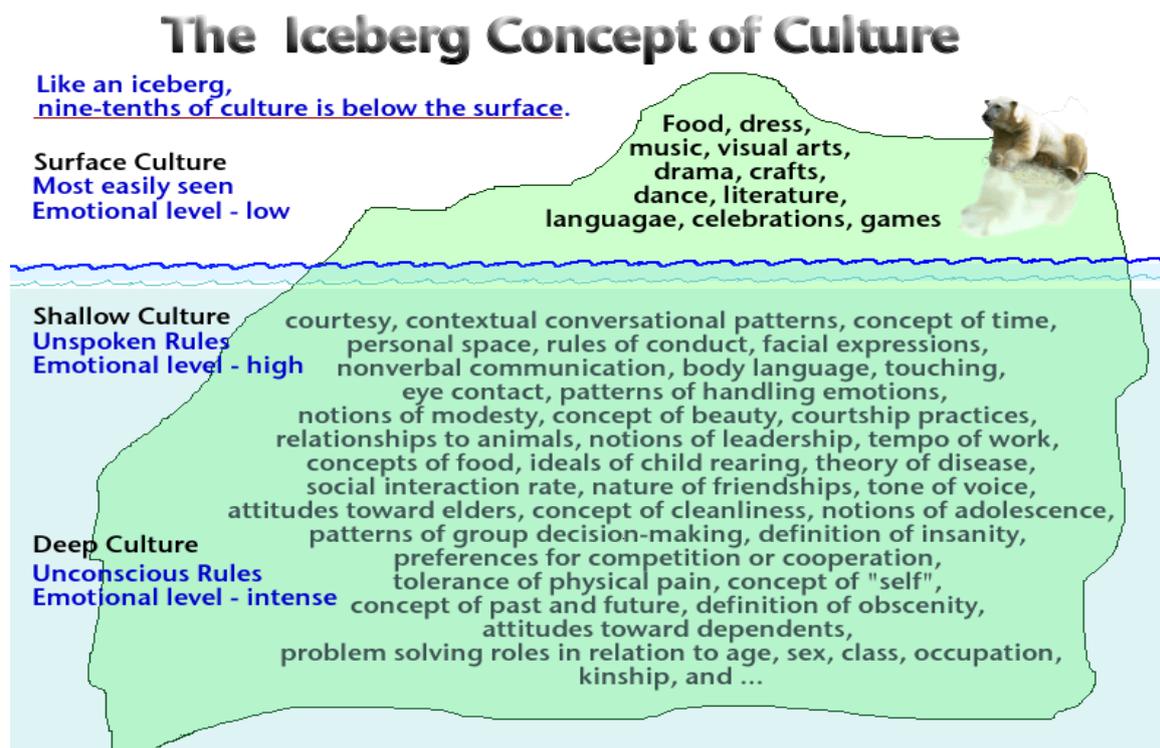


Parenting in a Different Culture: living between two worlds

Culture is a powerful influence in our lives, affecting how we view the world (Cox, Lobel, McLeod, 1991) and how we raise our children. Parenting is believed to be shaped by culture and it is transmitted from generation to generation (Glenn 1994; Phoenix and Woollett 1991; Quinn 2005).

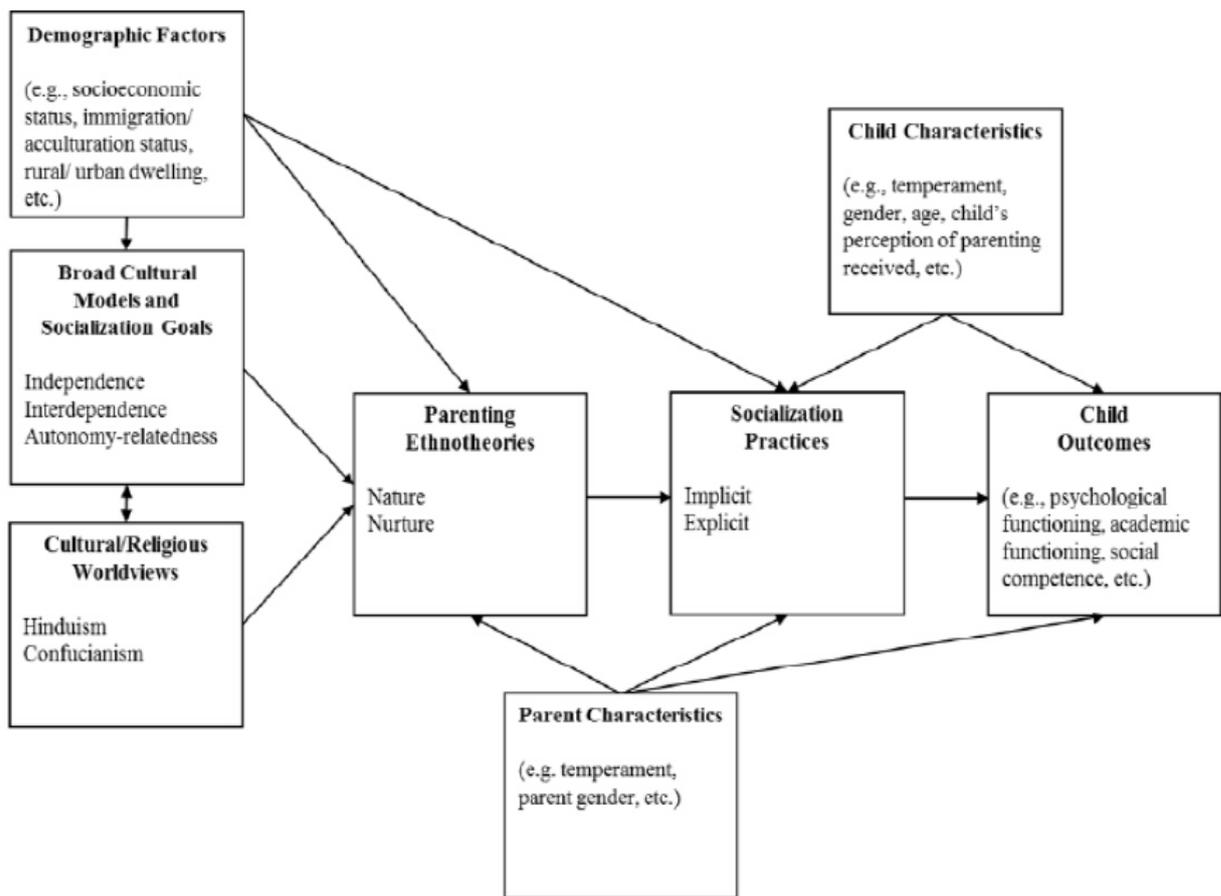


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The iceberg image illuminates the different layers of culture. The elements of culture we easily notice such as, clothing, language, gesture, food, music and rituals are represented by top part of the iceberg. **The part below the surface** stands for those elements which are not as obvious such as values, beliefs, and attitudes. It is difficult to make sense of the visible aspects of a culture without understanding the invisible underlying elements from which they originate. For bringing up children in a foreign culture, understanding how the 3 different levels are connected is important.

Based on previous research in the area, (Thomas and Anderson 2013) developed a conceptual model which helps to understand the influence of culture on parenting and socialization

(Figure 1): Conceptual model by Thomas and Anderson to understand the influence of culture on parenting and socialization.



As depicted, in figure (1) broad cultural models (e.g., autonomy, relatedness, autonomous relatedness and religious worldviews influence parenting ethno theories which in turn influence parents' socialization goals and practices. Demographic factors such as socioeconomic status, immigration status, and rural or urban dwelling also impact parents' socialization goals and practices. Child outcomes are most closely associated with parents' socialization goals and practices, and child characteristics such as temperament, gender, and their perceptions of the parenting they receive, can impact the parents' socialization goals and child outcomes directly (Thomas and Anderson 2013p. 60).

Barry's Model of Acculturation : (Helping parents understand the different stages of acculturation and how they Impact on parenting

Berry (1992) presents four acculturation strategies: integration, assimilation, separation, and marginalization. According to him,

Integration happens when the new culture is adopted and at the same time the heritage culture is maintained.

Assimilation means the full acceptance of a host culture and rejecting people's heritage culture.

Separation occurs when the new culture is discarded and only the heritage culture is maintained.

Lastly, marginalization happens when both host and heritage cultures are rejected.

Behavioural acculturation occurs when immigrants in the new society adopt visible traits of the host culture, such as greeting styles, language and ways of dressing. When the internalization of host culture values and an emotional attachment take place, we can talk about psychological acculturation (Berry 1992). Parents' willingness and ability to blend in with a new culture may depend on how different the new culture is from their own. The bigger the difference between the host and heritage groups (e.g., parenting/socialization values, dietary congruence or language), the more difficult the acculturation process is (Berry 2007). Cultural distance illustrates the difference in cultural models between the new and the home country.

Parenting in a Different Culture (i.e Parenting in Ireland) Parents negotiating Own Cultural Values and Irish culture and values in Parenting

Parents may tend to preserve their own culture at least at home – within their immediate family, but the children might already have experienced and learnt several cultures simultaneously for example in school, when playing with other children etc. The values of such children may be significantly different from their parents' values (Dahl 2016,p. 204), and transmission of values from parents to children can be difficult or can cause conflicts. Not to have a sense of belonging to any culture may cause what is called loss of identity, and can trigger depression or cause other negative experiences

Possible Challenges and Opportunities (Benefits) of Parenting in a Different Culture

Explore Challenges of Parenting in a Different Culture

Possible Concerns

- Different concerns at child's different developmental stage i.e. early years vs teenage years
- How different acculturation stages influence their parenting style and how living in a country with different culture influences them (Barry 1992) model of acculturation
- Fear of totally losing one's own culture
- Language – one language or bilingualism
- Varied concerns depending on age group of child/children
- Striking the balance of what would benefit the parents and their children.
- Concerns about Irish child welfare services eg Establishing a balance between the parenting techniques that parents were used to, and what expected norms for parenting in Ireland

Explore Opportunities (Benefits of Parenting in a Different Culture)

- Exposure to a different worldview -way of parenting and an opportunity to possibly learn other parenting strategies not previously known in own culture
- They are bringing up the new generation that will inherit cultures of at least two different worlds. This is a great advantage, but at the same time a responsibility

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