

# ASSESSMENT OF STUDENTS' INTER-CULTURAL SENSITIVITY AFTER A SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

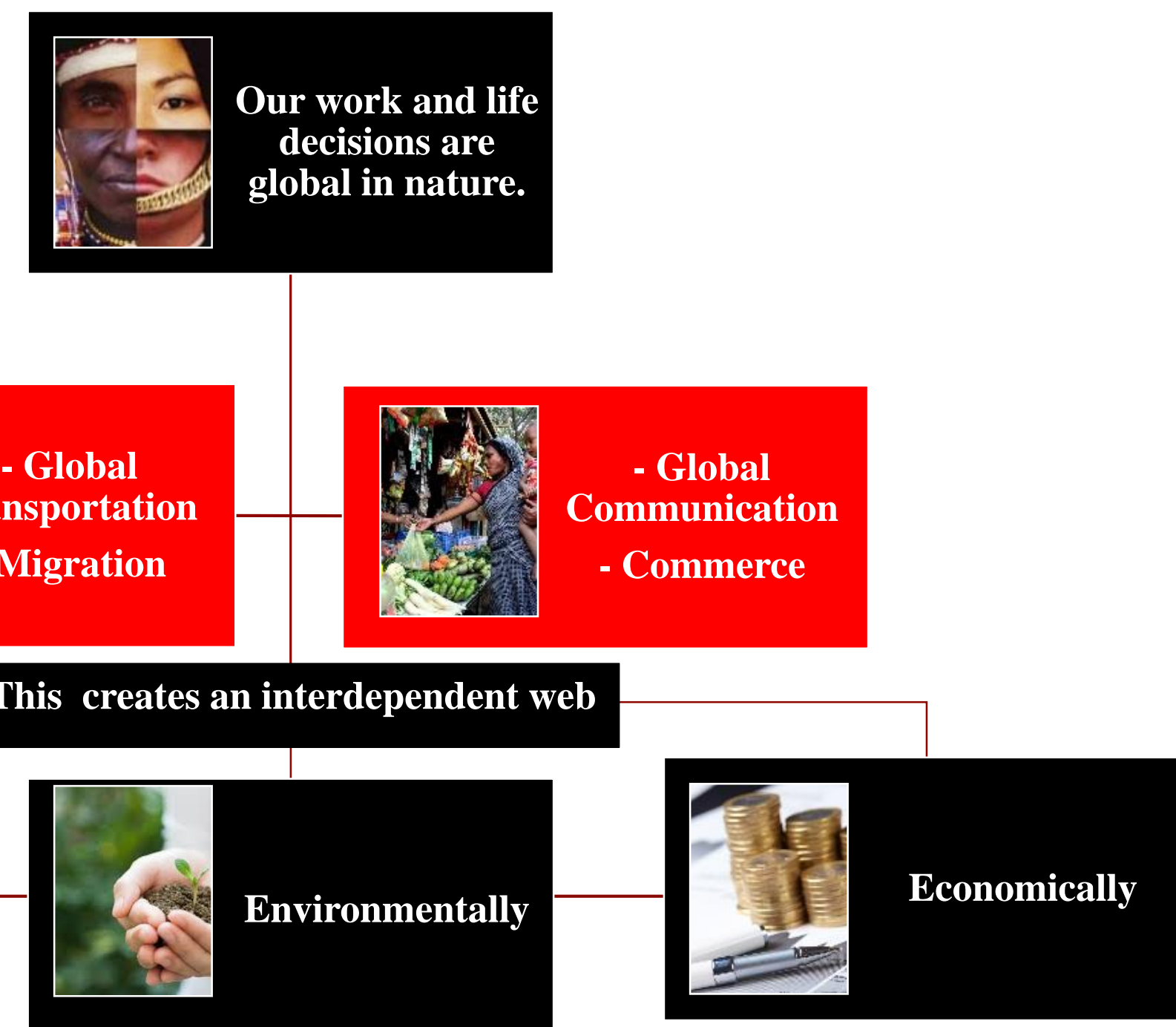
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## Introduction



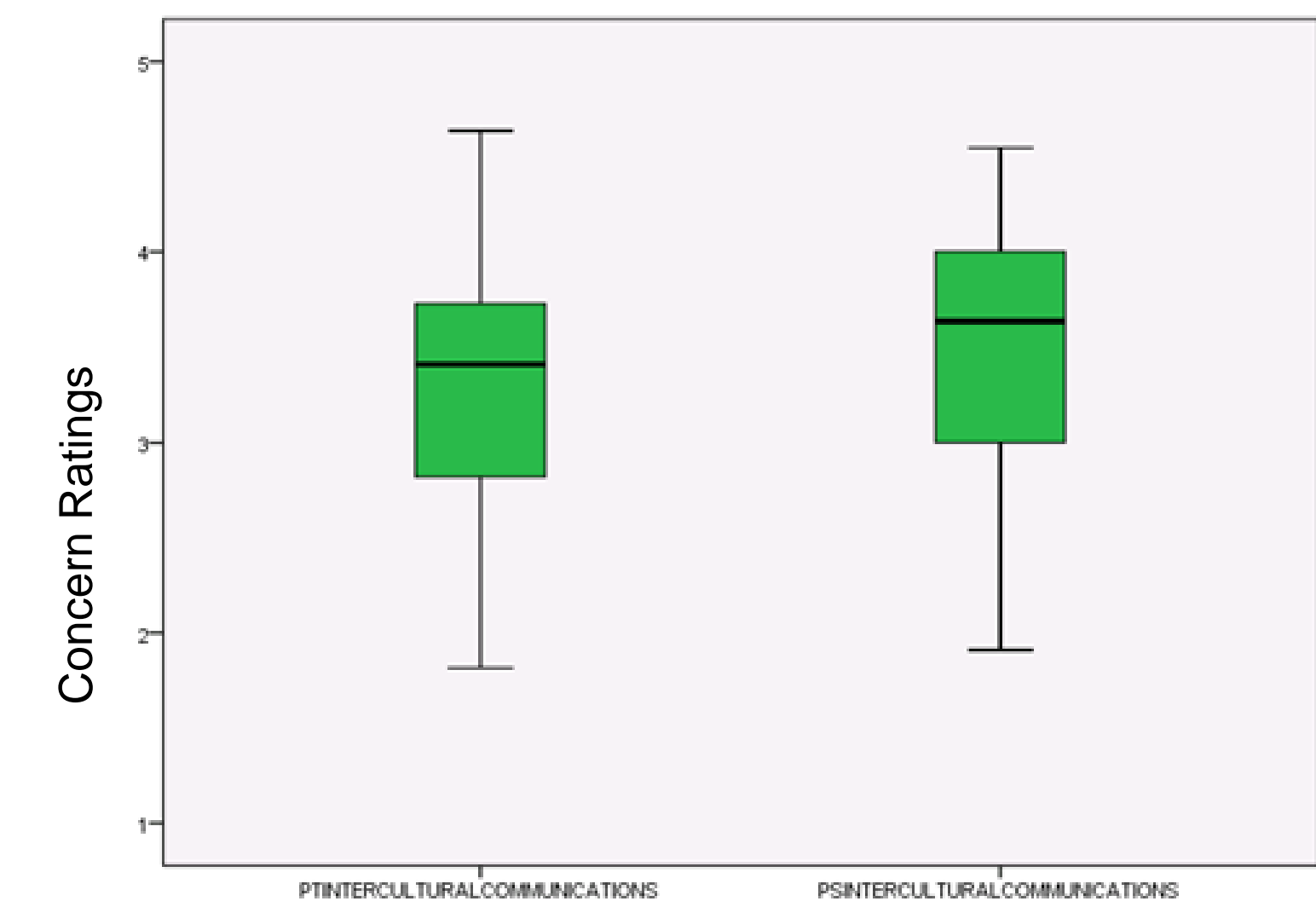
Independent t-test and Descriptive Statistics for Attitude Intercultural Sensitivity Index (N = 34).

Variable	Pre Test		Post Test		<i>t</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>p</i>
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>			
Denial	2.44	.65	2.31	.69	.89	33	.41
Defense	2.21	.48	2.24	.54	-.45	33	.73
Minimization	3.77	.42	3.74	.50	.31	33	.75
Acceptance	4.14	.41	4.17	.79	-0.20	33	.83
Adaptation	3.47	.68	3.41	.83	.46	33	.64
Integration	3.77	.56	3.81	.67	-.40	33	.68
Substantive Knowledge	2.85	.64	2.99	.69	-1.41	33	.16
Perceptual Understanding	3.70	.56	3.56	.72	1.21	33	.23
Intercultural Communications	3.28	.64	3.51	.70	-2.76	33	.01*

\* $P < 0.05$

## Findings/ Results

A paired  $t$  test was conducted to assess student inter-cultural sensitivity after a short-term study abroad program. The results indicated that only one of the nine constructs was statistically significant. Intercultural Communications Post-Test ( $M = 3.51$ ;  $SD = .70$ ) was significantly greater than the mean concern for Intercultural Communications Pre-Test ( $M = 3.28$ ;  $SD = .64$ ),  $t(33) = -2.76$ ,  $p = 0.01$ .



The mean difference was 0.23 points between the two 5-point Likert ratings for Intercultural Communications Pre-Test and Post-Test, although there was considerable overlap in the distributions for the two tests. No other statistically significant results emerged from the data analysis.

## Conclusions / Recommendations

- Short-term study abroad programs are an instrument for the flow of knowledge, technology and culture.
- Short-term study abroad programs don't have a strong impact on students' cultural attitudes and behaviors.
- The results indicate that after a Short-term study abroad program students improve their skills in intercultural communications: that means they improve their ability to socialize with people from other cultures.
- Academic institutions should promote study abroad programs as an integral part of student learning, so students will understand the global impact of their decisions.
- For more significant results in students' intercultural sensitivity a long-term study abroad program with on- and off-campus experiences is recommended in order to expose students to a variety of cultural scenarios.

## Purpose

- To assess international students' inter-cultural sensitivity as a result of their study-abroad experience in the United States, aiming to evaluate the efficacy of short-term study programs and the impacts on students' cultural sensitivity

## Methods

- The instrument used for data collection was the Intercultural Sensitivity Index (ISI) (Olson & Kroeger, 2001).
- The research methodology for the study is a one-group pretest-posttest design.
- Analysis: dependent t-test to compare two means (pretest and posttest). Alpha level of 0.05 to measure significance.



## References

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