My Understanding About Culture: Sport, Business and Education, Canice Maher

From a personal point of view I have seen the differences in sporting culture between different countries. I play a game called hurling in Ireland. A game which leads to many injuries, broken bones in legs, hands, arms and straining of every muscle possible. When the inevitable injuries occur the first stop in the Accident and Emergency room where you are often met with the same faces again and again. In Ireland 40% of doctors are from overseas. My personal dealings have been with Indian doctors, whose advice every time is to 'give up' the sport that is causing these hospital visits. They do not understand why I put myself through broken bones, dislocated shoulders and muscle tears. Culture can be an explanation for the why in this case.

The power of culture can again be seen with the abnegation of Dr Bennet Omalu research into the effects of concussion on the brains of NFL players. Consider the following quote from Dr Omalu:

"I've always said that every child who plays football has a 100 percent risk of exposure to brain damage. And I've always said that at a professional level, 100 percent would have brain damage of some kind to some degree."- Dr Bennet Omalu

In light of this statement. Which has been verified and proven by Omalu's research, it seems that nothing has changed in the NFL world. People use different words for this tradition, heritage and culture among them. I would like to add a reference from Silja's reflection on culture which I feel goes a long way to explaining the above:

"When reading PhD study of Kazi (2009), I pick up this:

- The members of a culture system share a set of idea, and especially values

- These are transmitted (particulary from one generation to another) by symbols

- Culture is produced by the past actions of a group and its members

- Culture is learned

- Culture shapes behavior and influences one's perception of the world (Holden 2002:21-22)" Retrieved from Siljas Kostia's Cultural Diversity Reflection 17/03/18

In the business world many different cultures develop. Also we see differences manifesting between different countries. Business try to build cultures and they can vary widely. Steve Jobs created a strict culture at Apple and achieved amazing things, in contrast John Carmack and John Romero transformed popular culture in a fun, friendly environment by developing video games. This shows that there is no set culture which drives business success. Shaidul (2009) comments how in an organisation managers make different decisions at different

levels on different occasions to run their organisations successfully. He also remarks how culture determines decision making, which is certainly the case in Job's Apple and Carmack and Romeo's ID.

As a teacher I found the chapter on *"Individualism and Collectivism at School" (Hofstede et al 2010, p117-119)* very interesting and reminds us of the importance the culture you create in your classroom environment. Many times I have entered a new classroom and asked a question, only to be met with silence, and the opposite also being true. Many classroom and school experiences float into memory when I read; "In the collectivist society, in-group–out-group distinctions springing from the family sphere will continue at school, so that students from different ethnic or clan backgrounds often form subgroups in class. In an individualist society, the assignment of joint tasks leads more easily to the formation of new groups than in the collectivist society" *(Hofstede et al 2010, p119)* This manifests itself most at break times and play times at school. This chapter also offers interesting insights into disciple in the classroom, how to approach it in individual and collective cultures. In his dissertation Shaidul mentions how business success depends on how executives manage a new and unknown culture (Shaidul 2009). This can also be adapted to teachers of a new class or as a principal of a new school. In both cases their ability to manage the culture they inherit will ultimately determine their success.

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