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# Cultural Diversity Between South Korea And Afghanistan

In this paper I will discuss how the cultural differences between South Korea and Afghanistan are different. I will explain how their culture takes place in gender role and how that might play in affect to nursing interventions and can affect patient teaching. Some other important topics to know while learning about their cultures are their beliefs, values, and traditional medicine practitioners, or alternative maintain and healthcare they provide in their culture.

## Gender roles

The split between the North and the South Korean culture was made around the twentieth century. This resulted in a culture difference between both North and South and resulted in both of them practicing different culture practices. After reading into the culture, the Joseon dynasty was what Korean people practiced and what they believed. In their culture today, they practice what is known as Shamanism. The female shamans are there to help achieve spirits and enlist the help people in their culture (Oh. E. G. (2018). In Korean society, women are confined to their home to prepare for the future roles as mothers and wives for their homes. Women could not participate in activities outside the home with men until the late nineteenth century. Along with women being homebound, schools were introduced to women and founded with the goal of educating women to engage in a wide variety of fields of things to do. (Oh. E. G. (2018). In modern Korea today, women are working in all kinds of jobs including healthcare, literature, law and many other jobs.

In Afghanistan, the position a woman is put in daily can be very unpleasant. Women are expected to represent themselves and improved their education. They are expected to live themselves out of the poverty level and play a role in society as a woman. Although this is easier said than done for a woman in this culture. (Commonwealth Office, 2014) Women of this culture face challenges in accessing any type of service due to their gender and face all kinds of vulnerabilities. They have made progress in trying to set up some types of frameworks to try and eliminate the gender inequality. (Eastern Mediterranean Region) The mixing of genders only occurs between family members or in a business of work or school but they remain very cautious of doing so. For women, it is considered inappropriate to be spoken directly to by a man and the woman should avoid looking at a man in the eyes. This is known to ruin the woman's reputation and a having conversation to an unknown male will not perceive well and it may irreversibly damage her reputation as well. (Commisceo Global Consulting Ltd. 2019, January 1)

## Values, Beliefs

Some beliefs in Kores are seen as harmony and balance and having a status is very important to the Koreans. It is important for them to remember to be cautious when interacting with superiors in social settings. When they are having a conversation, their speech can reflect the relationship between people. It is childish to act when a person uses the first name to call him/herself, and known as taboo to call someone who is of a higher rank or superior than you by their first name instead of their position title. However, when around they are around their family friends, they can be very outgoing and friendly who have equal or social status. If

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someone is new and considered a stranger to them, they can tend to be rude to strangers because they are too busy and self-centered. It is not uncommon for them to push or shove their way through a crowd of people if they in public places and will not apologize for doing this. (Bennett)

While it is hard for some to adjust to new culture, Afghans are very private when they have family issues. They are not ones to share information about their family members or information about healthcare issues going on with non-Afghan's including healthcare professionals. They do understand how American freedom a way of life, they are one that do not participate in this, and it actually comes as shock to them to see the lack of courtesy toward guests and a child not to greet a guest would be a very serious manner. (Robinson, B., Lipson, J., Younos, F., & Mehdi, M. (2002).

I can see where both of these cultures are somewhat alike when it comes to their values and beliefs. They both tend to be rude to strangers because of how they are taught and how they are raised in their lives. With their own families or people of their culture they aren't this way. Taking this as a harsh way to teach nursing intervention would be very difficult because if you were a patient and had someone like this as your nurse, you would think they were trying to be rude, but this is just how they are taught to treat people who aren't from their culture. It would be hard to adapt to the different cultures lifestyles and how the nursing interventions would be taught.

## **Traditional Medical Treatments/Alternative Measures**

in Korea, they do a wide variety of health practices which I think is great for their community of people. It gives them a variety of options to serve their patients as needed. Acupuncture, massage, cupping, moxibustion, herbal remedies, dietary therapy, shamans, and traditional medical treatment are used today for the treatment of their clients while they are sick and trying to heal. (Korean Culture. (n.d.)

There is a shortage in Afghanistan caused by out-migration- poor and unequal distribution in rural settings and lack of professionals in these settings. The doctors, midwives, and nurses are expected to have an increase in population over the years. The training they are required to do for their staff will help predict gender imbalance among their health workers in their healthcare fields. (Afghanistan. (2012, May 16).

## **Positive and Negative aspects**

In Korea, some positive aspects that could affect the health and well-being of people's health would be birth of child/ infant care. The care of infants is all based on the class position of family and how they are. Infants can be separated from their mothers but cultural practices encourage dependence of children on their parents. This can be a positive thing for someone to go through with a new baby in their life and adapting to the new life and caring for them and teaching them all that they need to know. Higher education can be another positive thing that someone in another culture can take as a positive aspect because this means you can improve your status. Entering college can be very competitive and some repeat their exams in order to get into the university or college of their desire. The number has jumped up men and women to enroll in higher education. Marriage this can be a very important and very rewarding thing that people

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can do in their lives. Most individuals can choose who they want to have as their lifelong partner whereas, in urban centers, it is arranged in a meeting place, like a coffee shop, for a man and woman to meet which is set up by their parents for their first encounter. They exchange their conversations back and forth and decide if they would like to meet again. (South Korea. (n.d.). Negative aspects can include religion. This can be a negative thing because there is so much suffering that is caused by human desire is what the Buddhists are taught to believe. Others seeks to fulfill desire by offering prayer requests of compassion. Another negative aspect can be political life. Abiding by the government and how the different leaderships have different emotional patterns can be hard on all of the people to adapt to. One more negative thing is death. Death can have an impact on anyone no matter what culture you are from. Mourning periods and the social status of deceased can differ. It can cause stress on everyone and cause health issues on everyone involved. (South Korea. (n.d.)

In Afghanistan, some aspects can include the role of women. The women are getting to play a role in more jobs as healthcare providers and getting more medical care given to them which is fantastic. Access to healthcare is also improving but women have to learn to abide the obstacles in their ways which can stress and can be both positive or negative. The healthcare in the future can also be positive or negative for both men and women. Because there is a long-term goal of getting patients the care that they need, it's also important to make sure they educate their employees along the way and improve the higher-level health care needs first. Public health infrastructure can also be both positive and negative aspects of the Afghanistan culture. Basic needs are important for everyone. The lack of having clean water, or no food or shelter can and should also be addressed to improve the community's health. With shortages in cultures like this, it's hard to keep their health improved. This can cause stress on anyone who is going through this and can be very upsetting. (Acerra, J. R., Iskyan, K., Qureshi, Z. A., & Sharma, R. K. (2009).

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