
**Topic:** Mexican Morals vs. American Life

- Many Mexican immigrants arrive to America and end up living under certain difficult circumstances where they find themselves struggling with long working hours to get paid a low minimum wage. Aside of all of their struggles in maintaining their jobs immigrants have to deal with a lot of discrimination in America. They prefer to deal with the ongoing discrimination and struggles of life in America, to be able to help their families back in Mexico, than going back to their country and living the life they had there (Reese, 455).

- The United States has been known as the country of opportunities. Parents believe that opportunities come for them in work/labor and as well for their children which is a school education. Parents wish for things to have been different back in their homeland, but they knew that if they had stayed back in Mexico that they would be working extremely hard and for very long hours without enough pay. Work in the U.S. does not compare to work in Mexico, work in the U.S. is paid better than back home (Reese, 456).

- Morals are extremely important to Mexican immigrant parents. To raise their children well in America without having to loose control of their children’s
behaviors and be able to give them the “educacion” (education) that their parents have to them is key. “La educacion” (the education) refers to parents teaching their children values and respect to others and themselves. Mexican immigrant parents choose to not allow for the “American life” to take over and raise their children. They want to learn the English language themselves and also use American practices into their own cultural or religious practices in the U.S. They feel that by doing this strategy they can be in with the new and also raise their children with their morals and values taught to them when they were young, that way their family remains tied to their Mexican cultural identity (Reese, 456-66).

- Mexican Immigrant parents seek for better jobs in America to be able to provide good material things for their families, but they still maintain their morals and values to raise their children. They feel that they must continue to keep their families apart from American examples such as having too much liberty at such a young age to go out and do what they choose to do at whatever time of the day. These examples are not taught back in their homeland and therefore they do not want their families (children) having too much liberty, so that they grow being decent and humble adults in the future with morals and values taught by their culture (Reese, 461-70).

Assessment:

The strength in Resse, Leslie article is that it provides good feedback on immigrant parents that have come a long way to sustain a better living for their families in the United States, than the one they grew up having back in their homeland. It is clear that parents want to be able to provide the material things for their children and be able to
teach them the importance in values and morals, but they are afraid of their struggles not being taken account. Life in the United States is different than the life in Mexico or in other countries. It is a culture shock to immigrants coming from an entire new society and life into America. Raising a family with the teachings that have been taught to them of respect, values and family might be used or modeled to children differently in the U.S. Parents are afraid of their children growing up to be a part of societies example of values and respect, meaning that here in the U.S. many American families don’t give the example of respect or unity within the family. Most American families live under the “politic world”, or work often takes over parenting. Mexican parents do not want that for their own families. Their struggles in coming to the U.S. and the many challenges faced in belonging in a place so different than their homeland, is what parents do not want their family to forget or take for granted. For many Mexican immigrant parents it is an honor to have had their children be born in America, but they dislike and do not agree how many Mexican families slowly have distant apart and their children have no longer carried on the importance in values and morals. Too much liberty is an issue to Mexican immigrant parents, the fact that children are given the example by society to be out late or have sleepovers and friends houses is not acceptable. Too much liberty leads to disobedience and lack of respect and maturity.

Reese, Leslie’s article really specifies the importance in how Mexican immigrant parents want to raise their children with a planted seed in them of respect with selves and with others as well as carrying “valores” (values) as they grow into adults. Also grow with having “dignidad y honor” (dignity and honor) of their parents being immigrants
and making it successfully in the U.S. with many challenges along the way but were able to raise their children well in a new country, America.