

Identity and culture

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A culture stipulates with other social factors such as line, social class, age and education the identity of a person. When people live together they influence each other. They share habits and ideas with each other and on this way there arise a culture. Culture is everything what people do and make, how they look, what they think and feel. Simultaneously every person has their own identity. Every person has an idea over who he or she is and what's belongs to him or her. Each person is different in what he or she receives of a culture. A culture is not everything determining.

Culture has influence on how people live with each other, but the way people live with each other also influence on culture. Culture is not certain; it develops, like people develop. The term culture can be defined in a lot of manners, but you can see culture in the behaviour of men. Culture has big influence in the way of thinking, of behaving, and on the world view of a person. According to Hagendoorn (1986) culture can be considered as a system of rules, codes and symbols to interpret events and human actions. Pinto (1990) is defining culture:

An evolving system of generation on generation passed rules upon which a group of people (who feel themselves member of this group) – frequently unconscious – obeys, that moreover a reference framework is for the behaviour and world view.

Not everything is however stipulated by culture, because also personal (character) aspects have influence in the manner how a person thinks and acts. Moreover the nature plays, a universal and innate aspect, a role in the behaviour of persons. The culture stands in fact between the nature and the personality.

In this module the next definition of culture is used: All those expressions in language, pictures, behaviour, religion, art,

music, etc. to which people borrow their identity and as a result of which they belong to a group or community. Cultural expressions bind and distinguish people. Characterising for cultures is that they are never static, but always change under the influence of circumstances and in exchange with other cultures. Mok & Reinsch (1999) In the meeting between teachers and parents, cultural perception and identity meet. School influences both 'from outside' and 'from the inside' on the development of identity. The school represents in a certain way the society and fulfils an important function in passing on knowledge and values which are in this of usefulness. The school is however also a place where an individual contracts intimate, personal relations that more or less direct of influence can be on meaning - and design of identity. This module has been intended for students of the "teacher training institute".

Aim of the module:

- The student examines own values, standards and cultural context and learns to recognise differences with the aim of deepening the contacts with parents in the interest of the school-career of the child
- The student practises skills in the field of intercultural conversation