Acculturation and Well-being of Immigrant Brides in Taiwan

Chun-Hao Li
Yuan Ze University, Taoyuan City, Taiwan
chl@saturn.yzu.edu.tw

Shu-Yao Hsu
Kang Ning University, Tainan City, Taiwan
hsujune@ukn.edu.tw

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Background: Migration is one of the demographic processes. Immigrant brides as a source to increase population have accumulated some a half million of the population since the early 1990s in Taiwan. The female immigrants for marriage were primarily from Mainland China, and Southeast Asian Countries. The similar phenomena of immigrant brides are also discovered in South Korea. Due to the sexual imbalance in the marriage market and the rise of economy, more and more immigrant brides from ASEAN are found in present China. With limited social supports and/or language difficulty, immigrant brides are disadvantaged. Nowadays, well-being of immigrant brides is a major concern in Taiwan.

Objectives: Theoretically, immigrant brides can take one or more acculturation strategies including integration, assimilation, separation, and marginalization to face their new life in
destinations (Berry 1994; 1997). The acculturation strategies an immigrant takes can lead to the positive or negative outcomes, which can include two dimensions: sociocultural adaptation and psychological adaptation (Berry 1997; Searle and Ward 1990; Ward and Kennedy 1994; Ward 1996). The former is related to the survival skills of immigrants, while the latter is about their psychological conditions and well-being (Berry 1994).

The additional influential factors on acculturation outcomes can be including social capital and community atmosphere (Farrell et al. 2004; Fumhan and Sheikh 1993; Jayasuriya et al. 1992; Vega and Rumbaut 1991). Social capital shaped by personal demographic and socio-economic factors can affect the acculturation strategies and further determine the outcomes of acculturation (Weiss 1982). However, as a member of a community, any immigrant brides can be influenced by community contexts. In this research, therefore, researchers rely on the perspectives of social capital and community development to construct a framework to examine their direct, indirect, and moderating relationships among social capital, acculturation strategies, and well-being of immigrant brides.

Methods: The research relies on a sample of 388 immigrant brides in 8 cities or counties of Taiwan. The research team provided questionnaires of different languages including Simplified Chinese, English, Vietnamese, Thai, and Indonesian. Besides the items to collect background information, the questionnaire consisted of several social-psychological scales. Respondents were requested to fill-in questionnaires while they were participating activities for immigrants. The present research is a quantitative one. Researchers, therefore, conduct statistical analyses, including reliability test, and multiple regression analysis.

Results: The expected results include showing the effects of a variety of acculturation strategies on the sociocultural and psychological adaptation and well-being of immigrant brides. In addition, the results will demonstrate how community atmosphere can contribute to the well-being of female immigrants of marriage.

Conclusions: Taiwan, South Korea, and China generally shared similar culture; they are influenced by patriarchism and Confucianism. The natives somehow look down on foreigners, especially those who are from less-wealthy areas or countries. Immigrant brides from ASEAN countries are disadvantaged in both gender and ethnicity dimensions in these three countries. The findings in the Taiwanese research, therefore, may provide some information for the other two countries to develop intervention strategies and/or programs to enhance the well-being of immigrant brides.

Main references


