

**CULTURAL ADAPTATION OF SELECTED OVERSEAS
FILIPINO WORKERS IN ITALY**

THESIS

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ABSTRACT

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The study was conducted to: (1) determine the demographic profile of the participants; (2) identify the level of difficulty to the commonly encountered problems of Overseas Filipino Workers in Italy; (3) determine the most frequently used cultural adaptation; (4) determine if there is a significant relationship between demographic profiles and level of difficulty to the commonly encountered problems; and, (5) determine if there is a significant relationship between demographic profiles and cultural adaptation of the participants.

This is a descriptive-correlation study wherein the demographic profiles, level of difficulty, and cultural adaptation of Overseas Filipino Workers in Italy were determined and results were analyzed to see the relationship between demographic profiles and problems encountered and cultural adaptation. Primary data were gathered through actual interview while the participants were in the Philippines during the period was conducted and also through online questionnaire that were disseminated throughout Italy.

Majority of the participants had ages ranging from 18 to 71, female, college graduate with 6 to 15 years of stay in Italy, and were working in Social and welfare fields, most of the participants resides in Rome (49%), second in Milan (31%) and the remaining 23percent where resides in other places in Italy. Majority of the participants had no experience working in other country before they worked in Italy, most of them

have 6 to 15 years of experience as an OFW and majority of participants decided to work in Italy to earn money.

The most difficult problem they encountered were the unpredictable weather, cold climate, learning Italian language, homesickness, family's resistance of working abroad, and discrimination and prejudice.

The most frequently used cultural adaptation strategies were constantly communicating with family through emails/phone calls, etc., cooking own foods, waking up and leaving early, being positive and optimistic, attending work regularly, focusing more attention to workloads and surfing the net.

Sex, reasons for working in Italy, and years of stay in Italy had significant relationship with the level of difficulty to the commonly encountered problems. Meanwhile, age, educational attainment, type of work, previous experience in another country, place of residence in Italy and years of experience have no significant relationship with level of difficulty to the commonly encountered problems of OFW in Italy.

On the other hand, age, educational attainment, years of experience as an OFW and years of stay in Italy had a significant relationship with cultural adaptation strategies, while age, sex, type of work and place of residence in Italy, reasons for working in Italy and previous experience in another country had a nothing to do with the cultural adaptation strategies used by the participants.

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