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Cross-Cultural Educational Fallbacks: A Study of Homeschooling in the Hispanic Community and the Reasons for Its Utilization

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A popular belief held by many Americans is that Caucasian families homeschool based on a desire to shield their children from the outside world and to pass on particular religious beliefs. However, among the Hispanic community, homeschooling is often implemented due to a lack of resources in the community. Many Hispanic parents utilize this nontraditional educational method due to a desire to raise their children bilingually, to pass on their cultural heritage, and to have an active role in the academic lives of their children. Quite often, the communities in which Hispanic families live do not have many resources available for Hispanics. An example is the lack of communication between non-English speaking parents and non-Spanish speaking teachers. Additionally, the types of jobs held by many Hispanics prevent them from being active members in the academic lives of their children due to conflicting work and school schedules. By homeschooling, Hispanic parents are able to focus on the education of their children without being hindered by a lack of effective cross-cultural communication. Based on surveys distributed to numerous homeschooling families, no two families homeschool for the same reason. However, many common threads exist, which is beneficial to know in order to make traditional school systems more appealing to Hispanic families.

Information about the Author:
Luke Easterday is a junior Spanish major and business minor. Coming from a rural town in southwest Michigan, Luke was exposed to the Hispanic community when one of his sisters studied abroad in Spain. Luke quickly became fascinated with other cultures and languages. Luke is currently taking an in-depth look at homeschooling in the Hispanic community, as one of his cousins and her Hispanic husband homeschool their bilingual children. This summer Luke plans to work as an intern in Valparaiso, Chile with the YMCA.

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