

BEULAH HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY

CULTURAL RESUME
ON
INDIAN CULTURE

SS112: Inter-personal Cross
Cultural Communication

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5/2/2020

INTRODUCTION

Life is about existence. Human beings live within their sets of communities bound together by beliefs and philosophy. Culture is developed through the way of life within ethnicities no culture is universal or global. That brought about variation of practices in diverse as ethnic groups are. Due to this I have developed an interest in researching the way of life as far as Indians are concerned.

In my general observation I found this community a bit interesting, in the way they carry out their fantastic life. It has been of a great interest to me, when I found on social media i.e. television presentational programs, the Indian dramas glued both old and young in following the episode. Although they are very romantic movies, there is much to be learnt there in. This has brought about actualization of life in these people group. I had to be a bit closer to some, who were traders in my county, Nakuru town. Due to my interest I started noting that they mostly use some gestures.

My cousin is a businessman with a number of Indians friends. They enjoy the good relationship in their commercial work. I shared with him about my interest and he took the initiative and introduced me to two families which I lastly come to love. They were resourceful.

I happened to meet with them differently but not at their home, at their working place .These families were Mr. Dawnings and Mr. Harmans. Before meeting with them I had served them with a questionnaire to familiarize them with what I expected from them. Thus allowed me to have an appointment with each. My interaction and the knowledge I got from them will be discussed in the following chapters.

Country profile

Before getting down to their lively hood I had to note that they aren't Kenyan citizens their native continent of birth is Asia in a country called India, Which has derived this name from Indus river, then ,none for farming. Although this countries boundary is the Indian ocean, Other neighboring countries include: Pakistan,

China, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Burma to the north , northwest and North Eastern side and Srilanka to the south. India lies 2° north to 30° north 65° east to 90° east on the longitudes. India enjoys a dual climate from waves from the Indian ocean throughout the year. The windward side borders the ocean experiences sea breezes and the thereby high amount of rainfall. The main economic activity in the wind ward side is farming. Although civilization has brought trade. Rice is the common crop grown on this side of India. My contact person Mr. Downing, comes from the area bordering Indus river and agricultural productivity is high. And the opposite bank of river Indus marks the beginning of the leeward side where a desert climate is experienced. Mr. Downing added that the southern region experiences a monsoon type of climate and are no great variations in the temperatures of day and night. His response to the explanation of the above, went to latitude, altitude and the wind system, and how the sea breezes reaches the land.

India has a population of approximately 1.38 billion people as per the current statistic call census. This population experiences high birth and death rates and the number is constantly changing . Its

population growth rate is 1.13% and was ranked 112th in the world in 2017.

More than 50% of this **population** falls below the ages of 25 and more than 65% below the age of 35.

The population of India is mostly cosmopolitan consisting of immigrants who happened to be in India for different reasons. There are American Indians who are native from Alaska and originated from north south and central America maintaining tribal affiliations and cultural contact. There are Asians who originated from the far east and south eastern Asia and the Indian subcontinent, from countries like Cambodia, China, Japan, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. The black race and the African Americans migrated from Africa, Italian or negro. The hispanic or latino speaking people migrated from Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, central American or other cultures. Native Hawaiian or Pacific islanders came from Hawaii, Guam, Samoa and the Pacific island.

The whites from the Europe and the middle east combine with those from north Africa. This is the general composition of the people of India with race based on the countries and regions of origin.

Due to the mixed ethnic and religious cultures that originate from the different tribes and races of people as discussed under population, the Indian calendar is full of holidays, some of which are celebrated by selected cultures and the various

belief system in the country. Major national holidays include among others the new years day, the independence day, Christian holidays celebrated in the whole world like Easter and Christmas holidays. These are celebrated as national holidays and the whole country goes for holidays. This is the general view of the holidays as explained by The Harmans and the Downings families although some other holidays volunteered are not marked as national holidays but celebrated by few people depending on their religious subscriptions.

India extends over a large surface on the earth. This gives the country to enjoy varied land forms and a number of points of interest lies in the geography of India. Together with these are monuments erected by emperors and leaders of ancient India for political and religious historical events and celebrations. Some of the common monuments includes and not limited to the following:

a) *The Taj Mahal Monument*

This was authorized by Emperor Shah Jahan in honor of his wife Empress Mumtaz Mahal at Agra city At the government structure. This structure employed the man power of millions of people.

b) *Red fort*

This monument is located in new Delhi and is favored by many for its spectacular light and sound as seen and felt at sunset.

Other major monuments include : *the golden temple* at amrtisan visited by religious people on pilgrimage. This is mostly for the sikhists.***The golvi devji temple*** in Jaipul is a religious site for lord Krishna and also for tourist.***Jantar mantar*** has the largest stones sun dial in the world is located in jaipul city.

India has some of the worlds largest lakes which include: L. Vembanad, l.chilika,shivaji sogor,Indira sogor and pangong. Other important lakes in india are Lakes pulicat, kolleru,halflong, deeperbeel and lake chanduli.

The people of India share a vast of delicacy of food. Popular foods includes:

Buter chicken,eye em, getty images, tandoori chiken ,Elaine lemm ,chicken tikka masala,logan josh (led lamb) malai kofta, chala(chickpea carry)palak pania (spinach and cabbage cheese) and kaali daali(black lentils)Being popular food they still have their wage for preparation suitable for different people and occasion.

There are 35 different states in the government union territories in the country. They tend to regionalize their country within cultural trends. Their constitution recognizes 22 languages in the land but Hindus is the official one mostly spoken in urban cities. The 22 languages doesn't limit others because there are hundreds of them making this country multilingual.

Intervention in (Mr. Harman's family) interview, it was interesting as I was talking with Mrs. Harman when this issue arose. Since it was my key interest I could not spare her on some questions.

Greetings, she demonstrated nicely, mentioning the name "Namaste" which I enquired about and she replied "I bow to thee" or "I honor God's head within." This sounded blasphemous to me for it looks more religious, only to find that they opt to display respect in so doing.

Mr. Harman intruded and confirmed that when saying "Namaste" one holds his hand and touches the forehead. He added that these greetings are between adults either opposite sex or same. At that they don't shake hands. Because they are Muslims they could also tell me the same way of greetings is also used in the mosque in relevance to their gods or "deity" in prayers. He could add on this as said "Muslims don't shake hands and say "Salam alleikum"

Sikhs sound more intimate to each other for they call name of the one exchanging greetings. They seem to familiarize themselves with people before they engage. After calling name this follows a unique name "sat-sirakal"

I was also amazed when I was watching a certain Indian program which confirmed to me some gesture mentioned by Mrs. Harman. She said that when one wants to apologize at times one holds their ears, it was quite interesting to me.

Mrs. Downing in my prior interview warned me if I visit India, In any open or public occasion upon addressing the people I should allow the natives do first. There are some ways of binding goodbye or introducing self.

Like any other country communication is the key , it links ethnicities within the styles of different medium. There are common means. Not everywhere communication is effective in the country. Some part of the land enjoy the network coverage which facilitate networking and other such communications.

India is a democratic country with executive branch. President is elected by the house. The vice president is elected by bothhouses.his responsibility is to chair the upper house called” Rajya Sabha.Prime minister is the head of the government.He is appointed by the president . Indians parliament has 542 members where women are 64/542. Although there are a number of women in this government rarely will you get a woman I presidential position.There was a time in history india was ruled by a woman(Mumtaz Mahal) who announced the state of emergency.

Indian Education system is almost unique because of its levels. Hierachial of Indian Education system ranges from pre nursery(2-5yrs),Kindergaten(3-6 yrs) and then joins primary school in the 10-2-3 system.The system is described as follows:

5 years-----Primary education

3years-----upper primary

2 years-----high school

2years -----higher secondary

3 years-----collage

Higher degrees,diploma etc has no time limit

Braises

I had taken india as hostile due to their accent especially when speaking swahili. They have facial expressions which at some times shows lack of concern. At work I have seen them talk as though something went wrong. They have frightening tones. Since I was young I have been visiting some of their businesses and got disturbed by their hostility towards workers. I always thought they don't trust Africans. Another discrimination is at the shop when queuing the Indian never queued, and they got served. Irrespective of this they are very cautious about what they tell somebody. In my observation they tell what a person wants to hear, and not necessarily the truth.

Kikuyu as a culture has a sense of hospitality for they are so welcoming. They prepare good meals for visitors especially those from outside the country. They invite them even in their ceremonies. I learnt a unique thing about them, that men

don't carry kids as though they are nursing them. In my tribe rarely will you get a man even holding a toddler but of late the new generation some dare. This is in cultural disorder. Another thing which I learnt is that choosing the mate in marriage parent plays a major role. There are possibly families that can't marry. Also shows a serious difference for the rich and poor are not likely to unite. In great deal this community value family status and so age to them is important and uphold the belief of being blessed. As it is the elderly who blesses the young, they are respected and their words are taken keenly.

What I feel impressed on to do a bit more interaction with them so that I can be more informed about this culture. This will help break cultural barriers also language and attitude is a key factor to consider. Without knowing somebody way of life its hard to communicate with ,secretive life one may not get to the heart of issues. Its good to uphold the truth and mind other peoples believes and religion for it is the heartbeat of every person irrespective of the deity

Bearing in mind that Indians don't use beef for food and regard a cow as an object of worship, I must restrain myself from using beef whenever they are present.

In conclusion cross cultural course has enlighten me on my factors and helped me do away with some myths about Indians. The course plays an important part in reopening the global village for gospel propagation. I would prefer in God

remembrance negativities in ethnicities' to cease for the common good of gods kingdom .

In light of the above therefore based on the inter-cultural interactions I had with the Indian families a lot of misconceptions and biases based on stereotyping and unfounded theories have been rendered wrong and mis guided.the Indian community are a special cultural group and should only be treated as so.their cultural standings as demonstrated in the interaction with others should be appreciated.it is wrong to begrudge a person based on color,race or point of origin.

India's history has faced major wars one being the Pakistan india war.other major events are categorized in states as faced and catastrophes caused by ocean currents waves and weather conditions.food shortage, high population growth, unemployment, limited access to education for the poor are other challenges.

Racial discrimination has started to grow in the covid 19 pandemic times where black people are discriminated upon.this has raised wrong alarm to the world.

Thanks to civilization and technology, in the new millennium.

Resources

- www.google.com
- c Collins world map
- questionnaire and interviews

- social media platforms
- interaction and personal observation

note: During the research, a number of challenges were experienced:

- *Limited access to the internet*
- *Covid 19 restrictive measures on travel and contact*
- *Reserved brespondent*

The project was informative , brain opening and enjoyable