



The Role of Youth Leadership Development Programs: A Case Study of the Afghan Immigrant Community in Pakistan

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Abstract

In response to the unique socio-economic challenges faced by Afghan immigrant youth in Pakistan, Youth Leadership Development Programs (YLDPs) have emerged as pivotal in empowering young leaders within this community. This study examines the role and impact of YLDPs on the Afghan immigrant community, focusing on how these programs foster leadership skills, socio-cultural integration, and resilience among youth. Using a mixed-method approach, this research draws on quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews with program participants, community leaders, and educators to analyze both the immediate and long-term outcomes of YLDPs. Findings reveal that these programs not only enhance participants' leadership capacities but also improve their access to education, civic engagement, and professional development opportunities. Furthermore, YLDPs serve as critical platforms for social integration, helping Afghan youth navigate complex cultural dynamics and contribute positively to their communities. This study underscores the importance of targeted youth development initiatives in immigrant communities, highlighting how such programs can address broader issues of identity, marginalization, and socio-economic inclusion. The findings offer valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and organizations aiming to support immigrant communities through youth empowerment strategies.

Keywords: Youth Leadership Development Programs (YLDPs); Afghan immigrant community; Socio-cultural integration; Identity and marginalization