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Spain - Case Study 2

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From Africa to Spain: A journey of resilience and integration

The case study chronicles A.A.'s migration from Senegal to Spain. Her story highlights the importance of resilience, support, and adaptability in overcoming obstacles and achieving personal and professional success in a new country.



Introduction

From Africa to Spain: A journey of resilience and integration: This case study focuses on the inspiring journey of A.A., who left Dakar, Senegal, to start a new life in Spain. Through her story, we aim to illustrate the significant challenges faced by immigrants and refugees, as well as the opportunities that arise from such experiences. A.A. stands as a remarkable example of resilience and adaptation, demonstrating how, despite initial difficulties and throughout her life in Spain, it is possible to overcome cultural, professional, and personal barriers to successfully integrate into a new community. This study not only shares her courageous journey but also offers valuable lessons and insights into integration and personal growth.

A.A Story

A.A., originally from Dakar, Senegal, embarked on a significant journey of resilience and integration when she moved to Andalucía, Spain, in 1999. After working in Mauritania (Morocco) for an influential family, A.A. sought financial independence and a new life in Spain, following her sister's relocation. To enhance her integration, she attended Spanish language classes at a local language school.

Despite facing employment barriers, cultural misconceptions, and personal hardships—including the loss of her husband and the challenge of raising a daughter with a disability—A.A. successfully integrated into Spanish society. Her professional journey, marked by roles in childcare and kitchen assistance, and her personal achievements, such as forming a family and obtaining legal documents, underscore her adaptability and perseverance.

Main Challenges

- Cultural adjustment
- Employment barriers
- Language barriers
- Legal status

Main Opportunities

- Skill Development
- Career Advancement
- Personal Growth



A.A.

A 50-year-old woman, trained in cooking and worked for several years for an influential family in Morocco. At just 26, she emigrated to Spain to build a future as a chef. Throughout her career, she has held various jobs and challenges.



Her professional journey, marked by childcare and kitchen assistance roles, and her achievements, such as forming a family and obtaining legal documents, underscore her adaptability and perseverance.

Conclusions

Despite personal hardships, such as the loss of her husband and raising a daughter with a disability, A.A. successfully became a part of Spanish society. Her journey demonstrates the crucial role of community and governmental support in overcoming employment barriers and cultural misconceptions.

It emphasizes the importance of providing financial aid and language education to help immigrants and refugees achieve stability and positively contribute to their new communities. To support future immigrants and refugees, efforts should focus on improving these support systems to better facilitate integration and personal success.

Annexes

The A.A. story highlights the importance of providing ongoing and improved support to help them overcome systemic barriers and successfully integrate into their new communities. Investing in language education and community integration programs is essential, as demonstrated by A.A.'s successful adaptation to Spanish society.

To effectively support immigrants, it is important to address employment barriers by recognizing foreign qualifications and providing job training programs. Additionally, comprehensive support systems are needed to help individuals cope with personal hardships, such as mental health services and financial aid, especially for those facing significant challenges such as raising a child.



Official language schools

Many of these schools offer courses as a foreign language for immigrants at different levels, from basic to advanced.



Red cross

The organisation comprehensively supports immigrants, including legal and social counselling, language courses and job orientation.

<https://www2.cruzroja.es/>



Project “Legal Assistance for Immigrants”

Implemented by CEAR (Spanish Commission for Refugee Aid), it offers legal advice and support to resolve issues related to the immigration status and rights of immigrants.



Accem

The organisation comprehensively supports immigrants and refugees, including reception services, legal advice, employment programs, and integration courses.

<https://www.accem.es/>
