

# **The impact of immigration and acculturation in parenting practices among immigrant families**

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## **Abstract**

This article examines the interplay among family immigration, acculturation and parenting. Immigration and acculturation often is associated with parental adaption difficulty, lack of time with their children, language barriers between parents and children and mental health vulnerabilities among immigrant parents. In many cases disturbances in parent – children interaction are caused as a result of acculturation gaps between generations. Different research conclude that in some cases parents acculturate more than children in a new cultural context or that immigration does not necessarily brings conflictual relationships among parents and their children. Through examining different research on this topic the paper explores the transformations of parenting practices as a result of immigration and acculturation and the reasons that parents give for holding on to or for abandoning cultural beliefs and practices of their culture of origin. Different ethnic groups hold on various cognitions and parenting practices making some groups being more adapted to one culture than other group. Distinction are made among these groups bases mainly in cultural orientation (individualism versus collectivism) to highlight the possible changes in Albanian parenting practices in context of immigration. This paper also suggests how the parenting practices of culture of origin could be integrated in the new culture and play a useful role and in which circumstances the efficient parental acculturation to the receiving culture presents advantages or disadvantages to the children of immigrants. Recommendations are given for strategies of parenting which fosters the development of children of immigrants and also for future research in this topic.

*Key words: parenting , parental acculturation, dissonant acculturation, immigration*

