



Learning from StoryCorps: The Resilience and Empowerment of Afghan Immigrant Women

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The aim of my research is to better understand the challenges, struggles, risks, and fears faced by Afghan women immigrants to the U.S. as well as how they have overcome them. I am mainly focusing on the resilience and empowerment of Afghan immigrant women who have fled a war-torn country in the search for a better life. In the past few decades Afghanistan has been damaged extensively by the on-going war. While there is gender inequality in the United States as well, compared to Afghanistan, the treatment of women in the U.S. is much better. This study uses the StoryCorps archive as the main source of data. StoryCorps is an independently funded organization that provides people across the U.S. with the opportunity to record and preserve the stories of their lives. Nine usable audio recorded interviews, averaging 45-60 minutes long, were provided by the StoryCorps archive. These have been transcribed, checked for accuracy, stripped of identifying information, and I am beginning to code the interviews using a coding framework based on the Transtheoretical Model of Empowerment and Resilience (TMER [Brodsky & Cattaneo, 2014]). Their successes may be important in setting an example for other women and the future generations.

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