

How can teens benefit from living in a multi-cultural world?

In the developing world today many changes have been brought upon all of us. One of the changes is that our world is turning into a multi-cultural world. Although some people, a minority of the world may disapprove of it, it however is extremely beneficial for others especially for growing children and teenagers.

Firstly, what is a multi-cultural world? A multi-cultural world is a world in which people with different cultures live together, a world where cultural diversity is very much promoted and celebrated. Culture refers to the combination of the music, arts, literature, racial and ethnic differences including the customs and traditions that are passed on from generation to generation. So the world that we all live in today could be called a multi-cultural world.

The perspective of this world to teenagers has changed dramatically in this multi-cultural world. Our eyes and minds have been opened. No longer are we captured only by our customs and traditions but we also notice others. We are exposed to more cultures, a variety of cultures and learn to accept it. Teens learn what others have to offer and respect their qualities and characteristics. This also teaches us teens to welcome and accept other people's ideas and cultures more openly as well as also learning to conserve and introduce our own, leading into a world with less racism.

In the last decade our world has gradually changed. Racism is a matter less discussed when looking at qualifications. Take Barrack Obama for example, he would have been dismissed and wasn't even allowed to represent America's voice if not for the multi-cultural society of today. Obama's life could truly be called multi-cultural. He lived in all sorts of environment with different cultures at all stages of life-including as a teenager. This made him accept who he is, and accept what others have to offer. In turns helping others accept him and his ideas. Although there is criticism of him rising to be the president of the United States of America, but being in the time of today-in a multi-cultural surrounding, people have understood and respected him in spite of the difference in cultures and backgrounds.

The differences of cultures, ethnics and backgrounds have always been the fuel to the fire, the match that lit the flame, the driving force for violence in uni-cultural worlds. However the difference of culture in a multi-cultural world is what makes teens proud. It is their pride. The difference no long sets them apart, but it makes them have individuality, uniqueness. In many countries that have a developed sense of multiculturalism, we can easily notice that people with different culture stands out, not in a bad way but in a good way. This can be easily seen when people want to learn new languages especially teens. In a multi-cultural world, the difference is not the fuel that strengthens the flame but the wind that blows out and extinguishes the fire.

As a universal understanding is undertaking, more time is spent on sharing the diverse cultures than it is spent on conflict between cultures. Teens learn what their friends of different cultures and religions feel. Share knowledge of what know and receive knowledge of what we don't have. Due to the shared knowledge of different cultures many innovations have been created and discovered such as the combination of musical instruments in a piece of composition and the creation of new cuisine developing taste that could never be accomplished without the mixture in cultures.

History shows us that in a place where people with different customs, appearances and culture live together there is often tension in the atmosphere because fear of the unknown. It arises because of suspicion but in today's world, the multi-cultural world we have an understanding. Since an understanding is developed between cultures combining into a multi-cultural world less suspicion and tension rises leading to the less number of conflicts started. We have no need to argue on what different beliefs and traditions we have. Teens don't have to be brought up into a world full of violence, decreasing the amount of anger absorbed and imprinted in ones minds, lessening violence and crimes in the future.

As stated above, the concept of the multi-cultural world is very beneficial. Not just to teenagers but to people of every age from little kids to adults. However, for teenagers it is extremely important and has many advantages because at this stage in life it is the turning point and a lot of people have noticed. That's why there are so many cultural exchanges program for teenagers to share their ideas to other people. The problems of the world tomorrow won't be faced alone, but will be faced together with everyone holding hands, understanding how others feel and respect their tradition and customs.