

Personal Identification

Name

Institution

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### **Introduction**

Personal identification is crucial for understanding and conceptualization of several factors that have implications for self-development. As a matter of fact, demographic factors reveal vital information about populations. Just to mention but a few, people can be identified from various perspectives such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, parental status, marital status, social class, educational level, religion, income level, and nationality among others. Besides, readers should understand that either the various demographic elements or identification fundamentals have a profound influence on each other, and it is the reason that most researchers are interested in these two factors. For example, educators are often concerned with the ethnicity attributes when finding ways of enhancing cross-cultural learning programs. Therefore, I will discuss how my identity factors interact to reveal my traits and characters.

Notably, this paper focuses on three identities that include race/ethnicity, gender, and parental status. The factors play essential roles in defining and describing who I am. The first section discusses my identity as a Chinese and explains why the attribute matters in the overall society. It is also essential to provide a brief history of the Chinese in the American culture before describing how the identity forms, develops, and its stages in the communities in America. Further, I will explore my experiences as a Chinese student and involve other influential aspects that relate to the identity. Most importantly, the paper describes how my origin has influenced myself. Overall, I will examine how my ethnicity is identified and perceived in social contexts such as workforce, schools, and governmental agencies. Therefore, it will be necessary to interconnect the identities and provide a conclusive discussion of how they influence other people with similar attributes in the general context and my character.

### **Identity 1: Chinese**

Ethnicity is a critical factor in the contemporary world. Dudley and Karczewski (2013) mentioned that ethnic identity always materializes because it describes a person in relation to the other people. The world of globalization has enhanced traveling and mixing of either different cultures or tribal groups in various social contexts. The authors added that identity of a human being is contextual both regarding expression and derivation. Despite the fact that some people try either to manipulate or change their cultural identities, the truth remains that it is impossible to destroy the boundaries that delineate civil traits. The idea can be explained using an analogy of chairs. Even though seats can be put in one place, it is not right to assume that they are all similar. Despite the general room that they are in, every chair must have a unique feature that traces back to how it was made and the materials used. Therefore, as a Chinese student studying in the United States, I share classes, lecturers, rules, and regulations with my fellow learners, but it does not change my origin. I am different from the others because of my religion, beliefs, values, nationality, and other cultural attributes.

Evidently, there are many Chinese students in the United States. Some were born in the country, while others are immigrants. Institute of International Education (2016) noted that there are more than 350,000 Chinese in the United States. With the current political era, where America has an unstoppable fall and China – irresistible rise, the situation is intense even in the classes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and other social environments. As an immigrant, I feel that this country is not my original home, hope to accomplish my education and come back to continue developing China. In some instances, Chinese are often underestimated and undervalued by their fellow students if not to mention discrimination with worse case scenarios. In workplaces, there are pieces of evidence that majority of foreign employees hold junior

positions (Kroger, 2007). Dudley and Karczewski (2013) also mentioned that the intrinsic consideration of ethnic identity often put the immigrants on the unfortunate end. Although they face some difficulties, I must appreciate the developments in the United States that either racial or ethnic discrimination is diminishing, but not entirely wiped.

The history of the Chinese students in the United States is rich. China sends the students abroad to study the science and other vital information of the western world to borrow ideas. The quest for industrialization is what forced many learners to travel to the United States. Institute of International Education (2016) noted that the peak of international students moving from China to America started in 2009, and the number more than tripled to about 305,000 in 2015. The year marked a continuous rise of the Chinese students for the past decade, and China accounted for about 32% of all international learners in the United States (Institute of International Education, 2016). The insight is that 2017 represents a mature stage because China and America have started to complain. Notably, the former country worries about the students leaving, while the latter feels that the influx could be unbearable. The white, blacks, and other races native to the United States consider that Chinese are “foreign ghosts.” However, modernization and new trends tend change the situation for Chinese.

### **Identity 2: Gender**

Gender is another essential identity that defines a person and influences people in different social contexts. I am a female Chinese student. Markedly, Torres, Howard-Hamilton, and Cooper (2003) mentioned that gender impacts various issues such as education, work, policies, governance, and relationships. Despite the fact that sexual stereotypes are still rampant in the third world countries, there are several elements of discrimination against the female gender even in the developed nations. For example, Kroger (2007) noted that ladies often get

viewed as capable of only studying specific courses that are considered as inferior by the male counterparts. In some instances, the fallacy is instilled in the minds of parents, guardians, leaders, and administrators, who relate women to lower levels of achievements. Though significant steps have been accomplished, the female gender still suffers discrimination. Further, a worse case arises when the student is an immigrant. Sometimes, even the American female students discriminate against ladies from other nationalities. Evidently, I have recently seen a friend of mine rebuked and underrated by fellow students in a group work. They thought that she was a different lower version. Therefore, feminism is still a mission that is far from being accomplished.

Female Chinese immigrants also experience lesser opportunities as compared to the male counterparts. In fact, even the chances for traveling from China to the USA represent just about 30% compared to the males (Institute of International Education, 2016). As a female student, I expected a certain level of discrimination in the workplace in America and back in my country. The majority of women do not hold leadership positions, especially in the Chinese organizations. The gender stereotype and male chauvinism still have some influence. Nonetheless, the number of the Chinese students in the United States' colleges is increasing and reaching the middle stage. Therefore, things will be better soon if favorable policies and legislation get enacted and enforced.

### **Identity 3: Parental Status**

The context of the paper defines parental status as either having parents or not and reveals the number of siblings. I have both parents from a heterosexual family, and I am the only child. The long-term one-child policy explains why I am the only girl in the family. Notably, being one provided the opportunity for my parents to send me to college. They are educated and

categorized as middle income-earners, and it added an advantage to me. However, I am still affected because I have to conform to the beliefs, religion, and needs of my parents. Since I am not an independent entity, my family is the immediate social security that provides directions and guidance to whatever I do. My course, accompaniments, religion, and values have direct and indirect relation to the attributes and will of my father and mother. I know that they want the best for me, but sometimes, I feel that my privacy and independence are infringed. Though it is normal for many, it could be unnecessary in certain occasions.

As a mature female student, sometimes, I would like to travel over the states to learn more, but I am to get permission from my parents. Notably, sometimes, I miss learning opportunities because the parents are not comfortable with the choice. However, I do not dispute the fact that they are always here to make me happy. As a matter of fact, I know that my education, development, and career are based on the parental support. Moreover, I am proud of them. Torres, Howard-Hamilton, and Cooper (2013) mentioned that moral development and growth of children require responsive parental guidance. In summary, I consider myself in the developing stage, and before becoming independent, parental support is essential for my life.

### **Summary and Implications**

Personal identity is multifaceted as it entails various factors such as ethnicity, culture, location, age, gender, marital status, parental status, income, social class, and residence among others. The study focused on three identities (ethnicity, gender, and parental status). I chose them because of the profound influence that they have on my character, behavior, education, relations, and career. Ethnicity defines how fellow Chinese and native students perceive me. As a female Chinese learner, I have experienced certain forms of discrimination, marginalization, and derailing perceptions. The circumstances also affect others with similar attributes. Moreover, my

parents guide, support, and direct me in all my undertakings to enhance my development. They have been responsible for most of my decisions in regards to my personal life and school, and they monitor me closely considering that I am their only child. Overall, all the aspects of identity are interrelated and affect a person and the society in different contexts regarding derivations and expressions.

## References

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