

First Generation Immigrant Latino Parenting Characteristics

Power of Families Project
June 28th, 2016



Identified Latino Cultural Constructs

Latino population is diverse, yet certain cultural concepts have been consistently found among first generation immigrant families (Bernal & Domenech Rodriguez, 2009)

Familism

Familismo describes the idea that family is prioritized over the individual (Sue & Sue, 2003)

Latino parents may utilize familism to promote youth in supporting and assisting other family members (Roosa, Morgan-Lopez, Cree, & Specter, 2002)

Empanadas, Carmen Lomas Garza



Respeto

Respeto, describes respect for authorities

Studies show that Puerto Rican descent families value when children demonstrate respect towards elders (Arcia et al., 2000)

Due to respect for their parents, Latino adolescent males might avoid discussing taboo subjects such as drug abuse (Lac et. al., 2011)

Simpatia



Cascarones, Carmen Lomas Garza

Simpatia describes the desire to avoid conflict and maintain peace within the family

Latino families intentionally will try to decrease conflicts with their adolescent children (Barber, 1994)

Latino adolescents with good communication with their parents were less likely to be involved with risky behavior, including drug use (Lac et al., 2011)

Gender Roles



La Quinceañera, Carmen Lomas Garza

An important dynamic among first generation Latino immigrant families is the emphasis of traditional gender roles.

While these may mirror American traditional roles, there are nuances that may also influence Latino family functioning, especially in regards to parenting strategies.

Machismo

Boys are taught to be independent and self sufficient (Lac et al.2011).

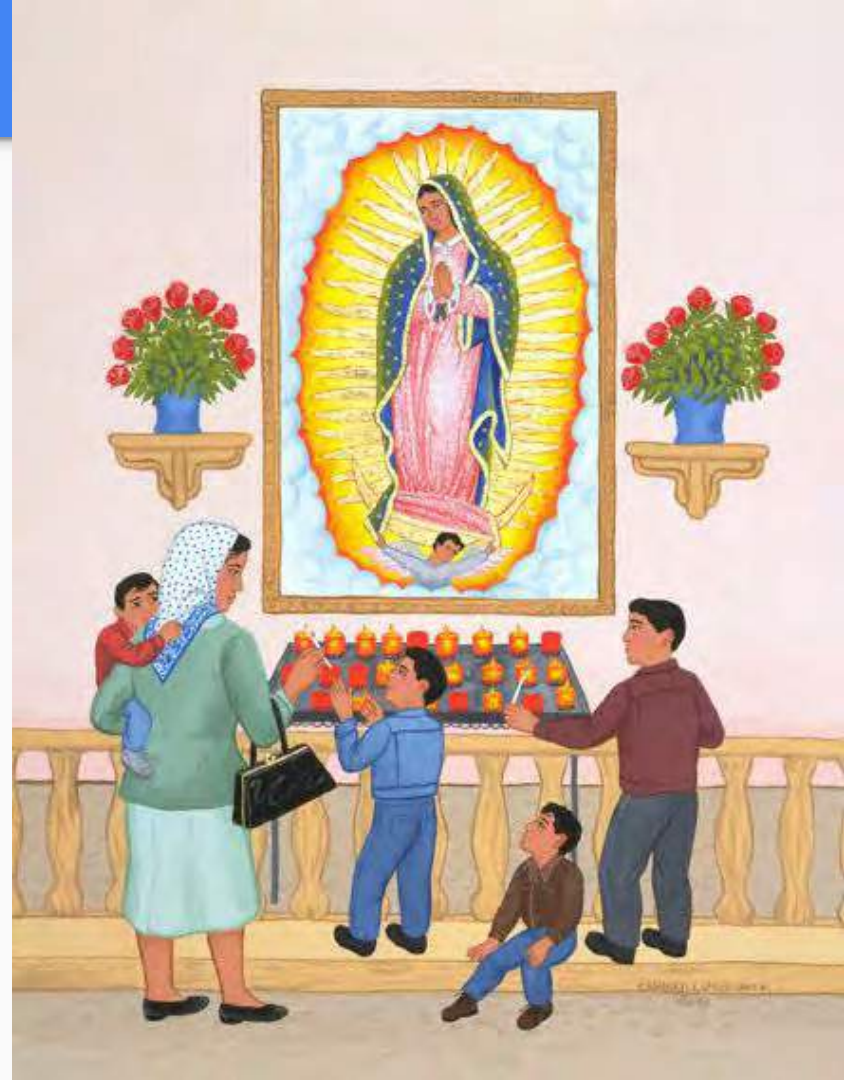
While the term has anti social connotations, theoretically, researchers have compared machismo to chivalry, which includes being respectful, generous, and resilient (Fragoso, & Kashubeck, 2000).

Marianismo

Emphasizes females to be homebound, submissive, humble, and promoting caregiving responsibilities, i.e. modeling the Virgin Mary (Guilamo-Ramos, et al., 2007; Lac et. al., 2011)

Perceived as a pivotal family anchor, mothers of Mexican-origin often serve as the primary source of maintaining family values (Valdes, 1996).

Virgen Guadalupe, Carmen Lomas Garza



Latino Parenting Characteristics

Parenting is largely influenced by cultural values and socioeconomic status (Darling & Steinberg, 1993).

While traditional parenting styles can be helpful to categorize types of parents, it is difficult to describe the parenting style that many Latino parents use.

Parenting also described by solely the parenting practices in three domains: demandingness, responsiveness, autonomy granting (Domenech Rodriguez, Donovan & Crowley, 2009; Guilamo-Ramos, et al., 2007; Darling & Steinberg, 1993)

Demandingness

Dominican and Puerto Rican mothers expressed high expectations that their adolescents obey strictly guidelines and rules set out by parents (Guilamo-Ramos, Dittus, Jaccard, 2009)

In order to socialize their children to practice respeto, Latino parent may use corporal punishment, as a way to stop questioning or enforce authority



La Llorona, Carmen Lomas Garza

Responsiveness



El general y su familia (The General and His Family), Fernando Botero

Responsiveness can be connected to aspects of familism and *simpatia*, manifested through Latino parents' engagement and expressions of affection for their Latino children.

Familism allows parents, especially fathers, to be engaged with their children's activities that may offset the negative effects of poverty (German, Gonzales, & Dumka, 2009).

There is evidence that when Latino parents integrate warmth and encouragement as well as parental monitoring may result in lower levels of reported externalizing issues in children (Holtrop, McNeill Smith, & Scott, 2015).

In focus groups, both Puerto Rican and Dominican mothers expressed the need to maintain control and firm expectations, but also valued supportive and warm relationships with their adolescent children (Guilamo-Ramos, Dittus, & Jaccard, 2009).

Autonomy Granting

There is consistent evidence that shows that Latino parents utilize of maintaining low levels of autonomy granting as a protective strategy for their children (Guilamo-Ramos, Dittus, & Jaccard, 2009).

Important to note is the varying levels of autonomy that Latino parents grant is heavily depending on gender. (Rafelli & Ontai, 2004).

Based on the cultural value of marianismo, Latino parents are generally more restrictive on their daughter's autonomy, possibly putting stricter curfews or limiting interactions with male peers (Rafelli & Ontai, 2004; Domenech Rodriguez, Donovanick & Crowley, 2009).

Risks that
First Generation Immigrant Latino Families
Experience

Low Income Neighborhoods

Many first generation Latino immigrants come to the US seeking a better life; however their experiences are often affected by stressors associated with poverty. Latino immigrants, especially those who are of Mexican-origin, are represented disproportionately among the poor in the US (Camarota, 2001).

Lack of social supports also influence educational attainment for Latino youth.

Roche, et al. (2012) found that low income Latino youth suffer from lower levels of educational attainment when their immigrant parents' social networks mostly involved U.S. born individuals.

Deviant Peers

In addition to lack of social supports, low-income communities have been positively correlated with delinquent activity, especially among adolescents (Tolan, Guerra, & Montaini-Klov Dahl, 1997; Germán, Gonzales, & Dumka, L., 2009).



Acculturative Stress



Latino adolescents might gravitate toward their American peers' culture, causing conflict with immigrant Latino family values, which can mediate for internalizing and externalizing problems (Schwartz et al., 2013).

Latino parent-child acculturation discrepancies have also been associated with lower levels of family cohesion, which could mediate for risky behaviors such as unprotected sex (Cordova, Huang, Lally, Estrada, & Prado, 2014).

Latino Youth and Maladaptive Outcomes

Latino youth and Deviant Peers

Mexican-origin teens' exposure to deviant peers has been positively correlated with increased use of substances and maladaptive behaviors (Barrera, Biglan, Ary & Li, 2001).

Latino boys reported that they experienced more autonomy with their parents than girls offering them more opportunities to be exposed to deviant peers and reporting higher rates of risky sexual behavior, which is reflective of machismo ideology (Lac, et al. 2011, Killoren & Deutsch, 2014).

Cruz-Santiago and Ramirez Garcia (2011) found that Mexican-origin parents living in low income neighborhoods identified their primary challenge was ensuring that their adolescent children did not join local gangs or participate in gang activity.

Latino Cultural Values and Internalizing Problems

The significance that familism has especially on first generation immigrant Latinas may serve as a protective factor against risky sexual behavior (Killoren & Deutsch, 2014).

However, there has been evidence showing that the restricting emphasis that family honor has on Latinas more than Latinos maybe the reason there are more instances of internalizing problems found among Latinas (Campos et al., 2014; Rafaelli & Ontai, 2001).

Latino Youth and Adaptive Outcomes

Latino Parenting as Protective Factors

Aspects of *simpatia* and *familismo*, such as feeling understood by parents, increased parental monitoring and family cohesion have been found to be the salient protective factors (Pagan Rivera, 2013; Lac et al. 2013).

When Latino parents integrate warmth and encouragement as well as parental monitoring may result in lower levels of reported externalizing issues in children (Holtrop, McNeill Smith, & Scott, 2015).



Barbacoa para Cumpleaños, Carmen Lomas Garza,

Education and Latino Parenting

There is evidence that suggests positive correlations in regards to Latino parental involvement and fostering school attachment and preventing dropout among Latino youth (Taylor et al.,2012, Hill & Torres, 2010).

Because the family goals are decisive in an individual's lives, this aspect of familism has been connected to higher levels of educational attainment among Latino youth (Dumka et.al, 2009; Tseng, 2004).

Latino Parenting In Action

SOLDANDO MI FUTURO

Questions?

Gracias

