



# Welcome To Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Developmental Disabilities

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# Agenda

- Introductions
  - Video
  - Definitions
  - Dive in
  - Any Shared stories
- An activity
- Questions and Thank you

# Introduction

- Welcome we will begin this journey together for the next 90 minutes.

- Who am I?

Background on my family and why I'm here today





# Video

## 5:08minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dh9CAIfLdqI>

# What are the definitions

- **Cross Culture**

According to the Canadian Pediatric Society, culture is “a pattern of ideas, customs, and behaviors shared by a particular people or society.” (Developmental Disabilities Across Cultures) The correlation between culture and each of their approaches to those with developmental disabilities must be talked about as culture influences their understanding of a specific disability, whether to seek help or not, treatment options, and most importantly their relationship with health professionals

- **Developmental Disabilities**

According to the Federal Center for Disease Control (CDC), “Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas. “Some examples of developmental disabilities are ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, hearing loss, vision impairment, and intellectual and visual disability. Such conditions typically last throughout one’s lifetime and form during the developmental time period; some begin within the womb and others are caused by external factors such as disease or injury. Other factors that are known to cause developmental disabilities are genetics, birth complications, usage of alcohol during pregnancy, etc.

- Developmental disabilities are also noted across all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. It is important to understand that having a developmental disability does not always directly correlate with the health of an individual

# Dive In

## Different cultural perspectives

- Different cultures have different views of the causes of developmental disabilities. ‘Blame’ for a disability may be placed on the mother or both parents or the child’s condition may be considered an “act of God.” Here are some examples:
- Traditional Confucian beliefs see the birth of a child with a developmental disability as a punishment for parental violations of traditional teachings, such as dishonesty or misconduct. The child’s disability may also be seen as punishment for ancestral wrongdoing. The wider community may feel that the parents are responsible and less likely to provide the family with sympathy or support. In China and Korea, Treatment of developmental disabilities includes CAM, or complementary and alternative medicine, which focuses on traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture.
- Another perspective from China is through another religious belief: karma. It is no doubt that Buddhism has a strong influence in China and in their people’s understanding of disabilities as well. Similarly to Confucious beliefs, a disability is widely believed to be a punishment for one’s past life sins – karma.

# Dive In Cont

- Individuals from South-East Asian cultures may believe that developmental disabilities are caused by “mistakes” made by parents or ancestors.
- There are South Asian cultures, such as Pakistan, where communities believe an individual with a disability is possessed by a djinn (spirit). Due to this, treatment approaches for these individuals include calling a shaman, who is a spiritual and health provider, who practices healing and prevention rituals. This is widely different from American culture as our treatment involves therapy sessions and traditional scientific physician care.

# Dive In Cont


- In Africa, Many cultures seek out spiritual healers and traditional 'alternative' medicines with the hope that a cure will be obtained. people believe that a disability is caused by factors such as the influence of 'past lives, mystical intervention or the past actions of a parent, witchcraft or punishment by the spirits, etc.
- The [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#) and the [U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) promotes the acceptance, integration, and inclusion of people with disabilities into mainstream society. The integration of a disabled child may not be the norm for a newcomer family's culture of origin.



# Dive In Cont

Indian cultures offer multiple causes for a disability, ranging from medicines or illness during pregnancy and consanguinity, to psychological trauma in the mother and lack of stimulation for the infant.

- In other cultures, the will of God or Allah, karma, evil spirits, black magic, or punishment for sins may be seen as causes of disability. Some cultures freely combine traditional beliefs with biological models such as disease degeneration and dysfunction. Mexican, Haitian, and Latin American cultures may see disability as the result of a mother (or family) being cursed. The culture I found most interesting in regard to their perspective on developmental disabilities is Native American and Native Hawaiian



Any lived experiences in  
the room, please share  
your story  
Guided Activity

# What have we covered so far?

1

Who the presenter is  
and why this topic  
matters

2

Definitions and how  
can we define these  
in our own  
understanding or  
lived experiences

3

Video

4

Dive in and lean in to  
learn and feel free to  
express any  
thoughts

5

What is our part and  
any questions.

# Does Culture Affect Treatment?

## How

- Culture influences key aspects of and approaches to treatment for developmental disabilities, including:
  - whether to seek help
  - what treatments to use
  - the availability of resources
  - the expectations parents have of, and for, their child
- relationships between families and care professionals

## Some barriers parents face

- lack of accurate information about available services
- confusion about medical care and the purpose of treatment
- lack of fluency in English or French
- lack of transportation
- concerns about the financial impact of treatment on their other children
- concern over stigmatization and discrimination

# Some culture treatments for DD

## SouthEast Asia

- In some Southeast Asian cultures, such as in Laos, a shaman—a health care and spiritual provider—is called on to perform healing, preventive and diagnostic rituals.

## Most Africans

African cultures also seek out traditional healers with experience in herbal remedies or healing rituals. Social relationships are often important in interpreting illness, treatment and healing.

## Asia

- Asian cultures may rely on complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), especially acupuncture, sensory integration, and Chinese medicine.
- Indian families may combine yoga, *Ayurveda*, and homeopathy with conventional medicine

# Summary

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# Western treatment

- Speech Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Sometimes medications for sleep, constipation, hyperactivity, and other behavioral concerns
- Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA Therapy)



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Thank you

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