
Society and Social Interaction

— **By Valcourt, D.**



What is Culture?



Culture is the attributes and knowledge associated with a group of people. This can include:

- Race
- Attire
- Religion
- Language
- Communication skills
- The type of food they eat
- The type of music they listen to
- Activities that they like to participate in

Limitations of Communication With Other Cultures

Some limitations as to why there is not much communication with other cultures may include:

- Language
- Conflicting morals
- Different beliefs and customs
- Cognitive barriers
- Attire; the way someone dresses can sometimes make others wary.
- Stereotypes surrounding other cultures and/or races



How do we let someone know our Culture? When should it be required that someone knows our Culture?

We can let someone know our culture through a number of ways:

- Language
- The way you dress
- Religion/Ethnicity
- The food you eat

It may be required to make someone aware of your Culture when:

- You are dating someone
- Working/Applying for a job
- When communicating with someone
- In school and/or classes

Why is it important to let others know your culture?



When you meet someone for the first time you don't know what that person is like or what they do on a day to day basis. As you start to communicate with them more frequently you will start to identify who that person is. Culture is an important factor in knowing a person's identity. It involves so many important aspects that will automatically make you aware of who that person is. It will give you a new level of understanding for that person that will later on strengthen your relationships.

Importance of Social Interaction with Other Cultures

It is important to learn and understand other cultures so that we can understand why people act a certain way or why they participate in certain activities. When you identify a person with their culture you will understand them on a more personal level. This will also benefit you if you choose to travel around the world. That way you will be more aware of other races and cultures. In doing so you will be preventing yourself from acting presumptuous and know your limits within that culture.



The world is full of different people with different races and cultures. Make yourself more knowledgeable and learn more about them.

Adaptation of Cultures in Society

The process of adapting one's culture into society involves becoming more knowledgeable about other cultures as we analyze their behaviors and many other characteristics within their culture.

Many people do not want to adapt to the dominant culture's in their society for a number of reason and that is what makes it difficult for other cultures to adapt to the ways in which other societies interact with each other. This can lead to a number of problems as both parties may just ignore each other completely. It is important that we keep an open mind when we explore other cultures so that we can prevent discrimination against other cultures.

Positives and Negatives of Adaptation of Culture in Society

With cultural adaptation there are many benefits and many drawbacks.

Some benefits of cultural adaptation involve:

- Showing respect for other cultures and people that participate in them.
- Better connection with everyone in the society.
- Getting rid of societal differences can lead to better communication.
- Increased involvement of community members from a variety of cultures.
- Better knowledge and understanding for people of different cultures.

Some drawbacks of cultural adaptation include:

- Cultures with different languages may not be able to participate.
- Some cultures have morals that may not allow them to participate in other activities.
- There may be tension between certain groups of people when interacting with one another.
- Some cultures may not be interested in learning about other cultures.
- Cultural differences can lead to more problems within the society.

Experiences with other Races/Cultures

My worst experience with someone from another race/culture happened with a girl from Dominican Republic who I had met after I had immigrated from Haiti with my family. This girl did not like the fact that I pointed out that we were technically from the same island. She later went on to tell me that Dominicans are far more superior than Haitians. This experience made me realize how different people can feel towards someone based off of the little knowledge they may have about them.

A cultural shock experience that I had involved a Muslim man that I had witnessed praying at a gas station. This situation made me feel strange and uncomfortable as I was confused at the time the incident occurred. It wasn't until I had become friends with a Muslim women that I realized what the man was doing was normal and part of their religion.

Impact of Experiences with Other Races/Cultures

My experiences with other races/cultures have taught me to:

- Always have an open mind.
- Understand something and/or someone fully before making conclusions.
- Build relationships with other people despite of our differences.
- Prepare myself for my future travels around the world.



Conclusion

Culture is learned through our social interactions with one another. Whether it be in the workplace or in your community it is important that we incorporate other cultures into our society. This will benefit us in more ways than it will harm us. It can lead to an understanding for other cultures that we may have never obtained otherwise.

