

Self-empowerment of Vietnamese New Immigrant Females of Taiwan-Vietnam Cross-border Marriages Living in Taiwan

Mei-ying Chen National Chiayi University

Abstract

In the new millennium, the majority of the international marriage migration is gendered—the majority are women. This phenomenon has been verified in the case of the Vietnamese women, especially through cross-border marriages. Unfortunately, they have been stigmatized in Taiwan as “money stealers,” “prostitute,” or “irresponsible” mothers. Importantly, the researcher had found out that many Vietnamese spouses actually were more responsible and more capable than their Taiwanese husbands. Therefore, the Vietnamese new immigrant females (VNIFs) might need to empower themselves through economic resources; social resources; political resources; informational resources; moral resources; and physical resources. This qualitative research, thus, aimed to explore the self-empowerment of the Vietnamese women living in Taiwan through cross-border marriages by means of participant observations and interviews. The results demonstrated that the VNIFs regarded themselves as ordinary working class people with strong desire to improve themselves, work hard, and to pay attention to their Taiwanese family. In addition, they could contribute to the greater Taiwan society with their strength of being healthy, self-disciplined, moral, and multilingual. They had no interest in participating in politics, yet they were aware that the Taiwanese politicians had targeted them as one of the most influential key voters. The implications are discussed in the end of this article.

Key words: international marriage migration, Vietnamese new immigrant females, empower