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Beatrice Lele
Virginia Commonwealth University

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Family Perception, Levels of US Acculturation and School Contextual Effects on Achievement of Second-Generation Immigrants: Multi-Level Modeling

Beatrice Lele

**Background:** Many factors influence student’s academic success, attainment, and achievement. In addition, compared to the native-born, second-generation immigrant children are faced with acculturation effects that impact on their achievement.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study was to examine the individual, family, levels of U.S acculturation and school contextual effects on the academic achievement of second-generation immigrant children.

**Methods:** The data used comes from Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Study (CILS) that involved 5,262 respondents. Level 1 and level 2 independent variable and the dependent variable GPA are indicated on the figure.

**Results:** Summary of result are given in Table 1.

**Conclusions:** Family Socioeconomic Status, levels of U.S acculturation (children’s proficiency in English, children’s perception of family), and School Social Economic Status were strong and significant positive predictors of GPA.

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**Table 1: Effects of the Individual Level, Family, and School Level on student GPA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Variables/demographics</th>
<th>Model 1 (Null)</th>
<th>Model 2 Control Variables</th>
<th>Model 3 Individual and family variables</th>
<th>Model 4 School Variables</th>
<th>Model 5 Random Slope</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
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<td>2.720102</td>
<td>1.0458</td>
<td>5.214285</td>
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<td>.3361831***</td>
<td>.1777009***</td>
<td>.0828995***</td>
<td>.449354***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
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<td>Respondents US Stay length</td>
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**Level 1 Variables**

- **Family Context**
  - Family SES
  - Adolescent US Preference
  - Parental US Preference
  - Adolescent English proficiency
  - Parental English proficiency
  - Adolescent familism

- **Control Variables**
  - Age
  - Gender
  - Grade
  - Respondents US Stay length

**Level 2 Variables**

- **School/Contextual Variables**
  - Per cent of white students
  - Per cent of black students
  - Per cent of Asian students
  - Minority school
  - School population
  - School SES (Percent of subsidized lunch)
  - School type

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