

Educational Outcomes of Children of Japanese-Filipino Marriages in Oita Prefecture Japan

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1. Aim

This paper looks into the influences of family and school factors and the child's personal characteristics and children's and parents' responses on children's educational outcomes. Specifically, it explores the education-related issues concerning children of intercultural marriages. Unlike children of monocultural marriages, children of these unions may encounter cultural differences and identity issues that can affect their educational outcomes.

2. Data & Methods

Data of this paper were culled from in-depth interviews, observation techniques, documents review, drawing technique, and parenting styles and practices scale. Eight cases were selected for the research in which this paper is based from. Each case involves a Filipino mother, Japanese father, their Japanese child, and their child's homeroom teacher.

3. Results

Results revealed that children had positive educational outcomes. Most children accomplished various educational achievements. In terms of their studies, the children were rated average to above average. Most of them did not experience discrimination. Also, the children did not face negative school experiences due to their having an intercultural family background. This study reveals four emerging themes that can explain children's positive outcomes, namely, children's healthy identity socialization, parental involvement, children as agentic individuals, and social capital.

4. Conclusion

This paper concludes that children of intercultural unions do not necessarily perform poorly in academics. The influences of different cultural backgrounds on educational outcomes, if at all present and pronounced, are mediated if not sidelined by other factors in the family, school, and individual contexts. The children's positive educational outcomes may have been due to their positive home and school environment. This was seen in the children's healthy relationships with others. The children's experiences were also positively influenced by some forms of social capital.