

# Cultural reflection



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Cultural Reflection Paper It is extremely important that those within the nursing field be as knowledgeable as possible of the differences between cultures. The importance of this lies in the fact that cultural differences will impact the type of care that nurses will be called upon to apply. Culture can refer to many different things, of course, including religion, economic status, gender, and nationality. Each culture is going to have different wants, needs, and values that will no doubt impact the nurse who will have to adapt quickly in order to meet the needs of a patient. One particular culture that might be particularly relevant today for those in the medical field would be a traditional Muslim man. A traditional Muslim man is going to have different wants, needs, and values than a more moderate Muslim or even another culture altogether. According to an article entitled " Muslim Medicine and Healthcare," the Islamic faith does not separate religion and science and instead links the two together (Yousif, 2011). Additionally, Yousif states that in the past few decades " there has been a renewed interest in reviving traditional Islamic medical knowledge and combining it with the latest advancements in modern medicine"(Yousif, 2011). This should indicate to a nursing professional that such a person will need to be consulted with in terms of the treatment or intervention that they will be comfortable with and also prove effective at the same time. A traditional Muslim man might not have a great desire for medical intervention due to the fact that many of the human ailments that medicine has sought to explain are deemed as " diseases of the soul" and may be treated by following the Islamic teaching as closely as possible(Yousif, 2011). Another important aspect for this particular patient would be the gender of the nursing practitioner. For a traditional Muslim man, he might exhibit discomfort at dealing with a female nurse.

According to an article entitled " Introduction to Muslim Culture," females are generally deemed as second class citizens with many not being allowed to receive an education(Introduction to Muslim Culture). It is due to this cultural aspect that a female nurse might want to locate a male nurse in such an instance if the situation warrants it. In dealing with a client of this particular culture, a nursing professional might have to decide which intervention strategy would be the most effective. According to an article entitled, " Interventions/Nursing Actions," the nurse should first assess the situation in order to determine the level of risk and any notable patterns by speaking to or observing the client(" Interventions/Nursing Actions). Once the nurse has assessed the situation, an intervention may be chosen. For a traditional Muslim man with specific wants, needs, and values, the best intervention method would likely be referring the patient to another health care professional and taking the case management route if the client appears to be increasingly dissatisfied with the current situation. Doing so could be very helpful in diffusing any potential cultural misunderstandings. A nurse does not have to be an expert on the Islamic faith, but should have a general background knowledge in order to recognize and incorporate any aspects of the religion that they deem appropriate based on the interaction with the client. References Interventions/nursing actions. (2007). Retrieved from <http://envirn.umaryland.edu/Actions/> Introduction to muslim culture. (2011). Retrieved from <http://truthandgrace.com/muslimculture.htm> Yousif, A. (2011). Muslim medicine and healthcare. Retrieved from <http://www.truthandgrace.com/muslimmedicine.htm>