Asian vs. Western Values

VS.

Are there differences between Eastern and Western cultural values? According to recent surveys, it seems to be "yes, but…". Although the recent survey have substantial differences in Eastern and Western attitudes towards social harmony, authority, and education, they also showed that the people of some Asian countries are more "Westernized".

For example, when people from different Asian countries were asked about the importance of freedom of expression, a value which most Western expatriates hold in high regards, most saw it as a low priority. However, the people of Hong Kong, Japan and the Philippines disagreed with their Asian counterparts and rated freedom of expression as an important value in their daily lives. Moreover, when asked about the importance of individaul rights, both Westerns and Asians rated this value higher than any other Asian country. Thus, the survey seems to suggest that there is a growing body of "global" values which people from countries around the world are beginning to share.

Asian vs. Western Values

VOCABULARY WORDS

vs. or versus

substantial

expatriates

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS

1. What are some of the differences you've noticed between Westerners and Asians?

2. Are the issues of privacy and personal space important to you?

3. What are some aspects of your culture that you feel you should change?

4. Is cultural change a good or a bad thing?

5. Are you worried that the increasing popularity of the English language in Japan / Taiwan will have a negative effect in your culture?

6. Do you think it's better to live in monoculture or in a multiculture society?

7. Would you consider living with your boyfriend/ girl friend before marriage? Why or why not?

8. Do you think filial piety is functional in today's world? before marriage? Why or why not?