**Legacy Reflection Paper**

Name:

Course:

Institution:

Professor:

Date:

My Earliest Exposure to Racially or Culturally Different People

In our lives, we often meet people from other cultures and races and have to find the best way to interact and communicate with them despite our differences. Our ability to interact with people from diverse races and cultures defines our humanity. Besides, having friends from different cultures enhances multi-culturalism and helps us accept that people can be from different ethnicities, cultures, and races with different beliefs and practices (Civitillo et al., 2018). This way, we are able to learn about their traditions, beliefs, and world in general.

My earliest experience of a person who was different from me was at the age of 10. This dates back to the early 2000s, and I can recall that at that time, I was old enough to understand that people were different in many ways. I also had the knowledge that people were considered different based on their skin color and that I would meet people from different cultures since my parents and grandparents had taught me quite enough about our culture. Therefore, I started making friends from different races and cultures to enhance my knowledge of their cultures.

I remember Lizzie McGuire's show that made me realize the different races and cultures. The show focuses on the main character, a girl named Lizzie, in middle school, who tries to figure out who she is together with her friends Gordo and Miranda. The show also encompasses her family and the various moments she goes through in middle school and high school. Among many other shows, Lizzie McGuire stood out to me. In most cases, children do not view each other as people from different races or cultures but interact as peers willing to play with each other at school and home. When I watched the show, I understood that not everyone lives in the same way as my family. By watching the show for the first time, nothing stood out, but I was able to see the cultural differences as I grew older. I noticed that Lizzie was very outgoing and had the freedom to speak her mind on anything, while in our culture, girls are meant to uphold utmost respect and not utter any rude words, especially towards adults.

Lizzie's family totally trusted her and had allowed her to engage in many outdoor activities. However, our parents were very strict with my sisters and me back in our house and were not allowed to go outside without permission. In very many ways, Lizzie's life and that of her family were different from how we lived, and I understood that we would never live as they did on the show due to our cultural differences. From my experience as a grown-up, I now understand that our culture is different since it tends to be extremely protective, wanting the children to grow as responsible and respectable members of society. Besides, from my own family's experience, children are not left alone, and neither are they allowed to make decisions on their own until they are old enough to make fend for themselves.

From a cultural pluralist point of view, I believe that the show had a positive experience for me. This is because the show gave me an opportunity to see how other people lived their lives based on different racial and cultural aspects. Through this experience, I was able to see the various relationships showcased in the show, something I had never experienced before. Furthermore, I understood that since people come from different cultures with different perspectives, beliefs, and practices from mine. I was also able to see the interaction between different families. Therefore, as my first show learning about the different cultural perspectives, the Lizzie McGuire show is one I still admire to date. Moreover, I realized that joining cultural groups in the community helps individuals make friends from different linguistic backgrounds and cultures. Communities promote cultural diversity by encouraging people to engage in social groups. Furthermore, people can respect people from different cultures to ensure better interaction (Fung et al., 2018).

References

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