

Forget Me Not: Cultural Assimilation of Filipino Immigrants in Canada

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ABSTRACT: Cultural assimilation is the social process wherein an individual or a minority group possessing a different cultural heritage absorbed the dominant culture of the society.

The **purpose** of this study is to know the cultural assimilation of Filipino immigrants in Canada. Specifically to answer the following questions: 1) What is the profile of the respondents in terms of the following variables; Name (optional), Age, Gender, Number of children, Years of living in Canada, Occupation; and Form of accommodation. 2) What challenges were encountered in immigrating to Canada? 3) What Filipino values were modified after immigrating to Canada? 4) Which Filipino value system would the respondents prefer their children to acquire and keep? The descriptive design was used in this study where the hypotheses will be tested to explain the variables. The number of respondents is 68 and the purposive sampling is a form of non-probability sampling in which researchers rely on their own judgement when choosing members of the population to participate in their study. The study found out that most of the immigrants were under the age of 41 to 45 years old, male immigrant outnumbered female immigrants, while with 3 to 4 children immigrants were superlative, with respect to number of years living in Canada there were 47 out of 68 immigrants lives for 11 to 15 years, on the other hand machine operator is the most occupation by the immigrants The utmost form of accommodation of these immigrant were owned but under mortgaged which is 38.23 percent and renting with 35.29 percent. As to the level of challenges reveals that the immigrants were neutral in terms of social, cultural and economic aspect with an overall mean of 2.97, 2.68, and 2.99 respectively. While the level of Filipino values modified immigrating in Canada vouch that hospitality is the most modified Filipino values. On the other hand, hospitality is the most Filipino values system preferred to acquire and keep followed by family orientation were the least preferred is utang na loob.

1. INTRODUCTION

Filipinos are the native people of the Philippines who are internationally known for being hospitable. But, looking at the Filipino people scattered all over the world makes one think if a Filipino was able to preserve his/her culture of being hospitable in a foreign land. Also, being a Filipino connotes possessing attitudes and character specific for Filipinos, nonetheless being otherwise will not make a person a lesser Filipino. Although some may argue that immigrants will eventually lose their national identity for choosing to live permanently in a foreign country because adapting to the foreign land is synonymous to adapting to their culture. The richness of Filipino culture vis-à-vis the immigration of Filipinos to a foreign land deserves scrutiny to measure how culture is deeply embedded in an immigrant's vein. Thus, the researchers will magnify the underrated social process which is the assimilation of culture, specifically of Filipino immigrants in Canada. Cultural assimilation happens if an individual is exposed to a different society (thus different culture) then learns to adopt to a new

way of living that is in accordance to the society's *ethos*. Thus, an individual acquires a new set of values, attitudes, knowledge, beliefs, and language because the individual needs to be a part of the group.

In the year 2019, there were 28,000 Filipino permanent residents admitted in Canada¹, this huge number made the researchers to focus on Filipino immigrants in Canada. Also, statistics supports that Canada is considered as the cultural mosaic country which means that this country is brightly colored by different bits of ethnicity, culture and racial identity.² Thus, this country promotes multiculturalism by encouraging the co-existence of different cultures and ethnicity which made Canada the best choice for studying the social process of cultural assimilation. Filipino immigrants therefore are free to express their cultural identity making assimilation as a natural process.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The main purpose of this research is to explain the Assimilation of Filipino Immigrants in Canada. Thus, this research is descriptive in nature through where the hypotheses will be tested to explain the the variables. Population of the Study.

Purposive sampling is a form of non-probability sampling in which researchers rely on their own judgement when choosing members of the population to participate in their study. The goal is to focus on a particular characteristics of a population that are of interest, which will best enable them to answer the research questions.

Statistical Treatment of Data

To answer question no. 1 on the profile of the respondent's in terms of: age, gender, number of children, number of years living in Canada, occupation, form of accommodation, frequency and percentage distribution was utilized.

Formula:

$$\% = \frac{\sum f}{n}$$

.Where in:

% = percentage

\sum = summation

f = frequency

n = total number of sample

While question no. 2 and 4, Level of challenges encountered in and Filipino values that were modified after immigrating to Canada, weighted mean was be utilized.

formula is:

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum wf}{\sum w}$$

Where in:

\bar{x} = weighted mean

\sum = summation

f = frequency

w = weight

3. Presentation, Analysis And Interpretation Of Data

This chapter briefly describes the findings of the study in tabulated form with its corresponding analysis and interpretation based on the statistical treatment. It demonstrated the presentation, analysis and interpretation of gathered information.

To give a visible semblance of the entire population of this study, the respondents' profile was shown in terms of the age, gender, number of children, number of years living in Canada, occupation, form of accommodation.

It is also presented the, level of challenges encountered and Filipino values that were modified after immigrating to Canada and Filipino values system would the respondents prefer their children to acquire and keep.

Profile of Respondents

Table 1: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
25 - 30	1	1.47
31 - 35	1	1.47
36 – 40	1	1.47
41 - 45	42	61.76
46 - 50	8	11.76
51 - 55	11	16.18
56 and above	4	5.88
Total	68	99.99

As shown on Table 1 out of 68, 42 or 61.76 percent of 41 to 45 years old 11 or 16.18 percent having an age of 51 to 55 years old 8 or 11.76 percent with age bracket of 46 to 50 years old, 4 or 5.88 percent with 56 and above years while 1 or 1.47 percent 40 years old and below.

Table 2: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	46	67.65
Female	22	32.35

Total	68	100.00
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Based on the table 2, out of 68 respondents there are 46 male or 67.65 percent while female respondents were 22 or 32.35.

Table 3: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Number of Children

Number of Children	Frequency	Percentage
1 - 2	6	8.96
3 - 4	51	76.12
5 and above	10	14.92
Total	67	100.00

Table 3 presents the frequency and the percentage distribution of respondents' number of children. Out of 68 respondents, there are 51 respondents or 76.12 percent claimed to have 3 to 4 kids, while 10 or 14.92 percent have 5 kids and above and 6 or 8.96 vouched that they have five and above number of kids.

Table 4: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Number of Years in Canada

Number of years	Frequency	Percentage
5 and below	3	4.41
6 - 10	14	20.59
11 - 15	47	69.12
16 - 20	0	0
21 and above	4	5.88
Total	68	100.00

Table 4 vouch the frequency and percentage distribution of respondents number of years living in Canada. Out of 68 respondents, there are 4 or 69.12 percent affirmed that they are living in Canada 11 - 15 years, 14 or 20.59 percent lives in Canada for 6 to 10 years, 4 or 5.88 percent lives in Canada for 21 years and above while nobody stayed there for 16 to 20 years.

Table 5: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Form of Accommodation

Form of Accommodation	Frequency	Percentage
Free accommodation	1	1.47
Rented	24	35.29
Mortgaged	16	23.53
Owned	1	1.47
Others 3&4	26	38.24
Total	340	100.00

Table 5 illustrates the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' form of accommodation. It shows that out of 68 respondents, 24 or 35.29 percent are renting, 16 or 23.53 percent are mortgaged and 26 or 38.23 percent claimed that they are paying to own it.

Table 6: Frequency, Percentage and Rank Distribution of Respondents' Occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Automotive service tech	4	5.88	5
Caregiver	7	10.29	4
Health Care	4	5.88	5
Health Care Aide	11	16.18	2
Laborer	9	13.23	3
Machine Operator	15	22.06	1
Minister	11	16.18	2
Technician	7	10.29	4
Total	68	100.00	

As table 6 exhibits the rank distribution of occupation in Canada. Among the occupation, machine operator rank 1 followed by minister and health care aide which rank 2, laborer rank 3 technician and caregiver rank 4 and automotive technician and health care rank 5.

Table 7: Level of Challenges Encountered in Immigrating to Canada in Terms of Social Aspects

Social Aspects	Mean	Verbal Interpretations
. Racial discrimination	3.01	Neutral
. Language proficiency	3.00	Neutral
. Interracial connectivity	2.90	Neutral
Overall mean	2.97	Neutral

Table 8 reveals the level of challenges in terms of social aspects. The respondents vouch neutral on the racial discrimination, language proficiency, interracial connectivity having a mean of 3.01, 3 and 2.90 respectively with an overall mean of 2.97.

Table 8: Level of Challenges Encountered in Immigrating to Canada in Terms of Cultural Aspects

Cultural Aspects	Mean	Verbal Interpretations
Food culture	2.68	neutral
. Fashion and fads	2.56	neutral
. Religious and beliefs	2.82	neutral
Overall mean	2.68	neutral

Table 9 presents the level of challenges in terms of cultural aspects. The respondents affirmed neutral on all the cultural aspects such as food culture, fashion and fads, and religious beliefs with a mean of 2.68, 2.56, 2.82 having an overall mean of 2.69

Table 9: Level of Challenges Encountered in Immigrating to Canada in Terms of Economic Aspects

Economic Aspects	Mean	Verbal Interpretations
Housing acquisition	2.97	Neutral
. Education opportunities	2.96	Neutral
. Financial stability	3.03	Neutral

Overall mean	2.99	Neutral
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Table 10 the reveals level of challenges in terms of economic aspects. The respondents discloses neutral on all the economic aspects, housing acquisition, education opportunities and financial stability. having a mean of 2.97, 2.96 and 3.03 respectively with an overall mean of 2.99.

Table 10: Level of the Filipino Values Modified after Immigrating to Canada.

Filipino values	Mean	Verbal Interpretations
Hiya (propriety/dignity)	2.24	Disagree
Pakikisama (Compassion/esteem)	2.34	Disagree
Utang na loob (gratitude/solidarity)	3.41	Neutral
Kapwa (togetherness)	2.03	Disagree
Pakikiramdam (feeling for another)	2.99	Neutral
Family orientation	2.38	Disagree
Hospitality	3.84	Agree
Overall mean	2.74	Neutral

Table 11 demonstrates the level of the Filipino values modified after immigrating to Canada. It shows that hospitality instill in Filipino values with a mean of 3.84.but the hiya, pakikisama, kapwa family orientation no longer infuse after immigrating Canada having a mean of 2.23, 2.32, 2.03, and 2.38 respectively, while utang na loob and pakiramdam, the respondents did not agree nor disagree having a mean of 3.41 and 2.99. An overall mean of 2.74 indicates that neutral.

Table 11: Rank of Filipino Values System Preferred to Acquire and Keep

Filipino values	Total	Rank
Hiya (propriety/dignity)	278	5
Pakikisama (Compassion/esteem)	351	6
Utang na loob (gratitude/solidarity)	354	7
Kapwa (togetherness)	275	4
Pakikiramdam (feeling for another)	271	3
Family orientation	250	2
Hospitality	125	1

Table 12 demonstrates the rank of Filipino values system that preferred by the immigrant to acquire and keep. Among the Filipino values that the immigrant preferred to acquire and keep is the hospitality which is rank 1 followed by family orientation, pakiramdaman, togetherness, hiya, pakikisama and utang na loob as the least preferred to acquire and keep by the immigrants.

4. CONCLUSIONS

1. Profile

Based on the result of the study, most of the immigrants were under the age of 41 to 45 years old, male immigrant outnumbered female immigrants, while with 3 to 4 children immigrants were superlative, with respect to number of years living in Canada there were 47 out of 68 immigrants lives for 11 to 15 years, on the other hand machine operator is the most occupation by the immigrants The utmost form of accommodation of these immigrant were owned but under mortgaged which is 38.23 percent and renting with 35.29 percent.

2. Level of challenges

As to the level of challenges reveals that the immigrants were neutral in terms of social, cultural and economic aspect with an overall mean of 2.97, 2.68, and 2.99 respectively. While the level of Filipino values modified immigrating in Canada vouch that hospitality is the most modified Filipino values.

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