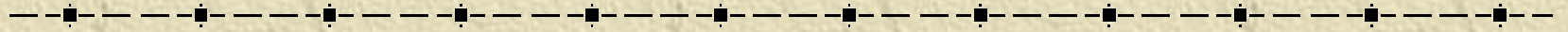


CULTURAL ISSUES IN
DEALING WITH
LATINO CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES

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Latino..



- ✦ Latin-American
- ✦ “Mexican”
- ✦ Mexican American
- ✦ Central American
- ✦ “Chicano”
- ✦ “Hispanic”, Hispanic surname
- ✦ “race” vs. ethnicity

Is there a “Latino” culture?

- ✦ Puerto Rican immigration
- ✦ Caribbean countries (Haiti, Dominican, Cuba, etc.)
- ✦ Mexican immigrants
- ✦ Central American immigrants
- ✦ South American immigrants, including Brazil
- ✦ European immigrants, Spain, Portugal

“Latino Families”

Migration

Immigration

Reasons for migration

Economical, jobs

Hopes for a better life

Fleeing from persecution, war, etc.

Latino, some cultural themes

Importance of family

Mother child relationship

Dependency vs. Self-reliance

Aspirations of parents for their children

Value of education

Relation between children and adults

Cultural myths, traditions, heroes.

Common issues for immigrants

- ✦ Reasons for migration
- ✦ Interface with people from host culture
- ✦ Degree of difference between original culture and host culture, e.g. language, costumes, cooking, relationships, etc.
- ✦ “acculturation”, “assimilation”, ethnocentrism, new-synthesis.

Family and family relationships

- ✦ Centrality of family relationships
- ✦ -Importance ascribed to family as the center or secure base.
- ✦ Nuclear family vs. extended family
- ✦ One *belongs* to a family
- ✦ One is not an individual, but a part of a larger system

Family relationships

- ✦ Faithfulness toward family
- ✦ Informal discipline, intervention by family members
- ✦ More porous “boundaries” between family members
- ✦ Intervention by older generations, hierarchies
- ✦ Issue of “*compadres*”

Family relationships

- ✦ Duties of family members vis a vis the others
- ✦ What one member does has an effect on the rest of the family
- ✦ Traditional role of the father, mother, previous generation.
- ✦ Traditional attitude of children toward elders.

Mother child relationship

- ✦ Centrality of mother-child relationship over all other relationships
- ✦ Secondary role of marital relationship
- ✦ Nature of marital relationship in traditional societies (contract, degree of intimacy, loyalty to blood family, role of the spouse, etc.)

Mother child relationship

- ✦ What is it to be a mother?
- ✦ Abnegation, self-denial, self-sacrifice vs. “taking time for oneself”
- ✦ Promotion of dependency of the child toward the mother or family
- ✦ Doing things for the child, e.g. clothes, chores, homework, etc.

Child rearing strategies

- ✦ Generally promote more dependency
- ✦ Emphasis on respect
- ✦ Child is encouraged to comply and obey rather than “speak their mind”
- ✦ Discipline through physical means, ashaming and reasoning.
- ✦ Little use of “distancing techniques”, e.g. timeout, sending to room, grounding, etc.

Child rearing techniques

- ✦ Child is not “paid “ for chores
- ✦ Child not seen as individual so much
- ✦ Parents show love through actions, not verbally
- ✦ Warmth expressed in behaviors, not so much reliance on verbal exchanges
- ✦ More emphasis on touch, rather than words.

Dependency vs. self-reliance

- ✦ Parents do not promote self-reliance
- ✦ Eg. Co-sleeping with the child, soothing rather than self-soothing, preserve harmony rather than each one doing what they choose
- ✦ More emphasis on cooperation and mutual help
- ✦ At school, collude *vis a vis* authority figures

Aspirations of parents, cultural myths

- ✦ Who are the cultural icons?
- ✦ Financers, millionaires, sports figures vs.
- ✦ Artists, historical figures, scientists
- ✦ Role of patriotism
- ✦ Role of religiosity and catholicism in particular
- ✦ Cultural rituals centered on religious functions (baptism, communion, 15 años)

Cultural myths

- ✦ Ambivalent relationship toward government and institutions
- ✦ Value placed on “the law” vs. The real world
- ✦ Value placed on honesty vs. Saving face or preserving dignity
- ✦ Cultural acceptance of “mis-representation”

Cultural themes

- ✦ The individual vis a vis “the system”
- ✦ Who are “helpful individuals”
- ✦ Tradition of laws not being applied in reality
- ✦ Importance of family relationships to get ahead in life
- ✦ Importance of friendships to get ahead in life

Traditions and myths

- ✦ Rural vs. Urban culture of origin
- ✦ Mexico, coexistence of highly urbanized groups with very traditional, almost medieval, forms of existence
- ✦ European (Mediterranean) values and religion superimposed on indigenous aboriginal culture and religion (eg Maya, Aztec costumes)

Culture-bound beliefs and problems

- ✦ The magical world
- ✦ Influence of envy in creating problems
- ✦ Importance of not eliciting envy
- ✦ Evil eye
- ✦ Witchcraft
- ✦ Susto, empacho, mollera caida, etc.

Traditional beliefs

- ✦ Ancestors
- ✦ Ghosts
- ✦ The supernatural
- ✦ Need to prevent negative events
- ✦ Rituals to prevent externally imposed evils
- ✦ Remedies once problem has appeared, e.g.
Curandero, shaman, herbs-herbolary