Impact of Acculturation on Student performance: A case study of Indian students

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Purpose

The purpose of this exploratory case study is to assess the impact of various degrees of acculturation on academic performance and acquisition of future job skills, experienced by the Indian students in a private university in the United States.
Problem Statement

Indian Students → Acculturation → Academic performance → Acquisition of future jobs
Current Topic

- Purpose
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- Context
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- Outcomes
Acculturation - Definition

Acculturation, for this research is defined as blending in and balancing two cultures.

Berry’s theory of acculturation strategies (mentioned below) will be used to understand the perceptions of students:

• Assimilation, separation, integration, and marginalization

The research is based on in-depth interviews of students, their academic coaches, faculty and career counselors.
Total contribution of international students to the U.S. economy in 2014, by country of origin (in million U.S. dollars)
Why select Indian students for this study?

Racial Diversity

• Unlike many other countries with homogenic ethnicity, India is a constellation of ethnicities. That is why Prof V. A. Smith rightly called it as “an ethnological museum”.

Linguistic Diversity

• 200+ languages (20 prominent languages), Over 1500 dialects. So diverse that the population cannot understand the National Anthem or the President’s speech directly. English is the link language. Indian Currency is has multiple languages printed on it.
Why select Indian students for this study?

Cultural Diversity
• The customs, manners, food, cloth etc. of a state/region is different from other.

Political Diversity
• Multi-party democracy in Federal and State governments with diverse political ideologies.
Challenges faced by Indian Students

In class life
- Regional examples
- Shy

Communication
- Accent
- Common phrases: Made in India and Made in USA

Academics
- Researching
- Acquiring knowledge
Challenges faced by Indian Students

Faculty interaction
- Faculty office hours
- Observe and learn

Writing styles
- APA/MLA
- Plagiarism

Fostering friendships
- Social scene
- Cultural cult
Current Topic

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Exploratory case study methodology

Answering ‘how’
Discovering ideas
Developing insights

Gillham (2000) suggests that qualitative methods focused primarily on the kind of evidence (what people tell you, what they do) that would enable one to understand the meaning of what is going on. The great strength of such methods is that they can illuminate issues and turn up possible explanations; they are essentially a search for meaning as is all research (Gillham, 2000, p. 10).
Hypothesis

H1:
• There is a positive relationship between cultural integration and student holistic development

H2:
• There is a positive relationship between acculturation and future job prospects
Research Questions

RQ1: What are some of the challenges in academics that you face in the University?

RQ2: Do you have a mentor on campus?

RQ3: Do you actively participate in on-campus events or clubs?

RQ4: Are you active in making new friendships outside of your comfort zone?

RQ5: What is missing, in terms of support system on campus?
Methodology - Data Collection 1

- Individual Interviews
- Semi-structured observations & Field Notes
- Other Sources
Methodology - Data Collection 2

Interviews & Interview Process

- Formal consent of the participants for the interview.
- Standardized open-ended interviews with a few Likert-style questions.
- Interviews at a mutually convenient time and place (Lynn University).
- Time frame: 3 weeks
Methodology - Sample Description

Subjects:
- Undergraduate students, Office of Student Involvement Center, and Career Connections, of Lynn University. All participants are older than 18 years with no known mental or physical disabilities.

Student Group:
- Undergraduate students of Lynn University of Indian ethnicity, and duration of study at Lynn University to make the sample representative.

Office of Student Involvement Center and Career Connections:
- Staff from the office of student involvement center and career connections. Career counselors are included in the sample for the reason that they are more knowledgeable about the employers’ expectations and thus they act as the bridge between the students and their prospective employers.
Office of Student Involvement Center and Career Connections:

- Career counselors are included in the sample for the reason that they are more knowledgeable about the employers’ expectations and thus they act as the bridge between the students and their prospective employers.
- Student involvement center staff members will give their input on participation of Indian students.
Outcomes

Future job skills for this research mainly includes:

- collaborative team work and critical thinning.

It is hoped that the outcome of this study would help University administrators to:

- find ways to alleviate the process of cultural integration and minimize its negative effects.
THANK YOU!

Questions