

# RECOGNIZING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES: A KEY FACTOR IN ACHIEVING EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIPS



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## INTRODUCTION

Recognizing and addressing the cultural context in research is crucial for establishing equitable partnerships. This poster draws examples from my research on how youth morality is imparted through the Bukusu circumcision rite of passage to demonstrate the value of cultural awareness and sensitivity in fostering fair and effective collaborations across diverse African communities.

## THE BUKUSU CIRCUMCISION RITE AND YOUTH MORALITY

The rite aims to transform boys to men by instilling morality and community values through informal teachings, role play, and symbolism. The rite is rich with many rituals that make use of tools and objects with a rich cultural significance. Any interaction with these rituals requires a clear awareness to appreciate the culture.

## APPRECIATING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES



SR NO.	CULTURAL ASPECT	EXAMPLE
1.	Teaching style	Proverbs, riddles, songs, symbolic objects
2.	Decision making processes	Collaborative, communal, male dominated,
3.	Values	Morality, bravery, communal responsibility
4.	Perceptions of power	Gender related, communal hierarchies



## IMPACT ON PARTNERSHIP DYNAMICS.

The use of proverbs and riddles may require careful contextualization and a deeper understanding of cultural -based meanings. Understanding power relations and hierarchies removes threats and encourages negotiation for mutual benefit and decision making. Appreciation of community values draws boundaries and maintains respect.

## PROPOSED STRATEGIES AND BEST PRACTICES

Important for identifying, understanding, and navigating cultural differences to build truly equitable relationships.

- Emphasizing active listening
- promoting intercultural dialogue
- developing culturally competent communication strategies
- establishing shared understandings of goals and expectations.

## CONCLUSION

Ultimately, a proactive approach to cultural recognition can prevent misunderstandings, mitigate conflicts, and lead to more successful, sustainable, and mutually beneficial partnerships