

ABSTRACT

ACCULTURATION AND ITS IMPACT ON PSYCHOSOCIAL FUNCTIONING AMONG ASIAN INDIAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Immigration has always been considered to be a crucial period in a person's life. Central to immigration is the concept of acculturation or cultural adaptation. This thesis focuses on the acculturation experiences of the Asian Indian immigrant community in the Central Valley and Bay Area regions of California. In doing so, it looks at the impact that acculturation has on the psychological and social functioning among the participants. The role of demographic factors like age, gender, lengths of residence, and years of education are also assessed. The study recruited 46 male and female Asian Indian immigrants as participants. They were asked to complete a survey that consisted of three scales, each assessing types of acculturation strategies used, and psychological and social functioning among the respondents. A demographic questionnaire was also included. Results were consistent with previous studies and demonstrated that a majority of the respondents adopted the integrated style of acculturation. Lengths of residence and age were found to be significantly related to the type of acculturation strategy used and also to the levels of psychosocial functioning.

Anamika Barman Adhikari
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