

When West meets East

As a young Indian guy, hailing from a strong culturally and historically place – Pune, I could easily recognize differences and similarities between eastern and western culture, and thus it is a very interesting topic for me to discuss with you.

The East is east and the west is west! Neither is better nor worse than the other. The philosophies and beliefs are not absolute in this day and age of cosmopolitan living. But, if truth be told, variations do exist even though in unpredictable proportions. It's the way of looking at life that by and large differs. For the purpose of clarity, it has been assumed that Asia, including India, depicts the Eastern world while Europe and North America form the Western world.

Some among many other traits are discussed below:

1. Relationships

The relationships in the eastern cultures are family centric. In the western civilization, the self is given preference over family and hence decisions on priority and relevance of relationships are of the individual.

2. Individual worth

The individual is given more worth in the western society, while it is the community and the family that tops the list in the eastern society

3. Lifestyle dependent-independent

The idea of independence in its true context exists only in the western culture. In the east, independence comes with "ifs" and "buts" or laden with various other conditions.

4. Nature towards success

The success is collective in eastern culture on the other hand success is individualistic in western culture.

Apart from the above points, there could be more interesting topics such as weather, food, politics, culture, languages, trends, clothing, health issues etc.

Although the above points are supposed to be generic, individual or group representing a culture may vary from generic assumptions.