SOCIO PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT OF AN ETHNIC COMMUNITY IN HOST SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT:

Adjustment is perhaps the most fundamental postulate underlying all immigration programmes. On arriving at the place of immigration the immigrants face an entirely new situation in which they have to undergo a long process of orientation. They have to adjust to totally different pattern of behavior, new values and ideologies, which may differ considerably from the one they are used to. The immigrants, try to put some order into the alien unstructured situation.

The paper is a study of socio-psychological adjustment of a group of Telugu immigrants of Andhra Pradesh in rural Western Orissa. Following the construction of Hirakud dam irrigation project, the longest dam in the world, in the year 1964, a large number of agriculturists from East Godavari district of Andhra pradesh migrated to Bargarh district of Orissa in order to avail various facilities provided under the project. With the passage of time this region of Orissa became a little Andhra and the immigrant community adjusted with various sphere of host society like language, political, religion and socio-psychological sphere. This paper examines the socio-psychological adjustment of the immigrant community taking different aspects like immigrants friendship pattern, prejudice against local people, their sense of security and discrimination, level of aspiration and achievement or realization with respect to occupational and living condition, satisfaction with life in the host society.

Friendship pattern have been examined to determine the extent of primary group contact between immigrants and host society. Two important things have been explored – (1) number of close friends of each of our respondents and (2) ethnic background of those close friends.

Attitudinal or psychological aspect of inter group relations, especially the group conflict is often referred to as prejudice. To know the psychological aspect of inter- group relations, we have tried to examine the attitude of the immigrants towards their own ethnic group members and also the people of the host society.

Sense of security is related to the adjustment process. It is reasonable to assume that an immigrant who feels economically and politically insecure is likely to be less adjusted in the host society. The paper explores not only the sense of security of the immigrants but also the sense of security regarding the future of their children.

Immigrants maladjustment to the host society has a bearing on their degree of personal frustration. The degree of personal frustration is measured in terms of the individual opinion whether their original expectation at the time of migration is fulfilled or not.

An analysis of the said aspect revealed that migrant’s main expectations to his new community turned out to be rewarding.
A well-adjusted person is one who is generally satisfied with all aspects of his life. Immigrant’s satisfaction with life in host society revealed that majority of respondents is satisfied with various aspects of economic and social life in host society. The degree of neighborliness and respondents’ satisfaction about community facility is significantly related.

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