



Parenting Practices of African Immigrants in Destination Countries: A Qualitative Research Synthesis



Bukola Salami ^{a,*}, Shela Akbar Ali Hirani ^a, Salima Meherali ^a, Oluwakemi Amodu ^a, Thane Chambers ^b

^a University of Alberta, Faculty of Nursing, Level 3 – Edmonton Clinic Health Academy, 11405 87 Avenue, 7802481801, Edmonton, AB T6G1C9, Canada

^b University of Alberta, John W. Scott Health Sciences Library Edmonton, AB, Canada

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 23 November 2016

Revised 29 April 2017

Accepted 29 April 2017

Available online xxxx

Keywords:

African
Immigrant
Meta-synthesis
Parenting

ABSTRACT

Problem: While studies have discussed the parenting practices and challenges of African immigrants, no paper has synthesized the results of these qualitative studies. We conducted a qualitative synthesis of the literature to summarize and interpret knowledge of African immigrants' parenting practices and challenges in destination countries to identify future directions for research, policy, and practice.

Eligibility: We used a qualitative research synthesis method involving meta-summary and meta-synthesis of the literature. A research librarian assisted in searching ten databases. Two members of the research team independently reviewed 1794 articles. We included articles that: (a) reported a qualitative research study; (b) was written in English; and (c) provided the perspective of African immigrant parents on their parenting practices and/or challenges.

Sample: A total of 24 articles met our inclusion criteria.

Results: Our results indicate that parenting practices of African immigrants include the following: changes in discipline practices across transnational borders and the use of physical discipline, respect as a deeply embedded value of parenting, integration of cultural values into parenting, and integration of religious practices into parenting. We also found gender differences in parenting. Challenges faced by African immigrants in parenting their children in destination countries include lack of informal/community support, access to services and lack of formal support, cultural conflict in parenting, fear related to social services, and language barriers.

Conclusion and Implications: Our study identifies a need for culturally appropriate policies and practices that build on the strengths of African immigrants in destination countries while addressing their unique challenges.

© 2017 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Contents

Background	21
Methods	21
Purpose	21
Article Search	21
Article Selection.	22
Data Charting and Critical Appraisal of Studies	22
Data Analysis Using Meta-summary and Meta-synthesis	26
Validity	26
Results	26
Parenting Practices	26
Use of Physical Discipline	26
Respect as a Deeply Embedded Value of Parenting	27
Integrating Cultural Values Into Parenting.	27
Integrating Religious Practices Into Parenting	27
Gender Differences in Parenting	27

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: bukola.salami@ualberta.ca (B. Salami).

Parenting Challenges	27
Lack of Informal/Community Support	27
Lack of Formal Support and Access to Services	28
Cultural Conflict in Parenting	28
Fear Related to Social Services (Calling 911)	28
Language Barrier	28
Discussion	28
Acknowledgment	29
References	29

Background

Sensitive and responsive parenting has a long-lasting impact on children's overall health, educational success, psychological well-being, behavioral functioning, and social adjustment in society (Eshel, Daelmans, Cabral de Mello, & Martines, 2006; Glascoe & Leew, 2010; Thompson, 2014). As a concept, parenting practice has been variedly discussed in the literature as a set of parental behaviors and actions to raise and socialize children during a specific age-group, health state, or set of environmental circumstances (Spera, 2005). These practices include parental communication patterns, efforts to develop life skills, ways of caring for children in daily life, the assertion of control, and ways of rewarding or disciplining children to modify their behavior (Spera, 2005).

Migration is fast-growing global trend. Although migration often brings economic opportunities, it also increases the social vulnerability as immigrant families may lack access to healthcare, proficiency in the language of the destination country, secure housing, funded childcare facilities, and adequate support from people in their social network (Blaikie, Cannon, Davis, & Wisner, 2014; Derose, Escarce, & Lurie, 2007; Virupaksha, Kumar, & Nirmala, 2014). Changes in gender role dynamics and power shift within families, including between parent and children, challenges hierarchical family norms of African immigrant families (Okeke-Ihejirika, Salami, & Karimi, 2016). Migration also triggers parenting dilemmas and multiple challenges for immigrant parents and their children in the destination country (Dimitrova, Bender and van de Vijver, 2014; Roubeni, De Haene, Keatley, Shah, & Rasmussen, 2015).

The new culture and environment of the destination country can have a significant influence on immigrants' social circumstances, parental attitudes, and parenting practices, which, in turn, affect children's health, growth, and development (Coll & Magnuson, 2014). It is reported that children of immigrant parents often feel overwhelmed with their parents' expectations that they follow the values of their native culture, excel in academia, adjust socially, deal positively with discrimination, and learn a new language in the destination country (Areepattamannil & Lee, 2014; Coll & Magnuson, 2014; Roubeni et al., 2015). Consequently, children of immigrant parents may experience psychiatric disorders, behavioral problems, and maladjustment (Fazel, Reed, Panter-Brick, & Stein, 2012; Kirmayer et al., 2011; Kouider, Koglin, & Petermann, 2014; Lee et al., 2014). Hence, to facilitate immigrant parents' and their children's effective navigation of the aforementioned challenges, it is important to pay considerable attention to the parenting practices, challenges, and experiences of the immigrant population in the destination country.

Among immigrant population, high migration rates have been recorded among the African community (Karagueuzian & Verdier-Chouchane, 2014; United Nations, 2013). From 1960 to 2000, the migration of Africans to various countries increased from 1.83 million to 8.73 million (Flahaux & De Haas, 2016). African immigrants often migrate to high- and middle-income countries for better career prospects, to pursue higher education, and to avoid political conflict in their country of origin (Flahaux & De Haas, 2016). Migration to a new country not only produces culture shock for many

black African immigrants but also raises tremendous parenting challenges (Amarapurkar & Hogan, 2009; Coe, 2013). African immigrants often juggle parental responsibilities with managing social, cultural, and economic pressures in the destination country. Given these kinds of settlement challenges, children of African immigrants experience poor health and social outcomes in several countries; parenting has also been implicated as a key factor in determining such outcomes (Coe, 2013; Uwakweh, Rotich, & Okpala, 2014). The unavailability of social support services and need-based programs for immigrant parents in destination countries often makes it more difficult for immigrants with children to manage their parenting responsibilities in the new culture (Stewart et al., 2015).

Researchers have found that African immigrants not only have trouble fulfilling their parental duties in a new culture but also that they are forced to change their parenting practices (Amarapurkar & Hogan, 2009; Uwakweh et al., 2014). While studies have discussed the parenting practices and challenges of African immigrants, no paper has synthesized the results of these qualitative studies. Findings of this meta-synthesis can aid key stakeholders and policymakers in formulating and establishing culturally sensitive, need-based programs, policies, and practices for African immigrants, which destination countries generally lack (Coe, 2013; Uwakweh et al., 2014).

Methods

This study used a qualitative research synthesis method as guided by Sandelowski and Barroso (2007), who write, 'Qualitative research synthesis refers to a process and product of scientific inquiry aimed at systematically reviewing and formally integrating the findings in reports of completed qualitative studies' (17). The steps in our synthesis of qualitative evidence included formulating the study purpose, searching for qualitative research evidence, article selection, data charting and critical appraisal of qualitative studies, and analysis of findings using meta-summary and meta-synthesis.

Purpose

We conducted a qualitative synthesis of the literature to summarize and interpret knowledge on parenting practices and challenges of African immigrants in destination countries to identify future directions for research, policy, and practice. We were guided by two main research questions:

- What are the parenting practices of African immigrants in destination countries?
- What challenges do African immigrants face in parenting their children in destination countries?

Article Search

Studies were identified through searches of electronic databases and reviews of article reference lists. Keywords for article searches in electronic databases included the following: parenting, parenthood, child

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/5570022>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/5570022>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)