

Instructions Step 2: Exercise of the intercultural ethical dilemma

Now that you have these elements in mind, it is time to put them into practice. To do this, you will work on a concrete case. Start by learning about the 2 ethical dilemma situations experienced by young educators.

Example 1 - Cultural conflict: Asha

A social worker in an Asian women's project is contacted by one of the women whose daughter, Asha, is part of the girls' group. The mother has been concerned about her daughter's behaviour since she was seen in the community with her white-skinned boyfriend. This caused a great stir in the group because it was seen as too westernized, as if it betrayed its culture. As a widow and single parent, the mother is afraid of the consequences that her behaviour could have on her reputation. She asks the educator to dissuade her daughter from seeing her boyfriend again. Asha has already spoken to her about this and made it clear that she has the right to freely choose her future partner and that she doesn't care what the community thinks about it. What should the social worker do?

Example 2 - Religious dilemma: Fatima and Kevin

Fatima is a young specialized educator of Muslim faith and very respectful of the principles of Islam. She works in Senegal in a centre where young French teenagers in difficulty are living in a break-up situation. The educational team is half French and half Senegalese and regularly welcomes new young people. Fatima, as a woman, does not take the hand to greet men in accordance with the principles of Muslim law. Similarly, it must avoid any physical contact during exchanges, activities, in short, everyday life. All his colleagues know this and respect it as best they can. It is more difficult for newcomer teens to do so. Usually, she accepts the first time she reaches out and then explains her life choice to the teenager; there are few problems afterwards. When she met Kevin the first time, there were immediately chemistry between them. Kevin immediately confided in her, felt confident with her and she was able to have important information about her life course, which helped her to support and accompany her. Kevin has a very good relationship with Fatima but has difficulty accepting the distance imposed by the principles of his educator's religion. He often wants to take her hand, touch her arm, have a warm contact with her, to show her his gratitude and all the affection he feels towards her. He discusses it with her and she fully understands it. But she cannot derogate from these rules of life that she integrated at a very young age. She is very divided between the desire to comfort Kevin from time to time in his own way and his faith. What should it do?

1. Analyze the situation

Choose one of the 2 situations and proceed with its analysis by answering the following questions. Use the [online form](#) to submit your answers:

a) Identify:

- the people who may be affected by the situation;
- the ethical issues contained in this situation (what are the fundamental values at stake here: personal, professional, institutional, cultural, etc.)?
- the law, rules or regulations (written standards) that may be relevant to this situation;
- habits, traditions, ways of doing things, moral principles (unwritten norms), cultural or intercultural aspects.

b) See:

- What would you do if you were the social worker? And why is that?
- What are the new ethical dilemmas that may arise from your decision? And for whom?

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