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THE DANGER OF A SINGLE STORY

Should a single story of a particular place shape the image of that place in the minds of people? In the video Chimamanda Adichie tries to convey to us how dangerous a single incident or story be in shaping the beliefs of the people about that place using several examples from her own life.

Adichie herself is influenced by the American-British novels which she read in her childhood which influenced her beliefs until a certain period after which she realised that things in the real world were very different from what she had read. There was a complete in her mental perception of literature when she read the books of Nigerian authors like Chinua Achebe. A similar incident was when her mother told her that their new homeboy Fide was very poor , Adichie thought that Fide's family is not capable of doing anything, but she was startled when she saw a beautiful basket made by his brother out of dried raffia. To her, their poverty was the single story of them.

Similarly when she moved to The United States, her American roommate was surprised by how fluently Adichie could speak English. This is mainly because of the perceptions she might have made of Africa and all its countries. This perception leads us to think the Africans as illiterate, poor people, who have been still recovering from the effects of colonialism and whole Africa as an underdeveloped continent, whereas the fact is far from reality. A lot of development has taken place in Africa, its economy has improved over years and people are educated; but we don't understand this because we are still believing the stories about Africa we have been told; and this is basically what Adichie is referring to as the danger of a single story.

She gives another example of how the state of Mexico just cant be defined by the only fact that it consists of many immigrants and because of the many false things told about the Mexicans. Everybody has undergone ups and downs in their lives. They have seen a lot of

happy times and loads of difficult times; and a single event in their life cannot describe their lives.

Believing and making conclusions based on a single story is really dangerous as it leads to a lot of misconceptions. Instead of making conclusions based on a single story, we should research about the place or its culture and embrace its diversity. By taking the extra mile and listening to everybody and changing our mindsets we can surely make right conclusions.”When we realise that there is never a single story about any place, we regain a kind of paradise”.