

The Impact of Transnational Ties on Immigrant Health: Focusing on Immigrant Generations

While numerous studies examine various aspects of immigrants' transnational ties with their home countries, the East Asian context remains underexplored. I aim to address this gap by examining the frequency of social transnational ties and its impact on the health of various immigrant groups in South Korea, a country transitioning into an immigrant-receiving nation. My studies indicate that the impact of social transnational ties differs between immigrant generations. While acting as a support system for first-generation immigrants, these ties may have adverse effects on second-generation immigrants, such as multicultural adolescents, who often exhibit signs of depression and engage in delinquent behavior and social withdrawal. These results emphasize the necessity of fostering positive transnational connections, transforming them into sources of strength rather than stress, particularly for second-generation immigrants. Future studies could apply qualitative methods to elucidate how transnational connections with the home country affect the health and behaviors of immigrants from diverse backgrounds.

Keywords: Immigrants, Transnational ties, South Korea, Second-generation, Multicultural families