

Marla - Moving Countries (Global Understanding Post)

- What is a global issue have you experienced and how did this allow you to gain a deeper understanding of the world?
 - ◆ How does moving from one country to the other impact one's sense of self and understanding about the world around them.
 - ◆ This can be seen in multiple communities around the world, the experience of moving we all have a certain understanding of how this feels.

- Connect this to **at least one context** from the following:
 - ◆ Economics -
 - ◆ Environment -
 - ◆ Ethics -
 - ◆ Politics -
 - ◆ Religion -

Moving from Dubai to Thailand I focused more on the economic and religious contexts and how this plays a role on power/privilege

- Identify where power and privilege is held or used?
 - Who holds it?
 - How does it impact others?

Example from my post where I discussed the power the construction workers in Dubai have:

"The people working around the clock to create the fantasy that is Dubai have almost no power/rights. When I lived there, one of the most normal daily occurrences was to see a construction site. I never gave a second thought to the amounts of workers Dubai has and how their lives are different from mine. After research, I know now that upon arrival in Dubai, workers' passports are confiscated and they are often paid less than a ¼ of what they were initially promised. I Have just watched a Vice documentary in which Ben Anderson describes these people as slaves."

- Think back to your experience, what specific examples of each place did you notice that made you reflect (specific to your context) This could be in the form of:
 - ◆ Different local media (news, advertisements ect..)
 - ◆ People you have seen locally
 - ◆ The fashion/trends
 - ◆ A book on the place(s)

I talked about the people and atmosphere of each place and how they compared:

"I was used to blistering ghost towns with empty highways that stretched for miles. I looked out the window in a different world. The magic fountains were now drinking fountains, the Teslas were scooters and the louboutins were flipflops. There was so much more to see and I was excited to see more."

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- Document your new understanding reflecting upon your experience:
 - ◆ What did you learn that you didn't know before?
 - ◆ Has your previous understanding of this topic changed/been added to/been proven wrong?
 - ◆ How have your beliefs been altered after your experience

In retrospect, I have benefited immeasurably from the cultural education and experience from living in Dubai then Thailand. I have developed an appreciation for cultural diversity and my role in a global society. I have attained a deeper understanding of a place I thought I knew and how the glitz and glamour of Dubai have come at a cost of thousands of workers and how my privileges are different to theirs. Even though Dubai and Bangkok are immensely different I have learned so much from each place and gained many new insights that have allowed me to grow as a person. I have a better understanding of how power and privilege controls our lives.

- Think about the takeaways from your experience that can be related to this topic.
 - ◆ Perhaps something that has happened to you since then
 - ◆ Things in your life that you have gained more insight on
 - ◆ or something relevant to this issue that might affect you in the future.

Another major difference is religious practice and beliefs. Dubai's Islamic culture shapes all aspects of society. Islam is an Arabic word meaning surrender, submission commitment, and peace. There are 6 main beliefs in Islam; 1) belief in Allah; 2) belief in the Angels; 3) belief in all Holy Books, especially the Qu'ran; 4) belief in all prophets sent by God; 5) belief in life after death; and 6) belief in divine decree. Islam like any other religion has a certain view on societal norms and roles for both women and men. There is a strong sense of religious authority not only between the different classes but between the genders. Women are expected to be obedient wives and the caretakers of the family while men are presumed to be the breadwinners for the family and protect the entire family. This divide means that the power is unevenly split between the two people. This was very evident to see while I was living there, I noticed how people in prestigious roles were usually rich men. I have noticed this less in Thailand and see more equalities between the genders and how they are treated. Men in Buddhism are taught to see their wives as equal and to show respect and honor to their partners. It is believed that if a man disrespects his wife he will be punished in his next life. Women were taught their responsibilities were to be split evenly with the male. This shows how religious beliefs impact the lives of women in Dubai and Thailand and how the power in families is split from a religious perspective.

- Possible questions you can ask yourself to guide your metacognitive thinking:
 - ◆ How did studying this topic change your perspective on the way you view the world? How did studying this topic change you? Are there some universal lessons that you can draw from learning more about this topic?
 - ◆ Think about yourself as a global citizen. How has studying this topic helped you understand how you fit in as a citizen of the world?
 - ◆ And what will you do as a result in the future?

I have a better understanding of how power and privilege controls our lives. I feel I am more sensitive to cultural and religious differences. A visible change is I find myself volunteering for more opportunities as I have increased confidence and self-belief. For example, I have recently applied to the Samakee program here at Nist. I pushed myself to do so as I want to make newcomers feel comforted and welcome as they adapt to their new lives.