



**WRITERS CREW INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH**

**JOURNAL**

**SOCIOLOGY- CULTURAL ASSIMILATION VS.  
MULTICULTURALISM: EXAMINE THE EFFECTS OF  
CULTURAL ASSIMILATION ON IMMIGRANT  
COMMUNITIES COMPARED TO MULTICULTURAL  
POLICIES.**

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### **Abstract**

For the immigrant community migrating into a different country, it is important for them to adopt the cultural trends and values of that country. This can be done effectively with the help of cultural assimilation and multiculturalism. Cultural assimilation tends to create significant impact in comparison multiculturalism. This impact can be seen both in positive and negative way. This research study aims to explore such impact created on the immigrant community. The research study begins with the introductory chapter, which outlines the background of the study, aims and objectives and the research questions. The study is significant owing to the challenges that the immigrant community face in the new host country. The literature review aims to outline the relevant literature works on the topics of research study such as cultural assimilation, multiculturalism and the situation of the immigrant community. Relationship with an existing theory namely the multiculturalism theory and the variables of the research have been established.

The suitable methodology has been chosen for the study and the interpretivism philosophy and the inductive approach has been followed for the study. Secondary data has been collected and the thematic data analysis has been done. The various factors and issues with the multiculturalism and assimilation of culture have been discussed. Simultaneously the examples and the statistics have been incorporated in the data examination. The concluding section outlines some strategic recommendations on the implementation of cultural assimilation. This can be implemented based on the concept of socialization and enhancing the belongingness in the society

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## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Cultural assimilation is the process in which the minority group or culture of the society adopts the beliefs, values and the cultural elements of a dominant group of the society. This results in sharing the culture among both the groups. This process can be either forcefully inducted and can be voluntarily adopted by the people. Voluntary adoption is choosing to adopt the cultural elements of the dominant culture. On the other hand, in the process of forced assimilation, the minority community will have to forcefully adopt the cultural elements<sup>1</sup>. There are four main areas that are used by the sociologists in order to measure the degree of assimilation namely, socio economic status, assimilation of language and spatial concentration.

On the other hand, multiculturalism is a policy and a perspective of the society under which recognises and aims to promote diversity in culture. According to multiculturalism, the society is viewed as a place where people from various cultural backgrounds such as ethnic groups, religion, communities and more live together. The multi cultural policies that are implemented by the government support the rights of the various ethnic and cultural groups of the society<sup>2</sup>. Multiculturalism can also be referred to as the society which has diversified groups belonging to various cultures and religions. The impact created by both the cultural assimilation and multiculturalism on the immigrant communities are mixed. This research study aims to explore the impact created on the immigrant communities due to multiculturalism and cultural assimilation.

### 1.2 Aim and Objectives

This research aims to provide a comparative view of the cultural assimilation and multiculturalism and examines the impact created by the cultural assimilation on immigrant communities, taking into consideration certain research objectives such as

#### **Objectives**

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<sup>1</sup> Crul Maurice., 2024. Integration into diversity theory renewing—once again—assimilation theory. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 50(1), pp.257-271.(2024)

<sup>2</sup> Heath, Anthony .F. and Schneider, S.L.,. Dimensions of migrant integration in Western Europe. *Frontiers in sociology*, 6, p.510987.(2021)

- To explore and outline the impact of the cultural assimilation on the immigrant communities
- To highlight the impact created by multiculturalism on the immigrant communities
- To outline the issues faced by the immigrant communities due to cultural assimilation and multiculturalism

### **1.3 Research Questions**

- What impact of the cultural assimilation is created on the immigrant communities?
- How is the immigrant communities impacted due to the implementation of multi culturalism?
- What are the issues faced by the immigrant communities due to cultural assimilation and multiculturalism?

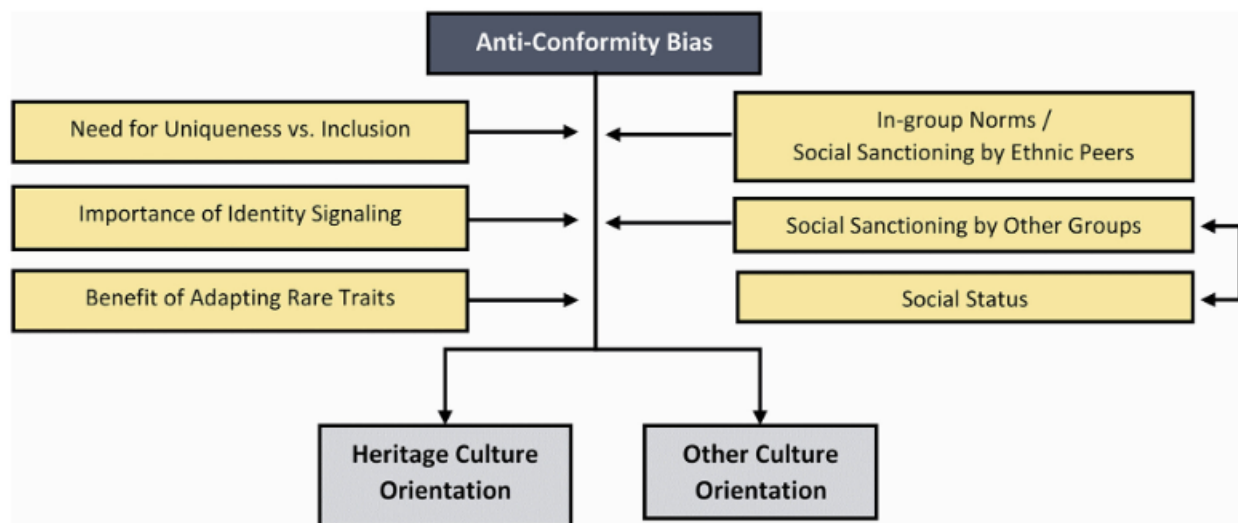
### **1.4 Scope of the study**

This study is significant in nature owing to the huge diversity of the background of people living in the society in terms of religion, culture, community and more. Cultural assimilation and multi cultural policies tend to create a significant impact on the immigrant communities. People belonging to the immigrant communities belong to various backgrounds hence, despite the recognition of the diversification of communities of people; there tend to exist some negative impact along with the positive impact. This research aims to explore all the impacts created on the immigrant communities due to cultural assimilation and the due to the implementation of multi cultural policies.

## CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 An idea about cultural assimilation

Assimilation is the process of getting absorbed into a new system. This concept is often linked with cultural diversity. The link is established with the immigrant community where the group, on entering a new country, is encouraged to adapt themselves with the culture of that country so that they do not feel alienated in the society. Adopting the culture of the host country includes getting accustomed to the values, cultural behavior of the host country and hiding the cultural traditions and practices that the immigrant population used to follow in their home country<sup>3</sup>. The concept of cultural assimilation has been implemented in such places where people from a different country have moved on to a new country to stay for a long period of time.



**Figure 2.1: Conceptualization of cultural assimilation**

(Source:<sup>4</sup>)

Cultural assimilation can be either voluntary in nature or forceful depending on the influence of the community in the host country. There are a wide range of factors that are associated with cultural assimilation; however the most common factor that contributes to cultural assimilation is spatial concentration. It is the tendency of people of the same cultural background to collaborate

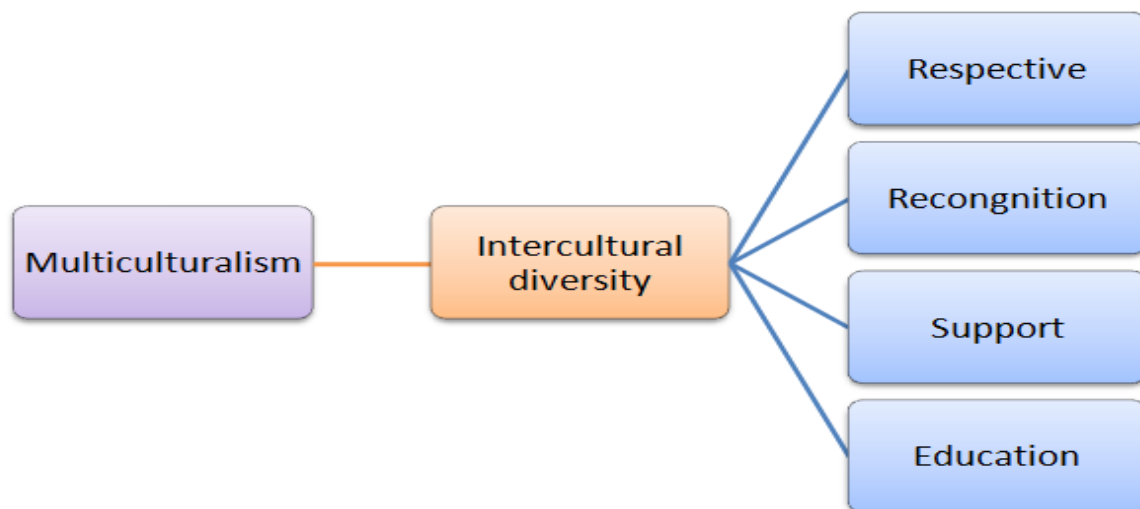
<sup>3</sup> Rakhimova, Gulnoz .Shamsievna. and Kadirova, L.V., The interactive usage of methods to assess the level of assimilation of the material studied in pathological physiology. *Oriental renaissance: Innovative, educational, natural and social sciences*, 2(1), pp.513-518.(2022)

<sup>4</sup> Kunst, Jonas .R. and Mesoudi, A.,. Decoding the dynamics of cultural change: A cultural evolution approach to the psychology of acculturation. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 5, p.10888683241258406.(2024)

or get united<sup>5</sup>. In this process, people belonging to the minority community or the immigrant community are included in the background of the host country and need to follow such traditions so that they do not feel alienated and are recognized.

## 2.2 Overview on multiculturalism and its associated aspects

The concept of multiculturalism is based on the existence of different cultures in the society. There tend to exist cultural differences among the majority as well as the minority groups which is why these cultural differences must be supported jointly among the members of the majority and the minority groups. Legal rights are implemented for the protection of the interests of the cultural traditions and values. The contributions of the people in the field of culture traditions are acknowledged and recognized under the multi cultural laws that are implemented<sup>6</sup>. The best approach to implement multiculturalism or multi cultural policies is using the intercultural diversity approach.



**Figure 2.2: Conceptualization of multiculturalism and intercultural diversity**

<sup>5</sup> Xu, Xin.,. Epistemic diversity and cross-cultural comparative research: Ontology, challenges, and outcomes. *Globalisation, Societies and Education*, 20(1), pp.36-48.(2022)

<sup>6</sup> Hundschell, Andreas. Razinskas, S. *et al.* The effects of diversity on creativity: A literature review and synthesis. *Applied Psychology*, 71(4), pp.1598-1634.(2022)

(Source: Developed via<sup>7</sup>)

The intercultural diversity is a policy based approach which is focused on the promotion and the communication of relationships that exists among the people of various cultural backgrounds. This is different from the multi-culturalism approach with the way that the latter is based on the idea of ensuring that equal opportunities are provided to the people of all types of background and no discrimination is made among them. Cultural diversity is important for ensuring peace and prosperity among the people belonging to various backgrounds.

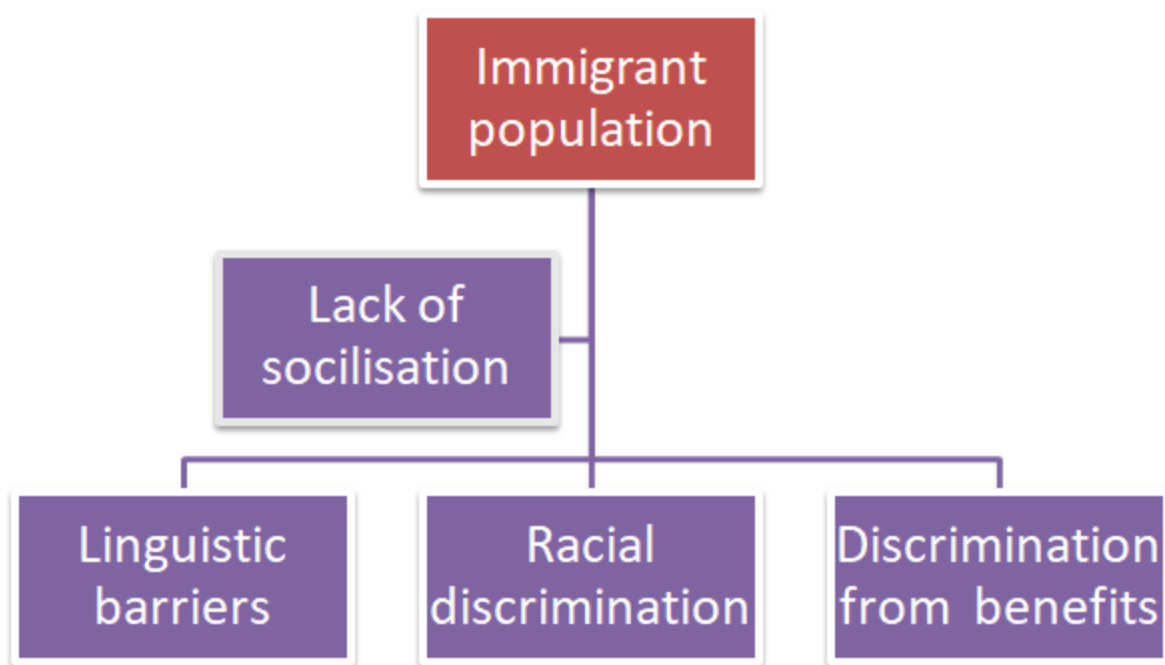
### **2.3 Presence of immigrant communities in the society**

The immigrant community is a group of people who travel to a new country from a different country. The immigrant community in the host country needs to face lots of challenges, namely linguistic barriers, discrimination, adjustments and other challenges in terms of benefits of schemes from the government. The significant challenge that the immigrant community needs to face is the challenges for communication<sup>8</sup>. The immigrant community and the community of the host country need to communicate with each other in a common language that can be understood by both the communities.

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<sup>7</sup> Ponomareva, Yuliya. Uman. T., *et al.*. Cultural diversity in top management teams: Review and agenda for future research. *Journal of World Business*, 57(4), p.101328.(2022)

<sup>8</sup> Chand, Daniel .E.,. Is it population or personnel? The effects of diversity on immigration policy implementation by sheriff offices. *Public performance & management review*, 43(2), pp.304-333.(2020)



**Figure 2.3: About the immigrant community**

(Source: Developed via<sup>9</sup>)

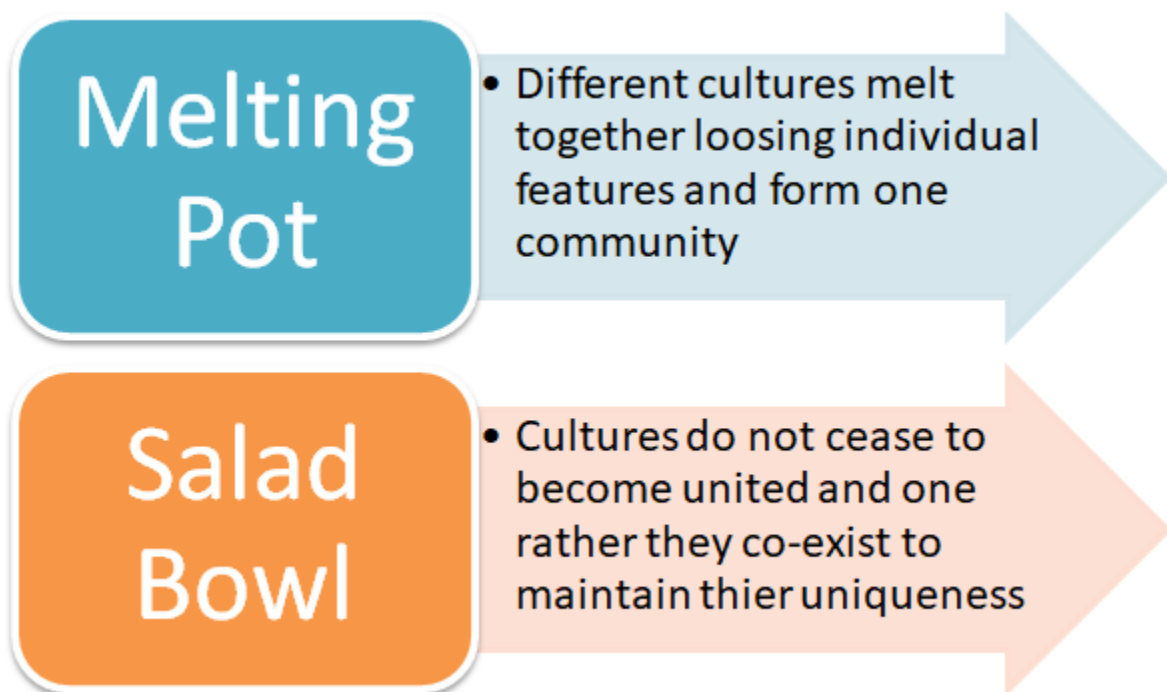
Discrimination is done by the people of the host country towards the immigrant population. This discrimination can be in terms of depriving them from the benefits or depriving them from using the basic facilities of the country. The law of the country may also prohibit the immigrant population from availing the benefits of the government schemes. This may lead to the feeling of alienation in the new country which is why cultural assimilation and multi culturalism is essential. These enhance the sense of belonging of the immigrant population in the host country and they are able to socialize in the country properly<sup>10</sup>. The immigrant population enters a new country in search of better opportunities for employment, education and to get themselves a good lifestyle. They may also flee from their home country owing to any political disturbance or war or due to instability in their country.

<sup>9</sup> Gheitarani, Nima, El-Sayed, S. *et al.*. Investigating the mechanism of place and community impact on quality of life of rural-urban migrants. *International Journal of Community Well-Being*, 3, pp.21-38.(2020)

<sup>10</sup> Bernal, Darren.R., Misiaszek, K.H. *et al.*. Second-class citizens? Subjective social status, acculturative stress, and immigrant well-being. *SN Social Sciences*, 2(7), p.96.(2022)

## 2.4 Multiculturalism theory

The Multiculturalism theory outlines the prevalence of cultural diversity in a society and the need for the acceptance of the same in order to maintain peace and harmony. This can only be achieved by adopting the diversity in the cultural aspects and traditions<sup>11</sup>. This is applicable in the case of the immigrant population migrating to a new country. When an immigrant population migrates to a new country, it is important for them to adopt the culture and heritage of the host country in order to get socialized and feel accepted in the host country.



**Figure 2.4: Multiculturalism Theory**

(Source: Developed via<sup>12</sup>)

## 2.5: Literature Gap

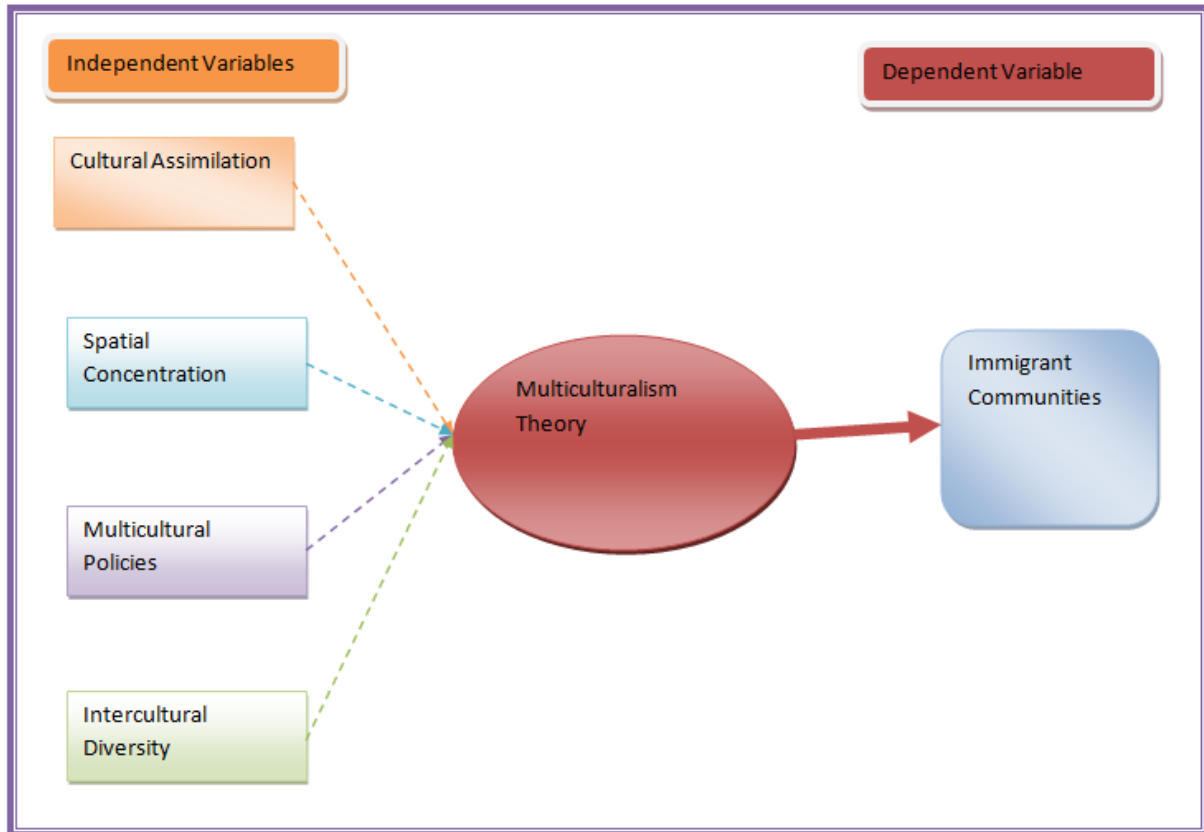
This literature work has been successful in exploring the concept of cultural assimilation and multiculturalism and its usefulness in helping the immigrant community get socialized in the host country easily. The impacts created due to the implementation of cultural assimilation and

<sup>11</sup> Mansouri, Fethi. and Modood, T., The complementarity of multiculturalism and interculturalism: Theory backed by Australian evidence. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 44(16), pp.1-20.(2021)

<sup>12</sup> Johansson, Thomas.Roland., In defence of multiculturalism–theoretical challenges. *International Review of Sociology*, 34(1), pp.75-89.(2024)

multi culturalism have also been identified which are both negative and positive. However, the strategies to tackle such negative impacts have not been identified in this literature.

## 2.6: Outline of literature



**Figure 2.6: Outline of literature**  
(Source: Self-developed)

## CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 3.1: Research Philosophy

Choice of the suitable philosophy is one of the most important parts of the methodology and a suitable philosophy can show the pathway to the study. The interpretivism philosophy has been chosen for the study. It is known that interpretivism philosophy relies on social norms and belief<sup>13</sup>. The present study is based on the social issue and it is based on the social comparison between cultural assimilation and multiculturalism. This sociology based subject and its evaluation needs the interpretivism philosophy for the further step ahead to fulfil the requirement of the study. That is the reason interpretivism philosophy is suitable for study.

### 3.2: Research Approach

An approach can provide a shape to the study and considering the philosophy that has been selected an inductive approach is much more suitable for the research. The inductive approach of the study helps to develop new theories and hypotheses for the study<sup>14</sup>. Considering the study based on a sensitive social comparison, the inductive approach is required to generate new hypotheses after the examination of the information. The inductive approach can help the researcher to develop new social theories on the basis of the present topic. The incorporation of the “inductive” approach in the research can make the study more enriched and logical.

### 3.3: Data Collection Procedure

Procedure of the data collection is the necessity for getting the outcome of the study and considering the research philosophy and approach of the study the secondary qualitative data can be the most appropriate data for the study to examine. Secondary qualitative data can be obtained from the documented sources such as journals, articles, newspaper reports and other authentic sources that are previously researched<sup>15</sup>. Secondary qualitative data from authentic sources have the potential to provide the information about the multiculturalism and assimilation of the

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<sup>13</sup>Husam Helmi Alharahsheh, and Pius, A. “A review of key paradigms: Positivism VS interpretivism”. *Global Academic Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(3), pp.39-43. (2020).

<sup>14</sup>Mattia Casula, Rangarajan, N. *et al.* “The potential of working hypotheses for deductive exploratory research”. *Quality & Quantity*, 55(5), pp.1703-1725. (2021).

<sup>15</sup>Leanne M Wood, Sebar, B. *et al.* “Application of rigour and credibility in qualitative document analysis: Lessons learnt from a case study”. *The qualitative report*, 25(2), pp.456-470. (2020).

culture. Information about various factors related to these social comparisons can be obtained from the secondary sources<sup>16</sup>. The authentic and latest sources that are not more than 5 years older can source dynamic information to explain.

### **3.4: Data analysis procedure**

Evaluation of data is also an important part to obtain the outcome for the research and simultaneously the data analysis procedure has the potential to meet the aims and objectives of the study. The evaluation of data can solve the research questions that have been stated on the first chapter of the study. A thematic style of examination of data has to be perfect for the study and this type of analysis can make the study successful and can help to meet the objective of the study<sup>17</sup>. Themes that are made are based on the objectives of the study and that can help to fulfil the aims of the study.

### **3.5: Ethical Consideration**

This is also important to consider the ethics of the research and the researchers have the responsibility to maintain it. The methods that have been selected for the study are reliable and have the capacity to provide the same results for the multiple studies. Secondary data that have been gathered are from the authentic and latest sources.

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<sup>16</sup>Philippe Verduyn, Gugushvili, N. *et al.* "Social comparison on social networking sites". *Current opinion in psychology*, 36, pp.32-37. (2020).

<sup>17</sup>Karen. L .Peel, "A beginner's guide to applied educational research using thematic analysis". *Practical Assessment Research and Evaluation*, 25(1). (2020).

## CHAPTER 4: FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1: Systematic Analysis Table

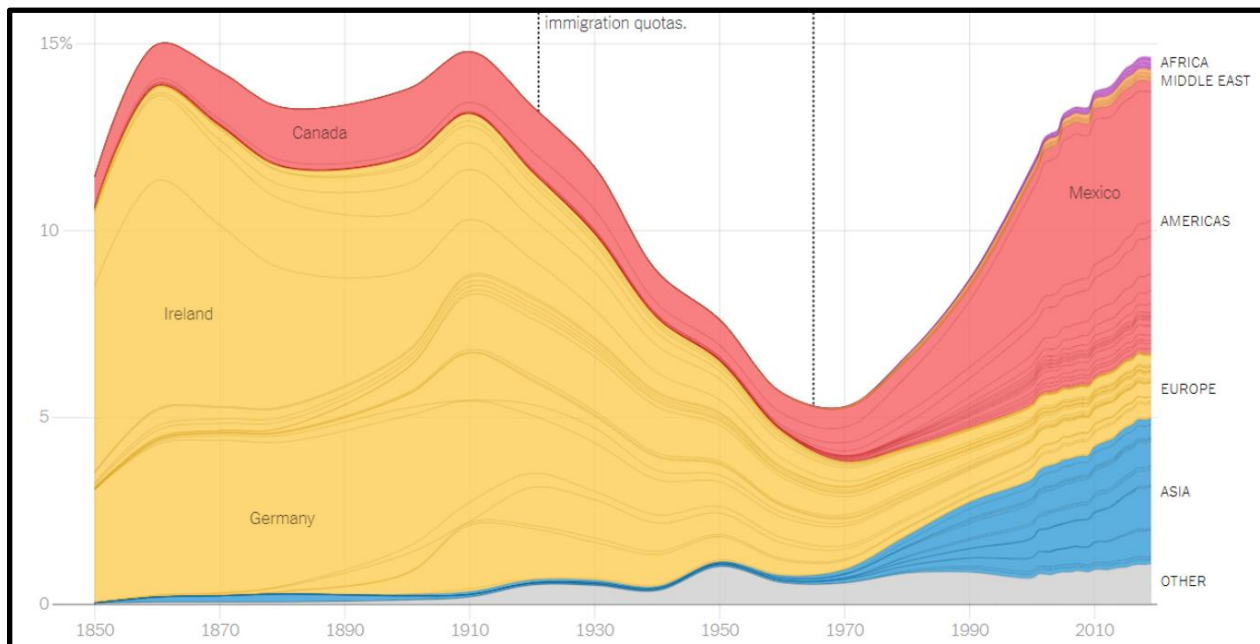
| Sl no | Author                         | Name of journal                                                                               | Year | Findings                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.    | Komisarof <i>et al.</i> (2020) | Viewing intercultural adaptation and social inclusion through constructs of national identity | 2020 | The particular study has the potential to inform the adoption and the social integrity and the various factors of the multiculturalism                                                                      |
| 2.    | Kunst, J.R (2021)              | The missing side of acculturation                                                             | 2021 | This research has provided the knowledge about the majority culture and the minority cultures and the integration of the culture and its importance                                                         |
| 3.    | Abramitzky (2020)              | Do immigrants assimilate more slowly today than in the past                                   | 2020 | This journal is an important journal that has the capacity to compare the immigrants of the past and today. The journal has given an idea about the assimilation of the immigrants and its various factors. |

**Table 4.1: Systematic analysis**

### 4.2: Findings

#### 4.2.1 “Cultural assimilation” has its impact on the immigrant communities

The definition of the “cultural assimilation” (CA) is the process to adopt the social beliefs, behaviour and values of the majority groups for the minority groups. From history this has been noticed that the CA has its both positive and negative impacts on the immigrants <sup>18</sup>. In the history of America there are various immigrants from other countries. The social construction of the country has made the people to be assimilated with American culture. Some of the immigrants have the compromising nature to adopt the social norms, values and economic systems of the country <sup>19</sup>. Some of them have no mentality of integrity and they had to be forced to assimilate in the country. The incident has its negative impacts and has a political effect on the immigrants.



**Figure 4.2.1: Cultural Assimilation in US**

(Source: New York times, 2022<sup>20</sup>)

<sup>18</sup>Scott Williamson, Adida, C.L., Lo, A. *et al.* “Family matters: How immigrant histories can promote inclusion”. *American Political Science Review*, 115(2), pp.686-693. (2021).

<sup>19</sup>Adam Komisarof, and Leong, C.H, “Viewing intercultural adaptation and social inclusion through constructs of national identity”: An introduction. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 78(2020), pp.1-9. (2020).

<sup>20</sup>New York times, 2022. *U.S. Immigrants by Country*. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/06/learning/whats-going-on-in-this-graph-oct-19-2022.html> [Accessed on: 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2024]

The statistics that have been presented in the study has the potential to prove that the variety of immigrants have come in the country. Simultaneously the immigrants have been assimilated with the US culture<sup>21</sup>. From Europe, Asia, Germany and others countries are also assimilated in the culture and adopted the majority culture for living.

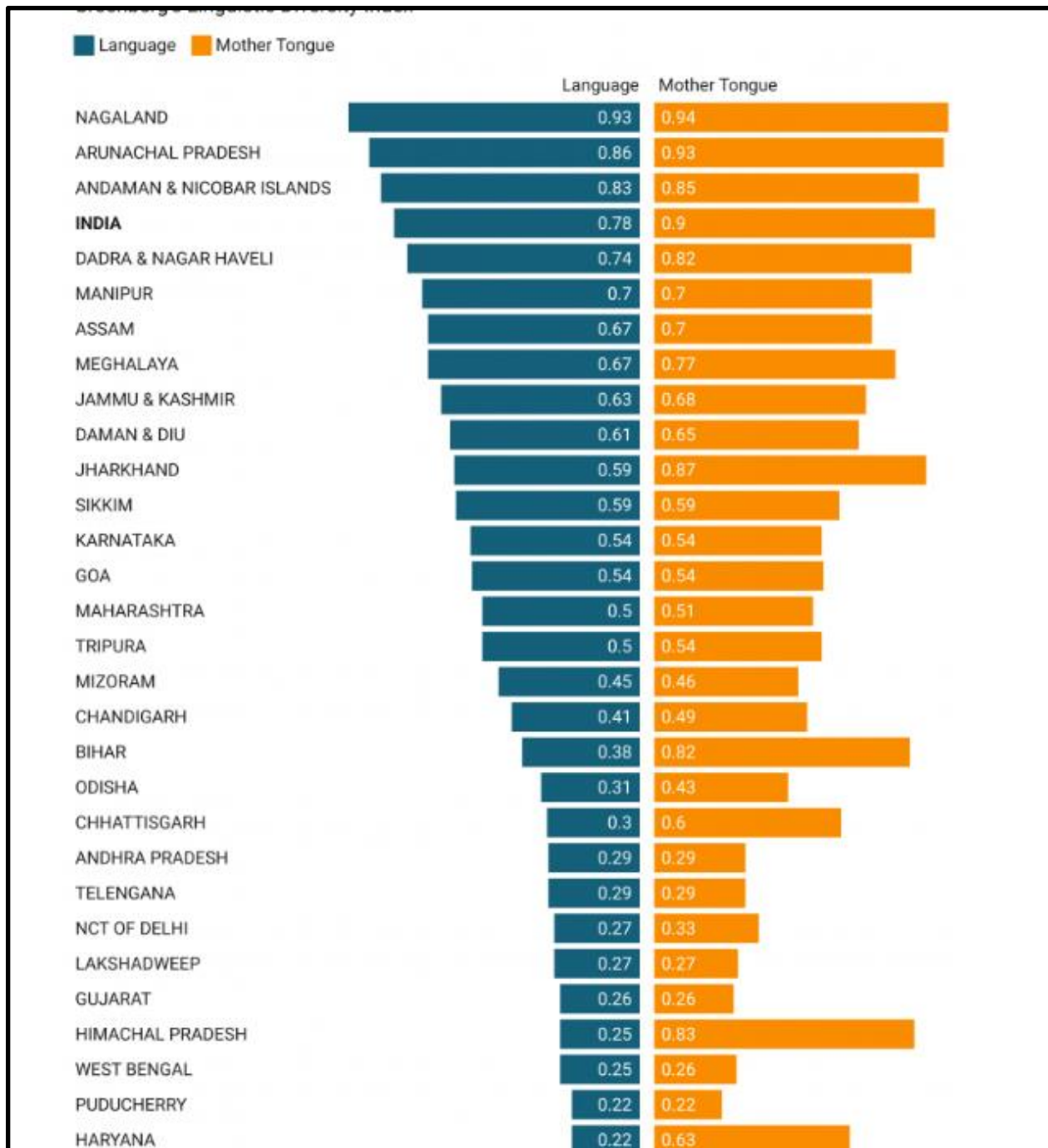
#### **4.2.2 There is an impact created by “multiculturalism” on the immigrant communities**

“Multiculturalism” can be defined as a place that is having a variety of culture and having their individual social beliefs and values. This social factor has its different values and it gets the favour of the minority groups <sup>22</sup>. This also has its historical values and in India there is a good example of multiculturalism. The country has the historic example of living with different cultures and adopting the good qualities from the immigrants. Various immigrants including the Europeans in the country have come to the country and the society of the country did not have the mindset to assimilate the immigrants. The quality of the multicultural society to give priority to the other cultures for a peaceful living.

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<sup>21</sup>Jonas R Kunst, Lefringhausen, K, *et al.* “The missing side of acculturation: How majority-group members relate to immigrant and minority-group cultures”. *Current directions in psychological science*, 30(6), pp.485-494. (2021).

<sup>22</sup>Ran Abramitzky, Boustan, L. *et al.* “Do immigrants assimilate more slowly today than in the past?”. *American Economic Review: Insights*, 2(1), pp.125-141. (2020).



**Figure 4.2.2: Diversity of culture and mother tongue in India**

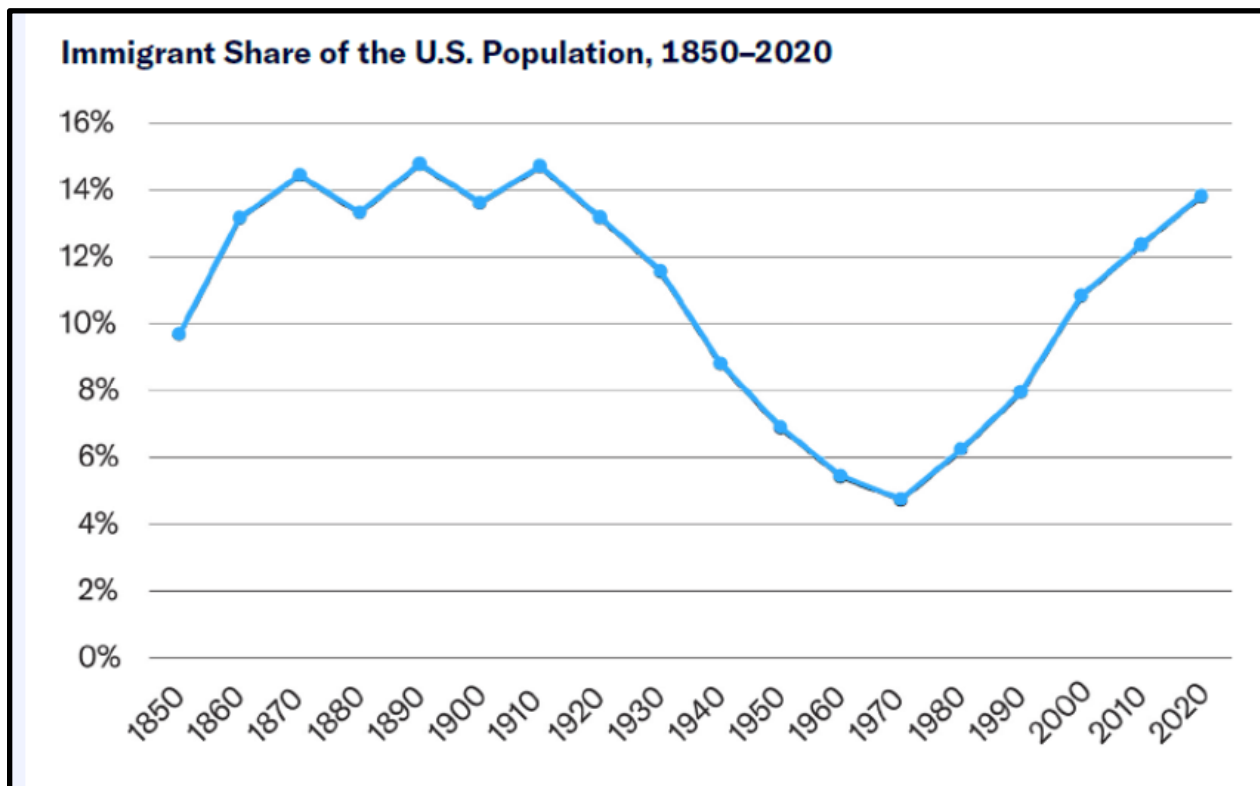
(Source: The India forum, 2024<sup>23</sup>)

<sup>23</sup>The India forum, 2024. *Diversity of culture and mother tongue in India*. Available at: <https://www.theindiaforum.in/article/what-census-obscures> [Accessed on: 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2024]

The minimised statistics of the country has a clear picture about the diversity of the culture and mother tongue in the country. Every state has different cultures and immigrants <sup>24</sup>. The society helps the immigrants to live with the individual cultural beliefs and norms.

#### 4.2.3 Various issues are faced by the immigrant communities due to “cultural assimilation” and “multiculturalism”

There are various issues that have been created by the cultural assimilation and the cultures that are minority have faced the issues to be assimilated with the major cultures. Various countries are there that have the belief on cultural assimilation<sup>25</sup>. However, the country has their own culture, still, the immigrants also have the right to live with their own culture. Some of the countries have been forced to adopt the culture of the country. That has its negative impact on human rights and that is not legal in terms of human rights.



**Figure 4.2.3 Assimilated Immigrant share of US**

<sup>24</sup>Richard Alba and Duyvendak, J.W., “What about the mainstream? Assimilation in super-diverse times”. In *Super-Diversity in Everyday Life* (pp. 105-124). (2020).

<sup>25</sup>Thomas Ronald Johansson, “In defence of multiculturalism—theoretical challenges”. *International Review of Sociology*, 34(1), pp.75-89. (2024).

(Source: Manhattan. Institute, 2023<sup>26</sup>)

The statistics have a clear picture to explain the curve of the assimilated immigrants in the US and the curve is increasing day by day in the country. Multicultural issues are also there and the issues from multicultural society are the different cultures and different sociology of the people and some where it dominates the minority culture. Moreover, both of the cultural factors have positive and negative impacts on immigrants.

#### **4.3: Discussion**

The secondary data has been collected from the authentic sources and the sources are latest and full of the dynamic information. The assimilated society and its issues are being discussed in the study. The culture of the US has been highlighted with the latest statistics. This has also been discussed that the US culture has the quality of assimilation and the immigrants have to get assimilated in the country. The definition of the CA has been explained and the definition has cleared that the minority of the culture has the option to adopt the majority's culture. Still the US society has the quality to make the people adapt to the majority values. On the other hand, multiculturalism has its positive impacts on immigrants. For example, the Indian culture has been explained and that has also been proved with the statistics.

The authentic statistics have the potential to prove the cultural diversity in the country and different cultures have their peaceful living in the country. The quality of multiculturalism is to adopt good things from the other cultures to make the integration of cultures. The examination of data has explained the issues of the both cultures and the evaluation of data has informed that the CA and "multiculturalism" both has its positive and negative impacts on the immigrants.

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<sup>26</sup>Manhattan. Institute, 2023, *President's Update*. Available at: <https://manhattan.institute/article/2023-presidents-update> [Accessed on: 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2024]

## **CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Conclusion**

This research study could successfully identify the impact that is created by cultural assimilation and multi culturalism. It has been found that both positive and negative impact is created by cultural assimilation on the immigrant community. The study begins with the introductory chapter where the background, the research aim and objectives and the questions have been outlined. The study is significant owing to the mass immigration which takes place. This section is followed by a literature review section where the relevant literature works associated with the aspects of the topic of research have been explored. Relationships between the variables of the research and relevant theories have been established. Interpretivism research philosophy with inductive approach has been applied. Secondary qualitative data has been collected and the thematic analysis of the same has been done. The analysis of the collected data has been presented in chapter four and the study ends with the concluding chapter with some strategic recommendations.

### **5.2 Limitations**

This study fails to outline the strategies needed to address and deal with the negative impact that is created on the immigrant community by cultural assimilation. Adopting the traditions and values of the host country by the immigrant community is essential, however the negative impact created needs to be tackled in the right way.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

Cultural assimilation and multiculturalism can be implemented by proper integration with the culture and heritage of the host country. Effective strategies in favor of adoption of the new cultural traditions must be implemented so as to ensure effective adoption of the culture of the host country. The implementation of cultural assimilation and multiculturalism must be driven with the concept of socialization and enhancing the belongingness in the society.

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