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ABSTRACT

Much has been written about the Indochinese Refugees but only a few studies were undertaken to substantiate the existing knowledge about them, more specifically, with regards to their self-concept.

It was for this reason that the researchers have decided to embark on a study about them. The primary problem of this study was to find out how the Indochinese Refugees in the Philippine Refugee Processing Center in Bataan perceive themselves as affected by their experiences. With this general problem, the researchers aimed to draw the more specific problems which are: 1) What is their concept of their personal self which includes the topics of their self-achievement and self-satisfaction; 2) What is the concept of their family self; 3) How do they view other peoples reaction towards them and lastly, 4) What are their future expectations and plans.

Guided by an exploratory and descriptive research design, the researchers employed a personal unstructured interview to obtain the life histories of the refugees. A total of fifteen respondents - five from each nationality - were interviewed. The purposive



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sampling procedure was used in the selection of the subjects in which certain criteria were followed. All the data gathered from the interviews were written down, organized and analyzed qualitatively.

Through the analysis of the cases, the following findings and conclusions were obtained:

The experiences of the refugees made them more confident and independent in their lives. They now see themselves as capable of handling obstacles they encounter. At the same time their experiences also made them see themselves as weak and inadequate because of their inability to help other refugees. Whenever they hear of other less fortunate refugees, they feel guilty and as a result they feel dissatisfied with themselves. Another finding is that the Indochinese refugees link their personal selves with their family self and the family is given importance. They link their personal selves with the identity of their families and they find fulfillment in smooth interpersonal relationship with their family and friends. Also another result which came up is that they perceive other people as sympathetic with them and they feel grateful for this and with this, they are optimistic about their future and perceives a more normal way of life ahead of them.

