Nainita Madurai

Adolescence in General

First, except for the case studies that I’ll be talking about later, I’m going to be saying a lot more than what’s in the slide.

We’ve already looked at adolescents in China youth cultures and how globalization affects them by freedom of expression through hip hop.

So I decided to pick this topic because I’m interested in studying adolescence in the future.

Adolescence is generally defined as the stage of life from puberty to the acceptance of full adult roles; but this can vary according to different cultures

Only recently has adolescence become a prominent field in anthropological research

There are researchers who believe that adolescence is only a life stage in Western society

However research has been done to prove that it is indeed a cross-cultural life stage that has accompanying biological and mental changes: these mental changes can include an increase in risk-taking

And as I will show later globalization is causing adolescence to become a more prominent life stage across the world because of media and the spread of information

Globalization has both positive and negative effects on adolescence.

Identity is the main idea behind all of my research, so keep that in mind throughout the presentation.

Throughout the slides, I’ll have teen magazines from around the world that are cool to see

General Effects of Globalization on Adolescence

In general, globalization is creating a multicultural world.

You’ll notice that the effects can have a positive and also a negative side

Across the board adolescents have gained access to more information and scientific and technological knowledge

However, there is increased access to Western media, which is causing a trend of dating and relationships in areas where safe sex practices are not taught

Job opportunities increase

But unfortunately for some adolescents only the knowledge of other opportunities increases, they still don’t have access to these opportunities

Also, as we’ll see later, the increase in options overwhelms adolescents whose parents never had the same options

Easier transfer of goods, services, and people

This can prolong and exacerbate some negative aspects of society, such as the drug trade or child trafficking

There is a creation of a multicultural, yet singular culture

However, this leads to a possible loss of traditional or primordial culture

I’ll now go into two of the case studies that I read about in my research:

Case Study: Inuits in Alaska

Traditions, such as ice fishing and hunting, have become recreational

More and more adolescents are spending time in peer groups as opposed to family groups

They are getting a different education than their parents

With access to television, hockey has become popular among young men

Research shows that adolescent Inuits have very little hope for the continuance of their own society and culture; they believe they can’t compete with the globalization of the world and must choose what to do in life rather than traditionally staying in the village

This becomes overwhelming to adolescents and has increased suicide rates

Case Study: India

Arranged marriage is greatly affected by globalization in India

Marriage is essentially the mark of when an adolescent becomes an adult

It is an incredibly important event in Indian culture and society

Adolescents will often go against their parents’ wishes and attempt to form “love marriages”

Though arranged marriages are still far more common, “love marriages” are becoming more and more prevalent and this does not follow a conservative Indian tradition

This is a society in which dating has become more prevalent and therefore safe sex is not being practiced or learned, because sex is such a taboo subject

Course Relevance:

Identity formation and the creation of a single multicultural world is the main issue affecting adolescents in the world today.

I briefly mentioned the idea that the primordial and traditional cultures are decreasing in practice because of globalization.

Lewellen talks about primordialism vs. constructionism.

Does the theory of primordialism apply with globalization?

Or is it constructionism? It could even be relationalism?

Primordialism is that cultures always stay the original way they were.

Constructionism is that ethnicity and identity is in constant flux.

Relationalism is that ethnicity is based on relationships and are not “things”

In my opinion constructionism seems to suit the current situation among adolescents the most.

Appadurai’s *scapes*:

Adolescents are mostly affected by Mediascapes and Ethnoscapes

Mediascapes are what slowly transform their culture, because adolescence often wish to imitate western media

Ethnoscapes are important because adolescence is the life stage in which people form identities or begin to understand their own identity

Further Analysis and Summary

Overall, globalization has greatly affected the adolescent experience across the world.

Whether the effects of globalization are positive or negative is hard to determine and is based on the different cultures that it is affecting

So why is it important to study adolescents?

This generation of adolescents is about to become the generation that leads the new governments and societies

Unfortunately, they are often marginalized in society.

There are many different adolescent experiences around the world that I did not cover that are affected by globalization such as the Japanese suicide communities, and the increase of mental illnesses among adolescents across the world.

However, it is important to remember that the adolescent generation is very important

The creation of a multicultural world means that the world’s governments and societies need to adjust their teaching methods to accommodate the spread of knowledge

They need to work on making a world that the adolescents can sustain