Kelly's assignment in Japan

1) Explain the clashes in culture, customs and expectations that occurred in this situation.

First of all, when Kelly with her family came to Japan, they realized how apartments are different there in comparison to American houses. Usually, American houses are large in size and have garden for kids and pets, while in Japan apartments are tiny and without garden. Certainly, it was the first thing that disappointed Kelly and her family. After that they start to face more challenges. In the first meeting, when Kelly met two Germans and two Americans and the rest of Japanese, she saw the awkward greetings from Japanese, how silence they were, quiet and shy. Moreover the thought that Kelly was a “man”, and the reason she was not a man, made them laugh and kind of ignoring her. The most embarrassing situation happened, when she signed to each person to do their part of presentations, the next day she was surprised that Japanese have not done anything. The reason of their irresponsibility was that they expect and used to do work in teams or groups. On the other side, Kelly’s husband was not happy with “new life” too. He could not find any job so he was not able to pay for the high cost products in Japan. Children have got culture shock too and were disappointed as well, because the school they were gone, no one was talking English, and they were not able to make friends and understand Japanese pupils. Moreover they could not to adapt to the Japanese food as well. The whole situation was not pleasant for Kelly and her family too.

2) What stage of culture shock is Kelly’s family experiencing?

The stage of culture shock Kelly’s family is experiencing is the irritation and hostility stage. Through this course we have learned that culture of society consists of shared values, assumptions and goals which are past from one generation to the next, and they are all different among countries. Therefore, they can influence people's behavior in their job life. In Kelly's situation, she and her family experienced many stages of cultural shock, in a daily life and the work as well. Going thorough cultural shock stages they were embarassed and frustrated, they did not know if they should stay and get used to differences or if they should leave..

3) Turn back the clock to when Kelly was offered the position in Tokyo. What if anything, should have been done differently, and by whom?

In my opinion, before doing that big step in her life by moving to the absolute different country, she should have made a deep research about that. She should have found that Japanese culture and etiquette are very different to US. She should have considered that her husband is loosing his job in US, so he first have to find a job in
Japan before moving there, so Kelly would not be the only person who bring money to the family. Additionally, she should have thought about her kids, how hard it is going to be on them to adapt to new culture and school, where no one speaks english.

4) You are Kelly. What should you do now?

Being an international student in USA, I consider myself in the same situation as Kelly. And I support her decision by taking risks to move to different country and go through these challenges. But I would have been done more research and training before going into it, as I did before coming to USA. The only thing which is different between my situation and Kelly, is that she came there with her family, which means she has more responsibilities not only over her, but also over her kids and husband, since he quiet his job. In my opinion, it is better for her to stay in Japan rather than going back to America. Because at least they have an apartment in Japan, which is paid by Kelly's company, and actually she has a job. If they decide to move back to America, they will end up with nothing, either her husband, either she don't have job there. Kelly should take an advantage of her job task and be more involved in project and with Japanese people to better know them, rather than everything give to Peter. By the end of her job assignment, she will earn good money which then can help them to move back to USA, and during their time being in Japan they still can search for job in America, so they can come back for something that is already ready for them.