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Introduction

Previous research has identified Asian immigrant parents as Authoritarian (high control, support).

Inaccurate conceptualization?

- Literature – collectivism and Confucian values
- Existing research on Vietnamese parents have been quantitatively focused
- Aggregate data – lumped up the distinct ethnic groups that make up the "Asian" designation.

Few studies have taken a qualitative appproach and no study of this nature has been conducted on immigrant Vietnamese parents.

Therefore the purpose of this study was to

to explore the parenting experience of migrant Vietnamese parents

Research Design

Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA; Smith & Osborn, 2004)

The present study involved a sample of 9 first generation mothers and fathers of adolescents.

- 7 women 2 men
- Aged between 29 and 53

Procedures

- Participants were recruited via research flyers, personal contacts and snowball sampling.
- Open ended interview questions
- 45 minutes

Findings

Complete data were available for 9 participants.

Participant's responses were analyzed using IPA. Three superordinate themes were identified

1. Parenting Approach
2. Parenting goals
3. Education

Parenting Approach

In describing their experiences, participant characterized their style of parenting as a harmony of Western and Western styles. For example, one participant reported:

I take a half and half approach. Half here and half from Vietnam. i know what a typical Vietnamese would do and what someone over here would choose the best way for each situation to teach them . In Vietnam, it is too strict the parent is very discipline towards everything and you can't do anything. Over here there's a lot of freedom.

Parenting goals

Common parenting goals were described within the interviews. Participants expressed goals regarding the development of a bicultural identity and development of character. For example:

I want my kids to remember where they've come from but at the same time, I know in a few more generations, it will be lost since we are living in Australia now. It's not going to be important to them – it's going to be important to me – to know where they come from. Where they ancestors came from. In another 3-4 generations, nobody will remember. That's just the way it is. I can only do my part.... to pass culture down to my kids.

Conclusions

Overall the study was relatively successful and contributes toward a more in depth understanding of the Vietnamese population

Implications:

- Emphasis on developing a bicultural identity: implications for practitioners
- Authoritarian parenting

Limitations:

- Sample bias – referred acquaintances (homogeneity of values?)

Future research:

- Toward a different parenting style measure
- Larger population

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