Second Generation Immigrants: Their Self-Esteem and Educational Aspirations

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Second Generation Immigrants: Their Self-Esteem & Educational Aspirations

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**Hypotheses**

- The children of immigrants will have lower self-esteem than their peers.
- This lower self-esteem will negatively affect their educational expectations for the future.

**Data**

- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY79)
- Sample Size: 3,999
  - Ages 14-18
  - 522 second-generation immigrants

**Introduction**

- Immigrants experience unique stresses & discrimination, which leads to lower levels of self-esteem. (Stets & Burke, 2003; Kao, 1999; Gee et al., 2010).
- Do Second-Generation Immigrants experience the same thing?
- If so, will that affect their educational expectations for the future?

**Results**

- More Non-Immigrants have high levels of self-esteem (38.5%) than Second-Generation Immigrants (35.4%).
- Second-Generation Immigrants expect to go to about 1 Year more of school than Non-Immigrants.
- Second-Generation Immigrants are more likely to expect to go to graduate school than Non-Immigrants.
- With every 1 unit increase in self-esteem, a person expects to go to 0.2 more years of school.
- Blacks have higher educational expectations than other racial groups, while Hispanics have the lowest expectations.

**Conclusion**

- Although Second-Generation Immigrants are more likely to have lower self-esteem than Non-Immigrants, the difference is small, and does not seem to affect their educational expectations.
- Second-Generation Immigrants actually have higher educational expectations!

**Future Research**

- What are Second-Generation Immigrants doing different?
- Are they reaching their expectations?
- Do race & country of origin matter?