

Keon Watson

Professor Fevronia Soumakis

College Writing II

13 February 2023

Does Immigration affect the United States of America in a positive way?

Immigration is very important because it diversifies the nation and it brings value to the country's economy. "The Covid-19 Pandemic has highlighted the role of immigrants in the U.S. economy, with immigrants making up approximately 1-in-7 residents, 1-in-6 workers, and creating 1-4 of new businesses." (Beyer) As an immigrant who migrated to this country four years ago I have learned a lot and I have seen many positive things brought to this country. New York City is a melting pot of many different cultures which contributes to the city in a positive way. Immigrants are an integral part of New York's diverse and thriving communities, making extensive contributions that benefit all. "The United States immigration system is based on four principles: reunification of families, admitting immigrants with skills that are valuable to the U.S. economy, protecting refugees, and promoting diversity."(American Immigration Council).

In New York City immigrants have played a big role in labor and every area that could positively impact the country. Over the years a large number of immigrants from all over the world have migrated to different parts of the U.S. Majority of these immigrants came from the Caribbean and migrated to New York City where they started a valuable life. According to the American Immigration Council, "The top countries of origin for immigrants were the Dominican Republic (11 percent of immigrants), China (9 percent), Mexico (5 percent), Jamaica (5 percent) and India (4 percent)." These statistics demonstrate the fact that a lot of immigrants migrate to the United States each year. From personal experience in 2018 I was a part of that 5%

of immigrants traveling from Jamaica to the United States. I can say I have contributed positive deeds to this country by serving in the Armed Forces, participating in Evangelical outreach in and around my community as well as working as an EMT in the streets of NYC saving lives.

While New York City is the number one place for immigrants, immigrants are scattered all around this country which contributes to the economy and lifestyle which are classified as diversity. These policies enable immigrants to reunite with their families, they are able to gain residency in the country, and are able to provide for their loved ones. Last but not least, they are able to contribute to the growth of the economy. According to the American Immigration Council, “The INA allows the United States to grant up to 675,000 permanent immigrant visas each year across various visa categories. On top of those 675,000 visas, the INA sets no limits on the annual admission of U.S. citizens’ spouses, parents, and children under the age of 21.” These immigration policies of the United States have allowed immigrants to have the opportunity to make a better life for themselves. They allow immigrants to bring their cultures, foods and practices into the country. These are just some of the positive ethics that immigration contributes to this country.

Immigration has always played a positive role in the United States, which not only builds a diversified community but also improves the quality of life. Immigrants have also brought their skills and knowledge to the labor force of America. After the Covid-19 Pandemic we salute all minorities especially in the medical field who worked day and night during covid to save lives. According to Beyer, “... immigrants also play an outsized role in the U.S. response to the Covid-19 pandemic in the health care services sector.” In other words immigrants were exposed during the pandemic to help those who were affected by Covid. They were at work day and night

trying to secure their jobs but at the same time praying that their lives would be spared despite the tragedy.

Even though immigration has a positive impact on the United States there can be some negative effects. According to researchers, John Hagan and Albert Palloni, “ There is increasing concern about the presence of immigrants in the criminal justice system of the United States, especially about the number of legal and illegal immigrants in prisons.” ; “ At an average annual cost of more than \$30,000 per inmate, the financial source of public and policy concern is obvious.” These statistics show proof about illegal immigrants and legal immigrants who are in the U.S. prison system for numerous reasons. Every year many illegal immigrants migrate to the United States to gain a better life however, they have no legal document to reside in the U.S. In this case these immigrants are placed in prison and later deported to their home country. On the other hand immigrants who are legal in the country may be influenced by the wrong set of people around them which leads to crime and drug trafficking. Overall this affects the United States in a negative way because it is very expensive to take care of these inmates who are being placed in prison. Immigrants who migrated into the United States have contributed more positive than negative things.

Without immigration the United States of America would not be the country we know today. New York City has more than enough evidence to prove the good deeds that have risen out of migrants from all over the globe. This country also contains evidence from the negative side of things, especially the crimes that were committed by immigrants. The United States has put in place a immigration system that can reunite families again. Their policies allow immigrants to live and work in the country, giving back to their loved ones as well as uplifting the economy. Immigrants have played a vital role in the pandemic which contributed in a very positive way.

Work Cited

- Beyer, Don. "Immigrants Are Vital to the U.S. Economy." *Joint Economic Committee*,
www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/6750b0f0-c851-4fee-9619-295582fd44e8/immigrants-are-vital-to-the-us-economy-final.pdf.
- Hagan, John, and Alberto Palloni. "Immigration and Crime in the United States." *The Immigration Debate*, edited by James P. Smith and Barry Edmonston, Washington, DC., National Academy Press, 1998. *A to Z the USA*.
- "How the United States Immigration System Works." *American Immigration Council*, Sept. 2021,
www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/how_the_united_states_immigration_system_works_0.pdf.
- "Immigration in New York." *American Immigration Council*, 2020,
www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/immigrant_in_new_york.pdf.