

Cultural Problem Being Faced By International Students in the University of the Punjab

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Abstracts

The aim of this research is to identify the “cultural problems being faced by international students studying in the University of the Punjab.” It was descriptive in nature and survey research technique was used to identify the Cultural problems being faced by the said students. All international students of university of the Punjab were population of the study, random sampling strategy was used for sample selection. The sample size of the research was 40 international students, which were 50% of total population. The quantitative approaches were used for data collection. Questionnaire was used as research instrument. After the data collection, the data were entered in SPSS for study and analyzed using ANOVA test, sample t-test, frequency analysis, graphic investigation.

Key words: International students, University of the Punjab, Cultural problem.

Introduction

It is a relationship of consequence of behavior and realized behaviors those are transmitted and shared by the components of a specific culture. (Linton, 1945).

However, international universities is to teach the international graduates to develop more capability, communicative, competitiveness in the international professional market and competence for cross-cultural knowledge (Stacy, 1999). Due to diverse culture and educational environment of the international students, the advanced education is becoming more diverse (Hewitt, 2002). To achieve the international student’s needs, expectations and goals having difference societies/ cultural and academic backgrounds is a responsibility of education providers. (Stacy, 1999). When taking the decision to study abroad, many students come with problems in their academic mission to be rationally successful in their new

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educational setting (Carol and Ryan, 2005). They faced several cultural norms, social, ethics from the ones they have to familiar, performance, conventions about participation, different modes of teaching, learning and different expectations etc. Generally these students are normally a week group w.r.t leaving their country, leaving all their social underpinnings, language, family, all sort of available assistance and references, doctors, religious people and relatives etc. (Morton, 2007)

Culture of Pakistan

Pakistan has miscellaneous and distinct many cultures. There are different nations in the society of Pakistan and all these nations have left their symbol in the culture of Pakistan in some or other way around.

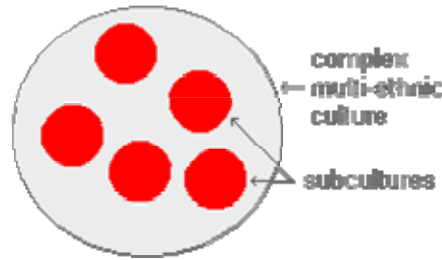
The study surveys that the Pakistan is a 6th more populated in the world after Indonesia.

The Punjab is a big province of Pakistan; and it was founded/ settled by Sikh and perform an important role in the development of Pakistan. Pakistani culture has a very highly-flavored and long history w.r.t. Karachi and Lahore. The contribution of Pakistan is incredibly rich and wide varieties of social actions. These areas make some new trends and safeguard our cultural backgrounds. These need a solid and self-sufficient tool to systematize the communication of cultural events and leisure interests in order to launch an essential information and linkage b/w daily life of the individual and culture. (Ali , 2012)

Culture Layers

Having 3 levels or layers of culture i.e. part of your learned perceptions and behavior patterns. The majority, is the body of cultural background that differentiates your specific culture. When persons speak the languages e.g. Samoan, Japanese or Italian culture, pointed out shared traditions, beliefs, and languages; these persons are away from each other.

2nd layer of this society may be part of your uniqueness. The subculture, the various societies in which public have come from diverse parts of this world. They often keep hold of their innovative cultural backgrounds. Resultantly, a part of a particular subculture in their new culture. The joint cultural attributes of subcultures set away from each other society. Differentiation b/w dominant national culture and association of subcultures, blur and finally fade away. As part of the culture, close down except as unit of persons who stated a common heritage. Normally, it is happened with Irish Americans and German in the US. The majority identified themselves as earlier Americans.



While the 3rd level consists of universal cultural. The learned activities were shared by all of human being. But this is not necessary where the person survive these shared universal traits. (Babbie,2004)

The Fundamental Elements of Society

1. **Language:** A set of symbols use to communicate meanings and assign to different things. This facilitates us to label or name the things in our globe; therefore, we can imagine and exchange a few words by this.
2. **Norms:** Humanly created rules for behavior and specifying the responsibilities associated with a particular status and right. And it is used because of a position in role expectations associated with it and societies.
3. **Values:** Members of a society desire to or hold in high esteem. The values are belongings to be attained; these things take into account having great worth or values. The Principles are social products or human creations.
4. **Ideologies and Beliefs:** The beliefs are the things or feelings i.e. to be factual or the facts i.e. established by all constituents. It is not restricted only to spiritual statements, but comprises of all the things, that people accept and know as true, as well as common sense i.e. everyday awareness.
5. **Social Collectives:** include: societies, organizations, groups, classes, and institutions are also jointly shaped up the symbolic social interpretations.
6. **Roles and Statuses:** Although the status is not a measurement device of a person that calculates their power, prestige, and wealth. However, to say his status is high or low, that is misleading. It is not a position of a particular society or group.

Accommodation Problem

The international students normally stayed into a luxury hotel or to someone other friend/ uncle's home. Cultural and languages barriers, shortage of knowledge regarding state agencies/ rented house market and how it works etc. plus irregularities create additional difficulties for International candidates. Some students reported lack of assistance in finding for appropriate adjustment.

Public Transport

The international students are also faced the problem regarding the public transport and there are some incidents scene regarding the traveling ticket inspection by the checker which have been very upsetting period for international students w.r.t. culture and language.

Security

Nowadays the security issues for international students are also a big problem.

Social Loneliness

The mainstream gives details about the issues of loneliness, including; living faraway from their study place, no providing any counseling services, and faced trouble to incorporate with their limited group of people.

Financial Suffering and Joblessness

The students in general suffering by financial problems i.e. no producing the money or income at one side, while on the other hand educational as well as other living expenses affect their lives and also to leave many opportunities due to non-experience. There are some international students, having some money; relieved of financial difficulty.

Mental Health Issues

The belongings of language, homesickness, unfamiliarity with the culture, social isolation, accommodation difficulties and stress to accomplish the tasks can direct to psychological fitness troubles regarding the international students.

Language and Communication Issues

Poor in speaking/ writing English skills or language leftovers very important hurdle faced by the international students. This hindrance is the main cause when they to the local people.

Barriers with Staff

By means of cultural differences and language the international students can sometimes faced the problems with their institutional personnel.

Reasons for Study in Pakistan

Probably, there are approximately 2 million graduates learning outside from their home country. Pakistan has an impressive mechanism to charm the international students to obtain education in their country. The key factors considered by the students looking for worldwide education choices are proximity, overlap and cost w.r.t their social ethics. For countries of Africa and Asia; Pakistan proposes a friendly atmosphere, the social multiplicity and more outstandingly the top worth for currency choices. The education of Pakistan in African and Asian (South East Asia, Middle East, SAARC) countries is recognized as the potential markets. However, regarding international exchange of goods e.g. investment, trade and worldwide industry connections will be the result of such an initiative.

Average Total Cost (US\$) including tuition fee and living cost for Graduate Students

Country	Business / Management	Arts	Science & Technology
Pakistan	10,000 (3 years)	10,000 (3 years)	15,000 (3-4 years)
Australia	37,000 (3 years)	37,000 (3 years)	42,000 (3 years)
UK	56,000 (3 years)	57,000 (3 years)	66,000 (3 years)
US Public	80,000 (4 years)	80,000 (4 years)	80,000 (4 years)
US Private	137,000 (4 years)	137,000 (4 years)	102,000 (3 years)

Figure: Average Total Cost

We can create multicultural society in Pakistan. Students coming from different parts of the world will bring new cultural experiences, languages and money along with them.

We have the following attractions for foreign students, English medium campuses, friendly nation to foreigners, and we can internationalize our campuses.

Procedure of the Study

A questionnaire was used as tool of research. It consisted of 24 questions. The chairperson and advisor of the study were consulted for the improvement and development of the study. Forty questionnaires were administered to the

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international students in the University of the Punjab, and received by the researchers.

Population

International Students of Punjab University.

Sample of the study

As there were many international students studying in various department of the University of the Punjab so it was not easy to obtain the opinion of all of them. Hence a convenient sample of 40 students was drawn from the international students of Punjab University.

Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1

Gender	N	Mean	SD	Frequency
Male	26	67.54	6.26	26%
Female	13	66.15	11.11	14%

The above table shows that there is no specific gender difference in international students studying in the University of the Punjab.

Table 2

Religion	N	Mean	SD
No religion	2	79.50	.70
Buddhist	4	68.75	4.35
Christen	1	69.00	.00
Muslims	33	65.82	8.12
Total	40	66.87	8.07

As seen in the above table that majority of worldwide students studying in the university are Muslims.

Table 3

Origin	N	Mean	SD
Malaysia	3	71.67	9.07
India	2	66.50	9.19
Africa	22	66.86	6.73
Taiwan	2	54.08	19.83
Iran	2	64.00	9.90
Nepal	6	72.00	5.51
Turkey	2	65.50	4.95
Yamane	1	57.00	.00
Total	39	66.87	8.07

As seen in the above table that the majority of worldwide learners are from Africa in Punjab University.

Table 4
Analysis of variance for effect of origin and culture problem being faced by international student

Sources	Sum of squares	df	Mean squares	F	Sig.
Culture problem being faced by international student and origin	676.12	7	96.59	1.66	.156
Within group	1866.26	32	58.32		
Total	2542.37	39			

The above table shows that F-value (1.66) considerable at $p \leq 0.05$. So the unacceptable hypothesis have no considerable effect of origin and culture problem being faced by international student university of the Punjab is accepted.

Table 5

Sources	Sum of squares	df	Mean squares	F	Sig.
Culture problem being faced by international Student and religion	374.22	3	124.74	2.07	.121
Within group	2168.16	36	60.23		
Total	2542.37	39			

The above table shows that F-value (2.07) considerable at $p \leq 0.05$. So the unaccepted hypothesis has no significant effect of religion and culture problem being faced by international Student University of the Punjab is accepted.

Conclusion

1. The majority of the students (97.5%) felt difficulty to pay for education in Pakistan.
2. The majority of the students (45%) were satisfied with their current accommodation in the University of the Punjab.
3. The majority of the students (60%) say that there teacher's encourage contact between international students.
4. The majority of the students (47.5%) felt difficulty to communicate with other students.
5. The majority of the students (50%) said that Pakistani students have generally positive attitude towards international students.

Recommendation

The research describes that the living days of an international student in Pakistan are very tough. The study recommended that university administration should build up the communication gap with worldwide candidates regarding upcoming strategies. They should also hold some more info regarding training of talent at holiday times, when they are on educational site and have some relax moments. It

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is also responsibility of the university administration to identify the gaps in expectations between international students and staff.

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