

ABSTRACT

This study examines the cultural adaptation of two expatriate families from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan who moved to Semarang, Indonesia. The main focus is on overcoming culture shock, adapting cultural perceptions to a new country, exploring barriers to cross-cultural adaptation, as well as economic aspects affecting the adaptation process.

The objectives of the study include understanding culture shock, assessing cultural perceptions, and identifying cultural differences. The study reviews existing literature and previous studies to determine the causes, symptoms and stages of culture shock. Through surveys and interviews, perceptions of a new country's culture are assessed, including initial impressions, stereotypes and expectations, as well as changes in perceptions over time. Particular attention is paid to cultural norms, values, communication styles and other aspects that influence perception. Explores key cultural differences between expatriates' home culture and Indonesian culture, including differences in language, social customs, etiquette, values and attitudes. Cultural similarities between the two Central Asian families are also explored, which helps to understand the commonalities that contribute to their adaptation process.

The research methodology is based on conducting in-depth interviews with participants, focusing on their personal experiences and the stages of cultural adaptation they went through, including the honeymoon, culture shock, adaptation and final adaptation stages described in the U-curve theory. Important attention is paid to the economic aspects of adaptation, such as living standards, wages, working conditions, availability of financial resources and their impact on adaptation. It explores how economic stability and employer support contribute to successful adaptation, as well as how living expenses affect the overall adaptation process.

The results show that both families successfully overcame culture shock and adapted to Indonesian culture, going through all stages of adaptation according to the U-curve model, ultimately achieving a level of comfort and integration in the new environment. Economic factors, such as competitive wages and financial support from employers, played a significant role in the adjustment process, promoting economic stability and reducing stress levels. The study highlights the importance of understanding and addressing cultural and economic differences and similarities to facilitate the adjustment process of expatriate families. The findings may be useful for developing support mechanisms and training programs aimed at easing the transition for future expatriates.

Key words: *U-curve theory, honeymoon, culture shock, adaptation, expat families, economic aspects of adaptation, standard of living, financial support.*