



Parent Institute for Quality Education Study

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Annotation:

Evaluated by the University of California, Santa Barbara, the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) is a not-for-profit community organization in California that aims to increase parents' knowledge and skills to support their children's academic achievement and ultimate enrollment in postsecondary education. In its 15-year history, PIQE has graduated more than 200,000 parents from its eight-week Parent Institute, many of whom were new immigrants to the United States. Collectively, the quantitative and qualitative data from the Oxnard and Los Angeles PIQE programs provide a triangulation of evidence that the PIQE program impacts several parenting activities and that these are sustained over time.

Results of the analysis indicate that through the PIQE classes parents were afforded the opportunity to learn about the American school system, the ways they can participate and activities they can do at home to promote their child's learning. The post-PIQE survey data also suggest that parents engaged in home learning activities and contacted the teacher more after participating in the classes. The significant shift in attitudes about their ability to help their children be successful indicates that parents are redefining their role in their child's education.

This study suggests that the Latinos' participation in school was limited by prior concepts of their sense of place in their child's education, role construct of how they could be involved, and their feelings of lack of efficacy to help their children. This study, however, indicates that these concepts are not fixed and can be altered. Given information about how to be involved and how their children would benefit, the Latino parents took up new practices and modified their concepts of both parenting and their place in their child's education.

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