**A MIXED METHOD ANALYSIS OF SOUTH ASIAN IMMIGRANT & CANADAIN MOTHERS' EXPERIENCE OF RAISING A CHILD WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY**

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**Objectives:** Perry (2004) model of stress suggests that mothers experience both negative and positive impact of raising a child with a Developmental Disability (DD) such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Down Syndrome etc. as they deal with stressors with the help of personal and family resources as well as social supports and services (Hastings & Taunt, 2002; Luthra, Perry & Minnes, 2014). However, these variables can vary across cultures due to differences in culturally acceptable developmental timetable, conceptualization of disability, its causes, treatments, and implications for the family (Harry, 2002; Welterlin & LaRue, 2007). Immigrant mothers’ conceptualization may alter as they acculturate to a more western understanding of disability (Daley, 2004; Mandell & Novak, 2005). There is some research in Canada about immigrant mothers’ experience with services and barriers they encounter on their journey (Khanlou & Haque, 2013), however there is a scarcity of literature specifically examining South Asian immigrant mothers of children with a DD (Gabel, 2004; Ravindran & Myers, 2013).

This study aimed to explore the experiences of South Asian immigrant and Canadian mothers raising a child with DD using the Perry (2004) model of stress. Two main research questions were examined:

1) Is there a significant difference between the two groups on any of the *stressor* (child’s age, adaptive skills, maladaptive behaviors, financial burden and other life stressors), *personal* (self-efficacy, mental health, coping) and *family* resources (family hardiness, marital satisfaction), formal and informal sources of *social support*, or *impact* variables (negative, positive).

2) Are there different predictors of positive and negative impact in the two groups?

**Method:** A correlational embedded mixed method design (Creswell, Plano Clark, Gutmann & Hanson, 2003) was used. Quantitative questionnaire data completed by 56 Canadian and 51 South Asian immigrant mothers of children with a DD served as the primary data and qualitative themes from semi-structured interviews with a sub sample of mothers from both groups as secondary data. South Asian immigrant mothers were from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan, spoke 11 languages besides English, and immigrated to Canada for average 13.5 years. About 75-80% children in both groups were male and over 80% had an ASD along with DD. Independent sample *t* tests were used to examine differences between the groups, and hierarchical regression was used to examine predictors of negative and positive impact.

**Results:** Children in the Canadian group were reported to have significantly more adaptive skills compared to South Asian group, whereas South Asian mothers reported significantly greater mental health issues, use of positive coping skills, and helpfulness of social supports. Negative impact in both groups was significantly predicted by child’s adaptive skills and maladaptive behaviors, and by mother’s mental health in Canadian group. Positive impact was significantly predicted by child’s age, positive coping and family hardiness in Canadian mothers, and by mother’s mental health and positive coping in South Asian mothers.

**Discussion/Conclusions:** This is the first quantitative comparison between the two groups in Canada. There seems to be a lot of similarities in Canadian and South Asian immigrant mothers’, with some key differences. It is important for service providers to be cognizant of these differences, and provide culturally sensitive services to immigrant mothers. Clinical implications will be discussed in detail in the poster, along with supportive qualitative themes.

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