

Week 5 Discussion and Responses

Student's Name

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## Week 5 Discussion and Responses

### **Part 1**

The process of enculturation begins early in life and is often learned incidentally through daily interactions with family, community, and society. When an adoptive family adopts a child from a drastically different cultural group, they can make an effort to teach the child about their biological culture. The challenges adoptive parents might face include their limited knowledge of the child's biological culture, lack of access to cultural resources, and possible resistance from the child.

Cultures with solid oral traditions rely on storytelling, songs, and proverbs to preserve and transmit cultural knowledge. Teaching these traditions can be challenging for adoptive parents who may not be familiar with the nuances of oral storytelling (Lilomaiava-Doktor, 2020). Additionally, many customs and practices are taught through demonstration and imitation, requiring practical engagement and participation. Adoptive parents can address these challenges by involving cultural mentors or members of the child's biological community who can share stories and demonstrate cultural practices.

Younger children may adapt more quickly to new cultural environments but lose touch with their original cultural roots if not actively maintained. Older children might have a stronger sense of their original culture, but integrating into a new cultural environment can be challenging (Gong et al., 2021). Physical appearance, such as skin color and hair texture, can influence a child's cultural identity and societal perception. Adoptive families should make an effort to teach the children about their former culture, regardless of age or appearance, to help them navigate societal interactions and potential identity challenges.

### **Part 2**

Research indicates that wealthier individuals often report higher subjective well-being (SWB) levels than those with fewer resources. This relationship is particularly evident when comparing individuals who struggle to meet basic needs with those who have an abundance of material possessions (Tan et al., 2020). However, the relationship between SWB and wealth is not strictly linear. As individuals become incredibly wealthy, increases in SWB tend to plateau. This phenomenon suggests that additional wealth does not significantly enhance happiness beyond a certain point. Cultural differences also play a role in SWB, as some cultures emphasize community, social support, and collective well-being over individual wealth. Thus, SWB can be influenced by cultural values and societal norms, not just economic status.

Happiness is a standard measure of SWB. Scholarly research indicates that other variables, such as social relationships and a sense of purpose, are crucial for maintaining high SWB (Nikolova & Graham, 2022). These factors tend to have a universal aspect, remaining relatively consistent across different cultures. For instance, strong social bonds and community support are vital for well-being in both collectivist and individualist cultures. Individuals with close-knit social networks and a clear sense of purpose report higher happiness and overall well-being.

In societies with relatively even wealth distribution, overall well-being and social cohesion tend to be higher. Equitable distribution of resources can reduce social tensions, enhance access to education and healthcare, and promote a sense of fairness and community. Conversely, societies with high-income inequality often experience lower levels of trust.

## **Peer Responses**

### **Response 01**

Hey Max! Your analysis of adoption and cultural enculturation is spot on. I appreciate your highlighting the challenges adoptive parents face, especially with oral traditions and demonstration practices. Your suggestions for involving cultural mentors and experiential learning are excellent. Regarding SWB and wealth, your point about the non-linear relationship is compelling. It is insightful how you emphasize the importance of social relationships and a sense of purpose in maintaining high SWB across cultures. Your discussion on the impact of equitable wealth distribution on societal well-being is particularly relevant. Great job integrating these complex topics into a cohesive discussion!

### **Response 02**

Responding to peers is vital to PSY 4030 Week Five Discussion posts. We need to provide at least two peer responses. I have provided one example post. You can write your peer responses keeping the above points in mind.

## References

- Gong, Y. (Frank), Gao, X. (Andy), Li, M., & Lai, C. (2021). Cultural adaptation challenges and strategies during study abroad: New Zealand students in China. *Language, Culture and Curriculum, 34*(4), 417–437. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07908318.2020.1856129>
- Lilomaiava-Doktor. (2020). Oral Traditions, Cultural Significance of Storytelling, and Samoan Understandings of Place or Fanua. *Native American and Indigenous Studies, 7*(1), 121. <https://doi.org/10.5749/natiindistudj.7.1.0121>
- Nikolova, M., & Graham, C. (2022). The Economics of Happiness. In K. F. Zimmermann (Ed.), *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics* (pp. 1–33). Springer International Publishing. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-57365-6\\_177-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-57365-6_177-2)
- Tan, J. J., Kraus, M. W., Carpenter, N. C., & Adler, N. E. (2020). The association between objective and subjective socioeconomic status and subjective well-being: A meta-analytic review. *Psychological Bulletin, 146*(11), 970.