Key Words: Struggles, labor, equality, the system, American dream, economy, Poverty, minimum wage.


Topic: Immigrant Struggles finding labor

- Mexican Immigrants arrive to the U.S. in search of work and for a better pay. They migrate to the U.S. to be able to work and send money back to their homeland. Most of the immigrants focus only on making a living, working and sending all that they have earned back home to their families. Gender has its differences on the kind of work men and women do in the U.S. Both genders have been able to find work in big cities like New York, Chicago and LA. Men mostly work the hard labor like construction, janitorial work and women mostly work as servants for the rich or in factories (Rosen, 8).

- Immigrants come into the U.S. with high hopes of getting a job and getting a better pay. They leave poverty back home thinking that they will live a better life in the U.S. but in reality most of them land in poverty once they arrive. They struggle in finding a job, and most jobs in the big cities are low paid for immigrants. Immigrants are barley making it in the U.S. economy and can only send a small amount back home (Rosen, 8-9).
• Immigrants find themselves struggling with their families in the U.S. taking low paying jobs, living in crowded apartments and trying to start their new lives with their families. They struggle to know the system and work around it to get what they need to in order to live in the city, such as; work, health resources and enrolling their children in school. Help is available for immigrants such as resources and community organizations to help and support new incoming immigrant families. But it is difficult still for them to get the help needed. The system in the U.S. is key to learn because if one doesn’t know their way around the system, then life in America is more of a challenge, especially if you have a family (Rosen, 8-9)

Assessment:

The strength of Rosen, Fred’s article is that it provides good information on the importance of knowing of the many challenges immigrants go through once they have arrived in the United States. Not only is their journey a struggle, but their arrival to America discourages them from their high hopes of the “American Dream”, once they realize that the economic status is not what they had imagined.

Finding work is a challenge and Rosen really talks about the struggle in immigrants finding work in the big cities like New York or LA. The economy is low and jobs are not being paid at a high rate. Immigrant workers that are fortunate enough to find a job in the big cities are being paid lower than minimum wage because they are undocumented. The jobs that they get are either hard labor for men or servant work for rich families for women. Getting paid very little and being able to afford living only in a small apartment or home with many other immigrant families. The struggle is not only out finding a job
or a home, but also being able to fit in to society and know how to work around getting their children into schools and working around the system. The system, to me is a major challenge, because currently it is very difficult to own property or a vehicle without having a social security or an identification card. Housing and health services are also a huge deal when it comes to working around the system. Immigrant families have to find their own ways to be able to make a living and most of the time there are recourses out in the community that they are not aware of or if they are aware of the recourses and help for them, most immigrant families are afraid to give their information out. It is clear that immigrant families today live in fear of receiving any help from their local community organizations and centers. Rosen does not discuss this in his article, in which I believe it is an important issue to talk about. Most organizations do not reach out to their community immigrant families, they wait for families to go to them for help. This is why there are a few families only being served in our communities. Most of those families are the ones being referred by teachers, doctors, land lords or some type of social worker, but what about the new families have arrived in the communities, or the families that live in fear of others knowing their identity. Those families are not being served and their children grow in fear or socializing and getting care. There must be a way to reach out to all immigrant families within each community.

I believe that Rosen has given an important example of the struggles and lost hopes of immigrant families and the need that there is out in the world for jobs and education for all humanity. The only thing that I disagree with is that Rosen did not go into finding answers for the immigrant families that struggle living in fear but that are in need of help
from the organizations that have been made for all families that are in need of getting the services provided.