Serving Southeast Asian Families: Current Needs and Trends

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Background of Southeast Asian

- Laotian
- Hmong
- Vietnamese
- Cambodian
- Thailand
Refugee VS. Immigrate

- A refugee is a person who has left their country of origin and is “unable and unwilling to return to that particular social group or political opinion.”

- An immigrant is a person who seeks for a better life and opportunity of living condition.
## Adjustment: Immigrant VS. Refugee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Immigrant</th>
<th>Refugee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td>Step-by-step departure preparation</td>
<td>Little or no chance for departure preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nature</strong></td>
<td>Socio-economic opportunities</td>
<td>Political persecution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Repatriation</strong></td>
<td>Focus on permanent residency</td>
<td>Not possible until change occurs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problems</strong></td>
<td>English and US currency</td>
<td>Overall adjustment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implication</strong></td>
<td>Revival and growth of business sector</td>
<td>Heavy reliance on public assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>People</strong></td>
<td>Southeast Asian immigrants</td>
<td>Indochinese refugees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SEA Refugee Experienced during Vietnam War, Refugee Camp, and Living in the US

- The Hmong
- The Laotian
- The Cambodian
- The Vietnamese
Southeast Asian Experiencing Living in the US

- Social Adjustment
- Language barrier
- Independence VS. Dependence Life Style
- Accessing and Navigation Services Systems
- Legal system
- Family problems:
  - Generation gap,
  - Divorce
  - Role Reversal
  - Parenting
  - Education
- Others
Examples:

1. Hmong Youth Suicided in Fresno County
2. Combodia Sunndently Bline Syndrom
3. Stockton Health Family Services case
4. Cure Case in Fresno County
5. China Trip
6. Others
A Tragic of Misunderstanding

The road to a better life has become a trail of tears for some Hmong immigrants, mourning a culture, a generation and the lives of children...

Lost in America

Hmong Refugees Find Adjustment to U.S. Painful
# Hierarchy of Roles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cambodian</th>
<th>Hmong</th>
<th>Laotian</th>
<th>Vietnamese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>Clan Leader</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>Administrator &amp; Educator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monk/Pastor</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>Monk/Pastor</td>
<td>Parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrator &amp; Educator</td>
<td>Shaman/ Pastor</td>
<td>Administrator &amp; Educator</td>
<td>Professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technician</td>
<td>Administrator &amp; Educator</td>
<td>Technician</td>
<td>Civil Servant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Businessman</td>
<td>Technician</td>
<td>Businessman</td>
<td>Businessman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Businessman</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborer</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Laborer</td>
<td>Laborer/Fisherman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hmong 18 Clans

- Chang
- Thao
- Lor
- Xiong
- Cheng
- Chue
- Hang
- Vue
- Kue
- Fang
- Yang
- Lee
- Her
- Moua
- Kong
- Phang
- Khang
### Refugee Population in Fresno County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hmong</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodian</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others*</td>
<td>4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>53,400</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* *Mien, Ethiopians, Iranians, Russians, Armenians, Iraqis, Khmu and others*
The Hmong Family Clan Functions

Self
Nuclear Family
Immediate Extended Family
Larger Extended Family
Clan
Immediate Clan
Extended Clan
Other Clans and Community
Communication

WESTERN CULTURE

- Physical Greeting
- Eye Contact
- Body Language
- Expression of Emotion
- Names
  - Forms of address
  - Adding to or changing a name
- Addressing Mr. and Mrs.

ASIAN CULTURE

- Not much of physical greeting
- No Eye Contact
- No Body Language
- No Expression of Emotion
- Names
  - Forms of address
  - Adding to or changing a name
- Addressing First name, not Last name
Honor and marriage Names

**Males**

Honor: Nao, Chong, Wa, Youa  
First: Pao, Neng, Houa, Chao  
Last: Vang, Lee, Yang, Xiong  

* Honor name was given by the in-laws of the wife when the couple has their first child or has been married for a period of time

Full Names:

Nao Pao Vang  
Chong Neng Lee  
Wa Houa Yang  
Youa Chao Lee
Honor and marriage Names

- **Females**
  - First: Youa, Ka Ying, Mai Zoua
  - Last: Lee, Moua, Xiong
  - Marriage Name:
  - Youa Lee married to Pao Vang
  - Her name will be called as Pao’ wife.
  - Her first and last names will be changed to
  - The husband’s first name
Vietnamese Names

- **First Names**
  - Anh-Tu*
  - Cuc*
  - Tuyet*
  - Tanh
  - Phuc
  - Cung

- **Last Names**
  - Truong
  - Le
  - Ngo
  - Tran
  - Nguyen
  - Ho

* Female names
Lao Names

- **First Names**
  - Keo*
  - Kham*
  - Manivong*
  - Souphan
  - Khammoun
  - Somkith

- **Last Names**
  - Phatdouang
  - Douangmeechit
  - Vongmysay
  - Khamphasouk
  - Keovongsavang
  - Chanthalasing

- **Female Names**
Cambodian Names

- **First Names**
  - Kunthear*
  - Sophia*
  - Keo*
  - Chan
  - Sopheak
  - Sophan
  - Van

- **Last Names**
  - Sok
  - Chann
  - Chhang
  - Chhoeum
  - Khann
  - Keo
  - York

- **Female Names**
Community Services & Support Systems for Hmong

- Clan Leaders
- Community Leaders
- Mutual Assistance Association (director and staffs of the agency)
- Churches (pastors) Spiritual/Ancestors (Choj dab coj qhua) Shamanism
- Educators (Teachers, Counselor, etc.)
- Business Leaders
- Doctors or Lawyers
Culture and Social Values

- Traditional Healing Practices and Celebration of Achievement
  - Traditional Ceremony
  - Shaman - Ritual Ceremony
  - Baci
  - Soul calling
Religion

- Animism/Spiritual
- Spiritual/Ancestors (Choj dab coj qhua)
- Shamanism (Ua neeb ua yaig)
- Brahmanism
- Taoism
- Confucianism
- Buddhism
- Judeo-Christianity
- Islam
Hmong Shaman
Soul Calling
Value Systems.

- **Traditional SEA American View**
  - Children are extensions of parents
  - The family makes decisions for the child
  - Older children are responsible for their sibling’s actions.
  - Parents ask, "What can you do to help me?"

- **American (Westernized) View**
  - Children are individuals
  - The child is given many choices
  - Each child is responsible for his or her actions
  - Parents ask, "What can I do to help you?"
Challenges and Opportunities working with SEA community

- Cultural
  - Traditional and culture adjustment
- Employment
- Education
- Housing
- Health and Mental Health
- Social Adjustment to the Culture
- Youth Teen Suicide and Gang
- Domestic Violence
Community Resources

- Lao Family Community of Fresno
- Fresno Center for New Americans
- FIRM
- Stone Soup
- Khmer Society of Fresno
- CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates
Collaborative System

1. Specific unit within Department to work with the SEA Communities
2. Minnesota and Wisconsin Collaboration with local government and services agencies to work with SEA Communities
3. Temporary vs. permanent system
4. Others
Celebrations / Holidays

Hmong New Year celebration
last week of December

Lao and Cambodian New Year
2nd week of April

Vietnamese New Year
First week of February
Celebrations / Holidays
Hmong National New Year Celebration
December 26 – January 1st
Governor Davis signed AB78
(An Education Bill requiring middle and High schools to teach Hmong history)
Lao Hmong American War Memorial in Fresno, CA
"Our lives are not determined by what happens to us but by how we react to what happens, not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life."
- Anonymous

- "A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events, and outcomes. It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results."
- Anonymous
Hmong Field Study in China

Who
What
Where
When
Why
How
Questions and Answers