



PCERII Funded Research

Progress Report

Coping Strategies, Employment Status and Relationship Stability of Immigrant Couples

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1. Research problem

We studied the strategies couples used in their family lives to deal with the difficulties and stressors of settlement in a new culture. We were interested in coping mechanisms, both positive and negative, and adaptive changes couples made in their own relationships to deal with changes in work roles and family responsibilities.

2. Research methodology

This was a qualitative study, using in-depth interviews with couples together and with the husband and wife separately. Couples had to be married and living together in their home country before migrating to Canada, and had to have lived in Canada a minimum of two and a maximum of seven years. Findings were analyzed using thematic content analysis of transcripts and by utilizing NUDIST 4 software for qualitative data analysis.

The analysis of data will be completed by June 1999. Dissemination of finding highlights has been ongoing since January 1999. (see 7.)

3. Findings

These include significant gender differences in the adaptation of men and women to the new culture, and in the ability to cope with the stress of changing roles and statuses. We have a better idea of the process of adaptation as it is experienced by married couples, and the strategies that are used at different stages of the process.

We have plans to workshop in June with service providers to discuss applications. We feel our results challenge some of the traditional ways in which we provide settlement and family counseling to newcomers and some of the assumptions on which services and policies are based and we hope to explore these issues with the service providers.

4. Policy implications

Will be explored more carefully in the next two months.

5. Staffing

2 MSc. Students in Human Ecology were employed by the project on a part-time basis

1 Ph.D. Student in Human Ecology was employed part-time

6. Dissemination Activities

- Third Annual Metropolis Conference in Vancouver – Social Domain
- PCERII Brown Bag Seminar at Catholic Social Services
- Women's Studies Speaker Series
- Human Ecology Research Colloquium
- Forthcoming: Immigrant Serving Agencies Workshop – June 1
Proposal for an article submitted to Canadian Women's Studies for their upcoming issue on Immigrant and Refugee Women

Proposal for a workshop submitted to Annual Family Service Canada Conference, October 1999

7. Actual date of completion

dissemination never complete! We have enough rich information to be writing for several years. The actual use of funds and active research is considered complete.