

## Samir Moussa: A Life Shaped by Globalization

### Immersion in Cultural Diversity

Samir's tale is the perfect example of life resonating in different cultures and globalization.

Inheriting Lebanese culture from paternal side while Colombian from maternal side diversified his exposure towards culture. The cherry on the top was his time in Washington D.C., all this gave him a rich knowledge of traditions and culture at a young age.

My personal experience resonates with that of Samir's, as I had the chance to meet people from different backgrounds while I was attending university. The time spent with those people, sharing opinions, views, listening to their point of view gave me a broadened perspective and made me more open-minded.

### Tackling with Cultural Tensions

When globalization opened many doors for Samir, it also presented some challenges. He saw the devastating effects of civil war in Lebanon and was profoundly affected by that. His ideals of globalization when met with the realities of war, poverty, and conflict, were shattered and he understood the real tension of colliding cultures.

As for me, I have also observed how the rapid pace of globalization has led to the erosion of certain traditional values and practices in my community. This created a sense of disconnection and resistance among some members of the community who felt that their cultural identity is being threatened.

### Opportunities for Cultural Exchange

Despite all the challenges Samir faced, he witnessed some opportunities due to globalization. His fluency in multiple languages and his ability to connect with people from various backgrounds made him more confident and enabled him to bridge cultural gaps through his work as an elementary school teacher and through his music.

The documentary, "The Hidden People," exemplified how globalization can facilitate cross-cultural understanding and preserve indigenous knowledge. He provided a platform for the Bribri tribe to share their stories and struggles contributing to the global discourse on sustainable development and the importance of incorporating indigenous wisdom.

My personal experience as a participant of international exchange programs and volunteering with organizations that promote cultural understanding has been incredibly enriching. It has allowed me to appreciate the beauty and depth of different cultures while also recognizing our shared humanity.

### The Spread of Western Models

Samir's story also highlighted the influence of American culture over native ones. For example his encounter with Western medical treatment for his condition, while being effective, stood in stark contrast to the traditional cures offered by the indigenous medicine man, Don Candido.

This highlighted the perfect scenario where Western models overshadow or undermine local practices or cultures. This is seen in many parts of the world. No doubt globalization is expanding diversity, knowledge, and awareness but somehow it is affecting indigenous and native worlds, and their culture is slowly dying. There is need for perfect balance to preserve the old heritage.

### Conclusion

In end we can summarize that Samir Moussa's life journey showed both the tensions and opportunities, from the intersection of local cultures and globalization. His story revealed that it is important to embrace cultural diversity, foster cross-cultural understanding, and to find ways to integrate indigenous knowledge and practices into the global discourse. Meanwhile by navigating these complexities with empathy and respect, we can harness the power of globalization to create a more inclusive and sustainable world.

#### Reference:

Globalization101. (n.d.). *Culture and globalization*. The LEVIN

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