Some people believe that traveling to and living in numerous places increases one’s ability  
to relate and connect to other people. Others believe that this ability is better cultivated by  
living in one place and developing a deep understanding of that community.

Traveling and living far away from home, even abroad, is becoming increasingly easy as the currently globalized world. It raises the question how the drastically different experiences of living abroad and living at home affect ones' ability to relate and connect to other people. I strongly agree with the view that living in different places help to cultivate one's ability to communicate with people for two reasons.  
  
First of all, by living in different places, people learn how to interact with different people better. Sure, one can learn the outside world by reading books and watch videos, but it would be an awkward situation for them to meet and interact with different people if they have not to experience living away from home. It's like reading a cookbook may help you become a better cook but a chief requires experience. It is not a coincidence that almost all universities have study abroad to help students gaining international experience. Professors and members of university board who understand the value of interacting with different people usually have the experience of traveling and living in numerous places themselves. They promote these study abroad programs so the student would benefit from the experience in the future when they have colleagues from different backgrounds in the office.  
  
The other reason is that by traveling and living in different places, people will understand the difference between different place and will understand the place where they are from better. Thomas Jefferson, one of the founding father of the US, spent much of his time living in Europe, especially in France. This experience not only helped him successfully convinced the King of France to help during the War for Independence, but also understand the American people better. He see the different between American and European and took part the in the creation of the US constitution that took some ideas from the European constitution, but more importantly, is based off the American. He related to the American better after see the difference between American and others which could not be achieved if he never left foot off the American continent.  
  
Of course, one may develop familiarity with people and the area around and it as they live in the place long enough. However, the ability to relate and connect to people is require more than been familiar. Understanding can be better developed if people know the difference better people of different origin and respect the difference through the experience interacting with different people. It would be naive for a person to think he understands an object if he do not have an idea of how the object is in comparison to other objects of the same type.