

Bacallao, Martica and Paul Smokowski. 2007. "The Costs of Getting Ahead: Mexican Family System Changes after Immigration." *Family Relations* 56: 52-66.

PRIMARY ARGUMENT: The author argues that the family systems of post-immigrated Mexican families are dramatically altered by the objective of moving forward, which takes a toll on the family's role, hinders communication, and weakens relationships from the sacrifices they execute.

IMPORTANT DEFINE CONCEPTS:

- Familism: A deep sense of individually belonging to your family, that emphasizes the ideology that family is above anything else, which creates this playing field of loyalty and obligation to your family.
- Acculturation: Adopting practices and values of a new culture while continuing to retain one's culture of origin.

PRIMARY FINDINGS:

1. Family separations during sequential immigration caused the re-establishment of family roles since one or both essential parents may have removed themselves from their roles in spite of immigrating to the United States. In turn, with the absence of fathers, mothers typically took on both family roles, which resulted in children becoming more attached to their mothers. In contrast, their relationship with their fathers even after reuniting with them was not as strong.
2. Post-immigration, Mexican families experienced a shift in cultural norms in terms of norms revolving around labor. With both parents working demanding jobs, the quality of time spent with their children decreased dramatically, weakening communication while increasing loneliness and isolation between members of the family.
3. After relocation to the United States, Mexican parents and adolescents contain distinct discrepancies surrounding their mentality and attitudes. Parents focus on the opportunities their children will be presented with in the future during their adjustment process. Meanwhile, adolescents on the other hand struggled with focusing on the future and grieved their lifestyle along with the family ties they had established before immigrating.
4. Post-immigration, Mexican parents and adolescents reported higher levels of strictness as an output, in order to moderate the stressors that parents were experiencing. However, this strictness was correlated with the rise of conflicts between adolescents and Mexican parents.

KEY QUOTE: "Families compensated by developing strategies to cope with the costs of getting ahead. After immigration, a complex dialectic surfaced around familism. All parents and adolescents said familism continued to be of utmost importance and was even reinforced after immigration because of the new challenges to family unity" (Pg. 64).

QUESTION: In terms of parental strictness post-immigration, both parents and their children concurred that rules were in fact stricter for daughters than for sons. Was this due to machismo, which is very prevalent in Latinx culture, or due to the patriarchal society of the United States?