

## Aim

This activity aims to highlight our inbuilt responses to any perception of difference from us in the people we meet.

## Materials

Two pieces of card to write out the profiles of Culture A and B.

## Time

Total time for the game including the final debrief should be around 15 minutes.

Split group into 2 with each group being given cards with the characteristics of either culture A or culture B. Groups should be allowed time to discuss amongst themselves how best to display these characteristics through their behaviour and body language. Then a meeting space is used in the middle of the room where each group is asked to find out as much as they can about the characteristics of the other culture without asking any direct questions about its values or characteristics. After 2 minutes of meeting the groups should be made to separate and debrief by asking each group how it would describe the other based on what they found at the meeting.

## Questions to finish

What were some of the challenges you faced when meeting people from a different culture?

Did you find yourself thinking that your culture was in some way 'superior' to the other culture?

What insight does this give into how prejudices form towards people with different cultural values?

## Culture Clash Game – Culture A

The typical behaviour patterns for someone from culture A include –

- Personally very shy.
- Reluctant to initiate conversation.
- Eye contact is never given in conversation with strangers although it

is always held in conversation with members within the group.

- Strangers are greeted with handshakes.
- A sense of personal space is considered very important while meeting others from outside the culture. It is seen as a matter of respect.
- When conversation is started, personal details are considered to be inappropriate topics to be covered unless you are with a close family member.
- Generally accepted topics of conversation deal with the weather, current affairs, music and work.
- It is regarded as a mark of Culture A's civilised values that no woman is ever left on her own in any public situation even if she is from outside your own immediate family. Any approach to a single female, however harmless it may turn out to be, is seen as a potential threat to the group as a whole.

## Culture Clash Game – Culture B

The typical behaviour patterns for someone from culture B include –

- Personally very extrovert and outgoing.
- Happy to start conversations even with complete strangers.
- It is seen as a mark of the warmth of hospitality of members of this culture that when a conversation is started the people involved should try to engage eye contact with each other.
- Meetings with others, even outside the group, are often quite informal with new arrivals greeted with personal warmth and contact.
- Personal hopes and dreams are often the focus of conversation

between members of this group and even strangers are expected to face questions relating to their personal circumstances.

- When finishing conversation with others, member of this culture offer each other their left hand in handshake before moving on to another conversation partner.
- It is seen as a mark of the vitality of this culture that they do not value anyone over the age of 60 as they are seen to be past any useful function in life and only worthy of special care away from the rest of the group.
- This culture has many superstitions surrounding the number 3. It is common to see members of this group deliberately moving from one conversation to another to avoid being caught in a group of 3 people for this reason.

## GROUP ACTIVITIES: Culture clash