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| **Worksheet 11: Case Study 2** |

**Case Study #2**

**Read the following case study.**

**Finnish Student in France**

My name is Lotta, and I am from Finland. During my previous studies, I spent 6 months studying business and communications at a university in France, Lyon.

The first cultural difference I noticed was the way of working/studying. I was always used to studying in Finland where education is considered to be high-level, and I had the image in my head that French were also very hard working and made special efforts on studying, especially about their language and history. When I entered the university, I realised how the French students were very competitive, pushing their limits, and stressed about results. Again, I was shocked because I was used to group and teamwork in Finland. Supporting co-students by studying together is normal for me. The biggest shock was that I was not used to students competing over grades. Your career and studies are respected a lot in Finland, and higher education is very important, but the value of family, friends, and home are never forgotten. I felt in France that studying was the only important thing for university students and that it was not appropriate for them to use a lot of teamwork or help others because it might negatively affect your own results or decrease your time for studying.

Second, equality was a big difference for me and something I didn’t expect. Even though France is a very equal country, I felt that women were not at completely the same level as men in the hierarchy. Also, not everyone had the same opportunities at the French university. The people with more money were more privileged and treated better, and not everyone was able to study what they wanted if they didn’t have enough money. This was a shock for me because, in my culture, equality is a big issue, and everyone is at the same level. Everyone is able to study to be a doctor or study anything they want, and money should not related to that.

**Discuss the following with a partner or group.**

1. In your own words, summarize the problems that Lotta experienced.
2. Analysis:
   1. How can Hofstede’s Cultural Dimensions explain the differences between life in Finland and life in France?
   2. What could Lotta have done differently before arriving in France?
      * + ***Grammar Reminder (past modals): She could/should have + past participle.***

A:

Finland student Lotta studied business and communication in France. She found some cultural differences which put her in trouble—first, French students cared about ranking and tended to compete with each other. Studying might be essential for French students, but not in Finland. They are more focused on family, friends, and home. The second is equality. In France, gender equality is unfair, and rich people have more chances.

Analysis:

France is a high-Performance-Orientation country. Their students always pay attention to ranking can demonstrate this. They encourage and reward excellent performance and have a high standard, which means Lotta could have improved her standard of studying.

France has a low In-Group Collectivism. The evidence is that they put the mark first, more important than the value of family, friends, and home. Lotta should have putted the value of family, friends, and home in a new position.

France also has a low Gender Egalitarianism. The evidence is that men also have more power than women in France. Lotta should have kept her masculinity in France.