Cultural identity

Cultural Identity

- A situated sense of self that is shaped by our cultural experiences and social locations
- How do you define yourself in terms of cultural identity?

- Do you have multiple cultural identities?

- How does your cultural identity shape your perspectives, beliefs and relationships with others?
- Is the way you identify culturally related to issues of power?
 - For example, dominant groups identities are often not as salient as non-dominant group identities



• A Definition of Cultural Identity

• The definition of cultural identity, in its most basic form, is a sense of belonging. This includes a shared sense of companionship, beliefs, interests and basic principles of living. When a person identifies with their culture, they often embrace traditions that have been passed down through the years. The cultural identity links a person to their heritage can help them to identify with others who have the same traditions and basic belief systems

Some people claim that a person's cultural identity is the foundation or groundwork on which every other aspect of their being is built. It is the cornerstone of what makes them who they are. Embracing one's culture often means practicing a specific religion, wearing a certain type of clothing or something else that represents their culture. It creates an outward, visible means of identifying that person as part of a particular culture or nationality

Cultural Identity Examples There are several examples that are used to identify a person as part of a culture. These can include:

Examples of cultural identity can include anything that offers testament or validation that a person is associated with a particular group, religion or race.



Why Is Culture Important?

- Culture gives us a definite starting point when beginning to search for our roots. Knowing where a person comes from will help to define how they look at their family obligations as well as how they celebrate important milestones in life.
- Culture is extremely important if a tribe or ethnic group intends to continue living in the same fashion as their ancestors.

How to maintain culture?

- There are several ways people can maintain and control their cultural integrity. One of the most important ways is to continue to speak their language. By speaking their native tongue in their home, they maintain a sense of pride. This also gives the advantage of being bilingual, which has many cognitive benefits throughout life.
- Hold fast to religious ceremonies and belief patterns is another way to maintain cultural identity. Passing religious traditions down to children will help to ensure they do not die out or become lost over time









