

05.19.2023

<u>A Qualitative Investigation into the Experiences of Refugee Adolescents' Transition into the Culture of</u> the United States

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PURPOSE OF THE STUDY To describe the essence and complexities of refugee adolescents' experiences in their transition to the United States. Furthermore, this research also looked at the experiences of refugees adolescents as they enter into the United States education system. This study hoped to give a voice to adolescent refugees as they undergo the acculturation process. It also focused on how adolescent refugees cope during the transition from their native country into their new one and how they adapt to the school environment in the United States.

HOW THE RESEARCH ADVANCES THE PROFESSION To competently treat and support refugee adolescents during the acculturation process, school counselors need to understand the intricacies of the refugees' experiences. School counselors have the opportunity to assist refugee adolescents during their transition into the culture of the United States by providing understanding and support.

GUIDANCE FOR PRACTICING SCHOOL COUNSELORS Understanding the depth of the refugee adolescents' experiences, and the significance of their emotional impact on the development of the students' new social identity is paramount to providing them with most effective school counseling services possible.

EQUITY DIMENSIONS Essential characteristics for addressing the needs of refugee adolescents need to emphasize the developmental of a framework for responsiveness, empowerment and equity. When refugee adolescents encounter the school systems in the United States, they are tasked with merging their own unique cultural backgrounds with the expectations and demands of the educational system; thus, they find themselves frequently disregarded. School counselors are in a prime position to serve as supportive entities to this often marginalized and oppressed student population through their journey of the acculturation process.