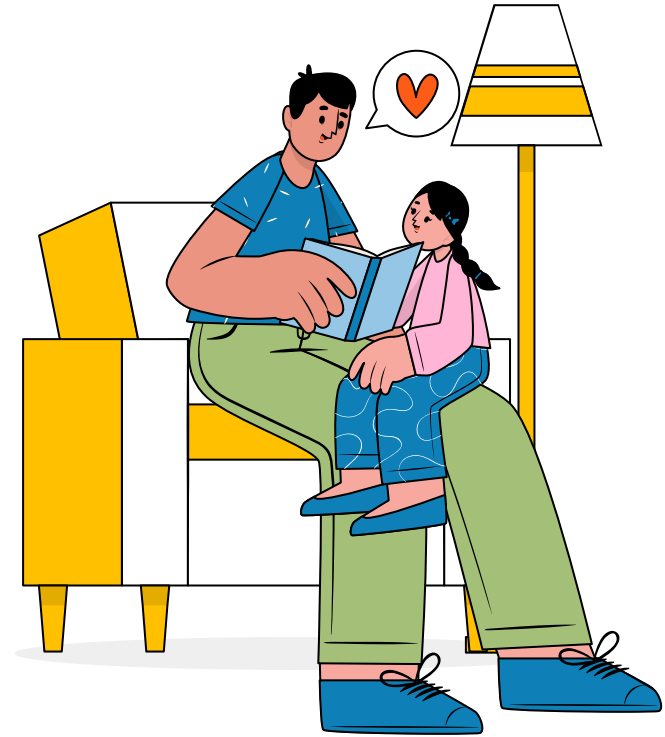


Exploring the Acculturation Strategies Among First Generation and Second Generation Indian Immigrants residing in the United States of America

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Contents



Introduction



Methodology



Results & Discussion



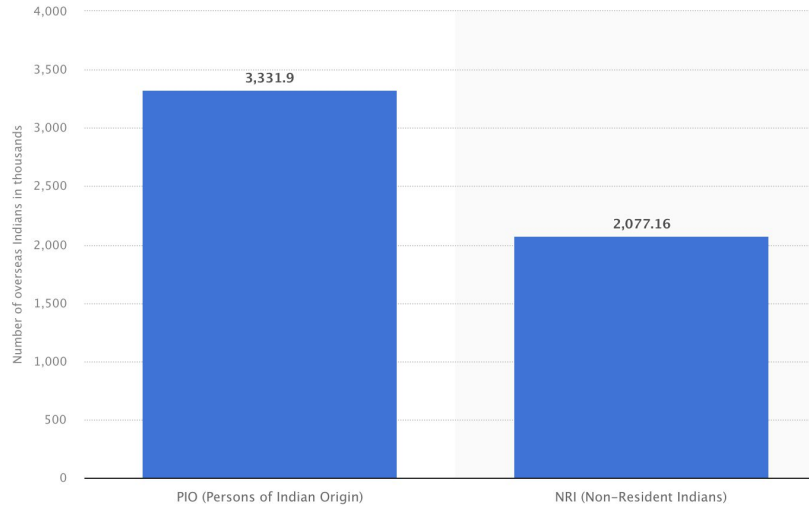
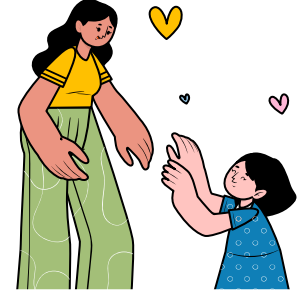
Conclusion



References



Introduction



Europe and Asia output the largest number of migrants. India outputs 2.5 million migrants every year, according to a Ministry of External Affairs(India) report. In total, there are 4.6 million Indian immigrants living in the US right now(Budiman, 2021).

As of 2024, there were a total of over 5.4 million Indians living in the USA. Out of this population, over 3.3 million belonged to Persons of Indian origin category.

Introduction

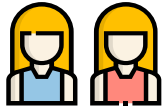
- All of these immigrants have different ways of adjusting to life in America, or any country other than their own. The degree to which one loses their culture when migrating to a new country is known as “acculturation”(Graves 1967).
- Acculturation, as given by Merriam-Webster, means the cultural modification of an individual, group, or people by adapting to or borrowing traits from another culture. It means a lot more than adapting to another culture. Normally, this happens to immigrants emigrating to what is seen as a more “modern” country.

Knowledge Gap

- Every child is influenced by the actions of their parents, and part of this can be related to how children cope with being the children of immigrants, as well as what strategies they use to fuse their culture with the new culture, or lack thereof. This study aims to explore if there is a correlation between how Indian immigrants(first generation) adjust to the US, and what strategies their children use. The family environment aspect of acculturation is important because parents create an environment from which their child picks things up subconsciously.

Acculturation Strategies

- There are Four types of acculturation (Berry):



1

Assimilation

Adopting the new culture entirely



2

Seperation

Maintaining only the original culture



3

Integration

Blending both cultures



4

Marginalization

Maintaining neither culture



Methodology

- **Aim**

The study explores the similarities between acculturation strategies adopted by Indian mothers who migrated to the US and their adolescent children, and how these immigrants adjust to life in the US. This research paper is a quantitative study i.e. survey-based data from Indian immigrants to the US.

- **Hypothesis**

Null hypothesis - There would be no similarity between the acculturation strategies adopted by mothers and their children.

Alternative hypothesis - There would be a similarity in the acculturation strategies adopted by mothers and their children.

- **Sample**

The paper has 30 respondents, 15 adolescents and 15 mothers living in the Bay Area, with the adolescents being teenagers, and the gender ratio for adolescents was 8 males for 7 females, and the adults were all female.

- **Tools used**

The adolescent survey was based on a questionnaire known as the Bicultural Involvement Questionnaire (BIQ) (Szapocznik, Scopetta, Kurtines, & Aranalde, 1978). This questionnaire, based on a scale of 1-5, measures biculturalism and lack thereof, as well as cultural involvement and lack thereof. The American score subtracted from the native score gives us a score for biculturalism, where if a score is close to zero, biculturalism is indicated, a substantial positive score indicates a lean toward the native side, and a substantial negative score indicates a lean toward the American culture. The questionnaires employed in this paper were based on scales of 1-5 and 1-7 Likert scales, for adolescents, and adults, respectively. The questionnaires only asked for gender, age, and initials, so they were completely anonymous.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Summary of Wilcoxon Test Analysis for Indian-origin teenagers and their mother's assimilation of American culture (N=30).

Respondents	N	Mean	SD	Z	p
Children	15	50	6.08	-3.41	0.001
Mothers	15	19.67	4.94		

Table 1 depicts that mean scores for children (M=50, SD =6.08) reported significantly higher on assimilation than mothers (M = 19.67, SD = 4.94), $Z = -3.41$, $p = 0.001$. This means that children adapted more to the new culture, or in this case, Americanism. Similarly, it was found that younger generations spoke more English and less Russian, and older generations spoke more Russian than English in a study of Russian immigrants to the United States (Trickett, Perskey & Espino 2019).

Results and Discussion

Table 2: Summary of Wilcoxon Test Analysis for Indian teenagers and their mother's separation from American culture (N=30)

Respondents	N	Mean	SD	Z	p
Children	15	37.6	6.91	-2.25	0.025
Mothers	15	32.4	2.47		

Table 2 depicts that mean scores for children (M = 37.6, SD = 6.91) reported somewhat lower on separation than mothers (M = 32.4, SD = 2.47), $Z = -2.25$, $p = 0.025$. This means that mothers kept more of the host culture and less of the new culture. Similarly, a study on Moroccan immigrants to the Netherlands found that older people used their original language more than the younger generations (Stevens 2004).

Results and Discussion

Table 3: Summary of Wilcoxon Test Analysis for Indian teenagers and their mother's integration of American culture into Indian culture (N=30).

Respondents	N	Mean	SD	Z	p
Children	15	-12.4	-10	-3.41	0.001
Mothers	15	24.07	1.98		

Table 3 depicts that mean scores for children (M= -12.4, SD= -10) reported significantly lower on biculturalism than mothers (M = 24.07, SD = 1.98), Z = -3.41, p = 0.001. This means that mothers incorporated both cultures while adapting to the US. Similarly, it was found that the averages for Moroccan immigrants in the Netherlands relating to Dutch culture were higher for adults than for children (Stevens,2004).

Results and Discussion

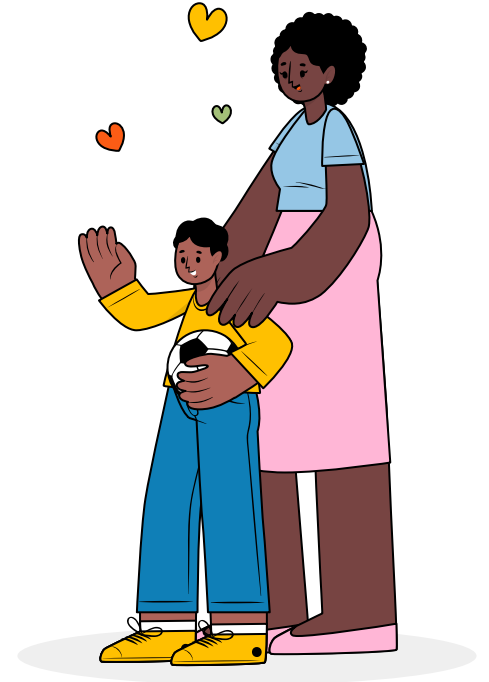
Table 4: Summary of Wilcoxon Test Analysis for Indian teenagers and their mother's cultural involvement (N= 30).

Respondents	N	Mean	SD	Z	p
Children	15	87.6	3.87	-3.41	0.001
Mothers	15	19.6	3.89		

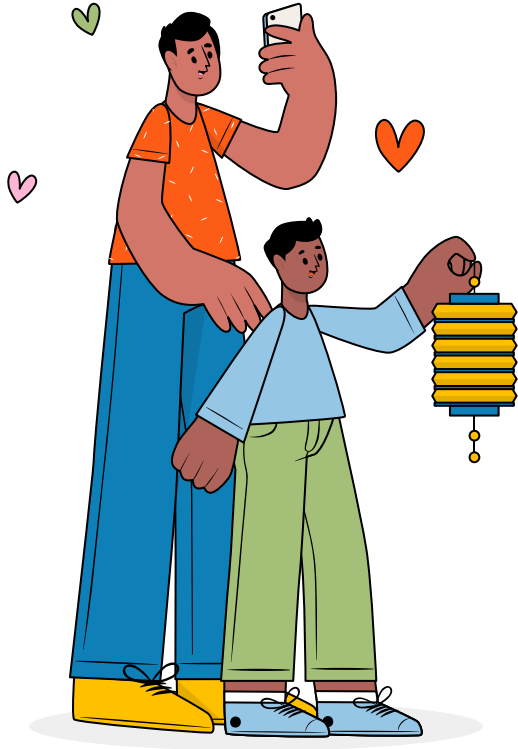
Table 4 depicts that mean scores for children (M = 87.6, SD = 3.87) reported significantly higher separation than mothers (M = 19.6, SD = 3.89), $Z = -3.41$, $p = 0.001$. This means that mothers were less culturally involved than children. In contrast, it was found that Russian adolescents immigrating to the US related less to either culture (Trickett, Perskey & Espino 2019).

Conclusion

- Major findings in this research paper are that on average, mothers were less likely to be more adapted to American culture than their children and that children were more culturally involved than their mothers.
- Mothers who grew up in India would have more attachment to Indian culture and less to America, as most of their life had been in India.
- This study can be used to see how Indian people respond to their cultural diffusion, as well as new surroundings.
- This study can be used to help Indians adjust by helping them to see where they can add effort, to be more culturally involved, or more adapted to the new culture, or old culture.



Limitations



- Sample size is limited to 30 respondents, focusing only on mothers and adolescents.
- Geographical limitation: The study was conducted solely in the Bay Area, which may not fully represent the broader Indian-American population.
- Only for Indian immigrants to the US

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