

Culture and Society: The people of the earth are one family or Diverse but united

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Introduction to Multicultural Studies in the 21st Century CLDV 100, Cuny York College

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May 20th 2021

INTRO-

My name is Subrina Purnima. I'm from Bangladesh and that I am a Muslim. My whole family is from Bangladesh and that we all moved here when I was 11 years old. I did my half middle school then high school here. I got introduced to the term "culture" at a very young age and that I used to define culture as religion. However, as I grew up and especially after I moved here I finally realized the true meaning of culture. The proper definition of culture by Cristina De Rossi, an anthropologist "Culture encompasses religion, food, what we wear, how we wear it, our language, marriage, music, what we believe is correct or wrong, how we sit at the table, how we greet visitors, how we behave with loved ones, and many other things." The school was mainly where I got introduced to "American Culture", especially in high school. That's why I believe I got a taste of both Bengali & American culture. Culture is a strong part of people's lives. It influences their views, their values, their humor, their hopes, their loyalties, and their worries and fears. So after you are working with people and building relationships with them, it helps to have some perspective and understanding of their cultures. But as we explore culture, it is also important to recollect how much we have in common. People see the world very differently, but they know what it's like to get up in the morning and look forward to the adventures of the day.

We are all human beings. We all love deeply, want to be told, have hopes and dreams, and have experienced pain and fear. At the identical time, we won't pretend our cultures and differences don't matter. we will not gloss over differences and pretend they do not exist, wishing we could all be alike, and that we can't pretend that discrimination doesn't exist.

The USA is traditionally called a melting pot because, with time, generations of immigrants have melted together: they have abandoned their cultures to become assimilated into American society. In reality, the metaphor of a “melting pot” is not any longer useful. Instead, America is more closely a “salad bowl.” We are all at once, as one, but we also all have distinct cultures. So, yes, We are American, but still, celebrate and practice their own culture. The Salad Bowl concept was born within the early 18th century after a wave of Slavic, Jewish, and Italian immigrants arrived within the u. s.. The usis increasingly diverse and includes people of the many religions, languages, economic groups, and other cultural groups. to create communities that are successful at improving conditions and resolving problems, we want to grasp and appreciate many cultures, establish relationships with people from cultures apart from our own, and build strong alliances with different cultural groups. Norms talk to behavior and attitudes which are considered normal, while values are those things that folks consider important to them. Norms can change in step with the environment, situation, and culture during which they're found, and people's behavior also will change accordingly. Social norms may change or be modified over time. Although we all came from different backgrounds, we believe indifferent norms. However, there are Some common norms & values which will be seen across cultures: Be kind to the elderly, If you hit or bump into someone by chance, say "I'm sorry." If someone sneezes near you, say "bless you."

Girls wear pink; boys wear blue, Men should be strong and not show emotion. Women should be caring and nurturing. One social norm that i would like to vary is Judging, excluding, to be honest as a young adult I found it disturbing and that i feel like this is often an enemy in your society, there's nothing more ignorant than people making fun of somebody for being different. WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT. WE ARE ALL UNIQUE. And it's our uniqueness that makes us so special. I want most people at one point in our life tried to act, talk, look, and think like everyone else so we don't get made fun of for being different. Cultures seem to form fun of other cultures simply because it's different from their own, but it's wrong. Another thing that falls under this category is gender discrimination, it's really sad to mention that to the present day Women are frequently victims of sexism, gender stereotypes, and harassment. which I feel extremely wrong. An inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior (such as a spiritual practice or a social custom).

A taboo refers to an activity or behavior that is forbidden, prohibited, or otherwise outside of what is considered acceptable in society. Taboos are grounded in morality, and can also be linked to a culture or religion. An act may be taboo in one culture and not in another. One taboo that exists in my religion/culture is eating pork Consuming pork is forbidden in some religions, including Judaism and Islam. However, here most of the people don't follow that. Then eating beef - Cows are recognized as sacred animals in India. The Hindu faith, which is the predominant religion in India, forbids consuming beef. On the other hand in my culture beef curry is considered as one of the favorite meals, on almost every special occasion beef dishes are mandatory. Different cultures have different taboos however some taboos can be found similar in many cultures. For example murder - intentionally taking the life of another person (other than in self-defense or war), suicide - deliberately taking of one's own life, infanticide - killing an infant,

adultery - sexual intercourse with someone other than your spouse, infanticide - killing an infant or abortion - terminating a pregnancy. taboo can vary greatly from place to place. That's why it is so important to understand each other's culture and be respectful of others' cultural and social norms.

In sociological terms, society refers to a group of people who live in a definable territory and share the same culture. On a broader scale, society consists of the people and institutions around us, our shared beliefs, and our cultural ideas. Social interaction is an exchange between two or more individuals and is a building block of society. Social interaction can be studied between groups of two, three, or larger social groups. By interacting with one another, people design rules, institutions, and systems within which they seek to live. We live in The United States, a country that is world-famous for its diversity. Here is a diverse workplace, communication issues can take on an added dimension of complexity. Also Attending a School, college or university provides students an opportunity to meet people from around the U.S. and world. Interacting across cultures with diverse individuals can be enlightening and educational, yet also difficult. Language, culture, worldviews, customs, and traditions often become barriers that prevent people from developing cross-cultural relationships. Like Every culture has its own set of tacit assumptions and tendencies when it comes to face-to-face interactions, and trying to get your point across effectively can sometimes be difficult. Even when a language barrier doesn't exist, cross-cultural communication can be challenging. Many cultures have specific etiquette around the way they communicate. Before you meet, research the target culture, or if time allows, do some cross-cultural training. For example, many cultures expect a degree of formality at the beginning of communication between individuals. For example in many of the South Asian countries like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, etc. It can be very disrespectful when you call elders

by their name. On the other hand, in countries like the US, Canada it's normal to call elders/people by their name. Regardless of our differences, if we are in a certain status, we are all expected to behave in a way appropriate to that status. Roles thus help make social interaction possible.

From my personal experience, One of the major differences that can be seen between American and Asian culture is in family relations. While the Asians are very much family-oriented, the Americans are individual-oriented. In Asian culture, family values are given more prominence than individual values. Asians respect family values. On the other hand, in American culture, individual values get more prominent than family values. Asians are more committed to their family whereas Americans are more committed to themselves only. In another sense, it can be said that the American culture is more goal-oriented and the Asian culture is more people or family-oriented. Indians may even forsake their wishes and also happiness for the sake of families. But in American culture, this trend cannot be seen. Unlike the Asians, the Americans plan things. The Americans believe in dominating nature and controlling the environment around them. On the contrary, Asians believe in harmony with nature.

In High school, I went out of my way to interact with as many students, staff and faculty as I can, in particular with those who are different from me. In high school, I was able to interact with people from different cultures and learned many new things from them, such as first when my Hispanic friends greeted me with a hug & kiss I felt a little awkward however later I learned it's

their way of greeting people. Then by talking with my Best friend I learned how many of the rules are similar in Islam & the Christian religion. Such as after having a conversation with my friends I get to know that in their culture they believe that "Islam is a violent religion" which is wrong "Islam is a very peaceful religion" then they believe that "Islam superior boys more than girls" which is wrong in reality it's the total opposite in Quran Prophet Muhammad rightly said, "Heaven is under the feet of your mothers," as mothers play a pivotal role in preparing their children to live a healthy and prosperous life that contributes to the beauty of earth and society. Just like my friends had stereotype beliefs about my culture I also had stereotype beliefs about their culture such as "All Hispanic people drink Alcohol", "they don't live with their families", "they are not that religion" however after having interaction with my friends I realized how wrong I was. These interactions and dialogues expanded my experiences with and knowledge about individuals and their different cultures and backgrounds. I know we do have so many differences. After all, we belong to different parts of the world however to maintain peace between us to keep our assumptions and stereotypes in check. Don't assume. Ask questions. Make efforts to get to know someone and what's important to them. Try not to make assumptions about a person's identity or background. Often, these assumptions are based on damaging stereotypes and can inhibit people from forming trusting effective and authentic relationships. The cultural norms that I grew up with are mostly from South Asia and some from America. Some of the cultural norms we follow in my culture are greeting and bidding farewell by giving them "Salam". Place the palms together and bow slightly, especially when meeting an older person(this one we usually do occasionally like during our Eid). Only touch food with the right hand. However, the left hand may be used for holding utensils, glasses, and bowls. If you accidentally bump someone's feet with your foot or shoe, quickly apologize like this.

Apologizing is so common in Americans as well. You can express your apology for the oversight by touching your forehead or eyes with elders especially. If you are invited to someone's home, it is customary to bring a small gift such as a box of sweets. We are kind, really serious about our personal space. When I shared the do or cultural norms of my culture I found that some of my classmates follow the same norms. Because we all belong to different cultures we might follow different rules however All cultures have characteristics such as initiations, traditions, history, values and principles, purpose, symbols, and boundaries.

Cultural relativism refers to not judging a culture to our standards of what is right or wrong, strange or normal. Instead, we should try to understand the cultural practices of other groups in their cultural context. The goal of this is to promote understanding of cultural practices that are not typically part of one's own culture. Using the perspective of cultural relativism leads to the view that no one culture is superior to another culture when compared to systems of morality, law, politics, etc. For example, In our culture eating seems disgusting however we should develop our mindset instead of thinking, "Fried crickets are disgusting! " one should instead ask, "Why do some cultures eat fried insects?". You may learn that fried crickets or grasshoppers are full of protein and in Mexico, it is a famous Oaxaca regional cuisine and has been eaten for thousands of years as a healthy food source! The idea of Cultural Relativism, as stated above, is appealing and a good scapegoat for the idea of what is moral. Based on each society, certain acts are considered good while others are considered evil. This makes sense about how cultures differentiate customs so much, but what about the "abnormalities", people who do not hold the same values in a certain culture, are immoral? If one abnormal travel to another culture, they could be considered moral. So how are human beings considered good or evil? Like James Rachels says in "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism", all societies must have some common

morals to exist as a society, for instance, not to murder one another. I think that these innate morals that we have developed with our cognitive processes through evolution. Why would our species murder each other for no reason? That would inhibit the progression of our kind.

However, some cultures are okay with murder, so that begs the question, who is moral, and is morality innate? Anthropologists say that when we think about different cultures and societies, we should think about their customs in a way that helps us make sense of how their cultural practices fit within their overall cultural context. For example, having several wives perhaps makes economic sense among herders who move around frequently. Through such an understanding, polygamy makes cultural sense.

Response paper [The Problem]

Our country, the United States is well known as a salad bowl which is a metaphor for the way a multicultural society can integrate different cultures while maintaining their separate identities. In my understanding, the United States has always been a country of immigrants, given the fact that it was founded by immigrants. Therefore, people living in the U.S. have always been sensitive about racism and cultural appropriation. I have heard many influential figures talking about embracing diversity and respecting others' heritage. Yet, countless have taken others' cultures for granted. Many have created some stereotypical beliefs about some cultures and those people without even knowing about them. Some very common stereotype beliefs are that "Hispanics are illegal" "Muslims are terrorists" "Africans are criminals" etc. While growing up here as a Muslim & minority, I have faced those stereotypical peoples and their beliefs as well. I have seen from depth how those words or beliefs were affecting people

like me. Racial injustice itself is nothing new. Racial injustice of blacks reaches back to the days when blacks were first brought to American shores in the 1600s. Unlike others who willingly came to America, blacks were brought to this country involuntarily. Others came with a sense of hope, seeking opportunity and a better life. Blacks were brought in shackles, only to see life worsen, having been branded the lesser race due to the color of their skin. And especially 2020 has been a highlight year for all these and we all learned about the true meaning of “BLACK LIFE MATTERS” & “ ALL LIFE MATTERS”. We all have seen how badly people were treated. Then this Covid and how that affects us people and even how racism worked in medicals as well. So all of these interested me to talk about “racial and ethnic inequalities”.

Recommendation :

While we all know changes are necessary, it's always been a part of the American Dream for forefathers to see a much better life for his or her kids than they enjoyed. I envision a future as spoken about by Dr. Luther King, Jr. “. . . that someday this nation will rise, live out truth meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that each one men are created equal.’” It’s been 57 years since his famous i have a Dream speech and that we are nowhere near achieving the dream. The younger generation, however, appears to possess a greater sincerity and commitment to reaching the perfect, where the content of one’s character will prove of greater importance than the colour of one’s skin, race, or gender. A brighter future will ensure equal access to life’s opportunities that have so often been denied to people of color. this will include a sound education, housing, and employment opportunities, access to health care, and other basics of life that such a big amount of deem granted, but such a big amount of others only dream about. A brighter future must include equal treatment under the law and at the hands of

enforcement. And there must be a just criminal justice system for all Americans. A system which will not show disproportionate numbers of police encounters, arrests, brutality, prosecutions, incarcerations, and wrongful convictions supported skin colour. Differences between us are what make life so interesting. So embrace the differences between yourself and your friends from different cultures - but remember that what's a desirable difference to you is simply their normal life! The most effective way to respect people from other cultures is to strike a balance between curiosity and appreciation: ask questions if your friends are hospitable, but also learn the way to merely silently observe and appreciate the differences that make us unique.

With approximately 190 countries and seven billion people on earth, it's not hard to imagine that a lot of diverse cultures exist. Here within the U.S., our cultural landscape has been shaped by Native Americans and by African, resident, Polynesian, Asian, and geographical region countries. Culture shapes our identity and influences our behaviors, and cultural diversity makes us accept, and even to some extent, integrate and assimilate with other cultures. Cultural diversity has become vital in today's world. Whether we work or study or perhaps reside home, our chances of interacting with people from various races, ethnic groups, and cultures are far greater now than it's been ever before. If you place aside any prejudices or biases you may have and you're receptive people, it can help prepare you to pay attention, talk and find out about others and their cultures. one of the foremost important first steps people can fancy studying other cultures is to easily accept that there are many alternative cultures aside from their own. We want to start out considering the positives of various cultures and the way surrounding ourselves with diverse groups of individuals can enrich our life. Sometimes someone won't know substantially about geography or history but by mingling and mixing with people from other cultures, they're allowed to possibly study the geography, religion, and customs of various

countries. Being receptive to learning about different cultures can also encourage people to have diverse friend groups that include people of all different races, ethnicities, religions, and sexual orientations.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Racism and discrimination in health care: Providers and patients

Monique Tello. January 16, 2017. Harvard Health Publishing.

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/racism-discrimination-health-care-providers-patients-2017011611015>

This reference focuses on the racial discrimination that is going on in the medical field especially towards African Americans and other minorities groups. This resource provides some examples that focus on how we can eliminate racial discrimination in the health field. This resource highlights the fact that even though we are living in 2021, there still peoples mindsets are living back in the 1900s. There is information in the article, how future generations can stop this hatred. I used this source because at the end of my essay I made recommendation on how we can stop spreading hates and racism and stay united like a family be respectful of our culture, This was helpful source for me because in future want to go to medical field so this source taught how can I contribute in stop spreading racism in the medical field.

2.The American tradition of multiculturalism

Eugene Volokh. Jan 27, 2015. The Washington Post.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2015/01/27/the-american-tradition-of-multiculturalism/>

This source truly defines the meaning of “Multiculturalism” and helped me in explaining how a true multiculturalism country should be looking, and or how our dream America should look like. America will be no place for racism and discrimination. This source helps me to explain, how we can fight against racism and discrimination. We all need to recognize, name, and understand these attitudes and actions. I would recommend this source to others because this source doesn’t only explain the true meaning of multiculturalism but also tells us how we can contribute to make our country a “ true multiculturalism" country.

3.What is Cultural Stereotyping? - Cultural Stereotyping

(works cited

Hernandez, Tanya K. "Stereotype Threat' Is Not Easily Countered Without Affirmative Action." *The Opinion Pages Room for Debate*. N.p., 29 Apr. 2014. Web.

<https://sites.google.com/a/isd112.org/stereotyping/website-builder>

In my paper, I mainly focus on different cultures and people so this source was a big help for me because every culture has some stereotypical beliefs so basically this source gives a list of

different stereotypes from different cultures and explains them, and tells us the importance of knowing them. We need to know about different cultural stereotypes to understand each other's culture better. After all, we live in a diverse community. I would recommend this source to people because this can be really helpful while you are traveling to different countries "so then you don't end up doing something that is a total NO over there" and also it can be very useful for our everyday life because we live in a diverse community and knowing about different stereotypes can save us from many embarrassing moments.

4. Introduction to Sociology

Lumen Waymaker. (N.D). Model 3 culture

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/wm-introductiontosociology/chapter/values-and-beliefs/>

In the paper, I mainly focus on different cultures and people so this source was a big help for me because Cultural norms and values are the standards we live by. This source perfectly defines the cultural norms and values, and their importance. And also explains how Individuals in a society have specific beliefs, but they also share collective values. I would recommend this source to others because this can be really helpful while you are traveling to different countries "so then you don't get confused by some of their actions by learning about these norms all of their actions will make sense to you" and also it can be very useful for our everyday life because we live in a diverse community and knowing about different norms and values can help us bond with different people and even stop spreading hates.

5. Melting Pot or Salad Bowl?

Andres Noren , Jan 29, 2019 , Civic Issues

<https://sites.psu.edu/ajwciviciissues/2019/01/21/melting-pot-or-salad-bowl/>

This resource perfectly defines the term salad bowl & melting pot and the history behind each term and the main idea behind each term. I used this resource at the beginning of my 1st body paragraph, when I was talking about America's culture. How America's culture is becoming a mix of all cultures and also I used this resource to explain the importance of learning about a different culture and cultural values. I would recommend this resource to others because the two terms salad bowl & melting pot both are very important for America and we should know the history behind it. We should truly believe that meaning and use it in our everyday life (for example a salad bowl symbolizes one big integration of unique, distinct cultures so we should respect every culture because it is part of America).

6. Cultural barriers and how to overcome them in your global company as a global leader • eurac -

European Academy for Executive Education (N.D)

<https://eurac.com/cultural-barriers-and-how-to-overcome-them-in-your-global-company-as-a-global-leader/>

This resource focuses on our differences, things that stop us from being united such as our stereotypes beliefs, language barriers, etc I used this resource as a transition from talking about culture and cultural values to multiculturalism. Also this resource helped me explain how we can break these barriers and become united as a human and create our “dreamland” here. Also, I will recommend this to others because I believe we all should read it and find our way to stop our barriers and solve our differences and start respecting each other.

7. [\(41\) Symbols, Values & Norms: Crash Course Sociology #10 - YouTube](#)

David Chichowski. May 15, 2017. CrashCourse.

This video was actually recommended by our Professor for Week #3 Culture and Society, and first, when I saw the video for class discussion I thought this can be a perfect resource that I can use in my Paper. This video was kind of like a mini world tour, so basically, this video taught me about different norms, values, symbols of different cultures, and why they are important. As we live with people from different parts of the world so we should know about their cultural norms, values, and symbols so unknowingly we don't misjudge them and or hurt them. I included these in my paper such as offering pork to Muslims, beef to Hindus, wine to Muslims, and Sikhs. We can unknowingly hurt them but by knowing those small things we can be careful about these things. I would recommend this source to others because this can be really helpful while you are traveling to different countries "so then you don't get confused by some of their actions by learning about these norms all of their actions will make sense to you" and also it can be very useful for our everyday life because we live in a diverse community and knowing about different norms and values can help us bond with different people and even stop spreading hates.

8. 4 ways to be an ally in the fight against racism

Written by Sarah Shakour. June 19, 2020. World Economic Forum

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/06/ally-black-lives-matter-racial-injustice/>

The ending of my paper focuses on ending racism and discrimination for us to move into a Dream America, this resource is really helpful for me. This resource provides some useful steps we can take as normal beings and that will help us to get our Dream America. Where we can live in peace. We can live united like a family. I would recommend this to others because ending racism is something that we should work together for and this resource can be a perfect guideline for us .

9.

[\(41\) Taboos Around the World - YouTube](#)

The infographics show. August 9th 2017.

This video was actually recommended by our Professor for Week #5 Norms; folkways, mores, laws, and first, when I saw the video for class discussion I thought this can be a perfect resource that I can use in my Paper. This was a very useful video for me both for the paper and daily life as well. So basically this video explains the taboos around the world. A taboo is an activity or behavior that is forbidden, prohibited, or otherwise outside of what is considered acceptable in society. Taboos are grounded in morality, and can also be linked to a culture or religion. An act may be taboo in one culture and not in another. I used some of the examples in my paper. I would recommend this video to everybody because this can be very useful for use while communicating with people from different cultures and especially when we are traveling.

10. Asia and America: How Cultural Differences Create Behavioral

Alicia Chon. 2014. University of Pennsylvania.

<https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1026&context=sire>

This resource focuses on explaining the difference between American and Asian culture. This resource is an add-on to my personal experience about two cultures and my point of view. Also, the resource explained the history of each culture which helped me explain why each of them has different cultural values and beliefs, and why they act differently from each other. I would recommend this source to both Asians and Americans so they both can understand each other's culture and cultural values and have respect for each other

Reference Page

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7. [\(41\) Symbols, Values & Norms: Crash Course Sociology #10 - YouTube](#)

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