The Issue of the Well-being of Illegal Immigrant Children

Teskiratou Nachirou, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences and Honors College

Faculty Mentor: Susan Eve, Department of Sociology, College of Public Affairs and Community Service and Honors College

TOPIC

I will investigate the problems that children of illegal immigrants have in the United States, especially education and health care issues.

Definitions:

- Illegal immigration is defined as migrating from one country to another and, in the process, violating the laws and sovereignty of the nation of arrival.
- Illegal immigrant children are children who were born abroad and brought into another country at an early age illegally by their parent(s).

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What difficulties do illegal immigrant children living in the U.S. face?
- How do these difficulties affect U.S. society?
- What can or should the U.S. do to improve the lives of illegal immigrant children?
- What is life in the United States like for illegal immigrant children?
- Should they be deported to their home country?
- Should they have to be punished because of the decisions their parents made in coming to the U.S. illegally?
- What are the changes that the government and the entire society can or should make to improve the lives of these children?

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Krista & India, (2011)
- Why do immigrant families decide to come to the United States?
- Economic hardships in their home country
- Persecutions
- Reunification with family members already in the United States

Sandy and Flore (2011)
- Analysis of statistics on immigrants in the United States

Jeffrey, 2011
- The United States encountered a high level of immigration in the 1900’s.
- 1900-2007: In the span of 17 years the estimated number of illegal immigrants increased from 3.5 to 12 million.

Alejandro and Alejandro (2011)
- Education
- Parental socioeconomic status
- Aspiration and expectations of academic performance
- Immigrant families have high ambition
- Cultural capital from their home countries

Sandy and Flore, 2012
Where are they coming from?
- The high professionals are coming from Asia–China, India, Philippines
- Manual labor immigrants tend to be from Caribbean, Mexico, and others countries of Central America
- Children from families in which at least one member of the family has a good paying job have higher chances of enrolling in postsecondary schools than children of manual labor workers
- Why are those children born to parents of low paying jobs not doing as well? Inadequate academic preparation; unrealistic expectations; and lack of familiarity with the U.S higher education system.

Karoly & Gonzalez (2011)
Barriers to higher education and social life
- Low family income
- Non-working status of the parent or parents
- Language barrier

Krista & India
- Illegal immigrants suffer from physical and mental health problems
- Causes of their health problems
- Stresses of migration
- Poverty
- Challenge of acculturation and enculturation
- They also have emotional health problem due to immigration
- Immigration itself causes anxiety, hyperactivity, and conduct disorders
- The deficit of health care insurance common among children of illegal immigrants
  - Depend on their parent
  - Parental citizenship and immigration status
  - Coming from low income family
- Statistics of children lacking health insurance in the U.S
  - 45% of non-U.S. residents
  - 18% of naturalized citizens
  - 13% of U.S born

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve the understanding of differences within the group
- Improve the post–secondary success rate
- Improve access to medical services
- Relax restrictions on eligibility for public health insurance
- Healthcare providers need to be sensitive to the culture of immigrants and their preferences
- Learn more about the usual condition of life of these children
- Improve the availability of health insurance for all children
- Provide adequate funding with combination of low tuition

METHODS

- Quantitative analysis
- To keep reading different articles that deal with the topic in order to have the most adequate knowledge of the topic.
- Use of many databases such as the national longitudinal study of adolescence health to record data of illegal immigrant children
- Summarize studies in the tables
  - Age
  - Gender
  - School
- Find out many organizations that help illegal immigrant children
- Interview them
- Conduct a qualitative analysis
- Interview sample of immigrant families and their children in the Denton area

REFERENCES


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