

The Struggled Life of Immigrants Facing Social Views

Allie Ulness

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

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Professor Woodford

Introduction of Social Problem

Have you ever imagined how hard it would be to leave your home? If it was to give yourself a better life then it can be explained. However, not many can relate to this social problem. A social problem in the end, is a social condition that interrupts society. One problem that definitely disrupted society is immigration. Immigration has been a problem for a long time, ever since Europeans traveled to the United States. Immigration is specifically the act of someone permanently moving and living in a foreign country. This is the social condition of social disorganization. The organized system, living where we are born, is now mute. People can choose where they want to live and can find their own freedom. Immigration is a social problem by nature because it forces the neutral party to adapt with them. If/when people do not want to adapt and accept this, it puts a tension on the society's interactions. Some ways to understand and fix that problem is by using and understanding social conditions. Social conditions touch on social and physical environments. Social conditions can lead to heavy disputes especially on race and discrimination. The aspect of how social environments make a setting positive or negative for an immigrant. Immigrants from all over have changed the landscape of the world today. They have created the "Urban Areas" (Jimenez et al., 2014) of the land. There are ideas on the social problem that state how immigrants have been helpful in some manners. However, when it comes to taking the blame for poor treatment of immigrants, privileged people comment that it was their choice to move to the U.S. That all treatment they receive is expected and tolerated. The social problem of Immigration is led by certain social conditions. It is important to give Immigration time to understand it, understand why it is necessary for some and to discover how some people live in dangerous places. Some families and immigrants rely on leaving their toxic environments

and coming anywhere that can allow them to stay together as a whole family. This is where the social problem is at the highest rate of illegality.

Claims Makers

Researching the public reactions regarding Immigration, claims makers focus on the outcome of the problem. The fact that more immigrants in the states tend to be illegal, infers that the outcome will eventually lead to deportation. Felter from the Council of Foreign Relations says, “Immigrants comprise almost 14 percent of the U.S. population, or more than 44 million people out of a total of about 327 million, according to the Census Bureau” (Felter, 2020). Immigration is not a small problem but a big social problem. It gives others opportunities to get away or try to occupy other territories.

The credibility of immigrants hits a hard point of resignation. If you are looking at legal immigrants then their credibility is low but still there. Certain portions of society will look at them as if they do not belong. For illegal immigrants, they have no credibility. They are not focused on themselves but rather trying to get safe and in most cases getting their children out of dangerous and bad places. This is when certain crimes actually go easily unnoticed. Certain immigrants do not have the opportunity to get approved and therefore have no resources/places to go to if something goes wrong. They are on their own. Any resources they may have will have to come through anything and everything away from public and legal eyes.

Illegal immigrants have a hard time making their way across the border because a majority get rejected when they apply for a visa. With that being said, an article reads, “Relative to undocumented immigrants, US-born citizens are over 2 times more likely to be arrested for violent crimes, 2.5 times more likely to be arrested for drug crimes, and over 4 times more likely to be arrested for property crimes” (Light, 2020). People often assume that crimes escalate

because of foreigners, but claims show the opposite. It is important to keep in mind the conclusions we tell ourselves when we do not have all the facts. Light goes on to say, “ Contrary to public perception, we observe considerably lower felony arrest rates among undocumented immigrants compared to legal immigrants and native-born US citizens and find no evidence that undocumented criminality has increased in recent years” (Light, 2020). Even though people may argue that undocumented immigrants can hide better from the law, Light is overruling that. He is showing that there is no evidence which means it is unfair to assume immigrants are the problem when our social problems existed long before immigrants started arriving.

It is said that, “Collectively, immigrants made up 45 percent of domestic employees; they also comprised large portions of the workforce in U.S. textile manufacturing (36 percent), agriculture (33 percent), and accommodation (32 percent)” (Felter, 2020). If immigrants make up such a huge percent of our workforce, but it is still a problem how might people come to terms with fair immigration? Perhaps most of that controversy comes from the poor population and U.S. citizens believing that the poor should have jobs over immigrants. Little do some know that Felter had done research in the past years. He says, “Another Pew study found that without immigrants, the U.S. workforce would decline from 173.2 million in 2015 to 165.6 million in 2035; the workforce is expected to grow to 183.2 million if immigration levels remain steady, according to the report” (Felter, 2020). No matter what people believe, immigrants are showing and proving their worth in the world. We are constantly creating more jobs and having more needs. Having immigrants in the states is obviously not harming our social system but our social system is harming the freedom promised in america.

Grounds

Immigration follows specifically on the grounds of community. In order for them to be successful they need to have a strong community surrounding them. Coming closer to 2020

Budiman said, “Most immigrants (77%) are in the country legally, while almost a quarter are unauthorized, according to new Pew Research Center estimates based on census data adjusted for undercount” (Budiman, 2020). Now as the immigration population is growing more immigrants can get approved to be here legally. However, that was not always the case. The article reads, “Around 337,000 immigrants were deported from the U.S. in fiscal 2018, up since 2017” (Budiman, 2020). It can be said that a huge reason the number of legal immigrants are now 77% because many have been deported. People are forced to leave a place they came to seeking refuge. It is known that some adjustments might have to be made to fit everyone, but that surely is within the U.S.’s capability. Budiman says, “In fiscal 2019, a total of 30,000 refugees were resettled in the U.S. The largest origin group of refugees was the Democratic Republic of the Congo, followed by Burma (Myanmar), Ukraine, Eritrea and Afghanistan” (Budiman, 2020). As the timeline continues, it is shown that the United States is slowly accepting more immigrants. Trying to help others get to the United States legally, creating a new system of acceptance throughout the land.

The main percentage of immigrants come from Mexico. The article states, “Mexico is the top origin country of the U.S. immigrant population. In 2018, roughly 11.2 million immigrants living in the U.S. were from there, accounting for 25% of all U.S. immigrants. The next largest origin groups were those from China (6%), India (6%), the Philippines (4%) and El Salvador (3%)” (Budiman, 2020). Most people have heard of the wall Trump wanted to build and the immigrant population from Mexico. However, there are other immigrants fighting for safety. Even if a wall did go up, it would not stop the escalation of immigration. People would find new ways or die trying. Some people would rather die trying to get to the United States then staying in their own home. The article continues, “Looking forward, immigrants and their descendants

are projected to account for 88% of U.S. population growth through 2065, assuming current immigration trends continue” (Budiman, 2020). As the population of immigrants grows, people will continue to grow as a community. They will learn and find equal sharing grounds that will create a bond between all people.

Warrants

Having warrants is really having justification in why something should be done. For immigrants, the term warrant is relating to what values lead to the want of crossing the border. From the *Getting to “We”* article, it says, “Immigration is inevitable. Experts argued that immigration is inevitable—that is, the realities of a global economy are such that immigrants will always be attracted to countries like the United States that offer economic and social opportunity. One of the key considerations for reformers, is whether the U.S. policies channel immigrant populations into legal or illegal avenues of entry” (Baran et al., 2014). Since immigration cannot be stopped, there needs to be a way that works better than the system today. Something that helps people fleeing from difficult places. There are many places that could use more workers. There are jobs waiting for someone everywhere. This may lead to poor people being stuck with lower paid jobs. This does not mean that it is the immigrants fault. Baran writes, “High levels of immigration tend to have a negative impact on U.S.-born workers with low education levels because of increased competition and resulting wage depression. However, experts were clear in their view that the economic benefits of immigration outweigh the economic costs” (Baran et al., 2014). Baran is trying to explain that any negative effects that immigrants could have are outweighed by the positives. They go to write, “Immigration drives long-term economic growth... First, because of the relatively low population density of the United States, as well as its declining birth rate, immigrant populations provide new sources of workers and consumers.

Second, immigration meets the needs of multiple industries by serving as a source of workers at all skill levels. Third, new immigrant groups bring with them an aspirational energy that drives new business and entrepreneurial activity, and serves as a source of job creation” (Baran et al., 2014). All three of these are factors to why immigration is important to have in the United States. Having extra energy available is exactly what the U.S. is missing. Americans tend to work so much and some get over worked. Not always by want, and that can be easily resolved. It is stated, “Immigration makes societies more diverse, and increased diversity benefits social, cultural and civic life. Experts argued that immigration builds racial, ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic diversity in a population, and that such diversity ultimately enriches collective social and civic experiences. All agreed that the United States’ history of immigration has led to the formation of a rich and varied culture that benefits both immigrant and U.S.-born populations” (Baran et al., 2014). Immigration provides a pathway to our nation's motto. ‘The Land of the Free.’ Part of being the land of the free, is allowing all types of freedom throughout. Our misconception of how immigrants effects, has led to the United States having a certain reputation. Finding a way to make immigrants more incorporated and welcomed can be a long term solution. It might be a lot to figure out in the beginning but it would help the economy to find its way back to a more beneficial cultural and civic lifestyle.

Untranslated Expert Story of Immigration and Immigration Reform	
<p>Why is immigration important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration, whether through legal or illegal avenues, is inevitable. • Immigration drives long-term economic growth. • Immigration makes societies more diverse, which benefits social, cultural and civic life. 	<p>What are the challenges facing the immigration system?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many immigrants currently in the U.S. lack legal authorization. • The employment-based visa system is overly rigid, and poorly aligned with our economic needs. • The family reunification system is backlogged and does not fully reflect changing definitions of family. • Enforcement policies are costly and ineffective. • Immigrant rights are inadequately protected. • Immigrants are more diverse and more dispersed than in the past.
<p>What does the United States’ immigration system do and how does immigration happen?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basic function of the immigration system is to decide <i>how many</i> people from <i>which groups</i> to let into the country. • The immigration system controls the legal avenues by which people can enter. These include family-based visas, employment-based visas, asylum/refugee protection and diversity visas. • While illegal immigration can happen through unauthorized entry, it is frequently the result of people overstaying their visas. 	<p>How should the system be reformed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a pathway to legal status for undocumented immigrants. • Reform the visa system to better meet economic demands and changing definitions of family. • Dial back border enforcement, and refocus resources on employer-based immigration laws. • Reform the detention system to better protect immigrant rights.

(Baran et al., 2014)

Media

Legal immigrants are not often mentioned, only illegal immigrants really get discussed in social manners. They are usually hated or unwelcomed by those who can not understand a new social construction. The media and television shows have not accurately portrayed immigrants in the United States. “Immigrants continue to be criminalized, with 22% of all immigrant characters associated with some sort of crime and 10% incarcerated. While this represents a drop from 2018, (in which 34% of immigrant characters were associated with crime), it still reinforces negative stereotypes” (New Study Examines, 2020). It is important to address these false claims because it is negatively affecting immigrants. Moreover, “undocumented immigrants are heavily overrepresented on TV. Of the characters with an identified immigration status, 63% were undocumented immigrants or asylum seekers. In reality, only 24% of immigrants in the U.S. are unauthorized” (New Study Examines, 2020). The media is doing a disservice to the immigrant population in order to make a change in the media advocacy group called Define America. “Define American is a not-for-profit media and culture organization that promotes the use of storytelling to communicate more accurately the experiences of immigrants, with the ultimate goal of shifting the conversation about identity and citizenship within America’s ever-changing political structure” (Easton, 2020). This advocacy group has consulted with industry professionals to help them have a better understanding of the immigrant population so they are accurately portrayed. They have worked with these professionals to make realistic immigrant characters and create a more complex immigration-related narratives.

The media is also affecting how people vote in elections by how they negatively portray immigrants. The words and images from the media influence the way people perceive and think on immigration issues/policies. Farris says, “In fact, negative media portrayals of immigrants and

immigration may shift white voters toward the Republican Party, the party currently associated with anti-immigrant positions. U.S. English-language news sources often offer negative story lines about immigrants, emphasizing a Latino threat” (Farris, 2018). This creates a social problem because it influences the public on policy, and it involves a bias on immigration laws. It is in this way that the media influences the public on immigration, and the lasting effect it can have in many other aspects of our political system.

Public

The issue of immigration is addressed a lot in political situations but is found throughout experience, family, media, and/or legal reasons. This leads to a very difficult idea of controversy and how it affects everyone involved, “Thinking with the Immigrants As Them cultural model, people focus on the difference between “Americans” and “immigrants,” and tend to understand this latter group as law-breaking “others” who take American jobs and steal from the limited pool of public resources” (Baran et al., 2014). However, that is not the case, immigrants are law-abiding people in our society wanting to gain citizenship. Unfortunately, the public does not understand how immigration can help our economy. It is viable to understand that immigrants tend to work a lot of low-income jobs that most Americans would not work. The public is not aware how immigrants have complemented our domestic workforce, built new businesses, and created jobs. Thus, they are serving a purpose in our society and are wanting to contribute to our economy. Also, many people in our society have not gained other perspectives than their own. They have not heard the stories from immigrants and why they have had to flee their home. If Americans were allowed and able to fully understand why immigrants try to come here, the public would have a completely different view.

On the contrary, “a 2019 Gallup poll found that 76 percent of Americans considered immigration a good thing for the United States. As many as 81 percent supported a path to

citizenship for undocumented immigrants if they meet certain requirements” (Felter, 2020). This is definitely a progress for the public, however, what some do not realize is how hard it is to actually get citizenship. There are so many steps and waiting that needs to be done. For some, waiting is not an option. It is also important to note this statistic, “a 2016 Gallup poll found that among Republicans, support for a path the citizenship (76 percent) was higher than support for a proposed border wall (62 percent)” (Felter, 2020). This shows a shift in what the public is thinking and shows support from the right side where that has not been common before. The more people learn about the true facts of immigration, the better chance society has to make America more accepting and welcoming to the all around public.

Conclusion

Giving up your home is hardly something most of us have to imagine. In the U.S., for citizens we have opportunities that some may never get. Many things on immigration policy have been changing since the election. Having a new President in office, Joe Biden, his administration is changing policies Trump had put in place. Biden has “pledged to undo Trump-era asylum and travel restrictions, as well as maintain DACA, expand humanitarian resources at the border, end prolonged detention, and create a road map to citizenship for undocumented immigrants” (Felter, 2020). In fact, Biden’s administration has started to take action to turn around Trump administration policies to end MPP, also known as Remain in Mexico. Fortunately, by the Biden administration they have begun to start admitting immigrants enrolled in the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) into the States to wait on the decisions of their asylum applications. This is a better policy rather than keeping them stranded in northern Mexico. In addition, the Biden administration was able to hinder two other programs, the Prompt Asylum Case Review (PACR) and the Humanitarian Asylum Review Program (HARP).

As a result of the pandemic, Biden's administration has not been able to make as much action and change in allowing immigrants into the U.S. due to COVID-19 restrictions. Biden's administration has mentioned it will only gradually lift the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) order and process new asylum seekers as they are able to. However, Biden's administration may be forced by ongoing litigation, if a court implements an injunction blocking the CDC order. It is important to notice the actions of Biden's administration as they are taking action steps to help this social problem under the current circumstances. There is still more that needs to be done in order to solve this social problem on immigration. Immigrants need to feel welcomed when coming to the United States since they are seeking a better life. Many people do not understand why immigrants flee their home. In most instances it is not by choice, it is a life or death situation. Many people in our society need to get educated and have awareness why immigrants are wanting to come to the United States. Furthermore, immigrants need to have people advocate for them to help solve this social problem. We have advocacy groups in order for immigrants to be portrayed correctly on tv. It is also important for the media to start accurately portraying immigrants, as it has caused a lot of the social problems in our society.

It may take some time to fix this social problem but our society has started to create and make change. Biden has taken the steps to reverse Trump's immigration policies. Studies have shown the support for immigration in the United States has raised on both democratic and republican sides. This social problem is a major issue that needs to be solved in order for this population to not be oppressed and discriminated against. For them to be able to come to a safe country that is willing to have them and provide for them a safe place to live, is important for our economy as well. Put yourself in their shoes for a second. Can you imagine having to leave your

home? Leaving everything behind because you are not safe and fleeing is your only path to survival. Many people in the United States take what we have for granted in this country. They are not aware or want to know how other people's lives are. Americans do not understand the struggles that others have to endure everyday in different parts of the world, and this is why Immigration is such an important social problem for everyone to know about.

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