

Cultural Adaptation Reflection

Mohammad Saif Uddin

Coming from Hyderabad, India, I grew up in a hierarchical and directive engineering culture where seniority often outweighs collaboration. When I moved to the U.S. for my master's, I had to adjust to a flatter structure where even junior engineers are expected to speak up and contribute ideas.

In American teams, I've noticed a stronger emphasis on direct feedback, time-boxed meetings, and individual accountability. Initially, it was uncomfortable to challenge a peer or offer critique, but I've grown to appreciate how this leads to better outcomes.

As a future engineering leader in the U.S., I aim to blend both cultures-respecting structure while promoting open dialogue. I will continue to adapt by seeking mentorship, attending diversity trainings, and reflecting on how to bridge cultural gaps in my team.