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Introduction

I. Immigration Generations
II. Social Inhibitors
III. Social Response
IV. Policy Recommendations
Immigration Generations

• First Generation – Foreign born, immigrate as adults

• Generation 1.5 – Foreign born, immigrate as adolescents

• Second Generation – American born, immigrant by association
Social Inhibitors

• Social obstacles that inhibit the assimilation process.

• Necessary factors in society that immigrants must utilize, cover come and embrace to succeed.

• Informal mechanisms of social control
Social Inhibitors

Ethnic Identity

• Embrace ethnic background & culture of origin
• Attitudes, values, belief systems
• Multifaceted: groups & individuals identify differently with their ethnic group
• Creation of unique social environments
• Language, social networks, religious groups, political ideology, food, geographic location
Social Inhibitors

• Affective aspect: level of connectedness with one’s group
  • Level of membership one possesses within their group
  • How one affirms their belonging to the group
  • Participation in community activities = visible social relationship

• Cognitive aspect: individualistic approach
  • Mental self exploration of ones ethnicity & group
  • Emotional aspect: feelings, knowledge, perception towards one’s group
Social Inhibitors

Cultural Maintenance

• Maintain the traditions, customs, language, material aspects, and family ties of one’s ethnic group

• Hand down cultural beliefs and practices
  • Selective group of positive collective memories that give hope to ethnic groups
  • Cultural guidelines for future generations

• Shifts with the modernization of society
  • Survival of non-dominate groups
  • Aids assimilation process
Social Inhibitors

Linguistic Isolation

- Community or individual who is separated from mainstream society due to a disconnect between their language and the dominate language
- Inhibits employment, transportation, well-being, social services
- Impedes on assimilation
  - Unable to successfully achieve assimilation due to constant language barriers
  - Increases vulnerability of non-assimilated groups
- Language barrier can be overcome
  - Ability to change, decrease crime, increase assimilation
Social Inhibitors

Economic Deprivation

• Financial situation
  • Below poverty line
  • Resource deprivation
  • Lack means to be able to fill designated role in society

• Influenced by language
  • Obtain legal employment
  • Steady employment
Latino Paradox

- Created by the social inhibitors
- Disproves social disorganization theory linking poverty and criminal behavior
- Latino immigrant communities are economically deprived, yet there are trends of lower crime rates in these poverty stricken areas than in wealthy non-Latino immigrant communities.
- Strong ethnic & cultural ties create informal mechanisms of social control
- Informal social code decreases crime with the unification of immigrants in their community
Assimilation Process

• Successful completion using social inhibitors:
  • Unify members of ethnic communities to create ethnic enclaves
  • Attachment to ones cultural support network
  • English proficiency to overcome language, employment and economic barriers
  • Utilize Latino Paradox to create informal social code
Social Response - Problem

Language Barriers

- Public Schools
  - Specialized language programs
  - Money, time, division between classes
  - Decrease in Latino graduation rates
- Law Enforcement
  - Police less effective
  - Under reporting
- Criminal Justice Court System
  - Right to access of justice
  - Due process of law
Policy Solution

Education

• Maintenance program to increase bilingual education in public schools
• Use of native language to encourage academic achievement in second language
• Importance of language in cultural and ethnic identity
• Build positive connections within ethnic groups through language
• Decreases crime
Policy Solution

Law enforcement

• Spanish language training

• Language access policy
  • Increase community policing

• Bilingual staff members
  • Pay incentive
Policy Solution

Criminal Justice Court System

- Canadian Model
  - Equal access to justice

- Spanish only court
  - Latino dominated areas
  - Already bilingual areas
Conclusion

• The social inhibitors function together to create communal support systems within immigrant communities.

• The informal support systems positively facilitate the assimilation process.

• Policy changes are society’s way of facilitating a positive and successful assimilation process.

• Unifying non-dominant cultures with the dominant culture with the policy recommendations will decrease crime.
Questions

• Interest in research, thoughts or comments.

Thank you for your time.