

Barriers to Neutralize for Immigration in the QCA

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to acknowledge the primary barriers to immigration and how to neutralize them. The barriers include language, cultural and legal issues.

ABSTRACT

Immigration is important because the American population is decreasing in certain areas due to an aging population. We need to identify how to overcome barriers to others wanting to enter the country. The sustained health of the American economy is hinged upon the idea that immigration will provide power for the engine that runs the US economy.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Language is a barrier to immigration because of forms and documentations are based in English. The target audience represents men and women from other countries, yet everyday forms are not provided in the primary language. Other language related items include communicating with employers and co-workers, obtaining directions, general safety precautions and OSHA requirements, purchasing goods, communicating with schools, and many other community based services.

Cultural acceptance is another barrier to immigration. There is a misconception that immigrants take jobs from American born citizens. There is also a belief that immigrants are a drain on the economy. Yet others believe that immigrants culturally detract from the typical "American Culture". "Franklin D. Roosevelt once forcefully reminded us Americans that we are all immigrants. Some of our ancestors crossed the Bering Straits to sire our Indian tribes. Some sailed the Atlantic in the Mayflower or Constant, or in slave ships from Africa. Some came as hired soldiers or indentured servants, or fugitives from the law from religious intolerance from compulsory military service or famine. Some were brought in as cheap labor from Italy or China or elsewhere. But all of them came from foreign lands".¹

Legal obstacles present yet another barrier to immigration. Visas limit what a person can do within the country. Visas also limit the amount of time one is able to be in the country. All legal forms are documented in English, the official language.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

The barriers discussed are not exclusive of each other, but are interrelated. Therefore the approach must be multidisciplinary. It is also important to point out the previous successes of past immigrants. Using a random selection of US patents issued between 1988 and 1994 it was found one patent in four is created by immigrants or by immigrants collaborating with U.S.-born co-inventors. It has been stated that immigrants are a very "valuable asset for American Science and technology....You need a constant influx of new ideas and new point of view".² A paper from NBER, written by Jennifer Hunt of McGill and Marjolaine Gauthier-Loiselle of Princeton, takes a comprehensive look at how immigrants are disproportionately greater contributors to

technological innovation than native-born Americans. A summary of the results imply that a one percentage point rise in the share of immigrant college graduates in the population increases patents by 6%. This could be an overestimate of an immigrant's benefit if immigrant inventors crowd out native inventors or an underestimate if immigrants have a positive spill-over on inventors. Using a 1950-2000 state panel, we show that natives are not crowded out by immigrants, and that immigrants do have positive spill-overs, resulting in an increase in patents per capita of about 15% in response to a one percentage point increase in immigrant college graduates.³

FUTURE DIRECTION/LONG TERM FOCUS

Our solution requires a commitment from government entities, local authorities, employers and the general public. This commitment will require an understanding. The reminder that this country was built upon immigration is key to continued growth of the American economy.

RESULTS/CONCLUSION

Immigration is an ongoing concern within the American population. Our solution of commitment from the sources listed will unify efforts to continued prosperity of the United States of America.

APPENDIX 1

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APPENDIX 2

1. Haugen, Einer. The Norwegians in America – A Students Guide to Localized History. Teachers College Press, Teachers College Columbia University New York, 1967.
2. Alexis de Tocqueville Study. June, 2002 / Reader's Digest online.
3. Hunt , Jennifer and Gauthier-Loiselle, Marjolaine, How Much Does Immigration Boost Innovation?(September 2008). NBER Working Paper No. W14312. Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1264574>