

Shivalingappa S. Halli. *How Minority Status Affects Fertility: Asian Groups in Canada.* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1987) xviii, 196 pp., \$35.00.

The broad subject of ethnicity and its impact on the social behavior of immigrant and minority groups is topical and is of interest both to scholars and to the general public. As a result, Halli's study of fertility rates among Asian immigrants and their descendants in Canada addresses a timely subject.

Halli focuses his study on the hypothesis developed by Goldscheider and Uhlenberg in 1969, which postulates that minority group status (per se) affects fertility rates independent of social, economic, and demographic factors. Halli expands this hypothesis, first by testing it on a different population than that utilized by Goldscheider and Uhlenberg, and secondly, by identifying those elements of ethnic group status which influence fertility behavior.

Halli bases his test of the minority groups status hypothesis on a detailed examination of the Asian community in Canada, focusing his research on three specific groups: Chinese, Japanese, and Indians. Using a complex statistical analysis involving an interaction model and multiple regression, and comparing these ethnic minorities to the cultural majority—the British in this case—the author concludes that the minority group status hypothesis is correct. Halli's research also operationalizes the minority group status hypothesis by proposing an interaction between ethnicity and a group of compositional variables such as age, education, and socio-demographic factors.

There are several weaknesses in this study. The most serious defect is Halli's attempt to define perceived minority status solely in terms of residential segregation (a problem that the author acknowledges). Another limitation of the study is the inability of the author to apply the hypothesis to all three ethnic groups equally, since the census data for the Indian population is incomplete. Also detracting from the book is the poor quality of publication. Otherwise, Halli has done a good job. His models are well delineated, the tables are understandable, and the book is well organized. The author provides color and substance to his quantitative data by providing a thorough examination of the historical background of Asian immigration to Canada. The summary chapter is succinct and easily understood. The author provides a complete bibliography and a comprehensive index. Mr. Halli's work will be appreciated by those interested in the ethnic experience and students of fertility studies. Researchers who focus their studies on ethnic communities in the United States will benefit from this exposure to ethnicity in another American nation. Halli has added significantly to our understanding of this generally overlooked aspect of the ethnic experience.

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