

**D04 Dharmesh / India / Microeconomics**

Interaction partner(s): German student

Moment of enquiry: SS 10

Experience of difference: Social conventions for establishing contact

Dharmesh, an Indian student of Microeconomics, has been invited by his German friend Jonas to a party at the student dorm. He is hoping to meet many other German students. When he arrives for the party, Jonas is expecting him and introduces him to two fellow students. Both students state their names and shake Dharmesh's hand. In turn, Dharmesh bows down slightly, folding his hands over his chest. After that, he briefly touches his forehead with his hand, which he then guides to his heart. The two German students watch the greeting ceremony in amazement and then start laughing. Dharmesh is offended and quickly goes away. Jonas is annoyed at his fellow students' laughter and follows his Indian friend to straighten out the situation.

1. What meaning might the greeting gestures of the Indian student have?
2. How might the German students' reaction be explained?