Multicultural Communities

In this paper, I argue that multicultural communities have a positive effect on people. A community is a group of people in a common location. Therefore, a multicultural community are people with different backgrounds (e.g., race, nationality, religion) that live together (Longley, 2019).

I support my position on the positive effect of multicultural communities with the following four arguments. First, I argue that multicultural communities have a low rate of racism. An increase in social coherence between people with different backgrounds increases the knowledge about other communities, thus decreasing rates of racism (Triggs, 2014).

Second, living in multicultural communities increases people's knowledge about different cultures and tradition without having to travel. This knowledge is a result of being surrounded by people of different backgrounds (Elizabeth,2016). Third, multicultural

communities allow us to have a unique identity. Unique identity is the identity a person creates that is different from the surrounding identities. This unique identity is formed by the exposure to the different experiences, cultures, and traditions found in a multicultural community (no source yet). Finally, diversity in culture inspires creativity and increases productivity (Calonge & Safiullin, 2015). With people from different backgrounds, ideas that can be inspiring emerge and productivity increases.

I also consider alternative positions towards multicultural communities. These positions include arguments such as newer generations are less committed to their hometown traditions and cultures, multicultural communities affect social trust, communication between people of different nationalities is more difficult. While these issues have merit, they can be refuted.

Multicultural communities are becoming a very important topic. With the increase of globalization and worldwide business, cultural diversity is present in most countries today.

As such, having knowledge about the positive effects of multicultural communities will ease the exchange of behaviors, ideas, traditions, and cultures.

> ➢ Brief and definitions
>> o Give a brief about why this topic has been chosen
>>> ▪ Example of UAE as a multicultural community to allow readers to imagine
>> o Define culture
>> o Define traditions
>> o Define identity
>> o Expand on "unique identity" term

Constantin, S., & Rautz, G. (2003). Culture and identity. *Journal of European Integration*, *25*(3), 189–205. https://aus.on.worldcat.org/oclc/364187815

(This paragraph is yet to be written for my final draft)

Benefits of Multicultural Communities

Effect of Multicultural Communities on Creativity and Productivity

Diverse cultural perspectives inspire creativity. According to Robinson (2009), creative teams are ~~the~~ diverse ~~ones~~. This diversity can either be informational or social (i.e. sexes, ethnicity, or cultural backgrounds). Diverse teams have people with different yet complementary traits and talents that results in an increase of creativity. With globalization and the increase in global competition, creativity and innovation are the secret of success. For example, companies such as Nike, Apple, and Samsung have teams that work all the time to

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update their existing products, revolutionizing the market (Calonge & Safiullin, 2015). As such, without a creative and innovative team, these companies might have been obsolete.

In support of the above argument, a study about how diversity affects creativity will be further explored. Calonge and Safiullin (2015) conducted a study of 89 students from 19 different nationalities to see how diversity affects creativity. In this study, creativity was assessed based on discussion, accomplishments, and feedback provided on assigned projects. The study verified that multicultural communities are more creative than intranational teams. The different perspectives and point of view that were generated within the team were the main reason behind the creativity. Additionally, participants of the study stated how the course (i.e. the study) was an eye opener and taught them new methods of thinking.

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Calonge and Safiullin (2015) also showed that diversity also increases productivity. Productivity is usually mistaken to be getting more things completed. However, productivity is the measure of efficiency and consistency of in getting significant things achieved (Clear, n.d.). Diverse environment provides a positive experience as mentioned above. Positive experience and environment result in productive teams. In other words, diversity results in an increased number of efficient and consistent outcomes.

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(Add a summary paragraph)

Social Coherence in Multicultural Communities

Multicultural communities lead to an increase in social coherence (Holck, 2018). First, we define social coherence as the stability and alignment of relationship within a community. Social coherence allows efficient flow of energy and communication between people of the same community to achieve cohesion (McCraty, 2017). With efficient flow of communication between people living any community, more tolerance is expected. As a result, racism decreases within the community.

To elaborate on the issue of social coherence, we can see that diversity fosters mutual understanding. That is, differences are not the reason people separate. Instead it is the reason

we understand each other. In multicultural communities, a person struggles but finally achieves social coherence in the community. Achieving social coherence in multicultural communities is not an easy task. Still, people in multicultural communities aim for social coherence in an attempt to decrease racism.

In support of the relation between multiculturism and social coherence, an example of diversity in modern Australia will be discussed. Triggs (2014) discusses how social coherence and multiculturism was an important element in modern Australia. Triggs also states that while some other nations still face racial tension, Australia, with origins of over 200 nations, have experienced stability. In short, Australia experiences a strong social cohesion.

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In conclusion, living in a multicultural community increases a person knowledge about other nationalities and has an understanding of how to interact with other people. Furthermore, interacting and working in coherence because of the knowledge about other communities' cultures and traditions is a benefit. For an individual to be coherent in life is a reflection of stability and alignment of relationships, thus allowing efficient flow of information. This characteristic is an advantage in anyone's personality.

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> But needs better wording

Cultures and Traditions in Multicultural Communities

Travelling increase an individual's knowledge about culture and tradition. Travelers state how the exploration of traditions and cultures benefits them. As such, this benefit can also be earned in multicultural communities, without the need to travel. Learning a new culture increases a person tolerance and acceptance (Elizabeth,2015). Understanding culture helps a person understand differences between people. As a result, this knowledge causes less conflict and more acceptance and compromise.

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> See chapter on Cohesion
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Living in a multicultural community and learning the surrounding cultures and traditions is wonderful. In multicultural communities, a person does not need to travel to learn cultures and learn to accept others. Simply looking around in a multicultural community results in learning other cultures.

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Knowledge about other cultures does not just boost personality traits and knowledge. Cultures help us learn about ourselves, making us appreciate the small things taken for granted. For example, eating a bagel while walking to the metro in New York might seem like an everyday norm. On the other hand, this action is uncommon in Japan where they either walk or eat, but not both ("The Importance," 2020).

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A second benefit of learning other culture is we celebrate one another. For instance, the UAE national holiday is not only celebrated by Emiratis, it is actually celebrated by anyone that lives in the UAE. Another example of celebrating others' cultures includes the celebration of Ramadan in Egypt. Ramadan is a sacred month in the Islamic culture where Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. During Ramadan, Copts (Egyptian Christians) celebrate Ramadan and eat with Muslims while breaking their fast. Many examples around the world can be found when two cultures celebrate one another. Consequently, how many celebrations can happen in a multicultural community. Celebrating such festivals shows how tolerance can be found and how different cultures can be accepted.

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Another benefit of learning others' cultures and tradition is related to globalization. Global trade has increased in the past decade almost $8.5 trillion ("Key Statistics," 2018). Therefore, as global trade and globalization increase and expand, cultural differences will be evident to everyone. Consequently, living in a multicultural community and accepting other cultures will help in accepting the differences and tolerating other cultures (Marquit, n.d.).

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(ADD a summary paragraph here)

Unique Identity

(to be done in final draft)

Argument 4: Uniqueness in Identity, multicultural communities allows its people to create their own identity that is unique.

Potential Arguments Against Multicultural Communities

Newer Generation Commitment to Traditions and Cultures

When someone starts to think of the possible disadvantages of multicultural communities the first disadvantage is related to the young generation. Many people argue that the newer generation of children are less committed to their hometown traditions and cultures. This belief is generated because of the low attachment of children to their own specific country's traditions and cultures. For example, a non-hijab in an Islamic culture. Another example is an Indian woman not wearing the sari (traditional dress for Indian women).

Some people argue that a person's culture and tradition are what defines them. More specifically, cultures and tradition are guidelines but not rules that we have to follow. Traditional holidays and festivals can still be celebrated anywhere in the world. On the other hand, traditional clothes can also not be worn because of globalization. Therefore, we cannot conclude that the multicultural communities are the reason why traditional clothes are worn less worn. For example, an Indian woman may sometimes not wear the sari even while living in India. On a larger scale, several traditions and many cultures have altered. However, this alteration is because of the progress and westernization happening in life. Nonetheless, this westernization Westernization does not mean that cultures and traditions should not be conserved.

Preserving cultures and traditions is such a difficult task in general. Moreover, preserving the cultures and tradition may be an even tougher task, but it is not impossible. In support of the argument, that cultures and tradition can be preserved, a study of how Vietnamese diaspora preserved their cultures and tradition while living in the USA will be discussed. Hien (2016) conducted a case study to show us an example of Vietnamese people living in California while maintaining tradition and adapting to the culture. This research examines culture, identity, adaptation and their preservation. Hein also mentions how this study is based on years of her personal experience in Silicon Valley where the study occurred.

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When Vietnamese immigrants decide to leave their communities, they never totally abandon the culture (Hein, 2016). They preserve their traditions and pass it on to the next generations as not to abandon their origins. The traditions and culture of Vietnam can be found in every corner of a Vietnamese house. They speak, greet, and participate in Vietnamese, eat traditional Vietnamese dishes, and address each other according to traditional kinship roles (Hien, 2016). As years progressed, the Vietnamese immigrants achieved more economic stability the Vietnamese diaspora were able to build their own restaurants, store, and temples.in these temples, they held annual rituals and traditional ceremonies.

Finally, people can argue that the Vietnamese have adapted to the American culture while still maintaining their traditions and cultural identity. Hein (2016) concludes her article by stating that Vietnamese preserved their traditional culture while integrating into the culture of the Silicon Valley. In short, the case study shows that preservation of cultures and traditions in multicultural communities is possible, yet it can be a tough task.

The Use of Lingua Franca in Multicultural Communities

Communication among people in multicultural communities can be a problem. Multicultural communities contain several cultures and as a result have several nationalities living with each other. Each nationality has its own language. Some nationalities even have several languages. As a result, multicultural communities need to find a common ground to communicate.

Multicultural communities ought to use a common language that can be spoken by most of them. Such a common language is known as a lingua franca, of which English is an example. Some people believe that the use of a lingua franca is deciphered as neglection of language and therefore culture and tradition (MacKenzie, 2009). However, as people can speak English outside their households, they can speak their native language at home.

People speaking English in their everyday life yet communicate at home using their native language can be seen on a daily basis. For instance, the Vietnamese diaspora in

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California that spoke Vietnamese at home (Hein,2016). This article shows that just like the culture and tradition be preserved, language can be preserved.

Preserving a native language is difficult with the existence of lingua franca, however lingua franca has its positives. English as a lingua franca has served in several situations including international law, international sport, and business for trade. Another interesting area English is vastly used is science and scholarship (Melitz, 2018). The author also notes other areas in which English can be found, such as the Internet. Statistics show that the English language is used on the internet by 565 million users. Similarly, when entering a bookstore, someone would find books with the native local language and also definitely find a section for English books. When it comes to globalization and global trade there can be no negotiation, with regards to the use of the English language. According to Melitz (2018) world trade is dominant by native English speakers (almost 23%). In short, English is vastly used in several occasions.

Some people argue that when English is implemented as the second language during conferences or international meetings the native English speakers receive the attention. However, giving attention to only native English speakers should not be the norm. The English language surrounds us everywhere whether it is our studies, internet, friends, or trade. As a result, English needs to be more familiar and people need to be more comfortable speaking it out loud.

With the English language being spoken by a great number of people around the world, the use of lingua franca appears not to be a disadvantage of only multicultural communities. Instead, it is a challenge faced by the whole world. Therefore, just like culture and tradition can be preserved but needs hard work, language can be conserved too.

Social Trust in Multicultural Communities

Multiculturism affects social trust. As the community becomes more diverse, people tend not to trust anyone or anything around them. When someone is put in a situation, they act according to what they believe is correct (i.e. according to their culture). Therefore, when

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someone is surrounded by several cultures, each person in a multicultural community is expected to solve the same situation in a different way.

Being surrounded by several cultures is one of the i challenges someone can face because of the increased diversity (Putman,2006). Diversity is increasing in all modern communities, whether virtually over the internet or in real life. Multiculturism is in fact becoming an everyday of every individual. Accordingly, social trust, if a problem, is not a problem of only multicultural communities only. It is in fact a challenge faced by everyone.

In defense of multicultural communities, some scholars have argued that the social trust depends on the interaction of people within the community. According to data from Sweden, it was found that adolescent trust is not directly related to diversity (Loxbo,2017). Accordingly, arguing that multicultural communities is not beneficial for adolescents as they affect their social trust does not become a valid argument.

The argument regarding social trust in multicultural communities had to be concluded. As such, a study done by Putman (2006) in the Unites states was used to measure interracial trust. Respondents of various backgrounds were asked how they feel regarding social trust. Results showed that ethnical diverse people do not withdraw from people because of the difference in communities. Indeed, results showed that people withdraw even from people of their own community. Putting in a different way, the diversity is not the reason of the social trust challenge. Moreover, Putman concludes his study by showing that all the factors related to social cohesion and trust were not related to diversity.

In short, multicultural communities are not the reason of decreased social trust. As proven by Putman (2006) it might may not be the trust we are familiar with, but it is a new modern type of trust. This modern trust is keeping social trust and cohesion alive between people.

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We do evidence ☺

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Conclusion

We can argue that multicultural communities have a positive effect on people. In support of my argument there are four supporting arguments. First, multicultural communities increase social coherence within its community. Second, individuals living in multicultural communities learn about cultures and traditions, increasing general knowledge. Moreover, this knowledge happens without the need to travel. Third, diverse cultures create diverse teams that are known to be more creative and productive. Finally, multicultural communities helps a person create their own unique identity.

There are also possible counter arguments regarding multiculturism benefits. First, someone can argue that newer generations are less committed to their cultures and tradition. In opposition, a case study about Vietnamese people has shown that cultures and traditions can be preserved but it is not an easy task. A Secondsecond, another argument can beis that there is difficulty in communication between people in a multicultural community. Refuting this point, was is the English language. English is being used studies, science, trade and many other places, therefore it is only logical for someone to use the English language. Third, is the decreased social trust among people in multicultural communities. To argue against this point, Putman(2006) showed results concluded that diversity has nothing to do with social trust.

Arguments whether multicultural communities are positive or negative will never end. However, this paper discusses discussed how the multicultural communities have positive effect on people living within it. This paper also considereds some disadvantages of multicultural communities. The paper showeds how these disadvantages are stereotyped and are not necessarily true. In sum, multicultural communities have pros the that outweigh its cons.

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MOST of the issues I have commented on have not lost you points …. YET ☺
We will study them over the next couple of weeks – but – you WILL need to address them for the final draft – very very important

THAT SAID …
I can see you have put a GREAT deal of effort into this paper – and you have sought help when needed …

For a working draft – it's in pretty good shape

For the final draft – A LOT OF WORK TO DO!

OK? ☺

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