

## Cultural Differences between Germany and Bangladesh

### Erwartungshorizont (Lösungsvorschläge in kursiver Schrift)

#### 1. Questions on the text

- a. Why didn't Dinu have any problems with the communication in Germany?
  - *He used body language, which is very important for successful communication in his own culture.*
  - *In situations in which communication failed, he and the other person involved took it easy and finally figured out what was meant.*
- b. Name one important cultural difference between Bangladesh and Germany.
  - *In Germany everything is more systematic and ordered.*
  - *In Bangladesh some things are more chaotic and therefore you need to act more spontaneously.*
  - *The German system is more bureaucratic (you need for many things an official permission).*
  - *The Bangladeshi system is less bureaucratic and more liberal; it's easier to do things (e.g. playing cricket, celebrating parties), because very often no official permission is needed*
- c. What is the most important thing for Dinu when it comes to cultural differences?
  - *For Dinu the most important thing is to accept and adapt to the other culture that exists in the country you're visiting or you live in.*
  - *He says that it's a matter of respect and that one can benefit from knowing other cultures, because one can learn important and valuable things that can enrich your own life.*

2. Think about the following questions and think of possible answers.

There is not one correct answer:

- a. Dînu said „My house is my culture“. What could that mean? What about your house? Are there any customs and rules that are only typical of your family? What can we learn from that with regard to cultures of other countries?
- *Culture can also exist within one country, e.g. your family has 'another culture' than the family of your friend (your family might eat at 6 pm, your friend's family might eat at 8 pm; you might be allowed to leave your shoes on and eat with your fingers, your friend might not be allowed to do these things)*
  - *That means: The fact that there are people who do things differently is absolutely normal and doesn't mean that one way of doing things is better or worse than the other way.*
  - *Accepting, respecting and adapting to other cultures is necessary, because we live in a world with many different cultures (be it just the culture of a single family) and we have to get along with these.*
  - *Cultures that exist in other countries should not be seen as worse or inferior: They are just different in many ways (the culture of your friend's family isn't probably different in that many ways) and this is normal and also good, because it would be boring -even within one country (imagine all Germans would have the same customs and habits!)- if everybody did everything the same way.*
- b. Although we have a good standard of living in Germany, many people decide to emigrate to more exotic countries (e.g. in Latin America, Africa, Asia...). Which cultural aspects of these countries could attract those emigrants?
- *e.g. ....*
  - *less bureaucracy and more personal freedom*
  - *more optimistic and happier people who enjoy their life and appreciate what they have instead of complaining about what they don't have*
  - *beautiful landscapes and untouched nature*
  - *warm and nice weather*