chen, Rui Fu, and Siman Zhao it states “it seems to make sense to conceptualize culture as contextual as well as personal because culture clearly influences societal or community level activities and structure... and, at the same time, individual beliefs, emotions and behaviors (Fu,Zhao)”. It also states “Culture has been defined as a wide range of phenomena, from the “man-made part of the environment” to the meaning system that individuals use to understand the world and guide their behaviors (Fu,Zhao)”. Some cultures have certain marriage norms for example arranged marriages. It is something normal for those cultures but sometimes the people that are in those marriages are unhappy but in some cases they are happy. That is an example of

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how cultures can affect our actions and emotions because people participate in this tradition but in some cases, they feel happiness but in some they feel anger or sadness. They are forced to marry people that they are not in love with making them feel a lot of negative emotions for many years. Same happens for people of different sexuality oration as I mentioned before. They know that their family won't accept them because of their culture and beliefs which causes them to feel negative emotions. Same happens when their family find out all of their emotions are changed because their culture does not accept that and it is the way they are supposed to react because of it.

In my cross-cultural experience, I have learned a lot. Me and my friend Dana have been friends for a really long-time since we were kids. I met a friend when I was around nine years old. She was from another country, culture, and religion from me. We were close friends, and we still are. At that age you do not know much about religion or culture just what your family has taught you at that point. My friend is Muslim. She had so many different customs and traditions then me. When we shared our customs and traditional and our typical food with each other we were both extremely interested in one another's culture but also very confused on why we did everything quite different. We eventually learned about one another culture and accepted it. She will come over my house and she how it would be and eat with us. And I will do the same when I went over to her house. We saw first-hand how different both our houses and cultures were from one another.

My respond the problem is that we need to change for the better. Very violent crimes have been committed because of people not understanding others. People judge one another without thinking which leads to this. All of our differences and similarities should be appreciated and celebrated by one another instead of being hateful to one another. Culture shapes how we

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think and act. The person that we will grow up to be and our Morals and values. It determines whether we will be respectful people or what type of career we will take or if we will study and what we will do with our lives.

My recommendations will be to teach kids from young age to not judge or point out other people based off their culture or race and religion. This can be taught at home by their parents. Simply telling them that is not okay can make a really big difference. Another recommendation that I have is that we can add the teaching of different cultures in school. For example in history class we learn the history of the United States and at time we learn about other centuries as well. WE can add the teaching of different cultures and religions in school. I know it isn't not okay to teach religion in school but to just give an overview of the different type of religions and cultures that there is. This can make a huge difference because kids will be taught from a young age at home and school the significance of cultures and it will teach them to respect one another. That way there are no groups of the same race or cultural at school. Everyone can socialize with one another knowing that they are all equal doesn't mean they are any less or different because they are from a different culture.

For my first interview, I interviewed my friend Dana that I had mentioned before. When I interviewed her, I mainly focused on asking her questions that relate to how she believes her culture shapes her identity and her struggles in society because of her culture. She started telling me that her culture had a certain expectation that she has to live up to. For example, her mother strongly believes that women should have be allowed to have a boyfriend at young age. That they should wait until they are older and that if they are going to be with someone that will be the person that they marry. Because we all are in diverse environments, we see what other do and how they do not believe that same thing. My friend saw how we were all reaching a stage in our

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life where girls our age will start being in relationships. She was very conflicted because she wanted the same thing as the girls around her. When she met a boy that she really liked and he really liked her back and decided to be in a relationship her mother was not accepting of this. She told her that she must leave him immediately because what she was doing was not right. She feels that she did not live up to her culture's expectations because of this. She also mentioned an obstacle that her culture has brought up when she was in diverse environments. She mentioned that in her religion there is a month where they must fast all day long. Meaning no food or no water. They are only allowed to eat and drink when the sun goes down This was challenging because when she would go school in this month and she would not eat in breakfast or in lunch the rest of the kids will question her. They did. Not really understand that she was doing something that she and her family believe they must do because of their religion. Because the rest of the kids did not understand or did the same as her she felt as if she was not understood or as if she was being judged. She felt as if the other kids made fun of her or thought and looked at her weird. Being part of her culture and religion has shaped her identity in so many ways. Whether she fully believes in everything her culture expects her to be. It gives her expectations and the do's and don'ts that she needs to follow. Of course, while years go by, she can change the customs that she is not happy with or that she feels that she cannot live up to.

My friends experience great example of how some people are not have with the custom that their culture and religion have set for them. It effects how they are as people and their emotions greatly. It is also a great example of how when you are places in a very diverse area and you see how people around you have different customs and norms as you, you are tempted to do the same as them. It is completely fine because that is what create a very diverse environment. We

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will all have our differences but similarities as well. It is great alternative for those that are not happy with their own culture / religion customs and norms.

Another friend that I interviewed was my friend Jose. He was born in the U.S but was taken to Mexico at a very young age because of some family problems. He grew up there but when he was around 9 his parents and him came back to the U.S. When he started school here, he saw the differences of how it is here and Mexico right away. When he started making friends that were from Mexico as well, he thought that they will have the same customs and norms as he did growing up. He realized that people that are Mexican here do not always follow the same norms and custom as people that do live in Mexico. He believes that his culture shapes his identity use he grew up being told what was wrong and what was right. But that isn't the same for every one of the Mexican cultures. He was really shocked when he came here because he thought they will have the same customs and ideas as him. He saw how it shapes all of us very differently.

My friends experience is a great example that when we are in a very diverse environment, we change aspects of our culture because we are around other with different ideas. We adapt to the environment that we are in and over the years we create a culture way different than the one that we are actually from. That is why when people go back to their countries, they can see everything very different and weird because even though they are from there they are not used to that type of customs and norms.

My friends' stories show why it is important to understand other and accept others because of their culture, because we can create a diverse and accepting society. It can change our emotions to positive emotions when we are not happy. We can adapt from each other culture when we do not agree with our own culture's. Accepting other decreases discrimination and racism that we have in society now. Understanding other cultures can lead to have great friendships with other that

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are different from you and be able to understand them. To be able to socialize with their family. They accept you and you accept them.

In conclusion, our culture is a big part of our life. It determines how we are as individual and our identity. It creates and leads to the emotions that we have. It determines our thought and actions as well. It also even determines what type of struggles we will go through because of it. And the obstacles that we will have to overcome because of it as well. Not understanding other cultures can lead to many harmful actions. Like I mentioned racism and discrimination. But all of that can be avoided if we learn how to understand one another and accept one another and creating accepting and safe society. Where people are not scared that they will be hurt because of color or religion and they are welcomed by everyone.

Reference page [Bob Witeck](#). Cultural change in acceptance of LGBT people: lessons from social

marketing <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24826822/>

This article focuses on how society has now been more accepting of people from the LGBTQ community. It has data from a survey that 60 percent of the population is okay with gay marriages and etc. This is a big difference from a decade ago. Where they were not accepted. Not everyone accepts them yet but we are getting there and making some progress. This is because cultures can change their norms and ideas to be accepting of their family. Over years cultures change to adapt to society.

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SHAHLAMAGHZI. Research on Getting Along Across Differences: An Annotated

bibliography https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/getting_along_across_differences_an_annotated_bibliography

This article focuses on the idea that when we have friendships or relationships with people that are from different cultures we can adopt to their cultures. It shows how people start to learn about the other person a lot because of the time they spend with one another. When you share your culture with someone they learn about yours and you learn about theirs. There can be times where you and them may like ideas from one another culture and add it to their culture. They will change the way they do things because they thought it was a better way.

Kieran Healy . Culture, Creativity and the Economy: An Annotated Bibliography of Selected

Sources [.https://namp.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/creative-economy-bib.pdf](https://namp.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/creative-economy-bib.pdf)

This article talks about how culture effects the economy . For example , In some cultures women are not allowed to work because the man is supposed to work. This effects their economic status because they might not have enough income as they would if both of them worked. It effects the power that women have over money because they make no money.

Kevin Morrison . Readings in Culture and Sexuality

<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/studyabroad/upload/NAFSA-Readings-in-Culture-and-Sexuality.pdf>

This source talks about the obstacle that people with different sexuality face. It talks about how these people are scared to tell their family who they really are and feel because they will not be accepted. It is the big don't that their culture and religion has set for them. Going against family

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not to be accepting of them or them being discriminated by others in public places. It effects their emotion because they feel trapped all of the time because they know people will not accept them.

[Xinyin Chen.](#) Culture and socialization

[.https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319650281_Culture_and_socialization](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319650281_Culture_and_socialization)

This source talks about how culture effect the way that we socialize with others. It determines the way that we act. It determin the way that we think. It determines what friends we might have and what job we may have as well. It also determines how we react in problems and how we over come obstacles and the way that we fix thing. The way that we act with our family and friends.

<file:///Users/MacBook/Downloads/Lessard-clouston1994TeachingCultureAnnotatedBibliography.pdf>

[Phia S. Salter.](#) Racism in the Structure of Everyday Worlds: A Cultural

Psychological Perspective. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0963721417724239>

This article talks about how culture can lead to racism or how people suffer racism because of their culture . People can be taught how to be racist from their culture. Because their culture might have stereotypes for others. This is because not all cultures are accepting of one another so it creates ideas to not be kind to one another because of differences that they have. Which leads to racism and disclination.

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Drexel University School of Education. THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY & CULTURAL

AWARENESS IN THE CLASSROOM” <https://drexel.edu/soe/resources/student->

[TEACHING/ADVICE/IMPORTANCE-OF-CULTURAL-DIVERSITY-IN-CLASSROOM/](https://drexel.edu/soe/resources/student-teaching/advice/importance-of-cultural-diversity-in-classroom/)

THIS ARTICLE TALKS ABOUT HOW DIFFERENT CULTURES SHOULD BE ACCEPTED IN SCHOOL PLACES. HOW TEACHERS SHOULD LEARN HOW TO BE ABLE TO HAVE A LOT OF KIDS FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES AND TO TEACH IN A WAY THAT EVERYONE IS UNDERSTANDING OF ANOTHER. IT ALSO TALKS ABOUT HOW THEY COULD INTRODUCE OTHER CULTURES IN LESSON PLANS SO THAT KIDS CAN BE ACCEPTING OF ONE ANOTHER FROM A YOUNG AGE.

Robison, Adam . New Research Says Company Culture Problems Start With Leadership. Here's

How to Fix Them by Adam Robison”. <https://www.inc.com/adam-robinson/new-research-says-company-culture-problems-start-with-leadership-heres-how-to-fix-them.html>

This article talks about how some work places are very bad with people from different cultures. They are not accepting of others with different cultures. Or they do not hire people because they do not fit the work place. This should not be tolerated because everyone needs to work to survive. It should not matter if they are different. Work is work. Many differ in a work place because they can be seen as less just because of color or culture while they do the same as others.