



PCERII Funded Research

Progress Report

**Factors Influencing Child Rearing Practices of Recently Migrated East
Indian and Chinese Women with Children from Infancy to Age Six**

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1. Research Problem

From the review of existing literature, it is increasingly evident that a need existed to conduct research with immigrant populations to develop and enhance our understanding of their patterns of child rearing. The finding of contemporary studies may be very beneficial in determining contextual, personal, and cultural factors that affect child-rearing practices of recently migrated women of different cultural groups. The purpose of this study was to examine what factors influence the child-rearing practices of women who have recently migrated from China and India with children aged 0-6.

2. Research Methodology

The study utilized a qualitative research design, generic as presented by Schatzman and Strauss (1973). In-depth interviews were conducted with 11 Chinese women and 7 East Indian participants.

3. Research Progress to Date

We are in the process of writing our final report.

4. Emerging Results

The themes presented represent the similarities found in the data collected on both the Chinese and East Indian women. More specifically, these are the factors that are influencing the child-rearing practices of the sample.

a. Parental Vision

- Respect for elders
- Conceptions of good/bad
- Well educated
- Valuable person/well rounded
- Parental responsibility

b. Parental Vision – How to Accomplish Vision

- Time
- Finances
- Role modelling
- Discussion

c. Personal Experiences

- Self
- Others

d. Canadian Society

- Freedom
- Different discipline
- Child welfare

e. Challenges to Raising a Child in Canadian Society

- Language barrier
- Financial
- Housing
- Employment

5. Policy Implications

At the local level, policies pertaining to how service providers engage and work with women from the cultural groups participating in the study may be altered or at least influenced by the final results of the study. The findings may also impact the development and implementation of programs.

6. Staffing for the Conduct of Research

Throughout the research, we have relied on graduate students from the Faculties of Social Work and Nursing to conduct interviews and literature searches. As well, we have hired interpreters from the community to assist in the interviewing process. Support staff from both Faculties have been employed to transcribe the interviews.

7. Dissemination Activities

The primary mode of dissemination has been at conferences. Listed below are the conferences where we have made presentations on our research.

8. Projected Completion Date: May 15, 1999

Specific Information**1. Conference Presentations**

- a. Clark, D., Shimoni, R., & Este, D. (1998). Mosaic centre: An ecological research model. Linking research and practice: A Canadian forum. Canadian Child Care Federation, Banff, AB.
- b. Austin, C., & Este, D. (1998). The experience of underemployed immigrant men. Paper presented at the International Multicultural Conference, Edmonton, AB.
- c. Este, D., Sethi, S., & Charlebois, M. (1998). Factors influencing the child-rearing practices of recently immigrated Chinese and East Indian women with children from infancy to age six. Paper presented at the International Child Care Conference, Edmonton, AB.
- d. Este, D., Clark, D., Shimoni, R., & Ksienski, H. (1998). Understanding and helping families from the former Yugoslavia: The mosaic centre project. Paper presented at the International Multicultural Conference, Edmonton, AB.
- e. Clark, D., Shimoni, R., & Este, D. (1998). Mosaic family resource centre: Understanding and helping refugee and immigrant children and families. Investing in Care: The 11th National Child and Youth Care Conference, Mt. Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS.

2. Other Forms of Dissemination

Este, D., Sethi, S., & Charlebois, M. (1998). Influences impacting on the child-rearing practices of recently migrated East Indian and Chinese women with children from infancy to age six. Bridging the gap: Research, policy, and service perspectives on the metropolis project. The Prairie Centre for Excellence in Immigration Research, University of Regina, Regina, SK.

Este, D., Sethi, S., & Charlebois, M. (1998). Factors influencing the child-rearing practices of recently immigrated Chinese and East Indian women with children from infancy to age six. Paper presented to the Calgary Node, Prairie Centre for Research on Immigration and the Metropolis, Calgary, AB.

Yong-Lie, G., & Este, D. (Eds.) (1999). Professional social services in a multicultural world. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.

Austin, C. G., & Este, D. (1999). Group work with immigrant men. In G. Yong-Lie & D. Este (Eds.), Professional social services in a multicultural world (pp. 113-132). Toronto, ON: Canadian Scholars' Press.

Este, D. (1999). Immigration, multiculturalism and social welfare in Canada. In G. Yong-Lie and D. Este (Eds.), Professional social services in a multicultural world (pp. 3-25). Toronto, ON: Canadian Scholars' Press.

Este, D. (1999). Cultural competency and social work: an overview. In G. Yong-Lie and D. Este (Eds.), Professional social services in a multicultural world (pp. 27-45). Toronto, ON: Canadian Scholars' Press.

Austin, C., & Este, D. (1998). The working experiences of underemployed immigrant men. In A. Richardson (Ed.), International Multiculturalism 1998: Preparing Together for the 21st Century (pp. 505-515). Edmonton, AB: Kanata Learning Company.

Este, D., Shimoni, R., Clark, D., & Ksienski, H. (1998). Understanding and helping families from the former Yugoslavia: the mosaic centre. In A. Richardson (Ed.) International Multiculturalism 1998: Preparing Together for the 21st Century (pp.349-358). Edmonton, AB: Kanata Learning Company.

Clark, D., Shimoni, R., & Este, D. (1998). Mosaic centre community action program for children: a comparative analysis. Ottawa, ON: Human Resources Development Canada.

The majority of research and evaluation studies in which I have engaged with my colleagues impact most significantly on program/service delivery. The development of different and innovative programs for immigrants and refugees represent the operationalization of Canada's immigration and multicultural policies, especially from a settlement and adaptation perspective.