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Expectations of Canadian Life, Actual Post-Arrival Experience, and Pre-Arrival Information Seeking: Results from a Study on Bangladeshi Immigrants in Canada

Nafiz Zaman Shuva
Western University, nshuva@uwo.ca

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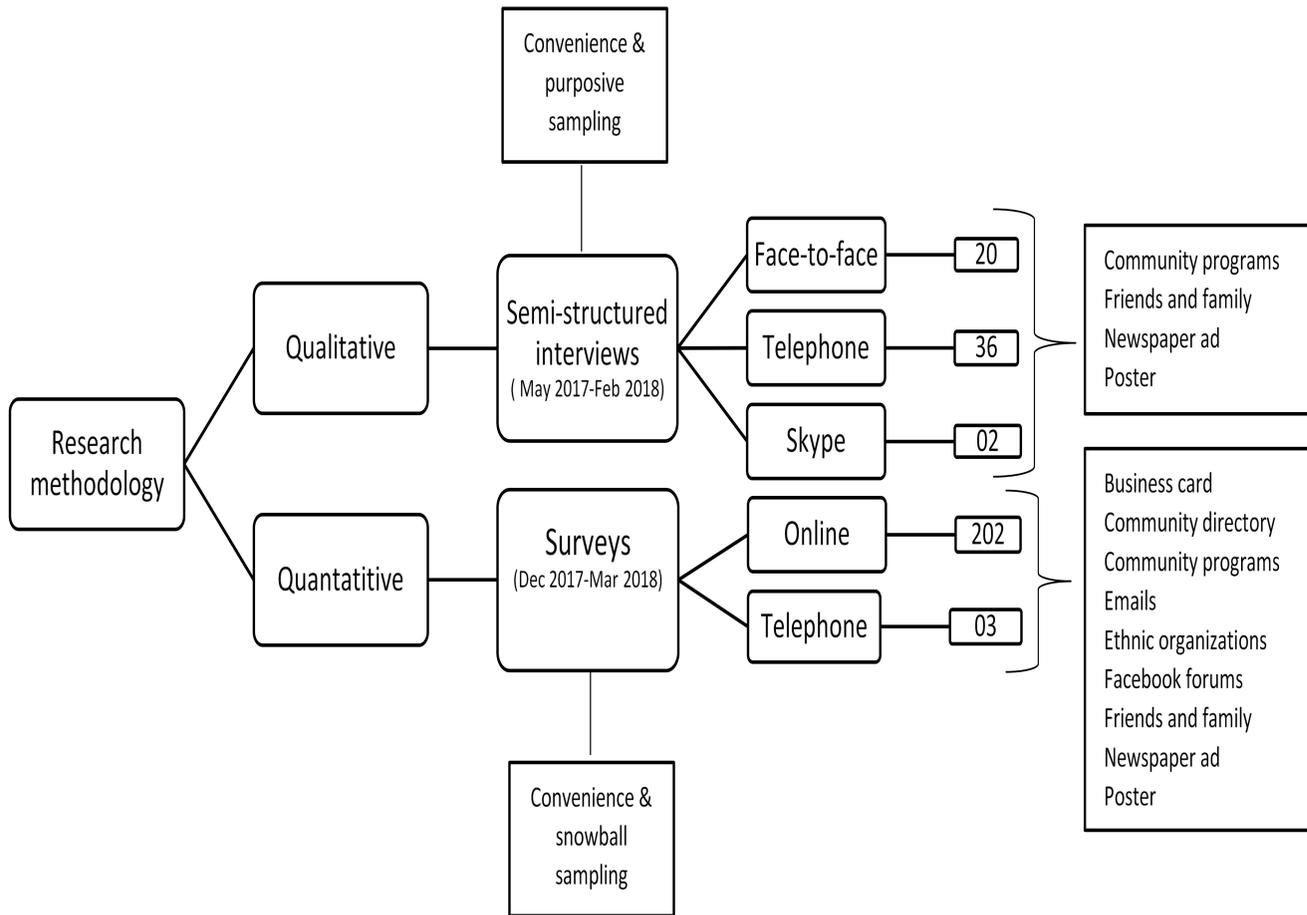
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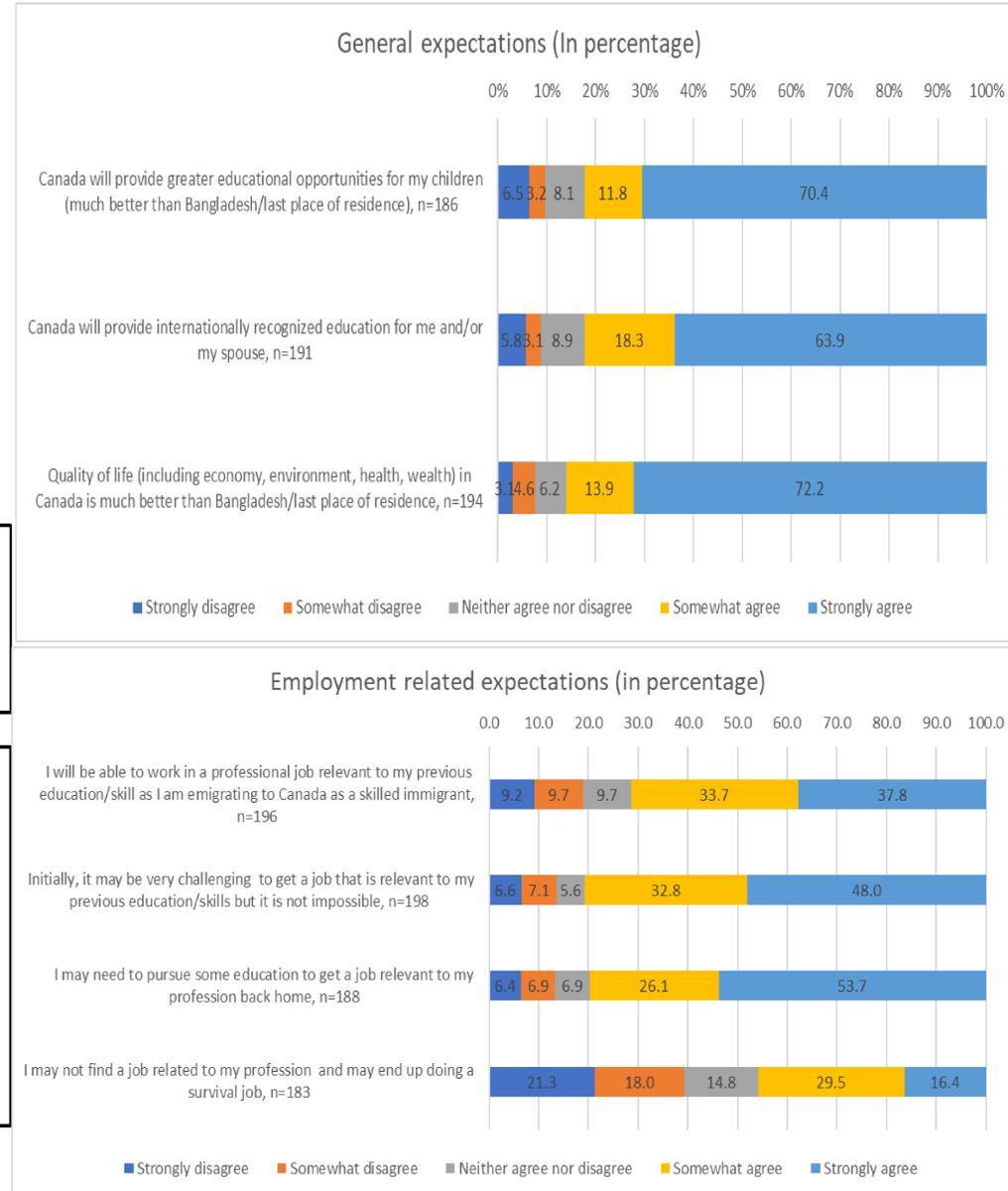
Background of the Study

Immigrants need information for their settlement in Canadian society including landing in a professional job. Timely information can support their integration and social inclusion and prepare them to face initial settlement challenges after arrival to Canada. On the other hand, lack of critical information may lead to social isolation, depression, and dissatisfaction with their lives in Canada. Several studies, such as Caidi and Allard, 2005; Esses, et. al. 2013, recognize the need for timely information for immigrants to reduce their worries during settlement as well as to ensure their inclusion in host countries. In this poster, I present findings from my doctoral study on the transitional information practices of Bangladeshi immigrants in Ontario, focusing on the tensions between pre-arrival expectations and actual experiences of Canadian life and on pre-arrival information practices.

Methodology



Findings of the Study

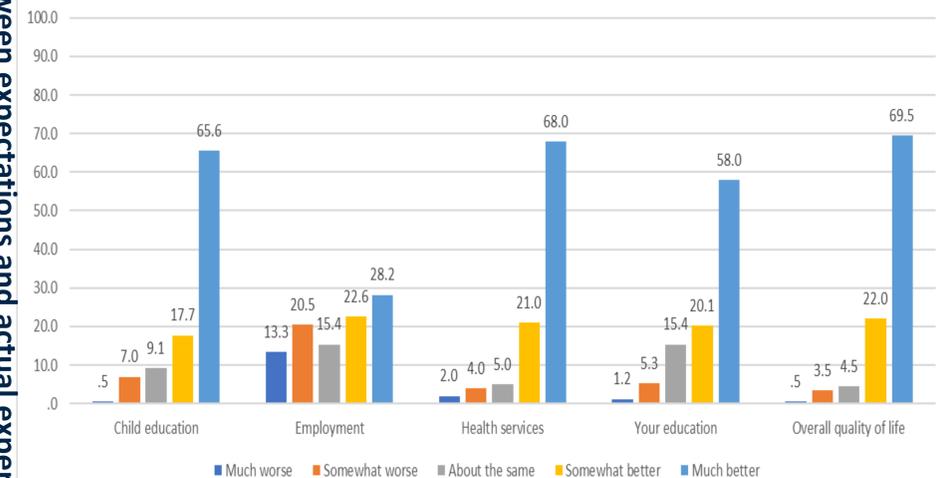


Mainly, my expectation was I will get professional jobs. However, after arrival life is completely different. The reality and the expectation did not match. Life is, otherwise, very smooth here. However, when I think about employment, I feel like returning to Bangladesh. Liakot, 2013

Before arrival, I expected I will be able to work in my professional job [similar to back home]. My husband will do so. Life will be very smooth. Moreover, I thought this [Canadian life] will be more comfortable [compared to life back home], but it is now opposite of [what I expected]. Lipi, 2013

Mismatch between expectations and actual experience

Actual experience in Canada (in percentage)



Pre-arrival informed decision making and mental preparedness

I was well informed. It was a great advantage. They [his friends] told both advantages and disadvantages of [immigration to Canada]. And, more or less, it matched after arrival. Therefore, I did not find anything unexpected for me. My colleagues from back home, my friend, I have some childhood friends here [in Canada]... They gave me very good information. In my case, I am probably lucky. I actually moved here with good information. Therefore, I have never had the feeling like I would not come if I knew this. Imran, 2013

Conclusion

Overall, the findings on expectations of Canadian life and pre-arrival information practices clearly show the importance of pre-arrival information in helping newcomers construct their expectations about life in Canada and to mentally prepare them to face initial settlement challenges