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Making it: A Comparison of Hispanic and Asian Immigrants' Annual Income

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**Abstract**

Research indicates that the number of immigrants in U.S. in 2006 was 37.5 million. The purpose of this study was to examine if Asian or Hispanic immigrants had a higher income and the factors that influenced these differences. To gain a foundation on the subject the researchers reviewed literature completed on Asian and Hispanic immigrants to the U.S. They discovered that Asians are considered the model minority by the American public. The researchers then looked at the New Immigrant Survey (NIS) from Princeton University done in 2003 and 2004. The variables explored are ethnicity, income, education, documentation, gender, and English fluency. A regression analysis and means comparison was used to analyze the data. Our findings support our hypothesis that Asian immigrants earn more annually than Hispanic immigrants.

**Hypothesis**

Asian immigrants will have a higher annual income than Hispanic immigrants due to factors such as English fluency, education, visa attainment, gender, and ethnicity.

**Methods**

- **Sample**
  - Sampling frame is new arrival immigrants and adjustee immigrants over the age of 18 with various kinds of documentation
- **Instruments**
  - Secondary analysis of data collected by the New Immigrant Survey (NIS) from Princeton University in 2003
- **Data**
  - Independent Variables
    - Hispanic
    - Asian
  - Dependent Variable
    - Income
  - Control Variables
    - Gender
    - Education
    - English Fluency
    - Documentation

**Findings**

**Regression Table**

- Asian respondents earned approximately $12,000 more than Hispanic respondents.
- For each level of education, the immigrant earned approximately $9,000 more.
- Legal status had little effect on immigrant income.
- Male immigrants earn more than female immigrants.

**Means Comparison Table**

- The average income for Asian immigrants is twice as large as Hispanic immigrants.
- Asian immigrants received one level higher of education than Hispanic immigrants.
- The majority of Hispanic respondents did not have a visa, while the majority of Asian immigrants did.
- Gender and English class enrollment had little significance on average income level.

**Conclusion**

- The findings supported our hypothesis that Asians make more money than Hispanics.
- Asians had higher education levels, increasing their earnings.
- As in other studies, males of both ethnicities had higher incomes than females.