

Late-Life Asian Indian Immigrants Aging Out Place in Multigenerational Homes

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BACKGROUND

- Aging ‘in place’ vs Aging ‘out of place’
- Majority sponsored by adult children to immigrate
- Live in multigenerational homes
- Vulnerable population
- **Current study:** Explores the experience of aging out of place and the extent to which late-life immigrants and families cope, adapt, and adjust
- **Theoretical Framework:** integration of 2 theories, Immigrant Acculturation Theory and Relational and Resilience Theory of Ethnic Family Systems (RRTEFS) (McCubbin & McCubbin, 2013).



METHODS

- Qualitative Interviews
- 20 participants from 8 Asian Indian families:
 - 9 late-life participants aged 70 to 89 who relocated to the U.S., between 5 to 20 years ago
 - 8 adult children (4 sons and 4 daughters) with whom parents reside and
 - 3 spouses of the adult children
- Thematic analysis of all transcripts (NVivo 10 software)
- Trustworthiness measures



RESULTS

Late-Life Immigrant Parents

Themes	Sample Quotations
Reasons for Immigrating: (a) to assist children (b) death of spouse	<p>“My husband and I came here to help my daughter.”</p> <p>“Living on my own was not something I could do. My girls advised me to relocate to US”</p>
Pattern of Functioning: (a) Dependency (b) Providing assistance (c) Language Barriers	<p>“We are stuck at home. We have to depend on our daughter”</p> <p>“We came, and we had to help so much at home taking care of small children”</p> <p>“I can’t speak English although I can understand”</p>
Family Schema: (a) Relationship with grandchildren (b) Cultural gatekeepers	<p>“We are looked up on as the elders”</p> <p>“I cook the special food for <i>Vishu</i> and <i>Onam</i>. Just like in India we will invite people to our home”</p>
Relational Well being: (a) Community Support (b) Religion and Spirituality	<p>“I have so many friends here and in the mission”</p> <p>“My faith in God gave me the courage to bear everything”</p>

Adult Children and Spouses

Themes	Sample Quotations
Pattern of Functioning: (a) Reciprocal Assistance (b) Caregiving as Parents Aged	<p>“My father would take the kids to school, my mom would do the cooking.”</p> <p>“I don’t want to ever put them in a home”</p>
Family Schema: (a) Filial Duties (b) Cultural Ties (c) Relationship with grandchildren	<p>“This is what I am supposed to do, I can’t just leave them somewhere. They’re my parents, I love them”</p> <p>“They keep the traditions going”</p> <p>“We thought it was good for the kids to be with the grandparents”</p>
Relational Well being: (a) Multigenerational Living (b) Medical Insurance (c) Spousal Support	<p>“It’s certainly a win-win for all of us”</p> <p>“We have nothing, and we have to get medicines from India. No Medicaid”</p> <p>“He’s the biggest support system for me”</p>
Spouses (a) Forging a Relationship	<p>“ She loves me like a daughter”</p>

IMPLICATIONS

- Family and community support essential to assist late-life immigrants in transitioning and adapting to living in the U.S.
- The reciprocity of benefits for older adults and their families enhances the intergenerational aspects of family resilience.
- Currently, late-life immigrants are excluded from Medicare, which is problematic for the families. Essential to expand medical coverage to include late life immigrants
- Domestic immigration policies must continue to allow parental sponsorship for adult children especially when the parents have few resources in terms of caregiving in their country of origin



DISCUSSION



1. How might the needs of immigrants aging in place differ from late-life immigrants aging out of place?
2. What policy changes need to be put in place to provide health care coverage and other resources for these families?
3. How can we best integrate resilience strategies into effective interventions for the older population?

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