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Citizenship Learning in a Shifting Society

Cultural Identity



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CULTURAL IDENTITY

“Cultural identity refers to identification with, or sense of belonging to, a particular group based on various cultural categories, including nationality, ethnicity, race, gender, and religion. Cultural identity is constructed and maintained through the process of sharing collective knowledge such as traditions, heritage, language, aesthetics, norms and customs.”

Chen, 2014



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ELEMENTS OF CULTURAL IDENTITY

Cultural identity elements are those that influence the development of a person's identity.

Some examples are traditional music, literature, ethnicity, cuisine, traditional national festivals, language, religion.



LANGUAGE



ETHNICITY



TRADITIONS



RELIGION



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WHY IS CULTURAL IDENTITY IMPORTANT?

It is our cultural, family and social roots that sets us apart from others and give us an identity as a person, as part of a group. Knowing the roots of one's own culture leads to identity formation, and allows us to define ourselves as citizens, knowing our place in society.





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Cultural identity can be molded and depends on the current time and cultural features of a given society. This means that someone's cultural identity can change according to their current environment.





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MIGRATION



Migration can lead to partial or total loss of one's cultural identity.

This can happen, for example, due to assimilation of the new country's culture or due to one's culture being a minority in the host country.

The children of migrants often abandon their traditions to adopt the values of the new country that receives them.



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IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION

Globalisation is one of the main causes of the loss of cultural identity, although it has brought many benefits to the whole world, such as the ease with which information reaches people. Globalisation has affected the cultural identity of communities, as it influences the way an individual engages with his or her roots.

Learn more about the impact of globalisation on cultural identity:



[Play video](#)



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OTHER FACTORS THAT PUT CULTURAL IDENTITY AT RISK



- 1 Cultural intolerance
- 2 Racism
- 3 Xenophobia



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CONSEQUENCES OF IDENTITY LOSS

Loss of identity brings with it a series of consequences that can affect the development of communities, such as...

... disappearance of the characteristics of a particular culture...

... or even language loss or language extinction.



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RESPECTING CULTURAL IDENTITY

“Cultural differences are essential in all societies, for it is differences that make the difference, it is diversity that offers the opportunity to get to know the other, to respect, understand, analyse and study past cultural knowledge, in the quest to enrich the diverse cultures of the present.”

Oliveira (2007)



[Play video](#)



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PRESERVING YOUR CULTURAL IDENTITY

The first step in keeping our culture alive is to invest in, believe in and consume local culture. Additionally, sharing it with others can also help spread a culture and value, as well as passing down history or other traditions like traditional crafts or tales.





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“Cultural differences should not separate us from each other, but rather cultural diversity brings a collective strength that can benefit all of humanity.”

Robert Alan



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