Eric Cao

Sociology 101

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1. During this time, I learned how privileged those in America have it over those in other countries. Before this time, I understood that there was a difference from other countries, but this put into perspective the difference that is staring right in our faces. When doing the clothes donation, I realized how many clothes that I didn’t wear anymore and had just left in my closet just because I didn’t fit them. That doesn’t mean it doesn’t fit anyone else or can’t be put to greater use, and I was very happy that I could donate them to better cause and those in need.

2. Mutual aid is something that I have always believed in because I was raised that if you want to be treated a certain way, treat others how you would want to be treated. Through this philosophy, I had no problem donating clothes and giving out funds for those in need because I would hope that this would allow those in need to live the lives that they deserve. I know that when I am in need, I have a support system that allows me to pursue the best life I can possibly live and I hope that any support I can give will allow these people to have that same goal.

3. The study that resonated the most with me is the one where we collected data exploring the perception of the value of a college degree and I surveyed my mom. The main reason why she was included in this survey was because she has been successful in the working force for over 20 years now and doesn’t have a college degree. She has associates from her time in school but not a bachelors or higher due to running out of money to fund her education. The want to have a better life even without a college degree is commendable and shows the kind of determination an individual can have when motivated.

4. This experience confirmed for me that those outside of the U.S. have a stronger sense of culture and have a stronger belief in their community. Those from community based cultures are more willing to put out a hand for those in need and that was even more apparent in these donations. They didn’t need a specific reason why these people were in need or to know where these people were from, they just wanted to help those in need. There is sense of being able to relate to those in need for those that come from close knit communities because they might have people in their lives that have gone through something similar and know how hard it can be to go through it alone.

5. Looking back at this experience, I have gained a greater appreciation for those that create these great donation gatherings and commend them for their hard work and dedication to always wanting to better this world and support those in need. Personally, I know that I will always be willing and able to participate in these kinds of events and will be looking forward to all that I can do to make this world a better place, one day at a time.