



Prairie Centre Regional Workshop

Workshop Presentation Abstract

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

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October 29-31, 1998
Regina, Saskatchewan

Recent migration to a new country is characterized by more than one transition. Tyhurst (1975) defined transition as "as passage or change from one place or state or act or set of circumstances to another" (p. 150). Migration requires that one must make adjustments in all aspects of one's existence in the host country. For example, learning the language, finding a job, developing new support systems and ensuring that the beliefs and practices of one's culture are adhered to in raising and relating to one's children in the new environment (Waxier-Morrison, Anderson & Richardson, 1990). This study was undertaken to examine the factors that influence child-rearing practices of recently migrated (up to 3 years) East Indian and Chinese women with children ranging in age from birth to six years;. This study also attempted to uncover the adjustment challenges these women encounter while raising their children in a new society.

From the review of the existing literature it is increasingly evident that there was a need to conduct research with immigrant populations to develop and enhance our understanding of their patterns of child-rearing. The findings 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 from East India and China with children from infancy to 6 years old. The objectives of this study were to:

1. Develop our knowledge and understanding of the factors that influence child-rearing practices of recently immigrated women of East Indian and Chinese origins.
2. Develop our knowledge and understanding of the dominant and variant child-rearing practices of recently migrated women of East Indian and Chinese origins.
3. Utilize the generated knowledge in the provision of health care for recently migrated women of East Indian, Chinese and any other cultural groups as they make adjustments in their child-rearing practices in the Canadian society.

Method

The study was descriptive in nature and utilized the generic qualitative method described by Schatzman and Strauss (1973) to examine the child-rearing practices of two groups of women identified in this study. The generic qualitative approach was appropriate because of the flexibility we desired in collecting data from the people themselves. Our intent was to be true to the principle that "the researcher must get close to the people whom he(she) studies" (Schatzman and Strauss, 1973, p.5). The data was collected using informal or semi-formal interview format. This approach allowed for full exploration of the held values and beliefs with the participants and hence the explication of the phenomenon under study.

A purposive sample was recruited for this study. Twenty women, 12 Chinese and 8 East Indian, participated in the research. These individuals were identified as potential participants by nurses employed by the Calgary Regional Health Authority, staff in an immigrant serving agency and through personal contacts with a member of the research team.

Sample Selected Demographics

The mean age of the women was 32 years. All of the respondents possessed a high school education with 75% completing post-secondary education. Out of the thirteen women who responded, approximately half were employed. Finally, the average length of residency in Canada was 19 months.

Data Generation

The data was generated with the completion of a brief demographic questionnaire and an interview using semi-structured questions. The interviews were conducted with the assistance of an interpreter because of language barriers. Each interview was approximately an hour in duration. All were taped and subsequently transcribed.

Data Analysis

The inductive data analysis technique was used to analyse the data. Lincoln and Guba (1985) define inductive data analysis "as a process for making sense of field data" (p.265). Patton (1980) in describing the process, states that "inductive analysis means that patterns, themes, and

categories of analysis come from the data. They emerged out of the data rather than being imposed on them prior to data collections and analysis" (p.303). Each transcribed interview was analysed by the research team on an individual basis. The research team then held several meetings to discuss the individual results and then engaged in a process of identifying common patterns and themes.

Emerging Results

The themes presented represents the similarities found in the data collected on both the Chinese and East Indian women.

1. Parental Vision

- Respect for elders
- Valuable Person/Well Rounded
- Well educated
- Good/Bad
- Parental responsibility

2. Parental Vision - How to Accomplish Vision

- Time
- Finances
- Role-Modeling
- Discussion

3. Personal Experiences of Self/Others

- Self
- Others

4. Canadian Society

- Freedom
- Different Discipline
- Child Welfare

5. Challenges to Raising a Child in Canadian Society

- Language Barrier
- Financial
- Housing
- Employment

Once this phase of the analysis is completed, we will be comparing the differences between the Chinese and East Indian women.