

Intercountry Adoption and Violence Against Children: An International Concern

Research Paper
By
Iryna Yefremova
Submitted To:
Professor Dr. Mangai Natarajan
Capstone 401-04 Spring 2019
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

THE PRESENT STUDY

This descriptive research aims to examine the intricacies and various explanations of adoption from developing countries that could explain the decline of intercountry adoption in the United States through the examination of academic and grey literature, governmental and non-governmental records, as well as laws and treaties governing international adoption policies. It aims to identify adoption policies and requirements by sending countries, analyze their economic and social conditions, and participation in international adoption, and assess the various actors of the international adoption process. This research also aims to identify flaws in various adoption systems, focusing on various forms of abuse and unethical practices that may explain or influence decline in intercountry adoption. The various sectors of international adoption that influence the rates of adoption are to be explored with the following objectives are to examine:

Objective 1: The historical background of international adoption in the United States

RQ1: Why is international adoption considered in the United States?

RQ2: What caused international adoption rates to peak in 2004?

RQ3: What are the reasons for high and low rates of international adoption?

Objective 2: The supply countries and their processes of international adoption

RQ1: What are the characteristics of supply countries?

RQ2: How does international adoption occur in supply countries?

RQ3: To what extent do government and non-government organizations participate in international adoption?

RQ4: Why do supply countries participate in international adoption?

Objective 3: The reasons for the decline in international adoptions

RQ1: Are there illegal practices surrounding international adoption?

Commented [MN1]: Objectives drive the literature, study hypothesis/RQ, analysis, findings and discussion of the paper.

Commented [MN2]: Please note that this is a descriptive research based on the review of literature. The questions are geared to each objective to summarize the literature

RQ2: Are there reported cases of abuse of children adopted from abroad?

RQ3: Are monetary factors significant in the decline of international adoption?

RQ4: Do adoption policies and laws of sending countries contribute to the decline of international adoption?

Objective 4: To Assess various adoption policies that coincide with international agreements

RQ1: What are the guidelines established by The Hague Convention?

RQ2: What are the guidelines established by The Convention on the Rights of the Child?

RQ3: What are the guidelines established by the United Nations Declaration on Social and Legal Principles?

Given the continuation of child abuse through international adoption, this research aims to provide a better understanding of the flaws in various adoption systems. Such information can be used to spread awareness of the harms associated with adoption. This is especially important for families and individuals looking to adopt children from foreign territories, as it raises questions of legality and ethics. This research can be used to potentially correct or reform policies in order to ensure that the adoption process and legal and ethical as well as ensure the safety and wellbeing of adoptees.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review focuses on analyzing the relationship between international adoption and various forms of violence against adoptees by using John Jay Library resources such as EBSOC, Criminal justice abstracts, Hein Online, Google Scholar, and relevant government and international organization websites such as the United Nations, World Bank, and the U.S. Department of State. This literature review focuses on the following themes to gain understanding of various factors that could help understand the recent decrease of intercountry adoption by the United States.

Themes

1. Historical background of international adoption in the United States
2. Characteristics of international adoption process
3. Status of international adoptions
4. Adoption Policies: International