CHILD AND YOUTH OUTCOMES

Name

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Date

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The book “The spirit catches you and you fall down”, is about the life and culture of Hmong children and families. Anne Fadman writes about how the parents of Hmong children struggles through fighting until they ended up emigrating to the United States to settle as refugees.[[1]](#footnote-2) Further, the author analyzes Hmong children’s beliefs in their society. This community, therefore, goes through negative outcomes and several experiences discussed below.

Hmong children and families face various negative outcomes in their lives. For instance, they experience negative academic outcomes which are due to different reasons as follows; Hmong children are very much aware that they emigrated to become refugees and this makes them not to feel free. [[2]](#footnote-3)They have no hope for going back to their country, their parents are poor and are not able to provide enough basics for them. The parents are also less educated hence have an inability in comprehending English. Hmong children find it hard to get along with American culture at a quick pace. They choose to stick to their culture and beliefs, respecting them as stressed by their parents. Furthermore, Hmong children are not meeting the right parental care, which they require they get stressed and pressured until some of them decide to give up by dropping out of school.[[3]](#footnote-4) Besides, peer pressure from their fellow children makes them lose morale in academics since they feel that they are not at the right place although they know that academics is something of value in their lives.

The Bronfenbrenner system explains that a person’s growth and development is due to influences by everything in his or her surrounding environment. Bronfenbrenner further splits the environment into different sections, which are as follows; the first one is Microsystem, the nearest level that has a close impact to a person and it includes school, home, and work. The second section is Mesosystem.[[4]](#footnote-5) This section has an indirect effect on a person. It involves parents and teachers of an individual. If educators and parents work together positive impact results to a person and if they work against each other adverse impact results. The third section is Exosystem, at this part an individual does not involve yet he or she is still affected, and the fourth level is Macrosystem, it is the environmental factors like cultural values political system and economy which affect an individual either negatively or positively. Bronfenbrenner’s system, therefore, shows how Hmong children and families were affected in their lives as they interacted while trying to catch up with new cultural values and systems.

There are various similar human experiences that people go through. For example, people go through similar experiences like humiliation and their perception concerning humiliation is always negative. They feel frustrated and seek revenge while some want to kick back, but they give in because they are not strong. An experience of love is similar to people in the United States, those who experienced enough love want to treat others warmly, kindly.[[5]](#footnote-6) So, anyone who has experienced love rarely wants to hurt others, and this is common on the human. Similarly, a person who has experienced torture since his or her childhood ends up being aggressive to others and sometimes very rough. For the case of Hmong children and families, for example, they have too many conflicts, they respect their culture so much, and they want their children to do the same.[[6]](#footnote-7) This aggressiveness is due to the experience they went through back in their life. They learned not to be soft and to maintain cultural values. The difference in experience is that it is hard to control someone to act according to the experience you went through. Hmong children are experiencing too many conflicts with their parents for not adhering seriously to their culture, only because they never experienced it.

The doctors from Merced community center were incompetence in their work. When Lia Lee is in the hospital, they fail to diagnose her disease, and instead they say that she has epilepsy which they fail to treat. Lia’s parents believed that their treatment could work well if only the doctors were not disrupting their spirits.[[7]](#footnote-8) Doctors failed so many times to diagnose her problem until after four months is when they were able to diagnose her with septic shock. Instead of helping her, they told her parents to take her home because she would eventually die. The parents take her home, and she never dies, they love her, and they believe that spirits are with her.

The world is unfreely shared from the way Hmong children and families live. For instance, they fight while fleeing from China, their country. Hmong families suffer because they lack a safe place to stay yet the world is so big. Men once killed their wives to keep fighting with their enemies without giving up but still they are pursued by their fellow human beings and killed. Those who managed to move to Japan get harassed by being forced to pay tax, yet they know well that they are poor and refugees. The world is never shared freely, even in the U.S, Hmong people are not feeling the liberty to enjoy the academic and the same applies to the rest of the world.

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1. Fadiman, A. *The spirit catches you and you fall down: A Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Fadiman, A. *The spirit catches you and you fall down:* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Burgett, B. *Keywords for american cultural studies*. New York: New York University Press, 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Watts, J., Cockcroft, K., & Duncan, N. *Developmental psychology*. Cape Town, South Africa: UCT Press, 2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Burgett, B. *Keywords for american cultural studies*. New York: New York University Press, 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Fadiman, A. *The spirit catches you and you fall down:*  [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Fadiman, A [↑](#footnote-ref-8)