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Cross cultural communication: global understanding

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Last three chats and video conferences with the Mexican students have given us the knowledge about Mexican students’ college life, family and traditions. There are many things in common in both the places. The education plays vital role in many families all over the world. In Mexico and Taiwan, education of children is still the first priority in the family. Importance of higher education is common concern in both these countries. We all feel that good education can be a good asset to make ones dreams realized. We, as students are building beautiful dream castles for our future, in order to fulfill this dream we need good education. It gives us better opportunities to work and exercise our talents and abilities to the full. When we exchanged knowledge about the subjects, life style and living expenses of students, we realized that there has been lot of struggles, pains and sacrifices to reach our present situation. This reminds me of millions of children who still lack the good opportunity to learn and get proper education. Our parents, who came up in their life with little money in their pocket, struggled to get good education and better job. We are in fact benefiting from their hard work and in return, we are not becoming less grateful to all the benefits.

In our second topic, we discussed about family and traditions. Mexico and Taiwan have very strong family ties. All the members are closely knit with each other. This commonality reflects the important culture of these two places. However, these two countries have strongly influenced by American individualism on their younger generation. This talk was something very intimate to all of us as we shared about our family situations and our relationship with our family members. All though we are all looking for an ideal family set up, we all accepted the intricacies in relationships in the family. We talked about traditions and customs in the family. The similar thing that we found in both the cultures was the respect to ancestors. Similar to Taiwan’s tomb sweeping festival, Mexicans do have ancestor worship where they do give respects to their ancestors on that particular day.

From these talks, I have come to know something about Mexicans student life and their family and traditions. I am looking forward to hearing more from students on other topics in the near future. This kind of direct contact with Mexican students gives us good opportunity to exchange ideas and clarify information that we read on the internet before the class. For instance, I wanted to know whether the families in Mexico are traditional big families or modern micro families. From my chat room partner I found out that she is the only one child in her family and they live separate from their grandparents. Hence, direct contact with the locals will help us understand better about the local culture.

We will explore more about each other’s cultures to enrich our global understanding. I feel that I need to prepare more about the topics so that we help our cultural exchange partners to understand better about our culture.