
ABSTRACT

The difficulties and support factors in Chinese women's acculturation process: Through PAC analysis of Chinese women who married Japanese men

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This study aims to examine the difficulties and support factors in Chinese women's acculturation process. Chinese women who married Japanese men were selected as subjects, and a review of their lives in Japan was conducted through personal attitude construction (PAC) analysis. The following emerged as difficulties in the acculturation process: language, relationship with the mother-in-law, loss of socio-economic status, and cultural differences. The support factors included: compromise, assertion, personal growth and increased social opportunities through child-rearing as well as social networks outside the family. Although childbirth and child-rearing can cause increased stress for the mother, this study suggests they can also lead to more flexible thinking and expand the mother's horizons as well as strengthen her relationship with Japanese society. Moreover, it was found that social networks outside not only increase social support, but become ground for encouraging diversified thinking. Consequently, it is important to approach childbirth and childrearing as opportunities to facilitate acculturation and increase social participation rather than as a risk, and thus to incorporate foreign women as members of Japanese society.

Key Words: foreign women, Chinese women, acculturation, spouse of Japanese national, international marriage
