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Amoy Stephenson

Dr.Evan Hoffman

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Impact of culture

Global culture has impacted my life in many ways from things like food, books, television, and family tradition from an early age. My views on the world were drastically different from other children growing up and it impacted how I acted, what I was interested in and how I represented myself in society growing up. But growing up being impacted by different cultures made me appreciate and understand different values and appreciate things I would have never thought twice about and overall shaped me to be who I am today.

Global culture is “ [the] aspects of culture (deriving mostly from the west) that have taken on global dimensions” (pg 65 McCormick), this can be interpreted as no matter where in the world you are you can generally experience the same things as you would at home. Culture itself can be described as “a fuzzy set of basic assumptions and values, [of] life, beliefs, policies, procedures and behavioural conventions that are shared by a group of people, and that influence (but do not determine) each member’s behaviour and his/her interpretations of the ‘meaning’ of other people’s behaviour.” (page 3 spencer-Oatey 2008) So how has culture on a global scale impacted my life? When we are children our parents gradually make us try new things for us to try to see what we like, for example pasta. Pasta is something that is not apart of my family's culture but a culture we had adopted since it became something that my family enjoyed, pasta can be considered apart of a global culture since it doesn't just mean pasta but tells

a story of where it came from and the tradition that follows when you hear or eat pasta. Food global culture can be considered as "relationships to identity—personal, familial, community and beyond" (Page 5 I. de Solier and J. Duruz) when it comes to pasta it shows and creates a family tradition of cooking together and eating together, this tradition that comes with pasta affected my view on how dinners should be about family and doing things together as a unit.

Growing up I loved reading books. It didn't matter if it was fiction or nonfiction, I would get lost in the stories of these books that taught me a vast amount of knowledge. The books I read growing up were stories like "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak and "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" by John Boyne. These books opened my eyes to a different history than to what I was taught in school, the books I read described the emotions of what the character was feeling and that drew its deserving sympathy and I became immersed in the world the book created. Understanding at a young age that this wasn't just a book I could read and forget but a life that someone had lived and that I should appreciate how far society has come "literature, i.e. as a combination of literature and culture.....A leap into the past, Appreciation for other [history] and beliefs" (Page 8 M.Aruna) books helped me understand and appreciate that what I have right now, the freedom of speech, the freedom to work and of equal rights; many don't have and that thought still stands today in within the many states of the world. But also understanding the past shaped me to understand that what I can do now can help someone else who needs it and this thought helped me realize that I could help do my part in changing a part of global culture by becoming a doctor and joining doctors without borders to help people in need so that they don't just become another story for someone else to read but a life that I was able to help in some shape or form.

Television also plays a role in global culture by directly showing the values of different cultures around the world at spontaneous times for anyone to watch, It not only affects people of all ages but also the world's economy. My parents would always watch the news as soon as they woke up and they would base their whole day on what they heard through the television. Sometimes it would affect how late I could stay out at night and sometimes it would affect how they viewed the government. Even now with the global culture topic being covid 19 how television reports the results of the vaccine and the effects of vaccines all change how my parents and I view the vaccine; television in itself has a strong influence on society and it can completely affect people's decisions in life. It shows viewers what they might not want to see and also hopefully the truth and lets the viewers have the final decision based on the information at hand even though knowing that in the television culture not everything can be said on tv since in different places of the world have different cultures and what they deem is allowed to be broadcasted on national television and what's not.

Being exposed to different forms of global culture at a young age has made me not only aware of the different culture and practices in the world but it also made me have a very neutral stance in most situations and understand that not everything can be solved with a simple answer. But knowing the history and the traditions of the cultures it makes me appreciate them and give them the respect that each culture deserves, and also tells me shows me that one person may be able to move a mountain but a group following what they believe in no matter the type of culture they believe in can move the world, the global cultures of the world influence each other to do and be better but also makes us feel connected to different parts of the world even if we cant be there physically.

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