Cultural Differences and Lack of Knowledge

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Culture plays a vital role in understanding the living lifestyle and norms of any society or any country, and this helps the people to learn the various aspects about their culture. This also enables a person to learn culture of other's country as it is relevant and irrelevant to their community.

There is a basic rule that while visiting any different country or society, one should have enough knowledge about their society and their lifestyle. Without the proper information, the tourists or the explorer may face severe consequences within the country or the society (Shimahara & Sakai, 2018). This is the similar situation which I encountered when I visited Japan for the very first time and due to my lack of knowledge and research about the Japanese culture I faced embarrassment, but on the whole it was a lesson for me to increase my understanding of the cultural aspect of various countries.

Being an American, we have always been taught to be friendly with everyone. It is engraved in our roots to be helping and highly encouraging towards the foreigners and tourists. We consider it as our prime duty to interact with the people over the various place to create a friendly yet invigorate atmosphere where they may not feel socially awkward. But going to Japan, made me realize that everywhere it is not the same situation.

The people of Japan are highly reserved and formal in their conversation with each other whereas, in our culture, we believe to talk it informally to create a healthy environment. As we move across the Japanese region, from Tokyo to Kyoto, there is a change in the region while observing the behavior. My friendly attitude made me highly embarrassing as it was not much appreciated in Japan. This made me feel socially awkward as I was unaware of their norms and traditions that the people believe in formal interaction (Shimahara & Sakai, 2018).

This was a lesson for me to learn the basic rules of the cultures of any society or any country while entering the premises, as this may help to improve the cultural knowledge and modes of interaction with each other.

**References**

Shimahara, N. K., & Sakai, A. (2018). Learning to teach in two cultures: Japan and the United States. Routledge.