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Cyprus - Case Study 1

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Embracing Cultural Diversity in a New Country

When I moved to Cyprus from Syria, thereby leaving behind a country for another I encountered a lot of cultural barriers. It was all very strange, and doing what it took to adapt to this new way of life was very daunting.

Introduction

I left my country Syria, a country at war and traveled all the way to Cyprus to seek asylum. As it is with most immigrants, adaptation here was very complicated due to the language and cultural barriers. I know how helpless one feels at the beginning – all seems new, and the individual does not even know how to express themselves or go about their daily business.

However, having been faced with all these challenges I was able to work out how to overcome them after some time. Language was the most important thing that I had to learn hence I went out of my way to ensure that I got a feel of the culture as much as I could. I will depict transitions I went through in order to adapt to this new environment and the strategies I applied in order to overcome barriers.

Maria's Story

During childhood, we used to play games such as football at the swampy regions of the village whereby we used to live. It was more like a dream that none of us could achieve, living in the city was a idea our brains could not comprehend. It made me realize that we used to be so young and ignorant to the difficulties that the world was to offer to us. But when growing up, we mature, and everyone went in search of his happiness whether in a bus, on a plane or even by crossing the sea of Mediterranean each person alone with his dream.

Main Challenges

- Culture Diversity

Main Opportunities

- Embracing diversity



(name)

(Description of the person)



I grew up in a polygynous family background in which living was a challenge most of the time. My parents were farmers, they were struggling to make their both ends meet and I was forced to assist for any tasks I could manage. Every errand I did for other people or every farming activity including planting vegetables, the target was solely to gain school fees. Life went on like this attending school as well as working on other daily activities and eventually, I graduated with a diploma in information processing. I was so young and ambitious to achieve my goal of getting higher qualifications, but economic problems came in the way.

In order to sustain myself, I got employed as a trainee in the country's examination center for conducting the school-leaving examinations. Though the salary was given it was still a challenge to even feed my family not to mention saving for my education. financially challenged I had to look for another job in order to buy firewood to sell so that I could be able to support my education. However, this childhood dream was fast fading away since I was spending most of my time struggling to make ends meet and look for a way to feed my family back in the village.

The years went by and my parents got older and guess who still remained at home to look after them? Due to this I had to use my own money to pay hospital bills and improve their health conditions. I found it difficult to just hold on to my dreams, but I understand that I only had to defend them.

Life is replete with difficulties and undertakings in school, in the workplace, and in any vocation. Some of us rise above them and others are bogged down by them. Throughout the journey, I tried to maintain communication with my family as I consulted with them and described my problems. This bond of solidarity and unity helped me to remain focused. This just goes to show that love and affection can be obtained regardless of who you are or where you are. Nevertheless, I did manage to hang onto the direction and objectives I established for myself in the past.

Conclusions

In my story, I brainstormed and discussed the case of how much emphasis was needed when offering such services as language, adaptation and placement. In retrospect, the experience was not only about struggling to make a living in a new country but struggling with tremendous odds and relatively scarce means. My success proves one thing that no matter how challenging the going maybe, anyone can push aside the biggest of hurdles.

With my experience, I have come to appreciate support from the community and right approach to learning that is sustainable. The professional education I have was indeed helpful especially since they availed themselves to suit me due to my disability hence helping me to find my place in the society. Telling my story is my way of dispelling this myth while encouraging all the migrants who wish to settle in other countries that they are capable of making new lives for themselves despite the challenges they encounter in the new land.

Annexes

Language Course Curriculum, Cultural Orientation, Vocational training program.



Language course curriculum

<https://generationforchange.org/porfolio/greek-as-a-second-language/>



Cultural orientation

<https://icc.cardetprojects.com/>



Vocational training program

<https://www.helprefugeeswork.org/en/content/first-step-phase-trainings>