

**Reducing Poverty Among Mexican Immigrant Women and Their Families:
Assessing a Human Development-Based Approach**
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Abstract:

Mexican immigrant women are among the poorest groups in the U.S. They are also a higher proportion of Mexican immigrants, work more and head more Mexican immigrant households than has been much recognized. Frequently hampered by low educational levels, limited English fluency, partial information about U.S. labor markets and—sometimes—patriarchal family structures, domestic violence and lack of authorization to work, they are found in a very narrow range of poorly-paid occupations.

Non-profit institutions lead the effort to expand opportunities available to Mexican immigrant women. One, Adelante Mujeres, in Forest Grove, Oregon, follows a human development approach to increase the capabilities of low-income Mexican immigrant women

I will work with Adelante Mujeres to assess the effectiveness of their program to reduce poverty and increase the personal efficacy of participants, using a community-based, participatory research design. Current, adult participants will interview program “graduates,” and girls will be guided in the process of developing a study of the adults currently enrolled in the program.

We will provide an assessment of a human-development based effort to reduce poverty, as well as a program evaluation for the organization and an opportunity for Mexican immigrant women and girls to conduct social science research on the lives of people like themselves.