

Surname

Course

Instructor

The Interview

When did you move to the US and under what circumstances?

I moved here some ten years ago. This must have been around January 2001. I had tried, there before to leave the Philippines severally but to no avail. Indeed, the 2001 departure was a great achievement, so I felt and considered. I moved to the US on a Green Card lottery. I had waited for such a time since 1995 when I first tried my luck with the lottery. This win was a sigh of relief and sense of hope for my family as they hoped I would be their way out of extreme poverty.

What did you accomplish here? Got anything here that you did not have in your home country?

Ten years can be as short a time as it can be long, depending on one's experience. I say this because I may not tell how time has rolled fast. The years have been quite busy for me. I had come in with only a college degree. Being around has helped me get two more degrees in money and banking. I have also been able to sponsor two relatives on education visit, in addition to my own two children. I thank God I have a home, two cars and medical insurance. These are things owned by the mighty in the Philippines. I do not think I would be this far.

Do you feel better and happier here, or would you if you were in your home country?

This purely depends on what area of life. The economic platform presents me with a better position. I feel empowered and happier. However, I do not think this society is the best to be in, socially. I wonder why one would not treat me as I deserve, just because I have a foreign accent and hair color and texture. I think being around people who will appreciate me would make me happier- that's home. I feel there is a lot of segregation, though it may not be printed in the tabloids. It happens all over. Hospitals, public transport, schools, cafés, name it!

What mistakes have you made when here? Given a chance, what would you have done differently?

I once tried to sneak some drugs to my mother who had been sick. I think this was one year later. I did not have money. So I pretended to be sick and faked mother's symptoms. I then tried to sneak out the drugs through a friend's cargo. His license got revoked whilst I served one year term in correctional center. The authorities somehow got wind of it.

Given a chance today, although she died when she learnt of my incarceration, I would send her money. This would help her access quality health care at home. We buy quality. It is provided for the moneyed.

How do you celebrate American holidays?

To be frank with you, I do not. I may not go to work on the holiday, yet I do not feel attached to them. My children are the only ones who have developed a sense of the holidays. So I just facilitate them. Nothing more.

What kind of sports, if any, do you follow?

I am a great enthusiast of the American football. I love the display of vitality, teamwork and competition. I feel that this sometimes reflects my rural Philippine setting. I love the Parkers. They reflect what I've learnt in the last few years: offence.

What would you advise a 17-year old fellow home-country man who wants to move to America permanent and be successful?

The American economy has as vast opportunities as there are pitfalls. This is in economic and social terms. Competition and capitalism runs the country in all areas. Avoid trouble if you can. Any trouble with the authorities will impede your progress. I lost one valuable year. I believe I would be better than I am had I kept-off all trouble.

Interview analysis

The interview was conducted in a hotel over a coffee break. This was in an up-market café near the university. It coincided with a tea break. This was because my interviewee: unanimous would only be free at that time of the day. As such, the café was packed with customers in all places. We were lucky to secure a two-seat table at a corner, from whence we had a full view of the café.

He had made it clear to me prior to the interview that he had limited time given his busy schedule. The time limitation was evidently making him unsettled, often shown in his broken speech and disruption in the flow of thoughts. He also seemed to have unfinished business concerns as he received several business-related calls on his cell that would have him scribble on the table cloth.

There were questions to which his responses displayed discomfort. He frowned often and at one time bang the table due to aroused emotions. The question on errors he had made aroused mixed feelings. He approached it with a smile, which ironed out into a frown as he recounted the death of his mother and his incarceration. When he was describi

ng why he would be happier at home, the recount of segregation made him raise his voice and bang the table. Strong emotions were evoked by the recount. The interview's exciting parts such as the achievements and his love for football elicited a smile with the hands displaying his passion.

When the interview began, he was very uncomfortable. A reassuring word was very handy to have him settle. The business calls also tampered the environment. Though he were relatively comfortable throughout, the banging of the table as he talked about segregation in the American society set the interview in disarray as we attracted attention of the on-lookers. After that, he settled down shyly.

Throughout the interview, I did note that the interviewee offered me succinct answers that were precise. He refrained from giving too much about himself and his experiences. He rarely provided background information to his answers. In his speech, I noted frequent thought disruptions. At one point he would begin a statement, and then suddenly change its course either by changing the wording or the tone.

On the question about the errors he had made, he was hesitant to give an answer. Only when I introduced the thought of making-up for it did he open up on the matter. This notwithstanding, he was very precise on the details.

I felt that he would have given more information had we spent more time together or had a lot in common. I had got his contacts in an international symposium in the university in which his bank was exhibiting. Later on, we planned on the meeting over telephone and online chatting. As such we were only acquaintances. In addition to this, his past experience may have shaped how he answered me. This would also have affected the kind of trust he would develop with me.

This concurs with behaviorism theory by Watson. The theory suggests that the more determinants of our behaviors are learnt, although we have instinctive behavior and motives (Mowrer and Klein, p 3). According to behaviorism, past experience governs behavior. His past with segregational Americans may have induced his approach towards me. The question of error may have impinged on his morality and the consciousness over legality matters. His incarceration experience may have been aroused by the question.

His failure to fully open could also be attributed to his busy schedule. The interview came in the middle of important business matters. This was evidenced by the frequent call disruptions he received, from which he unconsciously found himself scribbling on the café's table cloths.

Immigration and Psychological Adjustment

The effects of immigration like the culture shock especially by those leaving countries with culture backgrounds that are restricted is inevitable, considering the vast cultural diversity in the USA. Depression and anxiety too may not be exceptions considering the high hope of better place, that is usually with exaggeration by immigrants than it is in reality, brought about by the unpredictability of the new environment (Llorente, p 44).

Men easily adjust psychological adjustment than women considering their less emotional burden of relatives and friends back home. Adults too are quickly able to adapt psychologically to new environment due to their wide exposure in different environments. Their provision of support and guidance to teenagers and children shows their competence at it.

Education factors influencing psychological adjustment are firmly intertwined with ones identity acceptance while in the USA (Rothe 2011 P.73). Individuals with dark skin may be likely discriminated in educational institution especially where their number is minimal. This may be so since a large number of dark races may find console in one another.

Ethnicity has a great role to play in adapting to American English accent that plays a great role in immigrant's assimilation in the American society. Parents considering teaching their young ones their mother tongue get great repulsion from the surrounding community. Peers and teachers consider its negative influence on English. English is a prerequisite for integration and social acceptance into present day American society (Rothe, p 78). This is especially evident among teenagers from specific peer groups. The approval of English among the immigrants and the locals has taken it afar at building nationhood, considering the ever increasing population of immigrants from all parts of the world. Increased religious affiliations have shown improved adjustment due to their teachings on equality that give racial discrimination no room to thrive among its participants. Those who may have suffered racial discrimination before joining a religious movement may find it hard leaving the group, considering the accumulated friends network and the increased social acceptance by the movement and improved progress in adjusting to the new environment.

Lessons from the interview

There are several lessons I gathered from the experience. To begin with, interviews require much focused preparation. This is in respect to the time and place of the interview and as well the interviewee. It is important to prepare the interviewee so that they know exactly what to expect. This will help them get ready to cope with issues of concern. S

uch issues as those revolving around personal consciousness of morality and legality require a preparation. This is because of the effect of implicit and explicit attitudes as well as behaviorisms. Had I prepared him well, he would not have been hesitant about the answers. I would have improved his response over the questions.

Relative to timing, it is important that one schedules interviewees in a way that there is no interference from other activities. This is to ensure that there is a clear flow of thoughts and responses and that these are not affected by the other engagement.

I also learnt how to improve the responses I would expect from an interviewee. There are questions I would forward in pairs. For instance, when I asked about any previous mistakes in America, he was hesitant. It is rare that anyone would expose their wrong doings, especially if it concerned a very personal matter. The interviewee may feel threatened. The pursuant question improved the sense of security since it provided him a chance to make-up given another chance. With reduced sense of threat he answered the questions in details, although he did not expose much.

In addition to this, I observed that there is need for differentiated approach towards immigrants. This is because of the experiences of either group. Related sensitive issues especially on the subject of racial segregation and service delivery require a more focused approach due to the emotions such would arouse.

Work cited

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