PSYC 106: INTRO PSYC II

GLOBAL ASSIGNMENT

In the chapter of your textbook that includes health and stress it is assumed that everyone has the same beliefs concerning cleanliness of your body and your environment. A lot of the time travelers to another culture complain about inadequate cleanliness practices. This activity will help you explore your own cleanliness beliefs and, after discussion, put them in cross-cultural perspective.

1. People in my culture value cleanliness

STRONGLY DISAGREE STRONGLY AGREE

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1. You should wash your body before entering a bathtub full of clean water
2. Blankets and rugs should be hung out to air every day
3. Shoes should be removed before entering a home
4. The left hand should not be used for eating or taking food from a communal dish.
5. You should use a different washcloth and bar of soap to wash yourself above the waist and below the waist.
6. You should shower or bathe daily
7. Cleaning products should be used in the home to kill germs
8. Hands should be washed on returning home
9. You should not eat with your hands
10. You should blow your nose into the gutter rather than carry the mucous in a cloth or tissue
11. The toilet should not be located under the same roof as the place where people eat and prepare food or sleep

To the Faculty:

Ask students to discuss how they believe a person from another culture would view their beliefs if they endorsed the practices with which they disagreed? Ask students to think about or discuss what cultural messages they were taught to support the practices with which they agreed.

Sources:

Based on Fernea, E, & Fernea, R.A. (1994) Cleanliness and culture. In W.J> Lonner & R.S. Malpass (Eds.), Psychology and culture. Boston, Allyn & Bacon.