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Effects of CCK or TCK on Developing Children's Language Acquisition and Personal Experience

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Abstract: This paper focuses on the way in which children's language and personal experience develop when they are identified as Cross-Cultural Kids (CCKs) or Third Culture Kids (TCKs). Globalization played a role in increasing the number of CCKs and TCKs. As a result, many research papers have discussed this issue. However, most research papers were discussing the issue negatively, focusing on lack of patriotism, and stability, while ignoring the privileges these children have, such as developing their personality and language acquisition. The paper has a mixed method of research as the data was collected through face-to-face interviews and a survey on Facebook undertaken by CCKs and TCKs. Results showed that despite the fact that CCKs and TCKs faced many challenges, they have gained unique personal experience, tolerance to different cultures and advanced language acquisition. It seems that the advantages of being a CCK/TCK are more than the disadvantages, which can be overcome later. As a result, further research must look at the benefits and privileges rather than temporary problems.

Keywords: CCK, TCK, language acquisition, personal experience, instability, globalization.

I. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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II. INTRODUCTION

Globalization, immigration, international careers and many other factors can increase the numbers of children who have to follow their parents to unfamiliar surroundings [1]. Due to these kinds of situations, the children have to adapt to grow up in a culture different from their own parents' culture. A very simple example of a Third Culture Kid (TCK) would be a child who is born to Saudi parents studying abroad. This child grows up in a totally different culture from his/her parents' culture. For instance, if his/her parents are studying in the West and they had to settle there, later on, the child will be most likely closer to the Western culture than the Saudi culture his/her parents are actually from. As a result, these children are identified as Third Culture Kids (TCKs). According to Pollock and Van Reken [2], "The TCK frequently builds relationships to all of the cultures, while not having full ownership in any". Noting that TCKs are not a new phenomenon and that they have been around for a long time, many people have not noticed them much yet. However, nowadays the awareness of TCKs has increased because of many reasons. Those reasons, briefly, are the increase of their number, the rise of their public voice, and the increase of their significance [2]. These globalized circumstances can even lead to having Bi/multicultural as well as Bi/multiracial homes. For example, a child might be born from a couple of two different races or ethnicities. This child is identified as a Cross-Cultural Kid (CCK). This research is significant because we will highlight two specific groups that are increasing day by day in this globalized world. We will also discuss CCKs and TCKs by illustrating their ability to acquire languages and their unique personal experience. Therefore, this research will discuss the importance of knowing about CCKs and TCKs, the language acquisition, the personal characteristics and the practical skills that make CCKs/ TCKs unique, and the challenges CCKs/ TCKs most probably would face.

III. RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the relationship between being a CCK/ a TCK and language acquisition as well as being more culturally knowledgeable and tolerant? This is the question this research aims to answer. However, it is important to realize that many research papers have not focused on skills that CCKs and TCKs have gained through their life. Therefore, we will discuss CCKs and TCKs from a point of view that is different from many researchers who have already discussed the downsides of such experience. In fact, the purpose of this research is to prove the strengths and the qualities CCKs and TCKs have despite the problems they might face.

IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

Many research papers have discussed the CCKs and TCKs from a variety of frames. Some of the papers have focused on the negative side of being a CCK or a TCK. However, other papers have focused on the positive side of these special cases. To start with, according to Pollock and Van Reken [2], a Third Culture Kid (TCK) is defined as a "person who has spent a significant part of his or her developmental years outside the parents' culture" and "[a] cross-cultural kid (CCK) is a person who is living or has lived in—or meaningfully interacted with—two or more cultural environments for a significant period of time during childhood (up to age 18)". Although the literature presents these two cases in a variety of aspects, this paper will primarily focus on the benefits of being a CCK or a TCK.

Acquiring a language can be of a greater benefit than learning it. "According to Krashen, acquisition is a subconscious process 'While learning is conscious. Although both play a role in developing second-language competence, acquisition is far more important, since the competence developed through it, is responsible for generating language and thus accounts for language fluency'" [3]. Further, Krashen compared the 'acquired system' to the procedure the children undergo in acquiring their first language. With that being said, TCKs and CCKs are exposed to different environments that played a role in acquiring languages other than their mother tongue, and this resulted in their fluency in more than one language.

Identity determines where one's position is among all these different opinions and perspectives the world has. Fail *et al.* described TCKs as unstable, significantly, they refer to TCKs' identity and the sense of belonging that TCKs experience and struggle with more than others do [4]. Moreover, Josselson stated, "Identity is the stable, consistent, and reliable sense of who one is and what one stands for in the world" [4]. We understand that these complexities of CCKs and TCKs do exist.

Take, for example, Brice Royer, the founder of TCKid.com. His father is a half-French/half-Vietnamese UN peacekeeper while his mom is Ethiopian. Brice lived in seven countries before he was eighteen including France, Mayotte, La Reunion, Ethiopia, Egypt, Canada, and

England. He writes, "When people ask me 'Where are you from?', I just joke around and say, 'My mom says I'm from heaven.'" What other answer can he give? [5].

However, we believe that on the other hand, CCKs and TCKs can progress and be successful without a certain sense of belonging to a specific identity or a country. To emphasize, we think that such instability cannot be an obstacle that prevents the CCKs and TCKs from achieving their goals thanks to the other priceless gifts they have.

CCKs and TCKs can be more open and tolerant of other cultures than any child who has only lived in one culture. Based on a questionnaire, done by Pollock and Van Reken, TCKs scored lower when it came to emotional stability than open-mindedness and cultural empathy [2]. Some Adult Third Culture Kids (ATCKs) have stated that their experience of growing among different worlds has blessed them with many valuable gifts [7]. According to Mann, GMS, Heineck, and CRP "TCKs are four times more likely than non-TCKs to earn a bachelor's degree, and 40 percent go on to earn an advanced degree" [6]. Furthermore, TCKs' everyday life is provided with the context to interact and collaborate with different people from different backgrounds smoothly. Dewaele and Oudenhoven stated, "personality is shaped by social and biographical factors. Acculturation is stressful, but the experience of having to fit in and being in contact with different languages and cultures strengthens Cultural Empathy and Open mindedness." [1], with that being said, we can conclude that not only different cultures affect CCKs' and TCKs' experience, but also different languages. CCKs and TCKs have gained the power to communicate effectively in different languages. This power helps CCKs and TCKs to overcome the difficulties they might face, wherein they have acquired a wider view, perspective, and outlook that is different from any other child.

CCKs and TCKs are important, particularly nowadays. This goes back to the fact that they are capable of thinking "outside the box" which can result in offering creative ideas that fit this globalized world. They can also be considered as a source of inspiration and strength [5]. However, it seems that many researchers have considered the disadvantages of being a CCK or a TCK especially the insecurity with regards to identity without highlighting their advantages such as language acquisition and cultural tolerance. As a result, in this research, we will concentrate more and emphasize the benefits CCKs and TCKs obtain through their life rather than their disadvantages.

V. METHODOLOGY

The Sample:

Participants in our research are CCKs and TCKs who are now adults and that makes them ACCKs/ATCKs. Our participants differ in their age and their degree of education. For example, some of them are highly educated and some of them are still undergraduate. To begin with, the interview sample contains three faculty members who are ACCKs and ATCKs in a private University in Western Saudi Arabia. Therefore, all of the participants have degrees and are well educated. However, the survey sample also contains a group of ACCKs and ATCKs on Facebook. So their educational degree varies and that might affect the results. The research paper focuses on the influence of being a CCK/TCK on one's personality and viewpoint.

We want to observe how being a CCK/TCK influences their personality and viewpoint through analyzing their answers in the interview and the survey. Several research papers have discussed the negative aspects of CCKs and TCKs. As a result, we decided to focus more on the positive aspects that would help form the personality of the child and shape her/his thoughts and viewpoints positively. Further, we want to discuss to what extent being a CCK/TCK may influence the person's experience and knowledge.

Research Design:

The research was undertaken as a mixed method research. It consisted of one-to-one interviews and a survey done with the ACCKs and ATCKs. Wherein, the answers were meeting the research objectives outlined above.

Instrumentation:

The materials that are used in collecting data from participant are: mobile to record the interview, paper, pencil, and Survey Monkey software to collect the survey data. The procedure consists of two parts: Interview and Survey. Firstly, the interview is conducted at Effat University, at the Western part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The interview is recorded and analysed later. Secondly, the survey is collected online through different participants who are ACCKs/ATCKs on social media. Those participants agreed to participate in our research after introducing the topic which

they found interesting as ACCKs/ATCKs themselves.

Ethical Consideration:

The consent form is given to each participant even online. Moreover, their names and private information are kept anonymous.

Validity and Reliability:

As far as validity, we believe that the instrument is valid because it results in data that serves our research purpose. We also believe that the instrument is reliable as it produces consistent data to serve our research.

Survey Questions' Notes:

The survey questions consist of ten questions. Eight questions are multiple-choice questions and two are open-ended questions, wherein, the participant has the freedom to write everything s/he feels. Overall, the survey questions are expressed clearly. For instance, if a question might have a personal different opinion than the choices available we added "Other" to fill it with their own answer.

Interview Questions' Notes:

All the questions are clear and do not need any further explanations. Despite that, an introducing paragraph is attached to the consent form in order to make the status of the participants clear, and the reason why they are chosen. The following is used to introduce the topic.

Introducing the research topic:

The research paper discusses the influence of being a CCK/TCK on one's own personality and viewpoint. A Cross Culture Kid (CCK) is, according to Pollock and Van Reken [2], "a person who is living or has lived in—or meaningfully interacted with—two or more cultural environments for a significant period of time during childhood (up to age 18)" and Third Culture Kid (TCK) is a "person who has spent a significant part of his or her developmental years outside the parents' culture."

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Survey Results:

The survey was distributed between 56 participants who were of various nationalities and lived in different countries. The following results are the most important ones related to the research objectives. The results are as follows: 42.86% of the participants actually spent several years of their childhood moving around different countries as well as outside their home country. The majority of the participants, 76.79%, are from parents of the same ethnicity. Most of those participants, 42.86%, speak 3 languages. This illustrates the fact that CCKs and TCKs can easily acquire languages, unlike non-CCKs /-TCKs. Moreover, most of the participants, 76.79%, feel they can easily communicate with new people from different cultures. 98.21% of the participants also feel that they can easily discuss different opinions and accept differences. The age between the participants varied, but most of the participants, 33.93%, were older than 40 years old. Finally, the majority of the participants find that their own experience as CCKs/TCKs has influenced their lives positively and 58.93% would raise their children the same way they were raised.

Interview Results:

The interviews were conducted with CCKs and TCKs participants who were neither from the same country nor the same nationality. The following results show the most significant answers that relate to the research objectives. The participants were answering people about "where are you from" with a semi-detailed answer, whereas, the participants would tell their origins and where they grew up, to fulfill others' curiosity. Further, all the participants were bilingual, wherein, they speak two languages. However, one of the participants speaks his mother tongue at a conversational level only, as s/he did not go to school to learn the language, instead only picked it up at home. One of the participants did not live outside their country, but moved back and forth between the other culture and country and their country, then moved to live in the other country for ten years, however, s/he moved back to their country as they felt the sense of belonging at home. Another participant did not live anywhere but in the other country, and visited their country from time to time, as they felt the sense of belonging towards the other country. Moreover, all the participants believed that their experience enabled them to be open-minded and tolerant of other cultures, as they were exposed to situations

that made them understand the world better and have a broader perspective about the globe. Lastly, all the participants were willing to raise their children in a similar experience and encourage others to do so.

Interpretation of Survey Results:

The research focuses on the effects of being a CCK/TCK on the person's personality, experience, knowledge, viewpoint, and open-mindedness. Therefore, we conducted the survey by focusing on the influence of being a CCK/TCK on one's own personality and viewpoint. To begin with, the participants of our survey are 56 participants in total who are mostly older than 40 years old and from various countries. All the participants of our survey spent several years of their childhood either moving around different countries or outside their home country or even both. We understand that some of the participants were from parents of the same ethnicity and the others were from parents of different ethnicities. However, in both circumstances almost all the participants are able to communicate easily with new people from new different cultures and the majority is even capable of speaking 3 languages at least. The participants proved the cultural tolerance and open-mindedness they have wherein 55 of the participants actually feel they can easily discuss different opinions and accept differences. As a matter of fact, most of the answers in relation to the open-ended question, "Do you consider your experience as a CCK/TCK has influenced your life positively or negatively? And why?", stated that almost all the participants consider their experiences as CCKs/TCKs to have influenced their lives positively especially when it comes to having wider perspectives on people and cultures. To emphasize, most of the participants would raise their children the same way they were raised. This actually affirms the fact that CCKs/TCKs are blessed with various gifts many other individuals would not have.

Interpretation of Interviews' results:

The research aims to study the effects of being a CCK/TCK on language acquisition and personal experience. With regards to language acquisition, Kreshen stated [7] "that 'acquired system' requires meaningful interaction in the target language – natural communication – in which speakers are concentrated not in the form of their utterances, but in the communicative act". A proof would be the participant mentioned previously who speaks the mother tongue at a conversational level only, as s/he did not go to school to learn the language, instead only picking it up at home. In addition, we believe that CCKs and TCKs are more open-minded, experienced and tolerant towards other cultures compared to non-CCK/non-TCK. As a result, the interviews and surveys we have done focus on to what extent this seems to be true.

The interviews examine the experiences of CCKs/TCKs participants concerning a variety of perspectives. One of the questions was trying to aim which country meant home to them. This is due to the fact that CCKs and TCKs lived in two or more countries and it is important to see how this affected their sense of home. The answers showed that the participants feel home where they lived the majority of their lives. Likewise, some say that they consider themselves from that country. On the other hand, some of the participants in the interview actually feel home, depending on the country they are currently living in. However, one of the questions seeks to study CCKs/TCKs answers for (where are you from?). Their answers were clear and concise, as they answer honestly that they are from more than one country/culture. Further, as some CCKs and TCKs participants have spent their childhood in many different countries, this may affect their attitude towards non-CCKs/non-TCKs. The answers were unsurprising. Whereas, though they questioned themselves at some stage of their lives that why others have one culture and they have two or more, they now feel that they are so lucky and glad to have such an experience. Furthermore, when they were asked if they would let their children experience the same and would they recommend others to do the same, their answers were big "yeas". A set of questions was trying to examine the participants' answers when it comes to open-mindedness, interacting with other cultures and accepting other people with the influence of their experience as CCKs/TCKs. The answers supported our hypothesis wherein they said their experience shaped their personalities and made them more experienced. Moreover, the participants insisted on the fact that being CCK/TCK enabled them to have a broader view of the world and to accept and interact with others from different backgrounds easily as well as accepting others' viewpoints and opinions. In addition, some believed that if they were not CCKs/TCKs, they would not be as wise as they are now.

Limitations:

One of the major limitation of this research is the sample. The CCKs and TCKs in our community, the University, are quite a few, which limited our access to a larger number of participants

to meet them personally and during our working hours 8a.m. -4p.m. in Fall 2016.

Recommendations:

The research proves that what CCKs and TCKs gained through their lives was positive, helped them in acquiring many languages, and formed their personalities, unlike some research papers that described CCKs and TCKs negatively. We recommend further research to bear in mind the fact that CCKs' and TCKs' experiences helped shaping their personality positively. Finally, these experiences seem to generate better generations that are tolerant to differences and fluent in many languages.

VII. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it seems that the number of CCKs (Cross-Cultural Kinds) and TCKs (Third Culture Kids) will keep on increasing as a result of the globalized world we live in today. CCKs and TCKs are unique due to their incredible ability of developing valuable skills such as multilingualism and open-mindedness; in addition to the many other exceptional skills CCKs and TCKs gain by time. Some children can be even both a CCK and a TCK. For example, President Obama is considered a CCK because he was born to a white American mother and an African American father. We might also consider him as a TCK because he has lived part of his life in Indonesia. Byerly described President Obama as "the prototypical examples of a successful TCK: having a global perspective, being socially adaptable, intellectually flexible, able to think outside the box and reconcile different point of view" [1]. These different qualities are mostly part of the CCKs' and TCKs' personalities. Therefore, we believe that focusing on the qualities and the benefits CCKs and TCKs gain through their lives is more important than discussing CCKs and TCKs from a negative point of view that would eliminate and disregard the blessings they have.

Transcription of the Interviews:

(R) represents the interviewer and (E) represents the Interviewee:

First Interview:

R: Can you introduce yourself please? (including the following: where you were raised, nationality, parents' nationalities, and countries you lived in)

E: I was raised in a mixture of United States and Chad then Africa. My nationality: I have an American passport. I have some Chadian documents. I would consider myself Chadian and American although I don't like the idea of nationality to begin with and my parents' nationalities are American. I've lived in the United States, Chad, France, Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia.

R: When someone asks you: "where are you from?", what would your answer be?

E: Ideally, I want to like fight this question; I like it but it's tough. If I had a limited time I would have to say the usual response: I am from America but, I grew up in Chad. This is the fastest way to at least hint that I am not exactly what you expect from America and I am not exactly what you expect from Chad.

R: This might be a tougher question [laughing]: where would you consider home?

E: For me home is where I am physically living. So Jeddah is home right now. It is based on where I am actually living right now.

R: It is known that CCKs/TCKs are usually bilingual, so how many languages do you speak and to what extent?

E: I speak English, Arabic, and French all fluently. Then I also speak Urdu, Hindi, some Spanish and I've studied Chinese.

R: As an ATCK who used to move around a lot (depending on their childhood), how did you feel toward non CCKs/TCKs? To explain it more you know non CCKs/ TCKs do not move around a lot; they stay at the same school; same places. So did you feel like their lives were more stable or were actually boring?

E: I think by the time I was a teenager like 11,12,13,14 like this realizing that seeing my own life I had to go between very different places and different ways of thinking. One of my friends described this as a light switch: you switch it on here and off here. It is also from a young time to grow up in America in a very like privileged fortunate kind of family my dad is a doctor and my mom is an engineer and to be in American private school to grow up in that and then to move to Chad where like many of these things were not there and my dad is still a doctor and my mom both are still working there but with a different perspective that after Chad everything is nice to me everything is comfortable; I'm talking about physical things. So for example I worked in Sudan after I left Chad and I would have like my teammates who are Sudanese and we would be in a hotel room or a guest house or something and they would complain that the air-conditioning is not working and I'm like air-conditioning exists in a very small number of houses and only in the capital of Chad so the air-conditioning was a very big privilege so it makes everywhere I live at easier after that. It's very comfortable!

R: As someone who has been engaged in many different cultures, do you feel you can easily communicate with new people from different cultures?

E: Yeah definitely!

R: Some people find it hard to accept others' viewpoints, so how do you feel about accepting different opinions?

E: So this one in a short period of time I can accept anything and in a longer period of time I'm actually like any other human. Actually just because I lived in different places doesn't mean that I accept everything. In fact, sometimes I feel that I'm a human with very limited experience and knowledge and everything but I've seen at least enough to know when someone is lying or hypercritical or abusing religion or culture or something. For example, if someone is like they are new in a developed country and they like everything look at them and their amazing food and look at how happy they are living and how free they are and .. and .. and... So I am a little critical about this thing because even when you are like oh mashAllah this Saudi American Sudanese culture is so amazing it's a little like when someone does something and we say it is okay that is in their culture to do whatever they like so I don't like this!

R: If you someday have kids, or if you have kids — would you want to raise them in the same way that you were raised?

E: Definitely yes! That I sound like an old-school conservative family and stuff but the fact that I moved a lot conditioned me to be still moving around a lot. I do not feel rooted anywhere! I can in

two three years develop some roots I have a connection then I go somewhere else. So I imagine that I will not be able to get rid of this pattern by the time I have children. So likely I will be moving around working here for five years here for two years and here for three years. I hate the idea of getting a house and staying in one place. I hate this idea and I feel that as a child I didn't choose; it was kind of enforced on me by my parents because it was their decision and when they told me I cried of course to imagine a life without an air-conditioning and without a high school. I moved when I was 11 years old. So after two years in Chad it was actually impossible to imagine my life without being in Chad; it's impossible! So I started hating the idea of a family being settled in one place and never learning anything else and I imagine my life without the ability to speak different languages. So the worst thing I would imagine for my future children is to be settled in one place and without moving and if that happened I would at least give them some travel opportunities from time to time!

R: So would you encourage other people to do the same?

E: Of course, I see it really important to travel to different places and learn from others!

R: Where would you see yourself if you were not an ATCK?

E: I'm very influenced I can see it by my father. I'm very much thankful to him and until now we always argue like best friends even though we are living far away from each other. I really respect my father. So one thing I see in him is that the reason he went to Chad in the beginning is this desire and belief he has that all people should be equal so I think I would probably have something like this and maybe I would choose to travel if I were given this chance. So if I wasn't a TCK and I was living only in America, then I would have the desire at least to travel and learn new things and more languages.

R: How has being a TCK influenced your life experience?

E: It changed who I am completely. It changed my outlook on life and mostly all the influence it had on me is a positive influence. However, there might be one negativity which is that sometimes I feel no one understands me but this one is applicable to many people not only CCKs/TCKs.

R: Finally, how would you describe your journey in life?

E: Of course a lot of unexpected things. I guess there is a bit of risk taken and sometimes when I don't take risks or challenges I feel so bored. So challenges because when I was like 9 years old and my parents told me we will have to move I cried because this was actually a big challenge to me. My first year in Chad for example I stayed the whole time at my home except sometimes I just go out to play basketball and get back home. I was scared of the society. I was not able to understand Arabic at that time. For instance, when I used to go out some men would stop me for half an hour just to keep asking me certain questions and they were calling me with words such as "Christian". So all this actually made me feel little scared of the society back then. Later on, we moved to a small town and in this small town I had to engage in the community and communicate with the people. All of a sudden I was actually enrolled in a football team and few years later I started participating in some programs with my friends. All this was when I was like between 13 years old to 17 or 18 years old. I believe if my father did not choose this path I wouldn't be who I am now. This has affected my life so much in the most imaginable way. I will force my children to have such experience as well [laughing].

Second Interview:

R: Here is the consent form and this page if you want to read more about the topic before starting.

E: consent form, ok, hmmm...so most of my life though I lived here (Saudi Arabia), I lived about ten years in America but I was already eighteen. Does that consider?

R: mmm...

E: because here it says two or more cultures ... "childhood", does that consider to be part of your project?

R: so you lived here but then moved after eighteen for ten years, right?

E: yes, but I used to visit America during my childhood, so is that fine?

R: yes, yes

E: good..... [sign]..ok?

R: ok..

R: Can you introduce yourself please? (Including the following: where you were raised, nationality, parents' nationalities, and countries you lived in)

E: my name is I am at..... my mom is American and my father is Saudi.

R: When someone asks you: "where are you from?" what would your answer be?

E: Depends on where I am, if I was in America I say that I am half Saudi half American, but I

am from Saudi Arabia; but if I am here I would just say I am from Saudi Arabia.

R: What about your outlook?

E: My outlook I have to say is split half ways, cause there are things that I am very Americanized about sometimes it is more about fashion I go towards America, food is America, all that is America. Because even though I was raised over here I was not influenced too much about the Saudi culture because my Saudi side of family lived so far away. So it has to be that our family was brought mostly in America and American tradition because of my mom who is fully American.

R: Where would you feel the sense of belonging? America or Saudi Arabia?

E: That is very hard to say; I think that I have more connection to Saudi Arabia; I would say and I don't know why that is; even if I lived in America for like ten years, I always say Saudi Arabia is my home where I went towards at the end.

R: It is known that CCKs/TCKs are usually bilingual, so how many languages do you speak and to what extent?

E: I am fluent in English and in Arabic, fluent writing, reading, and speaking. My school was in Arabic, international school and college was all in English so I am fluent in both.

R: As an ATCK who used to move around a lot, did you?

E: no

R: but you used to go back and forth between America to Saudi Arabia?

E: yes, we spend the whole summer in America, two to two and a half months every year since I was six years old.

R: so how did you feel toward non CCKs/TCKs?

E: I feel I am very lucky because my friends even though they had an American moms and Saudi father, they did not go to America as much as I did, so I feel I am lucky to have that ability to go to America every summer, and spend my whole summer over there, I never felt unstable, in contrast I felt fun to go out and try different culture which was way different than Saudi Arabia.

R: As someone who has been engaged in many different cultures, do you feel you can easily communicate with new people from different cultures?

E: yah! Because I feel like I know what it feels to be in the outside a little bit even though I was Saudi I was known as the American girl (البنيت الأمريكية البنت الأمريكية) so when I moved to America, whenever I saw a foreign girl I was trying to connect with her, because when I moved to America I was always the Saudi girl the Saudi girl, I always felt like no matter where I was, I was considered a foreigner, so but I was fitting in like stood out or something but I understand the foreigners.

R: Some people find it hard to accept others' viewpoints, so as an adult now how do you feel about accepting different opinions?

E: I believe everybody has his own opinion and religious beliefs, everybody is entitled with their opinion and I accept that as long as they accept my opinion and my religious beliefs. So I am very careful with whom I discuss, especially if I know they are close-minded, I will not share my opinion but I accept everyone.

R: If you someday have kids, or if you have kids — would you want to raise them in the same way that you were raised?

E: I would if I could, if I have the financial ability to back and forth to America, because it was good to be exposed to completely two different cultures, as it helped me to find a balance and knowing who you are. Cross-culture is really important at an early age where you do not have an opinion yet, so it is nice to expose them to different things, so I would if I could.

R: would you advise others to do so?

E: I do, one thing that I definitely do when I was advising students that they should be taking the opportunity to study abroad because learning in a different culture is absolutely amazing; traveling the world is absolutely amazing cause they say America is full of everybody why should I leave, you will take part of America with you and see different things, so I always say you should travel.

R: Where would you see yourself if you were not an ATCK?

E: I don't know that is a very hard question. I have never been that, I can't tell because I was raised to accept others and accepting differences

R: I believe you already answered this question: How has being a TCK influenced your life experience?

E: yes as I said it helped me finding who I am and finding balance to take what I want out of each culture.

R: Finally, how would you describe your journey in life?

E: oohh! That is very hard, cause growing up from the first grade to the fifth grade that was

hard, I was looked as the American girl because back then the American is *kafer* (faithless) immediately, though there was Muslim Americans but they look at it from one angle your mom is *kafer* so you are a *kafer*. Because I was always discriminated but then it helped me finding who I was back in America I was American but I was Muslim Saudi so accepting me was after then when I grew up. It helped me making my life decisions.

R: thank you so much

E: no problem!

Third Interview:

R: Here is the consent form and here is more information about the topic, if you would like to read more.

E: yes! Mm... ok (signed)

R: Can you introduce yourself, please?

E: yes, my name is I was born in England, to parents from Pakistan; I have been teaching in Effat now for over two years and it is my first time outside England. It is nice to have the British culture and the Pakistani culture and now I have the third the Saudi culture, to see similarities and differences and how we are in some ways different but similar at the same time. So it is nice to view this culture because of the misunderstanding of the media. Because it is my first time for me to see how false, that image has been portrayed in the media. So it is interesting, interesting to see what it really is like to be a Saudi. Somethings I understand and I can see why the media portrays things in this way, but there is lots of thing I feel like, it's not what it should be or how it is portrayed in the media is totally false. So, it is interesting to converse time here and have experiences from the Saudi culture. And I am glad that I am teaching at a girls' university because otherwise if I taught at King Abdul-Aziz I would never have interacted with women to this level to get that deep; it would be just the male side of things and what man think; girls I would never heard their side of the story. If I was not at Effat I would have only Saudi friends, and it is easy to have Saudi friends, but it would be almost impossible to make Saudi female friends to this purpose I got to hear both the men and the boys think and the girls and women think. So it has been helpful.

R: So basically your parents are Pakistanis

E: Yes, both were born in Pakistan and then moved to England and met in there

R: when someone asks you where you are from, what would your answer be?

E: I always say, British-Pakistani, because people if I say I am from England, they are curious, where are you really from? So with me I have meant to give people the answers of both questions British-Pakistani, and was born in England so I can't take that out and just say Pakistani cause I feel more British than Pakistani in that sense, although I look Pakistani but I feel more close and tight in England because I was born and raised all my life, culturally and my ethnicity it is more British. But then at the same time I do say British-Pakistani as well because there is things from the Pakistani culture that I enjoy and I really like and that I want to attempt myself as well

R: It is known that CCKs and TCKs are usually bilingual, so how many languages do you speak and to what extent?

E: I can speak English it is my First language that I feel most comfortable with and also can speak Urdu as well, Urdu is the language of Pakistan but with Urdu I did not really learn it with going to school so it is more kind of picking it up with family and Bollywood films and that kind of thing at home so I am not fluent in Urdu I am more conversational. So I can go and have a decent conversation with people and Pakistanis would really know that I am not Pakistani so they would say where are really from and I say I from England, but I can have conversation so I know how to speak it to that conversational level, so I am proud and I can interpret what individuals back in England say; so my job I would interpret and translate to people. So who couldn't speak the language, and the British assume that I can speak another language, though I have friends who are born there, who are British-Pakistani or British-Indian, but can't speak the language, because at home they did not have the need, to be fair only because our grandmother can't speak English is why we spoke Urdu because it was just respectful not to speak English while she was there because she doesn't understand it. Our parents all the time were speaking English so I kind of forgot to speak my mother tongue Urdu because our Grandmother that is where the Urdu was reinforced.

R: as an adult CCK/TCK who used to move around a lot, did you?

E: no

R: not a lot?

E: no.. no.. no.. this is my first time that I moved abroad

R: so it is only from England to Pakistan and the way round

E: no.. no.. I have visited Pakistan, but never stayed there, my mother takes us there every summer, every two years maximum not more than that for 6 weeks and that helped me in the Urdu and get what the culture, but this is my first time to move from England

R: ok, so how do you feel about non TCKs around you when you were young, do you feel you were different or you were luckier?

E: yah! I do not want to say more lucky, but, I have been given a chance to experience different culture, when I grow up it was a bit hard, and I will talk about this in the presentation. In the house, you, in the home you have the Pakistani culture but outside you have the British culture, so it was sometimes tough to distinguish between the two and you ended being two people. And then you have a bit of question which one I am. In the house I am the good Pakistani boy but then with your friends you would do the cool things and do things that your parent may be proud of, so it kind of finding a balance. Initially it was tough and question why they are so lucky they have only one culture, they are the same at home and they are the same outside, me I have to be two things. But now I am actually seeing from a different way I start seeing that I have been in the two cultures and I have taken the good things in both cultures and put away the bad things from both. So now as an adult I am glad to have the two, and after thinking why they have only one I start thinking maybe they have disadvantage and especially coming to Saudi Arabia and I have the British eye the Western mined but I also see it as a Muslim. So it helped me adapt very easily and see the positives and not just sit and compare it to the west otherwise you would hate it in here and learn to adapt and see it from a different angle and see things the both cultures in me helps me a lot.

R: as someone who has engaged in two different cultures, let's say, do you think you can easily communicate with new people from different cultures?

E: YES! It helps me because I can understand now how different cultures although they are different they also have some similarities. So when you find someone from a different culture, find something similar in the ground because you will find somethings, not everyone is totally different even cultures that are so different you will always find something similar so now it helps me to find things that we are in the same level with start on that and you can bring up your relationship and friendship, understand that in a different situation they may do not want to talk to you because their culture is different; do not take it as they are not friendly; it could be that they are scared they are worried their culture has not approached men. I do not judge as I did when I was younger, I understood that people have their reasons to not come close and it is not in every culture to come and say hello my name is, now I understand that I should come and say hello and if they did not say hello back I should take it as a negative. So it helps understand different cultures and trying to find things that are similar, and then not judging them for their action and behavior. If it is negative ok then it is different if it kind of accusing me verbally there is no one, no culture that allows that but other things I would let them do whatever they like; it may be custom to the culture and give them some while.

R: some people find it hard to accept other's point of view, as an adult how do you feel about accepting others?

E: I feel ok by accepting different opinions. There is again what that thing is, so when it comes to religion and it is a sensitive topic nice to listen to people what they have to say all; I believe in you should not inforce other people, it is nice to have an opinion but don't force or inforce other person, don't force Islam on me at the same time don't inforce how Islam is bad on me that is up to me and my decision as what I will do with my own religion for example. It is nice to have discussions and people with different opinion be nice to them and discuss them and see their point of view and things as long as they are cool and no pressure on you to act a certain way or to take onward what you've told I will take the decision, it only when you know situation with people, where they say this is how it is and this is how you do in your life what you are doing is wrong. When you start judging me in that kind of situation no I am not cool with this anymore I want to have a nice discussion and just discuss them and having opinions, but you are starting to judge me now, only Allah can judge me in the other day, Allah says we are equal and he will judge us, me and everyone else we can just give our opinions so you can't judge everyone else. It is nice to have others' opinions and discuss them but without forcing me or telling me to act a certain way.

R: If you someday have kids, or if you have kids would you raise them the same way that you were raised?

E: Yes! Definitely.. definitely give them the feeling of both cultures and it is good for them one thing the language as well they know both languages in the future. Secondly it would be nice for them to choose both culture and know from both cultures what are the good things and what are

the bad things, because it helps you developing your character and your personality. You can really see the world from a different perspective and it opens up and horizons you are more willing to adapt and change when you go to different cultures without having them to adapt to your way, you are more likely to understand their way and adapt. Again the example of Saudis; some come from the west and act in a way or their relationships should be like the west but in a way that not really right, you are coming to their country there are some things you should have principles for, do not lose yourself totally, but there are things you should learn from them and find a middle ground, it should not be my way or the highway, it is either me or do not talk to me. You should have a balance and taking into account their culture and they know for so many years you can't change it in a matter for a second. So coming from two different cultures has taught me that, when you come from two different cultures you learn and adapt and see what and how they work and make small changes if these things are negative, you make difference slowly but there are positive things let it be, because that is good these are symbols of the country. It works that way and this is how you should be left out.

R: so you would advise others or encourage others to do so?

E: Yes definitely

R: Where would you see yourself if you were not a CCK/TCK?

E: I see myself as a bit close-minded, I think, I think I would be close-minded and I won't be as flexible or adaptable with my personality with my working with different people in different cultures and because my culture is my eyes and this is the only culture I know I would see it as the perfect culture and this is how it should be, because this is when I know if something is different I would ask why are you different maybe I would be curious but I would still hold on to my own beliefs in that sense because I have seen different cultures, only two but that made me realize that one culture is not always the best, having more than one culture and choosing the good and bad out of them. So, if I wasn't maybe I would think only British culture is the best culture out there and everybody should adapt to the British culture cause this is how it should be and maybe should be a certain way, maybe. Maybe I would be the other way and I would think oh my God my culture is the worst culture ever and I need to change it leaving the culture, I don't know how to answer that question it depends on how proud I would be and what kind of ego. If I have pride of that culture then I want everyone to change to that culture, if I did find myself in that culture I would find other culture.

R: so, how has being CCK/TCK influenced your life experience?

E: hmmm! My life experiences. It adds experience to my life that I want to explore different cultures and go abroad and find how people live in other countries and cultures. I like how people are born in a different country. I am curious; I like to see and share with others how they feel this way or it is only me.

R: how would you describe your life in general?

E: I'm pretty happy with my life in general; there is always room for improvements. I plan things and then they do not happen and some happen. I do not put pressure on myself by 30 I would do this and 35 I will be this; I used to do this when I was your age but now I more kind of going with the flow. Sometimes Allah has His own plans for you.

R: Ok thank you so much

E: Thank you!

VIII. APPENDICES

Appendix 1:

Interview questions:

- 1) Can you introduce yourself please? (Name, where he/she was raised, nationality, parent's nationality, include the countries they have lived in)
- 2) When someone asks you: "where are you from?", what would your answer be?
- 3) So I can say that ... is where you consider home right? [the blank space depends on his/her answer]
- 4) It is known that CCKs/TCKs are usually bilingual, so how many languages do you speak and to what extent?
- 5) As an ACCK/ATCK who used to move around a lot (depending on their childhood), how did you feel toward non CCKs/TCKs? To explain it more you know non CCKs/ TCKs do not move around a lot they stay at the same school same places. So did you feel like their lives were more stable or were actually boring?
- 6) As someone who has been engaged in many different cultures, do you feel you can easily communicate with new people from different cultures?
- 7) Some people find it hard to accept others' viewpoints and differences, so how do you feel about accepting different opinions?
- 8) If you someday have kids, or if you have kids — would you want to raise them in the same way that you were raised? Would you encourage others to?
- 9) Where would you see yourself if you were not an ACCK/ATCK?
- 10) How has being a CCK/TCK influenced your life experience?
- 11) Finally, how would you describe your journey in life?

Survey questions:

Q1: Did you spend several years of your childhood moving around different countries or outside your home country?

- Yes, I spent several years of my childhood moving around different countries.
- Yes, I spent several years of my childhood outside my home country.
- Yes, I spent several years of my childhood moving around different countries and outside my home country.
- No, I did not.
- Other (please specify).

Q2: Are your parents from different ethnicities ("ethnicity is a category of people who identify with each other based on similarities, such as common ancestral, language, social, cultural or national experiences")? For example, your mother is Spanish and your father is Arab.

- Yes.
- No.

Q3: When someone asks you: "where are you from?", how would you answer?

- I would pick my birthplace to finish with this question fast without explaining.
- I would pick my birthplace because I actually feel most of the belonging towards it.
- I would pick one of the other countries I lived at where I feel most of the belonging towards it.
- I would prefer not to answer this question.
- Other (please specify).

Q4: How many languages do you speak?

- 1 language.
- 2 languages.
- 3 languages.
- 4 languages or more.

Q5: As someone who has been engaged in many different cultures, do you feel you can easily communicate with new people from different cultures?

- Yes, I feel I can easily communicate with new people from different cultures.
- Sometimes I feel I can easily communicate with new people from different cultures.
- No, I do not feel I can easily communicate with new people from different cultures.

Q6: Some people find it hard to accept others' viewpoints, as an adult, how do you feel about accepting different opinions?

- I feel I can easily discuss different opinions and accept differences.
- I feel I can discuss different opinions, but I cannot accept differences.
- I do not like to discuss different opinions and differences because I believe my opinion is always true.

Q7: If you someday have kids, or if you have kids. Would you want to raise them in the same way that you were raised?

- Yes.

- Maybe.
 - No.
- Q8: How old are you?
- 20 or less.
 - 21 - 30.
 - 30 - 40.
 - 40 or more.

Q9: What is your nationality? What are the countries you lived in?

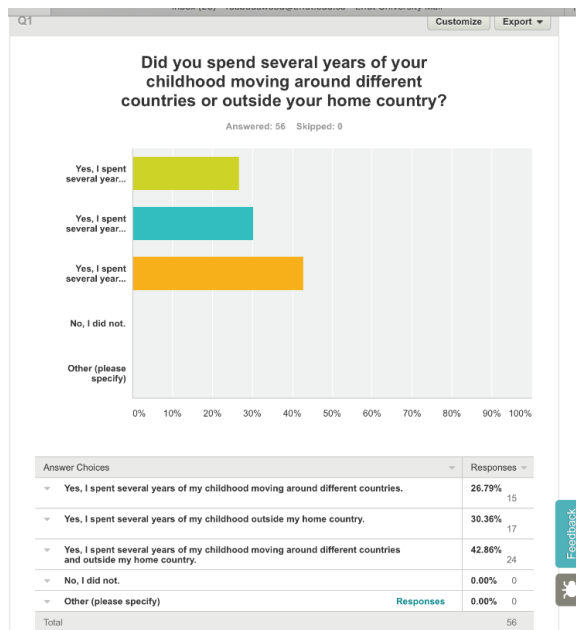
Q10: Do you consider your experience as a CCK/TCK has influenced your life positively or negatively? And why?

Informed Consent Form:

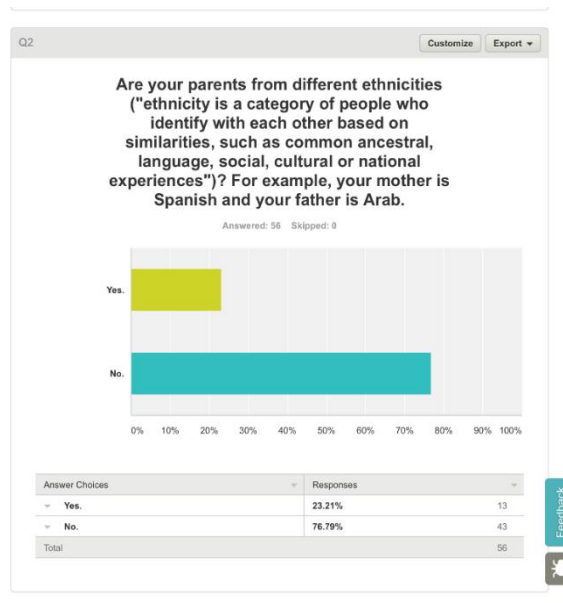
Your opinion is being solicited to participate in a class assignment and can be used for presentation as research data. You will be asked to participate in an interview. Your participation will help provide valuable insight and there are no foreseeable risks for participating in the study. Your identity will be protected and your participation is voluntary. If you accept to participate in this study please sign below:

Full name: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____

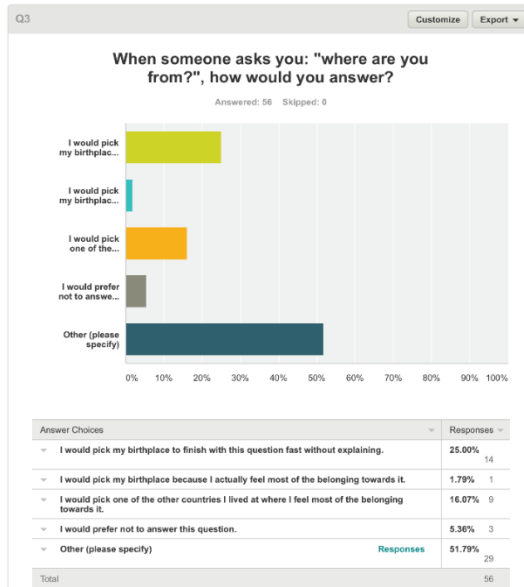
Appendix 2:



1- The bar chart illustrates where the participants spent their time during their childhood. The majority of the participants spent some time moving around, and none of them stayed at one country.



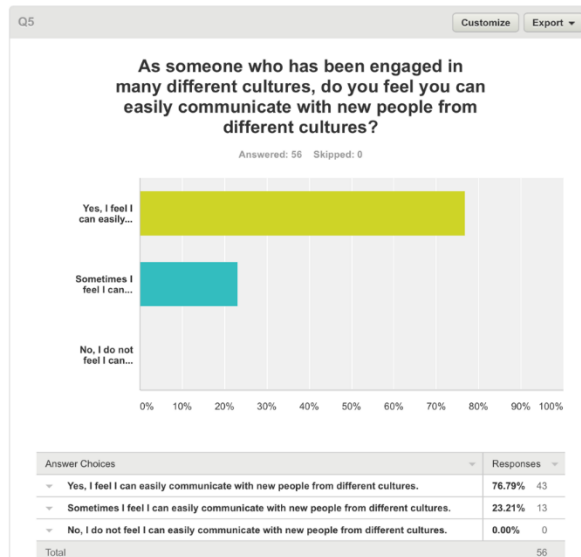
2- The chart shows if the participants' parents are from the same ethnicity or from different ethnicities. It can be seen that the majority of the participants are from parents with the same ethnicities. Further, some of the participants' parents are from different ethnicities.



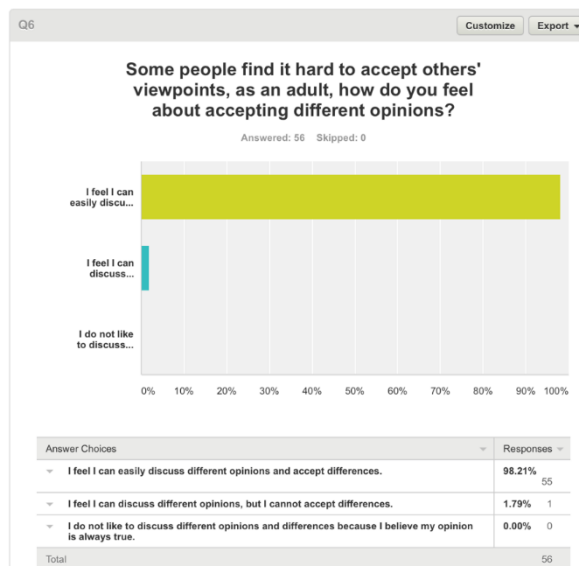
3- The chart presents the answers for “where are you from?” question. The answers vary as some want to finish quickly with the question and some would tell their origins and different cultures, the others would say where they feel the sense of belonging. Moreover, the majority of the participants, who chose “other”, said it depends on where they were and to whom they are talking and they may say they are citizen of their passport country.



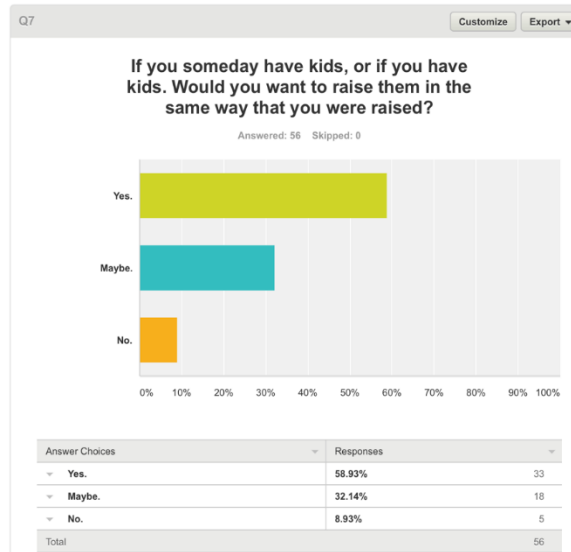
4- The bar chart shows the answers of the participants about how many languages they speak. As it can be seen a small number only speak one languages. Further, the majority speaks more than one language, and the highest percentage are the participants who speak three languages.



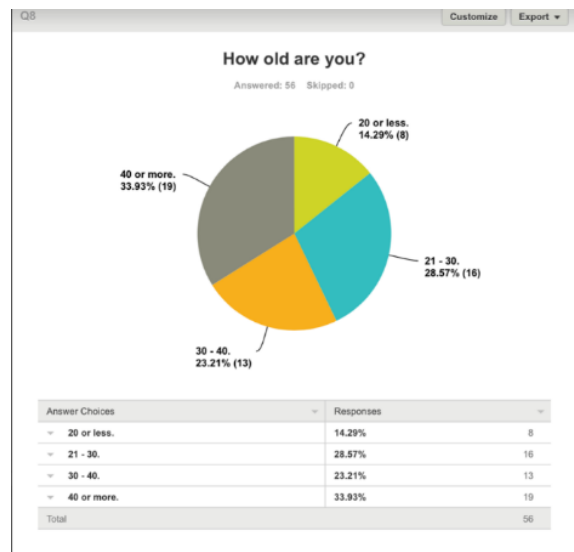
5- The bar chart illustrates the participants' communication easiness when meeting new people from different cultures. It can be obviously seen that the number of participants who can easily communicate with new people from different cultures is more than the number of participants who can sometimes feel they can easily communicate with new people from different cultures. Moreover, the bar chart shows that there are no participants at all who feel they cannot communicate with new people from different cultures. To sum up, these statistics prove that there is a high level of cultural tolerance and open-mindedness around CCKs/TCKs.



6- Again, this bar chart emphasizes the fact that CCKs/TCKs have a high level of cultural tolerance and open-mindedness. To demonstrate, there is a huge gap between the first answer and the second answer. Almost all the participants feel they can easily discuss different opinions and accept differences. On the other hand, based on the bar chart, it can be clearly seen that it is impossible for CCKs/TCKs to be stubborn and narrow-minded.



7- This bar chart illustrates the fact that CCKs/TCKs feel and actually have many valuable gifts they gained through their experience. Therefore, the majority of the participants would want to raise their kids the same way they were raised. Looking at the bar chart, it can be seen that the number of participants who do not wish to raise their kids the same way they were raised is actually very limited which equals 5 only out of 56 participants.



8- This bar chart displays the age of the participants. Looking at the bar chart, the majority of the participants are 40 years old or more. Therefore, this can support the research positively wherein the majority of the participants are actually adults and have experienced enough through their lives.

1- what is your nationality? 2- what are the countries you lived in?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 0

Responses (56) Text Analysis My Categories

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Categorize as... Filter by Category Search responses

Showing 56 responses

- Canadian born - lived in Iran, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, English boarding school from Saudi Arabia, back to Canada at age 14
12/7/2016 1:23 AM [View respondent's answers](#)
- Fench. France Tanzania, USA, Lebanon
12/7/2016 1:16 AM [View respondent's answers](#)
- Belgian. Born in Austria, lived in England, Senegal, Switzerland, India, Russia
12/7/2016 12:44 AM [View respondent's answers](#)
- British. England, South Africa, Lebanon, Greece, USA
12/6/2016 9:51 PM [View respondent's answers](#)
- English. US, UK, Germany
12/6/2016 9:30 PM [View respondent's answers](#)
- British. UK & Malaysia
12/6/2016 8:44 PM [View respondent's answers](#)
- Australian. Australia, Viet Nam, UAE
12/6/2016 7:38 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

9- This open-ended question investigates the nationality and the countries the participants lived in. Some identified their nationality on where they were born. In addition, some participants lived in that country and many others, however, some lived outside their country (nationality country). All the participants have been exposed to at least two countries beside their home country.

Q10

Do you consider your experience as a CCK/TCK has influenced your life positively or negatively? and why?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 0

Responses (56) Text Analysis My Categories

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Use text analysis to search and categorize responses; see frequently-used words and phrases. To use Text Analysis, upgrade to a GOLD or PLATINUM plan.
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Categorize as... Filter by Category Search responses

Showing 56 responses

- Positively. I am generally more open and approachable towards different cultures, opinions etc
12/6/2016 5:32 PM [View respondent's answers](#)
- Positively: able to connect, work and understand other cultures, gain an Eagle view on the world and human as a human race. Do not understand pride of being from x (nationalism).
12/6/2016 5:25 PM [View respondent's answers](#)
- positively because it has opened my mind to not just my own culture but to the culture of others and has developed by love for travel
12/6/2016 5:20 PM [View respondent's answers](#)
- positively
12/6/2016 5:20 PM [View respondent's answers](#)
- Positively because it shaped me into a more understanding person especially understanding cultures and respecting everyone.
12/6/2016 5:18 PM [View respondent's answers](#)
- Positively as I have had incredible experiences and feel that I know who I am.
12/6/2016 4:30 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

10- Finally, the last question is an open ended question to give the participants the chance to express their view of their experience freely. The answers were as expected, most of the answers were actually positive. For instance, this is an answer of one of the participants: "Positive. I've gotten to experience, explore places, and cultures that the majority of the world only read about or see in films. I've had the privilege to live and experience countries in way that most people do not. To live somewhere and to visit are two very different things."

To summarize, many CCKs/TCKs might not feel the valuable opportunity they were given when they are at young age. However, as soon as they get older and more experienced most of the CCKs/TCKs realize how unique their experience and lifestyle is.

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