

**ABDUL HADI SHAKIR - TASK#5**

**Cross-cultural journal**

to help in analyzing your reactions in a new culture

**A. What have you learned about Finnish lifestyle, culture, history, society, communication etc.**

The aspect of Finnish lifestyle that came remarkably at me was quiet nature of natives here. The most vivid example is the “*single seats first*” occupancy scheme on buses, standing apart at bus stops, talking minimal at lunch etc. These behaviour is very contrasting to the place from where I come. Initially it came very offending to me as I was not getting *expected* response at these places. But with time and through the wisdom imparted in course I came to know that being quiet is actually considered polite in Finnish culture. It is very core to their values and it is reflected in the *tip of iceberg*. Now I stand completely changed – I do realize that being quiet helps you think better. I can take long bus rides without uttering a word. I do not interrupt people when speaking. I have become a good listener and I sincerely hope that this will help me enormously in some way or the other when I return back to India.

People here follow the rules and that is amazing. There is a lot of trust on government and the governmental organisations like police. This make life so easy and beautiful. One important instance of this is when crossing the roads. People here respect zebra crossing and you feel so respected when vehicles stop by for pedestrians. The thing that was most surprising for me was that education is free for everyone. So there is no bias in the society and this helps in practising equality. Also the educational infrastructure in Finland is one of the best. This is reflected from a simple example that even for becoming a kinder garden teacher in Finland you need to have a masters degree. This explains for Finland being exceptionally great in the field of academics.

The communication aspect of people in Finland is also awesome. Almost all of them know English and Swedish apart from their native language Finnish. As a foreigner, I never faced difficulty here in communicating my thoughts.

The experiences have been awesome overall. Finland has added so much to me. I am taking back a lot of good memories with me.

**B. You observation /description and opinion / analysis on some event you saw**

<b>Observation/ Description</b>	<b>Opinion / Analysis</b>
When I go out for lunch with my lab mates, I am always the last one to finish. Everyone then stares at me.	The Finnish natives are very fast in completing their meal. They eat real quick. They do not like talking while eating. This made me very uncomfortable. In my culture eating times are considered to be the best place for talking and chatting. To add to this I receive constant looks from some of them. Sometimes this made

	<p>me throw food and skip some part of the lunch. This may be attributed to the quiet nature of Finns. To some extent it may also be due to their military trainings where they need to comply with fast eating orders.</p>
<p>I am not greeted by anyone arriving in the office.</p>	<p>When people arrive at my workplace they simply go to their system. In India on arriving for work you greet atleast your neighbours and hug close ones. I felt little alienated in the beginning but later realized that this was actually an act of politeness. They did not want to disturb me while working. But I cannot help myself from saying <i>moi</i> to others ;)</p>