

HOMESTAY IDEAS

You may not have the chance to observe/ do all of these during homestay, but they could be helpful ongoing activities.

1. Some suggestions for things to find out by observation and asking:

FOOD

What foods are eaten? When? Where and how are meals cooked? Where does the food come from? What food is produced? Who sells what at the market?

ROLES

What do you see the men doing? What do you see the women doing? What seems to be the role of the child? How do people earn a living? How are the wives treated?

DRESS

What clothes are worn on a daily basis around the home? What is worn for special occasions? Do children wear the same clothes for more than a day?

EDUCATION

What schooling options are available for the children, and for adults? What hours do the primary (elementary) children study at school? What school expenses do the parents have? How do parents (and teachers) discipline their children?

LIVING ENVIRONMENT

How are the houses built? How many people live in the house? Do families have more than one building? How is cleanliness maintained around the home? What hygiene habits do you observe? Where is the toilet? How is it kept?

GREETINGS

How do people greet one another? How are people addressed (use of names, titles, etc)? Are there different types of greetings for different ages?

MISCELLANEOUS

What are the modes of transport used? What health problems do you see around you? Do you observe any physical contact between members of the opposite sex? Are there any taboos?

2. Describe a decision making process you have observed including such aspects as:
 - Composition of the group
 - Style of leadership of the chairperson (monologue? Dialogue?)
 - Participation of various group members (male/female/old/young/official)
 - Method of reaching and implementing the decision
 - Ways of dealing with dissension
 - How does this differ from your home culture?
3. Observe a family or informal group which is facing a crisis or conflict. How is it resolved? How does this differ from your home culture?
4. Attend weddings and funerals. What are the cultural differences from your own traditions?
5. Record any Biblical principles you can find for what is done in the different cultures. Make note of the things you don't understand.