

Table of content

Cover page	Page 1
Content Page	Page 2
Background	Page 3
Introduction	Page 3
Norms and Values	Page 4
Socialization and Interactions	Page 5
Symbols	Page 6
Race and Ethnicity	Page 6
Stereotypes	Page 8
Gender	Page 9
Religion	Page 9
Conclusion	Page10
Annotated Bibliography	Page 12
Reference Page	Page 14

Background

In today's world, it is common to see issues arise in the topic of culture. These issues or conflicts are most times due to the differences in these cultures or subcultures. Some of the main conflicts from culture comes from a cultures norms and values, socialization and interactions, symbols, race and ethnicity, stereotypes, gender, or even religion. Why are these topics so hot when it comes to culture? From the past to the present day, people all around the world are discriminated for being different and why is that? Could it be because we disapprove what we don't know or understand? Is it because we fail to learn and gain knowledge about the unfamiliar? To be completely honest, there is no real answer to these questions, this world is twisted, and people tend to judge things they don't understand. Even though culture may have many conflicts, it is important to understand and acknowledge that culture is what makes people who they are because it is a sense of identity.

Introduction

One commonality that everyone on this planet has, is a culture. No matter who you are, or where you have come from, everyone has a culture. Culture can be defined as the beliefs, traits, or social forms for a social, religious, or racial group. Everyday people interact in some shape or form, and this allows people to embrace or learn about their own culture or other cultures. Culture represents who we are and gives us our identity. It shapes our ideals, norms, traits and even our values. In this paper, aspects such as norms and values, socialization and interactions, cultural symbols, race and ethnicity, cultural stereotypes, gender, and religion will be discussed and explained based on its importance and conflicts that may rise due to these aspects and how these conflicts can be solved. Each of these topics are extremely important

when it comes to culture. Why you may ask, these aspects are part of the soul meaning of culture. They create the identity of a person and allow them to connect with other people that are similar and embrace people that are different from them. The reason why many conflicts occur in culture is because some people do not accept certain people that are different, they do not welcome those from different cultures who may have different actions and behaviors or the way they speak or communicate might be off. The key to maintain peace in culture is learning and accepting those that are different, in the paper you will read about conflicts those cultures face but you may also learn solutions to these conflicts and learn why it is important to accept cultural diversity. Culture is part of a humans identity, and it is one of the most important aspects for a human to have and adapt

Norms and values

Norms and values play a huge role in culture. According to the creators of Crash Course YouTube channel in a video titled “Symbols, Values, and Norms: Crash Course Sociology #10” Cultural Norms are “The rules and expectations that guide the behavior within the society”. In other words, norms are things or actions that are normal for a culture and what is accepted or not accepted. Crash Course also states that cultural values are “The cultural standards that people use to decide what’s good or bad, what’s right or wrong”. In other word’s values are ideas to live by and support a culture. Together, norms and values are important beliefs and action-guiding rules that cultures follow to complete what they believe in. They normally add stability towards what a culture believes in. Although there are cultures that may or may not have similar or different norms and values, it is always important to respect what others follow and believe in.

Conflicts arise due to the different beliefs in other cultures or different behaviors they may follow. According to Shelly Shah's article titled "Values and Norms of Society, Conformity, Conflict, and Deviation in Norms", "As already seen norms are agreed upon standards of behaviors. Without such agreement, norms have a weaker force". What this means is that Norms and values need to be agreed with throughout all cultures for it to have a strong meaning for a specific culture. It is okay to have different values or different beliefs, but keeping peace means that you must be able to accept different cultures that have different behaviors. Not everyone is willing to do this of course and this is where conflict is created. People must be open to the idea of accepting change and accept different cultural life to minimize conflict from different cultures. Norms and values are a persons means to achieve an end.

Socialization and interactions

Socialization is the process in which communicating or mixing socially with other people. Socialization is important for culture because it allows people to discuss and learn more about yourself and your culture and learn about other cultures. Communicating or socializing can occur in many ways such as verbal or physical interactions. In many opinions, socialization is one of the biggest points of conflicts when going over culture. When speaking about communication, there are verbal and nonverbal ways of interactions. Verbal communication is refereed to speech, meanwhile non-verbal communication is communicating in a way without words. According to "Types of social interactions", Nonverbal communication is "The process of communicating by sending and receiving wordless messages", meaning that its communicating without having to actually speak. Nonverbal communication can be expressed in many ways.

Posture, Gestures, clothing/style, and many more are ways of expressing oneself nonverbally. As mentioned before, socialization is one of the biggest points of interest for cross cultural conflict because communication can be misleading or misunderstood easily. Verbal communication can have barriers such as language, accent or meaning. Having cultures that speak different languages are difficult to understand which could create confusion and tension between cultures, also accents can create conflict because it may be difficult to understand a person that has an accent that you are not familiar with. Nonverbal communication may create conflict as well. Gesture and postures may be misleading, fashion or style could create tension especially in places like the middle east where woman must be covered up head to toe while in the America that is obviously different because woman have right to wear anything they would like. To resolve issues or conflicts with socialization is by being understanding and willing to learn and understand other cultures and being able to accept others.

Symbols

Cultural symbols are a physical or a non-material manifestation that signifies the ideology of a culture and this symbol has an important meaning for culture. In “Basics About Cultural Symbols” states, “Cultural symbolism delves into how different people view and represent their world with symbolism... Gaining symbolic insight from different cultures allows us to view the world more broadly and more flexibility”. What this means is that symbols are used to represent the world and life of a culture. Cultures have symbols because it allows them to have something to believe in and have an idea or claim of who they are and what their culture is all about. It is easy to determine that there may or may not be conflicts when looking at cultural symbols. Some may disagree with other symbols or beliefs which is the fault of not understanding a culture for what they believe in and what they follow. The importance of

respecting cultures different from yours is that it allows people to gain a better understanding of the meaning towards their beliefs and both sides will understand the significance of each other's symbol for their culture.

Race and ethnicity

Race and ethnicity play a huge role in what makes people who they are. It corresponds with the topic of culture because race and ethnicity often judge what culture you are raised in. Many may believe that Race and ethnicity are the same thing, however they are not. Are they related somehow, sure but the real meanings are, race refers to physical features such as skin color whereas ethnicity refers to native or birth country and branches to religion and tradition. Throughout history, race and ethnicity has proven to be a topic of great conflict. In an article titled "Why Racial and Ethnic Conflict Exist?", goes over four of the main reasons for conflict about race and ethnicity. The article states "First, Race and ethnic conflict exist because there are tradition of racial belief and actions toward essential elements... Second, ethnic, and racial conflict are based on institutional factors... Third, ethnic and racial conflicts are based on actions of the leaders.

Finally, ethnic and racial conflicts are based on misperception". To break down each of the four points of conflicts, the first reason goes over location and language, the way people speak or significance the land has for that group of people. The second reason why there is conflict in race and ethnicity is based on the institution of a group, it is about the political, social, and economic standing of this group. The third reasons address leaders of a country. people with high praise or have more power over others and have the ability to favor certain decisions in politics or life for others in general. The Fourth and final reason that was mentioned goes over

behavior and response between cultures. Things such as threats or judgments will create conflict and the way a culture responds to issues can also create problems. Sadly, conflicts on race and ethnicity have been happening for so long and there possibly will never be an end to it. In order to prevent this conflict is by stop judging those that are different from your race and ethnicity, unfortunately that is close to impossible for many people in this world. Race and ethnicity as a whole are a sensitive and yet destructive topic as history has presented and it's without a doubt unfortunate that the world has faced these conflicts for century, even after wars this issue has never been resolved and it's important to understand that we need to avoid this conflict and accept these cultures to maintain peace and acceptance.

Stereotypes

Cultural stereotypes are oversimplified ideas or images of a certain cultural group or race and things that might be believed they do or say. It is a function of social expectation. These expectations can be actions, behavior, speech, and many other things. In an article titled "what are cultural stereotypes?", goes over what stereotypes are and the effect they have on people. The article states "Stereotypes are rigid and fixed". This means that stereotypes are never going to be changed, once a stereotype is set into place, there is no changing it and it will never go away. Even if that stereotype is proven wrong by the victimized culture, the stereotypes remain in place. This is a big reason for conflict in culture. Stereotyping people or a culture as a whole is unfair and disrespectful. In an article titled "Stereotypes, Diversity, and Conflict 1" explains what stereotypes are, what are the cause and effects of stereotypes, why people use them..., the article states "Stereotypes are often wrong, leading to bad strategy. People are embarrassed when they are stereotyped, making conflict escalation likely".

Although basic to understand what this means, the importance to understand the truth behind this statement is key. No one likes to be stereotyped which is the fault for why there are so many conflicts in culture. Stereotypes are almost always wrong so why is it when a stereotype is created, it sticks and will continue to affect cultures. One example of unfair stereotypes in today's everyday life is the idea of terrorist. Many people blame and call people from the middle east to be terrorist and the reason for many murders, but the truth is that this stereotype is false. If you take in all the recent large mass murders, it was mostly Caucasian males that killed many people which means that this stereotype is wrong for the group of people it is aimed to because the Caucasian males are responsible for these murders.

Gender

The gender aspect of culture is one that can be extremely controversial. This is because in some cultures there is no gender equality. Luckily in America, gender equality is very important. Supporting and treating each gender equally will prevent many problems, however across the world, this is different. In some places, men feel as if they are more powerful than a woman and they should hold more rights over them. Besides this, gender role conflict exists because women are always looked upon or treated differently. In an article titled "An Operational Definition of Gender Role Conflict and The Gender Role Conflict Scale", goes over when and how gender conflict occurs. The article states "Gender role conflict occurs when rigid, sexist, or restrictive gender roles result in personal restrictions, devaluation, or violation of others self". This explains that gender role affects people in ways that make them feel restricted and feel as if their potential is not valued as much as someone of the opposite sex. The importance of treating both men and woman equally would prevent conflict and give each sex equal opportunity and rights.

Religion

Religion is a social-cultural system that worships the belief of God and follows the belief system that comes with it. There are over 4,000 cultures on this planet, each having a set of rules and conditions to follow. Of course, not everyone follows a religion, however, those who do can explain that all religions have a set of similarities and differences. In an article titled “Religious Conflict”, discusses issues people have in religion and how these conflicts occur. The article states “Religious conflicts include intolerance of other religions and discriminations against members of other religions”. Religious conflicts start because of judgement based off of those who follow different religions or those that do not follow religion at all. Having different opinions and beliefs can be misleading, creating religious wars or tension between two different religions. The conflict religion creates is a worldwide issue and shows how religion can impact all cultures.

One example of religious conflicts is the issue between Muslims and Jews in modern era. An article titled “Religious Conflicts around the globe and a solution”, goes over in detail how religious conflicts and goes into detail about the religious war between the Muslims and the Jews. The article states “Today we see such intractable inter-religious wars between Muslims and Jews... Attempts to bring out peace have failed again and again”. As it is known, these two groups are in a religious war due to there differences and disagreement of beliefs and traditions. They have made attempts to end this war and gain peace, but this has failed many times over and over again because they continue to have issues and tension between the two religions. Religion is highly controversial and although many do not believe in God and religious beliefs, many still do and take religion extremely seriously.

Conclusion

Culture is what makes people who they are. It gives a person their identity. Culture gives people their beliefs, traits, or social forms for a social, religious, or racial group. It tells people that they have a role, and they have a status in society. this paper has gone over that culture is extremely important and it plays a vital role on your life and shapes who you become. Valuing your culture and other cultures will allow you to better understand the world around you. This will also prevent issues with differences that cultures may have. As discussed before, some people may have issues with certain cultures based on their values or their beliefs or for any reason that may be different or unfamiliar and another reason why many conflicts occur in culture is because some people do not accept people that are different, they do not welcome those from different cultures who may have different actions or ways to speak. By understanding that everyone has a culture and it's important to learn and accept each other, the world would be more at peace preventing huge racial or religious conflicts.

Discussed in this paper was aspects of culture such as norms and values, socialization and interactions, cultural symbols, race and ethnicity, cultural stereotypes, gender, and religion. It's important to understand that we are all human and we all were born with a culture and continue to grow and improve our knowledge and add onto our identity. Learning and accepting is the only way to maintain peace in the world. Just because cultures and groups may be different, doesn't mean that they shouldn't be treated the same or they should be ashamed for being different and having their own customs. Culture is most important to a persons life and it may come with conflicts but you must always remember who you are and where you have come from.

Annotated Bibliography

YouTube. (2017). *Symbols, Values & Norms: Crash Course Sociology #10*. YouTube. Retrieved November 11, 2021, from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGrVhM_Gi8k.

The purpose of this video was to teach and provide a better understanding of culture and give definitions of symbols, and norms and values. It was useful because by using the definitions provided, It was much easier to understand the importance of the topics and what are some conflicts and solution.

- “The rules and expectations that guide the behavior within the society”. In other words, norms are things or actions that are normal for a culture and what is accepted or not accepted.
- “The cultural standards that people use to decide what’s good or bad, what’s right or wrong”. In other word’s values are ideas to live by and support a culture. Together, norms and values are important beliefs and action-guiding rules that cultures follow to complete what they believe in.

Values and norms of society. Sociology Discussion - Discuss Anything About Sociology. (2015, April 30). Retrieved November 9, 2021, from <https://www.sociologydiscussion.com/society/values-and-norms-of-society-conformity-conflict-and-deviation-in-norms/2292>.

This article provided discussion about behaviors that come with norms and values. By understanding these behaviors, it is possible to determine solutions for any flaws presented.

“Values and Norms of Society, Conformity, Conflict, and Deviation in Norms”, “As already seen norms are agreed upon standards of behaviors. Without such agreement, norms have a weaker force”. What this means is that Norms and values need to be agreed with throughout all cultures for it to have a strong meaning for a specific culture.

Boundless. (n.d.). *Boundless sociology*. Lumen. Retrieved November 11, 2021, from <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-sociology/chapter/types-of-social-interaction/>.

By using this article, made it possible to explain different types of communication other than verbal communication. As we all learned there are many ways to communicate and this article explains in depth, how nonverbal communication works and when these communications are used.

- “The process of communicating by sending and receiving wordless messages”, meaning that its communicating without having to actually speak.

Avia. (2021, July 27). *Basics about cultural symbols*. Whats. Retrieved November 11, 2021,

from <https://www.whats-your-sign.com/basics-about-cultural-symbols.html>.

- “Cultural symbolism delves into how different people view and represent their world with symbolism... Gaining symbolic insight from different cultures allows us to view the world more broadly and more flexibility”. What this means is that symbols are used to represent the world and life of a culture. Cultures have symbols because it allows them to have something to believe in and have an idea or claim of who they are and what their culture is all about

Keygrtheint1. (2020, May 15). *Why racial & ethnic conflicts exist?* The Key Group International

Inc. Retrieved November 12, 2021, from <https://thekeygroupinternational.com/why-racial-ethnic-conflicts-exist/#:~:text=First%2C%20race%20and%20ethnic%20conflict%20exist%20because%20t here,only%20in%20terms%20of%20race%20and%20ethnicity%20resemblances.>

The importance of this article presented conflicts that occur with race and ethnics. First it discusses what race is and how it has shaped the face of earth. Then later on goes over the conflicts that does or used to be present in the world. By using these examples, readers are provided with a clear understanding on solutions that could prevent many conflicts, however it is important to present.

- “First, Race and ethnic conflict exist because there are tradition of racial belief and actions toward essential elements... Second, ethnic, and racial conflict are based on institutional factors... Third, ethnic and racial conflicts are based on actions of the leaders... Finally, ethnic and racial conflicts are based on misperception”. To break down each of the four points of conflicts, the first reason goes over location and language, the way people speak or significance the land has for that group of people. The second reason why there is conflict in race and ethnicity is based on the institution of a group, it is about the political, social, and economic standing of this group. The third reasons address leaders of a country. people with high praise or have more power over others and have the ability to favor certain decisions in politics or life for others in general. The Fourth and final reason that was mentioned goes over behavior and response between cultures. Things such as threats or judgments will create conflict and the way a culture responds to issues can also create problems.

Jittrineek, P. et al. (2013, December 9). *Culture stereotype*. Cultural Conflict. Retrieved November 12, 2021, from <https://culturalconflict.wordpress.com/2013/12/09/culture-stereotype/>.

Cultural stereotypes are discussed in this article. Stereotypes comes with many conflicts that are often incorrect and is the reason for conflicts to be issued in present day.

- “Stereotypes are rigid and fixed”. This means that stereotypes are never going to be changed, once a stereotype is set into place, there is no changing it and it will never go away. Even if that stereotype is proven wrong by the victimized culture, the stereotypes remain in place.

Stereotypes, diversity, and conflict I:stereotyping, stereotyping in Interpersonal Conflict.

STEREOTYPES DIVERSITY AND CONFLICT I:Stereotyping Stereotyping in Interpersonal Conflict Conflict Management Business Human Resource Management.

(n.d.). Retrieved November 12, 2021, from

https://www.zepedia.com/read.php?stereotypes_diversity_and_conflict_i_stereotyping_stereotyping_in_interpersonal_conflict_conflict_management&b=30&c=27.

- “Stereotypes are often wrong, leading to bad strategy. People are embarrassed when they are stereotyped, making conflict escalation likely”. Although basic to understand what this means, the importance to understand the truth behind this statement is key. No one likes to be stereotyped which is the fault for why there are so many conflicts in culture.

Hornigold, C. (2016, August 18). *Operational definition of GRC: Dr. Jim O'Neil*. Dr Jim O'Neil.

Retrieved November 12, 2021, from <https://james-oneil.uconn.edu/operational-definition-of-grc/#>.

This article breaks down gender and how it plays a significant role in culture. It goes over how gender inequality has been around since the start of mankind and it's an issue that could probably never end. Although inequalities aren't as extreme as it was hundreds of years ago, it's still an issue faced around the world and there can never be an easy solution to solving this problem.

“Gender role conflict occurs when rigid, sexist, or restrictive gender roles result in personal restrictions, devaluation, or violation of others self”. This explains that gender role affects people in ways that make them feel restricted and feel as if their potential is not valued as much as someone of the opposite sex

Religious conflict. Religious conflict | World Problems & Global Issues | The Encyclopedia of

World Problems. (n.d.). Retrieved November 12, 2021, from

<http://encyclopedia.uia.org/en/problem/142081#:~:text=Religious%20conflict%20includes%20intolerance%20of%20other%20religions%20and,in%20ethnic%20disintegration%20and%20loss%20of%20cultural%20heritage>.

The article discusses how religious conflicts have always been a topic of interest in the world. With there being so many religions and different beliefs, conflicts always arise because no one religion is exactly the same as another. States “Religious conflicts include intolerance of other religions and discriminations against members of other religions”. Religious conflicts start because of judgement based off of those who follow different religions or those that do not follow religion at all. Having different opinions and beliefs can be misleading, creating religious wars or tension between two different religions.

Shaukat, A. (2020, October 14). *Religious conflicts around the Globe and a solution*. Modern Diplomacy. Retrieved November 12, 2021, from <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/10/15/religious-conflicts-around-the-globe-and-a-solution/#:~:text=While%20a%20religion%20is%20often%20a%20significant%20generator,and%20religion%20has%20played%20a%20significant%20role%20>.

The article goes over religious conflicts has always been a topic of interest in the world. With there being so many religions and different beliefs, conflicts always arise because no one religion is exactly the same as another. It provides examples of modern day conflicts such as that between the Muslims and the Jews.

“Today we see such intractable inter-religious wars between Muslims and Jews... Attempts to bring out peace have failed again and again”. As it is known, these two groups are in a religious war due to there differences and disagreement of beliefs and traditions. They have made attempts to end this war and gain peace, but this has failed many times over and over again because they continue to have issues and tension between the two religions

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