

Cultural Influence on Social Cognition in Social and Educational Psychology

Authors : Mbah Fidelix Njong, Sabi Emile Forkwa

Abstract : Social cognition is an aspect of social psychology that focuses on how people process, store and apply information about others and social situations. It lay emphasis on how cognitive processes play in our social interactions. In this article, we try to show how culture can influence our ways of thinking about others, how we feel and interact with the world around us. Social cognitive processes involve perceiving people and how we learn about the people around us. It concerns the mental processes of remembering, thinking and attending to other people with different cultural backgrounds and how we attend to certain information about the world. Especially in an educational setting, students' learning processes are most often than not influenced by their cultural background. We can also talk of social schemas. That's people's mental representation of social patterns and norms. This involves information about the societal role and the expectations of individuals within a group. These cognitive processes can also be influence by culture. There are important cultural differences in social cognition. In any social situation, two individuals may have different interpretations. Each person brings in a unique background of experiences, knowledge, social influence, feelings and cultural variations. Cultural differences can also affect how people interpret social situations. The same social behavior in one cultural setting might have completely different meaning and interpretation if observed or applied in another culture. However, as people interpret behaviors and bring out meaning from the interpretations, they act based on their beliefs about situations they are confronted with. This helps to reinforce and reproduce the cultural norms that influence their social cognition.

Keywords : social cognition, social schema, cultural influence, psychology

Conference Title : ICEPASP 2024 : International Conference on Applied Social and Educational Psychology

Conference Location : Berlin, Germany

Conference Dates : May 16-17, 2024