

The Interpretation of Expectation: A Cultural View of Generational Development

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Abstract

We investigated the pressure to succeed that children of Latino immigrants feel due to expectations placed on them regardless of whether they are voiced or not. This research aims to raise awareness of the physical barriers that aren't recognized by professionals that Latinos face in their daily lives. As universities' Latino populations rise, institutions need to ensure their Latino population's success by recognizing cultural barriers and provide necessary assistance and guidance. We gauged the level of expectations placed and the resulting pressure that children felt by analyzing transcripts of 8 dyad interviews and identifying themes that were present. These themes included whether family-centric values, cultural influence, cultural pride and heritage, etc. were present. Analyzation of the transcripts were completed by adapting the Dyad Matrix Method proposed by Collaço et al., 2021. The results suggest that regardless of the explicitness of parental communication regarding expectations, all children experienced familial pressure to succeed. Moreover, this pressure did not change regardless of previous educational background. Moreover, it suggests that Latinos from all walks of life are struggling in university spaces due to a cultural barrier. ideally, this research will be published in hopes to disseminate this information publicly, thereby allowing for these concepts to be acknowledged and solutions to be put into action.

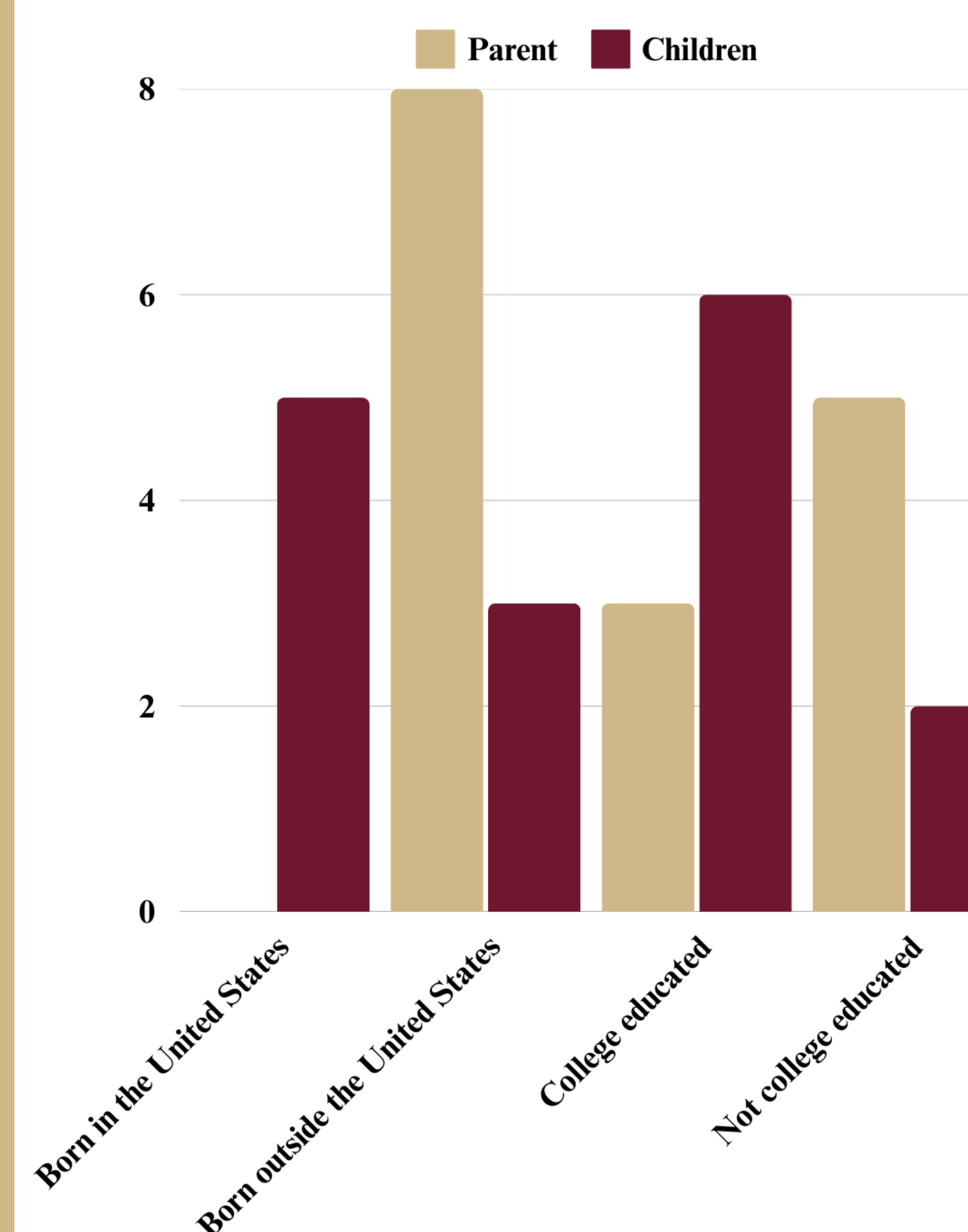
Literature Review

- Previous research presents a positive correlation between social factors such as generational status, parental education and involvement, family income, etc. an individual's accomplishments (Aldoney, 2016).
- There is a cultural difference in family values and identity in Hispanic vs. Non-Hispanic families, which affects their daily life and acclimation to college (Liu et al., 2023).
- Different opportunities of immigrant vs. natural born citizens in the United States have an effect on the involvement of a parent (Liu et al., 2023).

Because of these implications and findings, it can be reasonable to assume that immigrant children who do not benefit from many factors such as generational status, wealth, and opportunities, may face different pressures than someone who does, whether it be voiced or not.

Methods

Participants



- We interviewed 15 male and female participants, distributed among 7 parent & child dyads, and a single young Hispanic individual.
- Country of origin of participants included Mexico, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.
- Parents and children were interviewed separately, both in English and Spanish, and asked similar questions to ensure autonomy in their answers.
- Interviews were translated and transcribed dyadically.
- The dyadic summaries were then evaluated for similarities and differences within and between groups and across the main themes.

Family Centric Values

Emotional Interdependence
and Support

Education as Pathway to
Success

Parental Expectation
and Career Guidance

Cultural Influence on
Parenting/Parent-Child
Dynamic

Cultural Pride and
Heritage

Discussion

- **Unspoken Dyadic Dialogue**
 - Parents leave their whole understanding of life to provide opportunities for their children to succeed.
 - There is an implicit notion that the children will uphold these sacrifices by "making it worth it," but rarely stated explicitly.
- **Lack of Reference for Professionals**
 - There is a lack of Hispanic representation in academic spaces and academic professionals' acknowledgment about the generational expectations faced by Hispanic students.
- **Ambivalence of Systematic Understandings**
 - Due to the lack of representation and dissemination of the information, immigrant parents do not understand the expectation of involvement level in the United States education system and other social aspects.
- **Implications for Future Research**
 - How does career advancement present itself for immigrant parents in the United States?
 - How can we utilize this new method for analyzing data for future dyads?

Acknowledgments & Sources



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