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What is Culture?

Culture is the set values and beliefs that are mutually agreed upon by the majority of society either consciously or unconsciously. It is the ideas that govern both social and political interactions and help to decide what is deemed acceptable and unacceptable. It simpler words it provides context in which we can relate and comprehend all of our actions.

We study culture by examining lifestyles of different groups through film, fashion, photography, paintings, literature and other media. This allows us to learn how different groups communicated and also interpreted various symbols. Certain signs such as death or love can be unanimous universally, while others are specific to certain races or religions or countries. Nevertheless, these principles and thus culture are constantly changing with both location and time. Sometimes these changes happen rapidly and other times more gradually. An increasing dependence on technology is one change that began during the industrial revolution but since then has quickly changed almost every aspect of human life from travel to communication to quality of life. Other types of cultural change, such as minority rights, happen much more progressively, one step at a time.

Although the term culture is often generalized, I believe culture can be unique for each individual. No two people are exactly alike and in that perspective no two people will share all of the same values. Although it is easy to make assumptions about groups, it is important to realize that an individual can identify with multiple unique categories or associations.