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"INTERNATIONAL WOMEN STUDENTS' STRUGGLES AND SUCCESSSES AT HIGHER EDUCATION"

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"INTERNATIONAL WOMEN STUDENTS' STRUGGLES AND SUCCESSES AT HIGHER EDUCATION"

Rachida Faid-Douglas

Graduate Assistant

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"This study gives a voice to international female students and records international their histories, struggles, and achievements."

The literature on international students is of studies on the difficulties encountered while studying in American universities and colleges. Few studies are focused on strategies to assist international students to succeed that these students used to overcome barriers.

The purpose of this study was to describe the essence of academic success of international female students. A phenomenological methodology was utilized to describe the essence of the lived academic experiences. The gathered data had as a focus the concept of academic success: how the informants described the meaning of their success in higher education, the strategies they used to overcome barriers and struggles, and the belief of cultural values and personal characteristics that influenced their actions and choices of behaviors to achieve success.

This study gives a voice to international female students and records international their histories, struggles, and achievements. This study on international women adds to the feminist research studies conducted on many women. It also advances the understanding of international women's needs and possibilities for further support. The themes examined were related to their struggles (culture shock), resources, language proficiency, stress, time, and pressure for program requirement, teaching philosophy (teaching styles, assessment), mothering, relationships with husbands, relationships with professors, American peers, money discrimination), the resistance (overt, covert), problem-solving strategies used, personal characteristics (motivation, self-efficacy, resilience, openness, risk taking, hard-work, persistence), the beliefs (religion, spirituality) and the cultural values, that composed the meaning and the essence of international women success.

Further research studies are needed to examine programs that enhance the success of international women, to help other international women and to train them in ways to resolve their struggles to succeed academically.

Presenter:

Rachida Faid-Douglas is originally from Morocco where she earned a BA in English and literature. She received an MA from the University of Sorbonne Nouvelle in Arabic, French and English Linguistics. She is now a doctoral candidate working on her dissertation. She has been an ESL teacher for 8 years in New York City and in Lincoln, Nebraska. She is currently a graduate assistant teaching ESL and Foreign Languages Methods. She also supervises student teachers.

