**Abstract**

*The purpose of this paper is to show how the Arizona State Bill 1070 affects the children of the illegal immigrant families, that this bill is aimed towards. This paper will show the different outcomes of how the Arizona SB 1070 will affect the immigrant children, compared to children who have never moved, or migrated. Through examination of the Arizona SB 1070, immigration studies, journal and recent news articles, we can begin to unravel the implications associated with this new immigration bill. This paper will discuss the various outcomes of SB 1070, including: how the bill may force families with immigrant children to continue moving illegally across America; risk being caught, put in jail, or deported back to their home country; or face the decision of what to do when you have a “natural-born” child citizen, but illegal parents. These outcomes will be discussed, to show the negative relationship between the affected youth, due to SB 1070 being passed.*

**Introduction**

Arizona Governor, Jan Brewer, signed “The Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhood Act,” also known as Arizona State Bill 1070, on April 23, 2010. This bill, referred to as, “SB 1070”, gives Arizona police the authority to question and obtain legal documents on any person, if they have a ‘reasonable suspicion’ that person is an illegal alien (SB 1070, Section 1, Part B). It is the right of the law enforcement officers of Arizona to question the legal status of any potential illegal immigrant, and arrest them and any other persons associated with employing, renting to, or are caught driving illegal aliens. With the introduction of this bill, illegal immigrant families in Arizona are fleeing, in fear of being caught and deported. Illegal immigrant families and their children have few options of what to do in response to this new bill. They can either continue to move across America illegally, risk being put in jail, or move back to their home country. *An analysis of these outcomes and their relationship to the affected children of the immigrant families will show the negative effects of SB 1070, on the children involved.*

In an attempt to make a quick life-style change, many illegal immigrant families chose to migrate to other American states, in hopes to make a new residency and life for themselves and their families. The withdraw of so many families from Arizona school districts, are already showing signs of change in the school systems, ultimately affecting the children’s education- a vital resource for any child, whether illegal or not. Since schools do not inquire about a family’s legal status, it is hard to estimate the number of students who may have been illegal, as well as estimating how many students will not be returning to their schools. The disappearance of these students may have far-reaching ripple effects, from a drop in school funding allocations to a loss of community bonds for both struggling immigrant families and their neighbors (Chen, 2010).

According to the *Arizona Republic*, the 170,000 children of immigrants in Arizona’s school system may account for up to about “$749 million, or 16 percent of the state’s education budget.” If this is true and undocumented child immigrants begin to pull out of the educational system, the infrastructure and per-capita funds of neighborhood schools could suffer devastating cuts (Chen, 2010). This shows that the result of SB 1070 is not only affecting potential illegal immigrant children from receiving an education, but is also putting restraints on our own legal American and natural-born children from receiving an education, because the loss of one student doesn’t directly translate into ‘savings’ for the district, since overheard costs like building maintenance and teacher salaries don’t fluctuate on a one-to-one ratio with enrollment (Chen, 2010).

The possibility of being captured, put in jail, or being deported are part of the hazards many immigrant families make, in hopes that the involved risk may permit a better outcome than being returned to their home country, where it is typically seen that there is less economic opportunities there, for the families and their children. Paradoxically, the diverse transnational experiences of children both facilitate, and are the consequences of migration (Boehm, 2008). By focusing on how migrants navigate state regimes, we can explore a dilemma that Mexican families face: migrations to support family members may actually place children in precarious or threatening situations (Boehm, 2008). For example, children that face being deported with their family, or have to return to their home country, could become involved in human-trafficking, child labor practices, rape, or drug-related conflicts.

According to a study of the affects of migration on mental health researchers have identified depression, anxiety, and psychosomatic problems as the most common mental health consequences of acculturating individuals (Neto, 2010). When children are being forced into situations where their families are making life-changing decisions, such as migrating, lacking a peer network might be detrimental to one’s well-being and increase the likelihood of falling into a depressive mood (Turjeman, Mesh, & Fishman, 2008). Dealing with problems and positive interactions with members of the host culture are both likely to improve one’s feelings of well-being and satisfaction; similarly, it is easier to accomplish tasks and develop positive interpersonal relations if one is feeling good and accepted (Neto, 2010).

When children are natural-born citizens and their parents are illegal, this proposes a new set of issues for children to conquer. Parents have the decision as to whether to take the child back to their home country with them, or risk staying with them, because most times parents aren’t given an independent asylum claim, apart from their child. (ex 3) Separation of important bonds like parents and siblings, only add stress to a child’s social development and can affect the way they treat their interpersonal relationships, because there is no communicative foundation for them to learn from.

This idea of a child not being perceived as legally deportable can be referred to as de facto deportation ( ). The child is likely to return home to the parent’s home country because of a lack of family ties and support in the United States ( ). Without support, children cannot develop the same socially and culturally on their own. They need their parents and peers to build relationships with and develop communication skills, which may one day lead them to voice new opinions and actions against other state bills, just like this one.

**Conclusion**

It has appeared that whether an immigrant child continues to move illegally with their family across America, chooses to go home to their own country, by choice or deportation, that the outcome will make an impression on how the child adapts to new situations, develops socially and can have a negative effect on the way they build relationships. The immigration bill SB 1070 has caused families to restructure their lives in accordance to the new laws, which in other ways are causing these families and children to destruct their social relationships and learn to rebuild them as they adapt to their new surroundings, whether somewhere else in America, their home country, or jail.  *Overall, the effects of SB 1070 and it’s various outcomes have been negative in regards to how they affect children’s mental health and social development.*

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