Creating ‘Asian Awareness’ in the Global Workplace: Role of Multi-cultural Literature

How do we prepare young Western students for professional life in Asian nations? Does the syllabus in a typical Liberal Arts curriculum in the USA reflect the reality of challenges involved in long-term relocation to Asia? Can the curriculum become an instrument for preparing students for physical relocation and cultural assimilation in Asia while US-based?

A reading, interpretation and analysis of multi-ethnic literary works enabled me to discern the manner in which close textual analysis can prepare students for the challenges of the Asian educational and professional environment. My paper will delineate the manner in which society and culture as depicted in these works might satisfy the students' quest for comprehension of the unfamiliar.

My presentation will discuss the role of Higher Education in fostering Asian-American ties, in enforcing global work ethics across a wide spectrum of experience and in encouraging students to go beyond their familiar cultural notions of ‘home’ and ‘homeland’ in order to embrace appropriate attitudes that conform with such wider sociological concepts as ‘difference’, ‘diaspora’, ‘assimilation’, ‘acclimatization’ and ‘integration’, appropriate attitudes that conform with such wider sociological concepts as ‘difference’, ‘diaspora’, ‘assimilation’, ‘acclimatization’ and ‘integration’.