

How do culture and environment influence one's life?

Name

University

Influence of culture and environment on one's life

It is believed that the primary connection between human beings and the world is their senses. It is what one perceives, touches, smells or hears that constitutes their later output. Information picked up by these senses is provided by one's immediate environment. Moreover, every action taken or utterance made has a direct or indirect bearing with the culture in the surrounding. The activities one engages in and the conversations held with different individuals in this environment, all make up one's daily life. This influence can occur in diverse ways (Sarte, 2008).

One way in which environment can influence one's life is through language. Different people come from various ethnic communities. Each ethnic community has a native language that it teaches its offspring. Depending on where one was born, and the first language learnt, people can exhibit different accents. For instance, someone born and brought up in the American neighborhood will speak in the same accent as the Americans, irrespective of their ethnic background (Sarte, 2008). However, if the person had been brought up in an African setting, his/her accent would have been different. These differences are especially evident when one learns a second language. This logic explains why Black Americans may not speak in the same accent as their fellow blacks from Africa.

Secondly, culture can influence one's actions and utterances. Different ethnic communities have certain cultures associated with them. For each of these, there is an unwritten rule that determines how different activities should be carried out. For instance, in the Asian countries, women are expected to dress in concealing attire that does not send any suggestive sexual messages (Sarte, 2008). A lady brought up within the Asian culture may find it difficult coping with life in the United States, where there are barely any rules that dictate what one

should wear. The discomfort arises from the conflict between the two cultures. According to the lady's upbringing, ladies are not supposed to dress in revealing attire yet the American culture permits that. One's culture determines what one perceives as the right attire.

Similarly, environment can dictate one's source of income. This is particularly prevalent in the developing countries where there are different ethnic groups with unique economic activities. The economic activity people engage in has a direct relationship to the resources available in that surrounding. For instance, people who reside in an area with access to a lake or an ocean are bound to engage in fishing. Individuals who come from fertile highlands with reliable levels of rainfall are mostly likely to be farmers. When such people relocate to a different area, they cease practicing their previous economic activities and adopt what seems convenient for their new environment (Corey & Corey, 2008). For one to lead a comfortable and fulfilling life, he/she should ensure they engage in economic activities that are in line with their immediate environs.

Culture and environment have a significant weight on one's life. Culture determines one's actions and dress code. Environment, on the other hand, determines one's accent and economic activities. However, the influence of the two is not as distinct as depicted. It is possible for culture to affect one's economic activities or environment to determine one's dress code or actions. The most significant thing is the realization that the two have a weighty influence on one's life. It is advisable that one makes a detailed assessment of the culture and environment they intend to interact with before they begin to do so (Corey & Corey, 2008). One's life after settling down at a location will forever carry the marks of that environment and its culture.

References

Corey, M. & Corey, G. (2008). *I Never Knew I had a Choice: Explorations in Personal Growth*.

Boston: Cengage Learning.

Sarte, A. (2008). *How Does Neighborhood Environment Affect Physical Activity in Later Life?*

An Exploratory Case Study of Two North Vancouver Neighborhoods. Vancouver: Simon

Fraser University.