

Social Inequality and Well-being of Immigrants Working in Fast Food Restaurants

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General Information

My area of research was immigrants working in fast food restaurants (McDonald's) in the Stuttgart region as I have been working (full-time) in one of these two McDonalds for more than four years. I also worked in another McDonald's on mini-job basis. I had regular meetings with them, if not at work then for dine-out or for a cup of coffee or even at the dining table of my dining room in Stuttgart.

Methodology

Participant Observation, Formal and Semi-formal interviews with workers and the Administration/Owner of the restaurant, Case Studies, Life Biographies, Informal Focus group, Autoethnography

Languages

German, English, Urdu, Hindi, a bit Arabic.



Research Findings:

The aspirations of Diaspora or immigrants especially non-Europeans is to get a better future and better earning, to support their families back in homelands. But they have to face social inequalities such as disappointments, unfair treatment, being neglected, frustrations, heavy work, long working hours, not being promoted for further skill development opportunities, favouritism, racial behaviours.

It's been years for some of them that they haven't met their families as they are waiting for their visas or asylum cases to get passed, but they are trying here to acquire a better position in the organisation which is not as easy as it seems.

The visa status also matters for the further promotions. The social inequalities at workplace leads to absenteeism, poor self esteem and ultimately affects their well-being.

