



Parent-school Interaction from the Perspective of *Immigrant Women Parenting Alone* School Children in Quebec Public Schools

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The Facts: Status of Women

Feminization of poverty

- Feminization of migration
- Rise of single motherhood across North America

1.9 million women in Canada live on a low income.

- **30% of single mothers are raising their children in poverty in Canada**

The Facts: Status of Women

In Montreal: 1 900 000 people

- 475 095 families are monoparentales (20%);
- *82% of all single parents in Montreal are women.*

We do not know:

How many immigrant single mothers are in Montreal What would be the % of Immigrant Single Mothers speak English as their First Official Language (FOL)

The Facts: Immigrant education

- **Low educational achievement** (Heath & Brinbaum, 2014; Garcia Coll & Marks, 2011)
- **Significantly lower levels of educational performance in QC,** Manitoba, Saskatoon (PISA reports 2006, 2010, 2016)
- In Quebec, “**an acute immigrant performance disadvantage** in this province” especially when linked to the SES of immigrants (Volante, Klinger, Bilgli & Siegel, 2017, p. 338)

Overview of Research Purpose

Single motherhood at the intersection of immigration and education

Better understanding of

- Quebec Context & Immigrant Education (*Accueil et integration des eleves allophones*) (**Policy analysis**)
- Parent-school interaction from the perspective of Immigrant single mothers (**Face to face interviews**)

Pre-migration **expectations** and post-migration **experience**

Intersectional lived experience of single motherhood

Better social support systems for single mothers in general

More *specific support systems* targeting the immigrant experience of SM

Preliminary Findings

Immigrant Single Mothers (ISM)

Parent-school interaction an additional stressor

Low self-efficacy

Regardless of SES, participants had a difficult time advocating for the needs of their children and gaining institutional support (principals, teachers or CSDM)

Impact of negative interactions

Low educational attainment (teenage girls underperform)

10/12 children do not want to go to school

2/12 want to return to their country of origin



Thank you

Comments and suggestions

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