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How are immigration laws affecting immigrant children academically? Conditions that drive people to leave their homes can include a sub-standard level of living, food, land or job scarcity, famine or drought, political or religious persecution, pollution, violence, threats, gang violence or even natural disasters. 13.7% of the US population were immigrants in 2018, or about 44.8 million people. 77% of immigrants are here legally. Over 1 million immigrants enter the country each year. This means someone you know may have been affected by these immigration laws and are frightened. In my many years in public NYC schools, I have noticed the way these children are affected, they've been bullied, harassed, and mistreated. The majority don't even have the proper support system at home because of separated families at the border. These kids have trouble at home because of the constant stress of getting deported.

UNICEF, "*Education Is Every Child's Right*" published by UNICEF, December 17, 2019.
<https://youtu.be/Y6gJHBoGiYM>. (0:32 - 0:42)

This 50-second video highlights the importance of children obtaining an education. Not just for education but to also develop lifelong skills, build friendships, and grow their potential as an individual. UNICEF is working all around the world to help protect the rights of migrant and displaced children. They have child-friendly spaces where children on the move can play,

mothers can feed their babies, and separated families can reunite. UNICEF also collects, analyses and disseminates data and gathers evidence about the situation and individual experiences of children and young people on the move. They help keep families together, work to end child immigration detention by helping governments put in place alternative community family-based solutions, work with governments, the private sector and civil society. They empower children and youth on the move with cutting-edge solutions, partnering with them and making their voices heard.

Helping young refugees is so important not only to aid them in their time of need but it makes them feel less alone. Many of them being separated from their families desperately need a feeling of belonging somewhere. So all these children get to bond with each other because of the hardships they're going through together. It goes way beyond education, These schools act as a temporary place they can call home, where they can roam freely letting the pressure and anxiety go, where they can act like a kid again.

“Education is empowerment, Education is a lifeline, Education is hope, Education is every child's right”

Luiselli, Valeria “Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in 40 Questions” Coffee House Press, March 03, 2017.

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/citytech-ebooks/reader.action?docID=4818096>

Valeria begins volunteering in 2015 at a non-profit called The Door. There she interviews child immigrants and the first question she always asks is “Why did you come to the United States?” The answers are often the same, reuniting with their parents. Others have other factors like being

pushed out by violence in their country. These kids are not searching for anything just trying to stay alive. The Children are full of horrendous stories about their journey to the United States giving haunting details.

This text exposes what the children face during the traumatic experience of immigration. I extremely support this text because it highlights the disastrous and exhausting progress that is immigration. The children see so much that many adults couldn't even fathom. Not only are they being chased out of their own home but, here in the United States, they are also penalized by the residents. "The subject in question raised a complaint against gang members who waited for him outside of his high school every day, frequently followed him home, and began threatening to kill him." No matter where they are, they never feel safe because someone is always out to get them. This quote perfectly highlights my research question, it shows how in school immigrant children feel like their life is still in danger. So they are left with no choice, either stay home in danger of gang violence and end up being a victim of it or leave home, go to the United States for a better opportunity, and still be in constant fear for their life. Not only will this affect them academically but also, in the future they will undoubtedly have many mental health issues because of their rough upbringing.

I personally love the authors writing style because it makes the reader feel like they are in the room with them. Experiencing the child's movements, their body language, and their fears. This author's intended audience on the surface would be the law but, really this is a message for all immigrants, especially children, to show that they are not alone and that these experiences are happening to many children around the world. The author is very credible because she is taking

the story directly from the children that experienced these things, with the help of lawyers she has to be extremely credible to help build cases for the children.

“The Crisis will deepen and spread, and things will fall apart, unless all those kids find a way to become quickly and fully integrated. These kids have been through the worst. They arrive to find an unfamiliar country and a new language, but also a group of strangers that they must now call their family. They have to deal with family reunifications, interrupted education, acculturation, and trauma.

Corey Mitchell, *“Kids Count: Immigrants and Their Children Face Challenges on Path to Opportunity”* Published by EducationWeek, October 24, 2017.

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/kids-count-immigrants-and-their-children-face-challenges-on-path-to-opportunity/2017/10#:~:text=Children%20of%20immigrants%20often%20face,income%20families%2C%20the%20report%20found.>

This paper brings into light the fact that immigrant children are more likely to struggle with their education and be impoverished. These opportunities are stripped for them at an early age leading them to struggle later in life. Not only that but, studies show that some schools aren't equipped to handle the needs of immigrant students. Reports say that these children represent less than a quarter of the nation's population of children, but account for nearly a third of those from low-income families.

This is very important because this allows the educational system to understand more about its students. Something that they should already understand and are currently failing at.

One solution to this can be a more diversified amount of teachers, does who can on some level relate to the student's needs.

“We need all children to reach their full potential if we are to reach ours as a nation,” the report authors wrote. “Children in immigrant families, like their predecessors in previous centuries, will end up contributing to the nation’s prosperity if given a chance.”

The United States has to take into consideration all the damage it’s doing to it’s new citizens. It is very contradicting to the slogan “Land Of The Free” when not everyone here is free. Immigrants fear for their lives and their livelihoods, without the right resources they don’t even have a chance to fight for themselves. They’re afraid to speak up because they know they won’t have a voice. In January, the Biden-Harris Administration launched a broad, whole of the government effort to reform our immigration system, including sending to Congress legislation that creates a new system to responsibly manage and secure our border, provide a pathway to citizenship, and better manage migration across the Hemisphere. Plans are being set forth so families can reunite. Children will have full and happy homes thus improving their motivation in school. With their experiences, these kids have so much to bring to a school setting and can even be set as examples of perseverance and pure will.