



Mapping local and international literature

Peer reviewed articles in United Kingdom

	Summary	Reference/Link
1.	<p>The migration process for families can be a complex process in which separation within families is not uncommon. Although there is in depth literature on the consequences of separation of children from their parents/carers as well as literature on the effect of children being reunited with their parents, there is little research on linking these two events. As a result, this study aims to identify whether separation during childhood is associated with well-being in adulthood among 18-25 year old individuals that migrated to the UK or France as a child. National household surveys were used to identify which of the parents migrated and whether the children experienced a period of separation from their parents or migrated with them. Self-report measures on health (both countries), mental well-being (UK) and conflict with parents (France) were completed. Results demonstrate that majority of young people migrate with their parents/carers (86% UK and 69% France). However, children that experienced a period of separation that lasted over 6 years had poorer psychosocial well-being during adulthood in both countries. Implications of such findings suggest that a prolonged disruption to the parent-child relationship may have a negative impact on the mental well-being of individuals during early adulthood, thus highlighting the importance of parenting during the migration process.</p>	<p>Eremenko T. & Bennett R. (2018). Linking the family context of migration during childhood to the well - being of young adults: Evidence from the UK and France. <i>Population, Space and Place</i> 24 (7): 1–13.</p> <p>https://doi.org/10.1002/psp.2164</p>
2.	<p>For some individuals in Zimbabwe, migration is a last-resort attempt at a better life and to escape potential persecution and torture. Opportunities for legal migration is limited in Zimbabwe. As a result, parents often have to make the difficult decision of migrating alone in the first instance and leaving their children behind with the intention of arranging for their</p>	<p>Madziva R. (2010). Living death: separation in the UK. <i>Forced Migration Review</i> 1 (34): 70–71.</p> <p>http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=48168938&site=ehost-live&scope=site</p>





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	<p>children to reunite with them when possible. However, difficulties associated with the immigration policy of Zimbabwe compounded by the cumbersome immigration system in the UK often results in parents being separated from their children for longer than planned. Moreover, asylum claims on the grounds of human rights can be a long and difficult process. Interviews with 18 Zimbabwean parents highlight the pain caused by parent-child separation. As well as reported difficulties with the immigration process, interviewees also noted that children that had been left in Zimbabwe would be moved around from carer to carer, sometimes without the consent of the parent. Parents feel powerless as their children are considered to be suffering neglect or abuse back in Zimbabwe. Some parents reported incidents in which they received the news of the death of their child which left deep feelings of sadness and guilt. Moreover, separation associated with forced migration has been described as mental torture. It could be argued that it is not only children's well-being that suffers as a result of parent-child separation but also that of the parents.</p>	
3.	<p>Families have a significant yet complex role in migration related decision making and strategies. Drawing on the results of two previous studies, this article investigates some of the factors that impact the decisions of migrants to bring their children with them to London or not and some of the consequences of these decisions. The option of leaving children with substitute caregivers such as grandparents was considered to be difficult to consider as grandparents tend to spoil children and have difficulty controlling them. Furthermore, it has been argued that the absence of parents could lead to emotional consequences for children which may result in</p>	<p>Ryan L & Sales R. (2013). Family Migration: The Role of Children and Education in Family Decision-Making Strategies of Polish Migrants in London. <i>International Migration</i> 51(2): 90-103. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2435.2010.00652.x</p>





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	<p>poorer educational attainment. One of the motivational factors for parents in bringing their children with them was the consideration of educational opportunities. However, secondary school aged children were considered more likely to have their education disrupted by migration. Findings indicate that parents migrating for the first time may be less prepared for the impact of migration on education. Reports also suggest that it is the teachers rather than parents that note the emotional impact of migration on young people, whilst parents tended to notice trauma that their children had experienced after the migration process was completed. Thus, key points in this article suggest that further support is needed for parents in order to support the transition of their children to a new country and educational system.</p>	
4.	<p>This article describes the role of the educational environment in assisting the development of refugee children with a particular focus on the importance of relationships with peers. It is argued that the schools in the UK can be an extreme environment for vulnerable refugee children that could be subject to discrimination and bullying. Following contact with a school-based mental health service, adolescent refugees were interviewed. Results suggest that significant moments of change in the form of recognition by peers encourage refugees to seek psychological support, focus on studying and to expand their social network by making more friends. Schools are an important institution for the development of refugees, especially in the cases of unaccompanied young people that do not have a parent to provide a base of support. The important role of teachers in terms of mediating contact between refugee children and school mental health services was noted. Refugee children</p>	<p>Fazel M. (2015). A moment of change: Facilitating refugee children's mental health in UK schools. <i>International Journal of Educational Development</i> 41: 255–261. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2014.12.006</p>





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	<p>may be considered vulnerable, have often experienced traumatic events prior to migration and may be separated from their parents. Thus, the school environment may play a crucial role in the development of refugee children in terms of settling into a new culture and making friends.</p>	
5.	<p>Evidence suggests that the health behaviours of those who migrate deteriorate over time which can consequently lead to a negative impact on the health of dependent children. Health in the early years of life can influence the course of lifelong health. For this reason, this study explores the views of parents regarding maintaining their children's health following migration. 28 parents of preschool children who had migrated to the UK within 10 years of the study date participated in focus groups. Parents originated from Pakistan, Somalia, Poland, Romania and one group of Roma Gypsy parents. All of these groups except the Roma Gypsy parents acknowledged barriers to maintaining optimal health for their children following migration to the UK. Overall patterns of responses indicate that parents from more established communities (Pakistani & Somali) focused on barriers to their children's outside play, exercise and nutrition whereas parents from Eastern Europe focused on difficulties ensuring family financial security. This study highlights the awareness of parents in the difficulties of maintaining optimal health for their children as well as important cultural differences. It may also be speculated that findings highlight the adverse effects of aspects of public health on migrant parents and their children which has further implications for policy aiming to ensure good health among children in the UK.</p>	<p>Condon LJ. & McClean S. (2017). Maintaining pre-school children's health and wellbeing in the UK: A qualitative study of the views of migrant parents. <i>Journal of Public Health</i> 39(3): 455–463. https://doi.org/10.1093/pubmed/fdw083</p>

