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## **A STUDY ON THE CROSS-CULTURAL ADAPTATION, SOCIAL IDENTITY, AND THE THREE-DIMENSIONAL INDEX (ALIENATION, NEGATION, MARGINALIZATION) OF NEW IMMIGRANTS IN TAIWAN**

### **Abstract:**

This study aims to explore the cross-cultural adaptation process of new immigrants after moving to Taiwan, focusing on the relationships between cross-cultural life adaptation, social identity, and the three-dimensional index (alienation, negation, marginalization). It seeks to uncover the intertwined cultural and ethnic experiences within family, workplace, and social contexts. A mixed-methods research approach is adopted, and the study is conducted over three years. By utilizing both qualitative and quantitative research methods, the study examines the adaptation processes and experiences of Southeast Asian immigrants who married into Taiwan. The goal is to construct a “Dynamic Model of Cross-Cultural Adaptation” for new immigrants, providing a comprehensive understanding of their adaptation journey, social identity patterns, and the transformation process of the three-dimensional index. Ultimately, the study aims to develop an integrated policy model for the care and counseling of new immigrants.

In the first year, in-depth interviews were conducted with new immigrants from diverse national and regional backgrounds. The primary objective was to explore their cross-cultural adaptation experiences and address the following three research questions: 1. Understanding the cross-cultural adaptation process of new immigrants from different nationalities. 2. Analyzing the social identity patterns of new immigrants in their cross-cultural adaptation. 3. Examining the three-dimensional index (alienation, negation, marginalization) in the cross-cultural adaptation of new immigrants.

Preliminary Research Findings:

**Cross-Cultural Adaptation Process:** The adaptation period for new immigrants in Taiwan varies depending on individual backgrounds. Generally, a complete adaptation process takes at least 5 to 10 years, or even longer. To accelerate this adaptation, the government should provide language education, employment support, and social integration opportunities to help new immigrants transition more quickly into the adjustment phase and ultimately reach the mastery phase of stable living.

**Social Identity Patterns:** Most new immigrants in Taiwan are classified as adapters, meaning they actively adjust to the local culture while maintaining aspects of their original identity. However, some immigrants, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds in their home countries, are more willing to naturalize as Taiwanese citizens and fully embrace Taiwanese culture, thus becoming assimilators.

**Three-Dimensional Index (Alienation, Negation, Marginalization):** **Alienation:** Some new immigrants are treated as household servants rather than as daughters-in-law or wives. **Marginalization:** Some immigrants see Taiwan as a temporary place for work and residence rather than a permanent home. Others face domestic violence but are unaware of available support channels. Mothers often struggle with understanding Chinese-language parenting materials, making childcare more challenging. **Negation:** The most common issue is the non-recognition of prior work experience and educational qualifications from their home countries in Taiwan. Additionally, gender-based objectification is

prevalent, with some women being devalued if they are unable to bear children.

**Keywords:**

Dynamic Model of Cross-Cultural Adaptation; Integrated Model of Care and Counseling Policy; New Immigrants; Multiculturalism