**Problem Caused By Cultural differences and Resolution**

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**Background**

   Currently, in the United States, there are many problems and issues revolving around race and culture. It is becoming more and more prevalent and frequent to be mentioned by people. Misunderstanding and rejection are reasons why it's becoming worse. Knowing another culture's values and behavior can resolve problems. Socialization would be the method to approach such a goal in terms of understanding another culture's values and norms, through communication within the society with other cultures.

**Introduction**

   Culture is an idea that involves the social behavior and norms found in different societies, as well as the knowledge, beliefs, arts, laws, customs, capabilities, and habits of the individuals in these groups. Culture is a huge part of an individual's identity, it represents who they are and where they are from. Culture shapes individual ideals and values and influences them to behave in a certain way or follow a certain practice. Our world consists of many cultures, there are a lot of similarities between them yet many differences as well. Cultures are different because of norms and values. Norms and values are ideas, behavior, and objects that are considered ordinary to a particular culture. Different cultures have different norms and values that affect how people think and perform, resulting in each culture being special in a way that is unlike other cultures. However, the difference between cultures could cause issues. Adapting to another culture could be difficult. People's ideas and values are established by their culture in a way that is persistent to be changed when they grow older. Socializations within a culture helps people to understand and learn the norms and values within the culture. However, when individuals are introduced to a new culture that has completely different norms and values, it becomes a challenge to the

individuals, since that a different culture's values and standards could conflict with the individual's beliefs and values. Being that, they have to change from what they have learned in their own culture, to another culture that follows different values and behaves in a manner that is different from their own culture, and oftentimes people would just refuse to change and stay within their own culture. The difference between different cultures can cause issues such as racism and hatred toward a specific culture/group, all resulting from misunderstanding and refusal to accept people's culture. Thus, acceptance and understanding of other cultures' differences are important because they can resolve many issues that are happening in the world currently and prevent further dilemmas and problems from being created.

**Norms and Values**

In depths about norms and value, the concept of the descriptive norms as common behavioral practices helps to understand the concepts of cultural practices. The cultural norms state that certain behaviors are acceptable. Once these behaviors are socially accepted as norms, they become practices. The idea of values and norms is influenced by how people behave around them. They are derived from the perceptions of Others, which influence how people within certain cultures think and act.  Michael Frese states that "An example is the norm of toothbrushing. First, toothbrushing is enforced from the outside. After a while, children routine toothbrushing and may even feel uncomfortable when they are not able to brush their teeth (Frese 2015)." This displays how constant behavior would become a norm/practice and how these activities would affect individuals in the way they perform a particular action. values are abstract compared to norms, and they are not directly related to actions. Instead, they are often referred to as systems of thinking. Values affect mentality and how people approach different situations in terms of thinking. Wainryb proposed "The study of social and moral development in

culture is inevitably tied to questions about the nature of moral diversity, questions whose import

extends beyond academia (Wainryb, 2004b). Democratic societies in North America and

Western Europe, increasingly multicultural in their composition, face the serious challenges of

deciding whether to accommodate and how to best respond to the social and moral practices and

values of immigrants coming from diverse cultures. At stake are concerns with human rights,

equality, and respect for human diversity (Wainryb 2006)." Showing the idea that one's moral is

connected with its cultural value and ideals.

**Cross Cultural Comparison**

People travel to different parts of the world for many reasons, visiting, vacation and job

could be their reason to travel. When people travel to a new location, they are often embraced by

a new culture that they have never seen before. Learning the norms and values and taking the

time to adapt to the culture will make people realize how the culture is unique compared to other

cultures. Each Culture is special in its own ways, with different beliefs and practices. Different

cultures could have similar norms and values while at the same time having a lot of differences.

Western cultures and eastern cultures have a lot of differences. Eastern cultures usually follow a

conservative way in their actions and ideals while western cultures are more open with ideas and

follow a more free lifestyle. An example would be the value of family or individuality, Western

cultures are more about living independently and only taking care of one's responsibility while

eastern cultures value the idea of living in a group more and individuals often have the

responsibility to take care of the family.

The moral judgment of Malay and American adolescents was tested to observe the

differences, the result was that "The hypothesis that there is a significant difference in the moral

reasoning stage expressed between the two groups of adolescents is supported. It appears that the

Malay adolescents exhibit a slightly higher moral reasoning stage than the Americans do as assessed by Kohlberg's "Joe dilemma." The second hypothesis was tested through qualitative analysis. An examination by the authors of the content of responses in both samples suggested a distinctive difference in arguments, explanations and examples given in support of the respondents' judgment. Quite a substantial number of Malays reflected religious principles and Malay traditional norms in their arguments whereas the Americans tended to justify decisions as personal choices based on principles of fairness, individual responsibility and freedom, economic equity or self-interest.(Jaafar 2004)." Furthermore, Households in eastern countries are generally multi-generational, and even when people are separated, there are often large reunions of every family member on holidays to celebrate together. This is considered to be a norm in these countries and part of it is because of filial piety.

Filial piety is respect for parents and elders and ancestors, Filial piety contains a lot of duties that you need to fulfill to be considered as a good son/daughter. An example would be that parents have taken care of the child since they were born, so as in return the child should take care of the parents when they are old. This is why it is a norm to have multi-generational households because living together would help the child take care of their parents. This is different in western countries because, the parents only have the responsibility to take care of a child until eighteen years old, in which the child is considered to be an adult and have the responsibility to take care of him/herself. This is caused by the difference in standards of happiness between the cultures. Joshanloo stated that "With regard to the western notions of happiness, it is necessary to touch on the distinction between two widely accepted traditions of analysis in the study of well-being: hedonic and eudaimonic. The primary difference between the eudaimonic and hedonic conceptualization of well-being is that the former is premised on

virtues, skills, and positive functioning, whereas the latter is premised on pleasure and positive feelings. Eudaimonia was the main word for happiness and positive functioning in Ancient Greek philosophy. Hedonism as a way of achieving happiness received very little attention in premodern eras.

Only recently, hedonism has gained popularity and credit mainly in western cultures. In philosophy, hedonism is defined as ''an ethical position which claims that pleasure or happiness is the highest or most intrinsic good in life, and that people should pursue as much pleasure and as little pain as possible (Joshanloo 2013).'' In the western culture people achieve happiness and through the display of individual power and values, it is the way of living. Pursuing the dreams of individuals and achieving their goals in life. Comparing the eastern cultures Joshanloo also said that "The notions of Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sufism about happiness will be reviewed in the following sections. These belief systems are chosen for the purposes of the current analysis because they are dominant worldviews in Asia, and exert a far-reaching influence on the way people in this continent think and behave (Joshanloo 2013)." and "Buddhism posits that any notion of owning a permanent self with well-defined boundaries not only is an illusion, but also is the main source of unhappiness. Self-interest and selfishness are reliable indicators of an immature mind, a mind who has failed to realize that others are its own extensions.

In contrast, self-renunciation is thought to lead to 478 M. Joshanloo 123 Author's personal copy limitless love and compassion, and eradication of destructive states of mind such as anger and hatred. According to Buddhism, happiness should not be found outside—in material gains, bodily pleasures, and even in interpersonal relationships. Rather, it should be found in the heart through spiritual training. In Dalai Lama's words, ''the highest happiness is when one

reaches liberation, at which point there is no more suffering. That's genuine, lasting happiness. True happiness relates to the mind and heart''. Happiness is the state of mind that ensues if we realize true states of affairs—if we are awakened. The main barrier in the path to genuine happiness is the suffering resulting from the craving-and-aversion mechanism, which follows when ''the temporariness and inherent lack of satisfaction of hedonism are not understood''. Craving for illegitimate desires brings with it its antithesis, namely, aversion. When we crave for something pleasant, we tend to reject its opposite. Buddhism holds that one can attain true freedom and peace if one outgrows the mind's habit of reacting with either craving or aversion to perceptions of external stimuli (Joshanloo 2013). Using Buddhism as an example to display the model of what eastern cultures believed in as a value in their culture. Instead of pursuing desires that will create more desires, take care of what you have and be grateful for what you have, like your friends, family, and lover. This is the exact opposite of the western ideal, which also explains why eastern cultures value family and why western cultures value individuality.

**Issues in Cultural Diversity**

The differences in culture are the cause of many problems. Every culture is unique and different from each other, there would be things that are considered taboo in one culture but would be fine in another. Using Japan and China as an example, Japan and China are two very close cultures in terms of location. The two cultures have the same religion, Buddhism, yet they have both been heavily influenced by Confucianism. The two cultures share a similar mentality, People stick together with one another, and there is an emphasis on the interdependence of human beings. Which was believed it would lead to a healthier social life, and in general a strong sense of loyalty to their family members. Despite being similar in many ways, there are still differences. It is common in China to see people talking or laughing loudly in public places or

while traveling on public transport, yet Japanese people consider it impolite to talk loudly in public places. Most of them mute the ringer of their phones when using public transport for travel and maintain their quietness. Another example is that "In other words, people in different social groups may endorse the same values but associate different behaviors with them. For example, the value of equality may be linked to comparisons between men and women in countries where gender equality is promoted, but not in countries where gender equality is not part of the political agenda. Indeed, Turkish people value equality as much as people in other European countries, but endorse gender equality less strongly.

Furthermore, equality on an abstract level and gender equality were slightly negatively associated in Turkey, but positively in most other European countries(Hanel et al 2018)." This displays how different norms and values for a certain culture would be a problem for other individuals that are from another culture, since those individuals from other cultures might not able to understand the norm and value and why people that are in the culture acts in such ways and simply s refuse to accept certain cultures because of the way they behave and thinks. People dislike things that are considered not normal in their culture, Cultural shock could be a reason why. Cultural shock is "a multifaceted experience resulting from numerous stressors occurring in contact with a different culture(Winkelman 2011)." Cultural shocks can often cause strain and anxiety for an individual when they meet with a new culture, this can cause them to feel loss, confusion, and impotence because of loss of accustomed cultural cues and social rules and end up with resentment and avoid accepting the culture. The not understanding and acceptance of another culture is the source behind problems with differences of cultures.

One problem is using stereotypes to define a person from a certain culture. Stereotypes are often mentioned when people bring up another culture in their conversation. Stereotypes are

not always true but some stereotypes do describe norms in a certain culture. Stereotypes are "According to most definitions, social stereotypes are beliefs about the characteristics of human groups. Early authors considered stereotypes to be social in the sense that respondents agreed on the typical characteristics of salient social groups. Social learning theories and adjective checklist methods reflected the view of social stereotypes as "public attitudes", "collective representations", or "shared understandings of social reality"(Krueger 1996)." Stereotypes are a problem because they are mostly linked with negative connotations. stereotypes are simply generalizations about how a group of people behaves. It may be statistically accurate but not universally valid.

Decisions and comments should not be made about an individual based on a stereotype, even if it is statistically true. Stereotypes are harmful to society because they could justify the denial of education, employment, housing, and other opportunities based on generalized information about the individual rather than personalized information. It is also used as a way to spread hatred, prejudice, and discrimination within a society where many cultures coexist. Stereotypes can be spread easily, "Culture can be regarded as a system of meaning that is produced and maintained through the dynamic production and reproduction of meanings in the social activities of individuals…... It was argued that people favor the reproduction of stereotype-consistent over stereotypes-inconsistent information in communication, rendering the story increasingly more stereotypical and therefore maintaining the cultural stereotypes. A story about a football player, who exhibits stereotype-relevant behaviors of his occupation, was transmitted through 20 four-person communications chains. Stereotypes-consistent information was reproduced more than stereotype-inconsistent information(Kashima 2005)."

Kashima presents that as communication between different individuals about stereotypes can become more and more stereotypical and be persevered and shared to many others, to enhance the misunderstanding about another culture and individuals from that culture. The stereotype would furthermore support cultural racism in terms of spreading misconceptions. Globalization and economic integration are creating powerful homogenizing pressures throughout the world, but paradoxically, this has been associated with revival in the emphasis of cultural differences in many places…....Cultural racism, a refined replacement of earlier biological racism, served this purpose.

It evolved from modernization theory, and the associated assumption that nearly all significant cultural innovations emanate from Europe, thus relying on history rather than biology or religion to explain the 'superiority of Europeans, who could be defined as 'modern' and 'progressive', in contrast to non-Europeans as 'traditional' and 'backward'(Wren 2010). This article presents the idea that emphasis on cultural differences is resurrecting, because of modern-day globalization where different cultures collide with each other in terms of value and norms, where cultural racism could happen because of the way some cultures think they are more superior than other cultures in their more advanced norms and values.

**Recommendations / Suggestions**

To eliminate problems associated with cultural differences, people should respect and understand another culture's norms and values. If an individual takes a perspective from another culture they would understand why the culture contains such norms and values and respect the culture, this can lead to less misinterpretation of a certain culture. Cultural relativism is the

ability to understand a culture from its point of view and not to make judgments using the

standards of one's own culture; it is "an undeniable fact; moral rules and social institutions

evidence an astonishing cultural and historical variability. Cultural relativism is a doctrine that

holds that (at least some) such variations are exempt from legitimate criticism by

outsiders(Donnelly 2017)." Understanding cultural relativism would allow people to respect and

understand why people from other cultures perform exotic and different things from one's own

culture.

Socialization with different cultures would be able to reach the goal of understanding

another culture's norms and values. Socialization is the process where an individual learns to

behave and adjust to society in a way that is approved for society in terms of following norms

and the value. Agents of socialization are factors that impress social norms upon an individual.

Some agents of socialization are family, school, peers, and media. These groups influence an

individual to become more acceptable in society. Socialization is important because it provides a

structure of behaviors in a society. According to "The Role of Socialization, Effortful Control,

and Ego Resiliency in French Adolescents' Social Functioning." it states that "A variety of

parenting practices and behaviors have been associated with social and psychological benefits for

adolescents. Barber discussed three that are especially relevant during adolescence.

One is *connections* with significant others, because they enable children to develop social

skills and to feel that the world is secure, safe, and predictable. Connections may also foster

internalization of socializers' expectations for regulation. Furthermore, supportive parenting

often involves modeling of regulation and likely helps children to modulate their emotional

arousal and learn in disciplinary situations (Hofer, Claire, et al 2010)." which shows socialization

enhances the development of an individual's skill in communications with others and

understanding what behavior is right or wrong. Socialization is useful since that the United States is a "Melting Pot" as in a society that contains many cultures. Socialization would increase one's capability to understand another culture. An example would be New York City. The school system in NYC contains many language classes and language is one of the most effective ways to understand another culture. Students learning the language would be able to learn about another culture's traditions and norms. Not only that, but New York City also celebrates other culture's holidays and historical months, which allows people to understand why a certain date is important for a specific culture. Therefore, using socialization could be a way to solve the misunderstanding in differences of culture which can stereotypes and racism.

**Conclusion**

In summary, understanding other cultures can resolve many problems that are currently happening in the world. Other cultures should be respected and accepted in terms of their norms and values. It's possible to achieve the goal through the socialization of individuals from one culture to another, learning reasons behind another culture's norms and values. In the process, people can discover how certain cultures can be similar to their own and how different a culture can be from their own culture, Understand more and more about society, and spread awareness about the importance of accepting cultural differences.

## Annotated Bibliographies

Frese, Michael. "Cultural Practices, Norms, and Values - Michael Frese, 2015." *SAGE*

*Journals*, 23 Aug. 2015,

journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0022022115600267?journalCode=jcca.

This article talks about the difference between norms and values and gives

examples. As how culture practice should be and how culture values should be. Norms

form practice and are created by practice. Norms prescribe behaviors and as they become

routines and they constitute practices. Value is considered the way people think within a

culture.

Jaafar, Jas, et al. "The Impact of Cultural Norms and Values on the Moral Judgment of

Malay and American Adolescents: A Brief Report." ScholarWorks@GVSU, 2004,

scholarworks.gvsu.edu/iaccp_papers/250/.

This is an experiment to show the effects of norms and values on the development

of an individual's moral. Culture is a crucial part of development and socialization within

particular cultures can influence how a person views things. Malay tends to focus more

on family while American more on individuality. Malay tends to follow norms and values

while American tend to use logic and reasoning. This shows the difference between

western and eastern culture.

Winkelman**,** Michael. "Cultural Shock and Adaptation." *Wiley Online Library*, John

Wiley & Sons, Ltd, 23 Dec. 2011, onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/j.1556-

6676.1994.tb01723.x.

Cultural shocks are caused by meeting different cultures. It happens when there is

loss of accustomed cultural cues and social rules. The nature of cultural shock

experiences shows that it can be addressed through cognitive orientation and behavioral

adjustment involving recognition of cultural shock characteristics. Cultural shock

contains 4 stages. Cultural shock can be recovered within a period of time and it's the

third stage.

Hanel, Paul H. P., et al. "Cross-Cultural Differences and Similarities in Human

Value Instantiation." *Frontiers*, Frontiers, 11 May 2018,

www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.00849/full.

Explains the differences between cultures and how different groups of people

value different things. Showing the reasoning behind values. Also give examples of if

immigrants are able to acculturate to the new culture. Using statistics to show how

cultural differences affect people. Could be used to show examples of cultural

differences.

Wainryb, C. (2006). Moral development in culture: Diversity, tolerance, and

justice. In M. Killen & J. G. Smetana (Eds.), Handbook of moral development (p. 211–

240). Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Cecilia-

Wainryb/publication/255604156_Moral_Development_in_Culture_Diversity_Tolerance_

and_Justice/links/53ea134b0cf2fb1b9b675dda/Moral-Development-in-Culture-Diversity-

Tolerance-and-Justice.pdf

Cultural arrangements frame an individual's moral. People develop moral and

other social concepts within their culture through participation in and reflection on social

interactions of different kinds that influence their thinking. Culture is created to sustain in

the context of collaborations, disagreements, power clashes, and contested meanings

among individuals. Showing how values can affect people. This could be used to define

value.

Kashima, Anthony Lyons and Yoshihisa, et al. "The Reproduction of Culture:

Communication Processes Tend to Maintain Cultural Stereotypes." *The Reproduction of

Culture: Communication Processes Tend to Maintain Cultural Stereotypes | Social

Cognition*, 1 June 2005, guilfordjournals.com/doi/abs/10.1521/soco.19.3.372.21470.

Explains and displays how communication often preserves stereotypes of a certain

culture. Information about Stereotype becomes more stereotypical as the information gets

passed to another person. The stereotypical information was passed around 20 people and

yet, the content remains similar. This shows stereotypes are easily spread and hard to get

rid of. This could be used in my Issue in terms of cultural difference causing problems.

Krueger, Joachim. "APA PsycNet." *American Psychological Association*, American

Psychological Association, Sept. 1996,

pdfs.semanticscholar.org/6337/ce3071f7adb5d911b4f54b8382d723834534.pdf.

Social stereotypes may be expressed as personal beliefs about the characteristics of a group or as beliefs about the predominant cultural view of a group. Spreading the ideal results in more people believing in stereotypes about a culture. Data collected to show Bias of stereotype in White and black population. Could be used for backing up the problem that cultural difference causes.

Hofer, Claire, et al. "The Role of Socialization, Effortful Control, and Ego Resiliency in French Adolescents' Social Functioning." *Journal of Research on Adolescence : the Official Journal of the Society for Research on Adolescence*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, Sept. 2010, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3018075/.

Defines the idea of Socialization. Showing how different parts of an individual's life affects the way they socialize. Socialization can impact an individual and leads to changes from the individual. Using Socialization to complete the method of understanding other cultures. This would support the resolution of  cultural differences issues.

Wren, Karen**.** "Cultural Racism: Something Rotten in the State of Denmark?" *Taylor & Francis*, 5 Nov. 2010, www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14649360120047788.

Using Denmark as an example to explain Cultural racism. Cultural racism is the idea that one's culture is more superior than another. This could be an issue caused by cultural differences. The paper includes interviews with different people. Also includes interviews with different cultural groups.

Donnelly, Jack. "Cultural Relativism and Universal Human Rights: Taylor & Francis Group." *Taylor & Francis*, Taylor & Francis, 5 July 2017, www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781315092492-7/cultural-relativism-universal-human-rights-jack-donnelly.

The paper explains cultural relativity. Cultural relativity is a concept for legitimate reasons of not being judged by moral and social standards. There are two types, strong and weak. Cultural relativity is a way to connect with people. This could be used to support the idea that people should understand other cultures.

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scholarworks.gvsu.edu/iaccp_papers/250/.


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