

Name of the Student:	Shresta Maharjan	I.D	0362441
Program:	BCS	Section	B
Assignment is Due On:	20th Oct 2023		
Submission instructions:	Save as a PDF and submit to Assessment Task 4: Reflective Writing (10%) in myTIMeS.		

Assessment Task 4: Reflective Writing (10%)

Guidelines for your reflective writing:

- Introduction
- Participation and Learning Experience
- Hofstede's Model Overview
- Comparison of Cultures
- Reflection
- Conclusion

NOTE: Plagiarism is a serious offense in education. Produce your own work.

Introduction

Culture has a significant impact on the actions, beliefs, and attitudes of individuals and communities. Culture has been defined in a variety of ways, one of which is "Culture is the collective programming of the mind that distinguishes members of one group of people from others." Understanding cultural diversity is critical in an increasingly linked world, especially for global enterprises, governments, and individuals working and engaging with people from varied backgrounds.

Many models have been developed to comprehend cultural differences. GLOBE model, Trompenaars's model, Lewis model, Hofstede's model, and many more are examples. In this reflection written work, I will apply Hofstede's Cultural Dimension model and compare two cultures: one based on my knowledge and experience, and the other representing my local culture.

Participation and Learning Experience

In this part, I will reflect on my interactions with two contrasting cultures one is my own native Newar culture and another of the Brahmins culture. My quest of investigating cultural differences using Hofstede's model has been both enjoyable and illuminating. This experience has provided me with invaluable insights, both emotionally and academically.

- I now have a better knowledge of cultural values.
- I have gained cross-cultural proficiency.
- I also gained the capacity to improve my problem-solving skills, such as identifying and successfully addressing these difficulties.
- I now have a greater grasp of the value of multicultural communication.

Hofstede's Model Overview

It is important to have a thorough comprehension of the six cultural aspects of Hofstede's model prior to initiating the comparison.

1. **Power Distance Index:** As per Hofstede's model, this measure considers the extent to which power and inequality are accepted. To put it another way, elements: power is separated into low and high power distances depending on whether it is done equitably or in a hierarchical manner.
2. **Individualism vs. Collectivism:** We can say that, Individualistic cultures focus their own objectives and interests, whereas collectivistic cultures stress the goals and interests of their family or group.
3. **Masculinity vs. Femininity:** Assessing the societal acceptance of conventional masculine or feminine ideals in terms like as Masculinity reflects a social propensity for success, heroism, assertiveness, and monetary benefits. Femininity, on the other hand,

represents a tendency for collaboration, humility, compassion for the vulnerable, and a high standard of living.

4. **Uncertainty Avoidance:** Evaluating the culture's ambiguity and uncertainty tolerance. Those favor predictability and stability in societies with high uncertainty avoidance, whereas those in settings with low uncertainty avoidance are more comfortable with risk and change.
5. **Long-Term Orientation vs. Short-Term Orientation:** It refers examining the importance of long-term objectives as Education, hard effort, and future investment but enjoyment of the current moment is greatly prized in short-term cultures.
6. **Indulgence vs. Restraint:** It refers Examining how far a society enables or inhibits the fulfillment of desires and impulses. The amount to which a society enables unlimited satisfaction of basic and natural human needs connected to enjoying life and experiencing pleasure, as opposed to suppressing these desires is restraint.

Comparison of Cultures

Comparing Newar and Brahmin's cultures using Hofstede's model has aided me academically and provided me with an illuminating insight. Some of their cultural differences include:

1. **Power Distance:**

Newar Culture: The power distance in the Newar culture is relatively low. There is frequently less hierarchical distance between individuals in the Newar society, and there is a tradition of collective decision-making. For example, while making a choice within a family, it is highly normal to solicit opinions, discuss, and make a decision jointly, with elders and younger members having equal voice in the process.

Brahmin Culture: Brahmin culture may have a moderate to high power distance, particularly in traditional circumstances. The Brahmin caste was historically influential in the caste system and decision making. In this culture, the eldest member of the family may be greatly persuaded to assume care of the majority of the items.

2. **Individualism vs. Collectivism:**

Newar culture is more collectivist, with an emphasis on close-knit family and communal relationships. We'll use the Festive season as an example. People from diverse Newar groups gather in Nepal to celebrate Indra Jatra, showcasing their collectivist ethos and strong community ties.

Brahmin culture varies in terms of individuality and collectivism, although it frequently tends towards collectivism due to the significance of family and communal connections in Hindu tradition. For example, the younger generations of Brahmins that are living in urban society has more freedom of choices and individuality in choosing the path of the education and career they desire.

3. Masculinity vs. Femininity:

Newar Culture: According to Hofstede, Newar culture is often more feminine or balanced. Artistic expression, music, dancing, and other kinds of creative expression are valued historically and culturally. For instance, both men and women contribute to the household economics, and there is a long tradition of women taking part in religious and cultural activities.

Traditional Brahmin culture is more macho oriented and clearly defines gender roles. Men are frequently expected to provide the majority of the household's income while women run the home. As an example, Using the example of one of my friends' families, every man there works to provide for his family and meet their requirements, while the woman in the family is responsible for housework and submitting to the authority of the men.

4. Uncertainty Avoidance:

Newar Culture: There is lower level of Uncertainty Avoidance in Newar culture. The Newar people are renowned for their numerous, varied, and rich cultural customs. For instance, my family places a lot of importance on astrology and choosing lucky times for significant life events. When the decision to get married was made. Astrologers were contacted before moving forward to make sure they occurred at the most advantageous periods to reduce ambiguity and any undesirable effects.

Brahmin Culture: Higher level of Uncertainty avoidance may be more prevalent in Brahmin culture. We may use the caste system in traditional Brahmin culture as an example because they specifically come from an orthodox background. In order to minimize the ambiguity that would result from mixing with other castes, they maintain a rigorous social structure with stringent regulations concerning purity and social connections.

5. Long-Term Orientation vs. Short-Term Orientation:

Newar Culture: Newar culture places a significant focus on passing down traditions, works of art, and cultural practices through the generations. *The Nepal Bhasa* language, for instance, has been retained throughout centuries by individuals in my community despite outside cultural and linguistic influences. This preservation demonstrates a dedication to their language and heritage's long-term survival.

Brahmin Culture: Brahmin culture frequently has a short-term focus, especially in more conventional and orthodox situations. As an instance, everyday rituals and pujas (worship) performed by Brahmins frequently center on the present. Instead of achieving long-term objectives, these rites are conducted to preserve purity and meet current spiritual commitments.

6. Indulgence vs. Restraint:

Newar Culture: There is a pronounced Indulgence for extravagance in Newar culture, particularly during festivals. For instance, during important Newar celebrations like Indra

Jatra or Nepal Sambat, music and community feasts fill Kathmandu's streets. Additionally, while wearing traditional attire, they dance and sing as a group on the street.

Brahmin Culture: When it comes to following the food and religious constraints set by Hinduism, Brahmin culture may trend more toward Restraint. For instance, Brahmins may engage in austerity techniques like fasting and self-control to achieve spiritual purity. This practice requires a higher level of self-control and discipline when it comes to cravings and pleasures.

Reflection

Using Hofstede's model to compare two different cultures, Newar and Brahmin, has given me a revealing understanding of the vast variation that exists both inside and across civilizations. It has also shown me how one culture can change and adapt over a period of time in reaction to factors like as urbanization, generational transitions, and globalization. Using this model also demonstrated how crucial it is to keep in mind that people's views, actions, and values may differ greatly among cultures.

Conclusion

Finally, using Hofstede's model to compare the cultures of the Newar and the Brahmin, we can observe that the Brahmin culture has a history of increased power distance and uncertainty avoidance, with a focus on short-term orientation and restriction. On the other side, Newar culture has a larger propensity for indulgence and tends to have lesser power distance, uncertainty avoidance, and long-term orientation. Although there are some broad patterns here, each cultures have a vast range of personal beliefs and customs.