

Needs described by the representatives of immigrant associations in the Helsinki region



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NEEDS DESCRIBED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF IMMIGRANT
ASSOCIATIONS IN THE HELSINKI REGION

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ABSTRACT

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The topic of this Bachelor's Thesis was needs described by representatives of immigrant associations in the Helsinki region. This Thesis was commissioned by multicultural Finland, a consultation group working on multiculturalism in Finland. This research was commissioned as a result of cooperation between them and Laurea University of Applied Sciences. The purpose of this research was to find out what a society like multicultural Finland could concentrate on in order to meet the practical needs of the immigrant associations

The data of this qualitative research was gathered by using semi-structured interviews. The informants were representatives of four (4) immigrant associations within Helsinki region, namely Finnish-Gambian Association, Finnish-Cambodian Friendship Association, Ghana Union and the Finnish-French Societies. Two people were interviewed from each association, and the total numbers of people interviewed were eight. The interviews were audio taped and later transcribed. We used content analysis to analyse the findings. The findings were categorised into sub and main categories. From these categories came the conclusion into the needs of representatives of immigrant associations in Helsinki region.

The findings of this Thesis, the informants identified three (3) areas as the needs of the associations they represent. These needs were Finance, information and recruiting members. The most emphasized need was finance, as seven (7) out of the eight respondents spoke about money or funds as a big challenge facing their associations. All the six (6) out of eight (8) representatives made references to the other two (2) associations.

Key words: Immigrant, associations, needs

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1 INTRODUCTION

This is a Bachelor's Thesis on needs described by the representatives of immigrant associations in the Helsinki region. The task of this Thesis is to find out what a consultation group like Multicultural Finland could concentrate on in order to meet the practical needs of immigrant association in the Helsinki region. This thesis will give overall information about the association and the reason for the existence of the association. It also explains why we are involved in this project and what our task would be.

Immigrant association is registered or non registered voluntary organization that is either established by immigrants or actively run by them. Most immigrant associations are formed primarily to help foster unity, co-operation and to provide practical help and support to their members (Pyykkönen, 2007, 204). In Finland many common issues are dealt with in associations, such as promoting hobby activities, arranging education, spreading religious beliefs, advocating for the abstinence movement, defending the interests of groups and participating in politics. Associations have had a significant importance in the history of Finland. Even nowadays there are a lot of associations in Finland (Raitinen 1997, 6).

The literature review in this thesis includes defining immigrant associations, number of immigrant associations in Finland, and the needs for establishing such association. We also looked at previous studies or researches on immigrant associations in Europe by making references to immigrant associations in Finland by Pyykkönen, Spanish immigrant association in Switzerland and Portuguese immigrant association in France ((Rex, Joly & Wilpert 1987).

We are interested in this Thesis because we want to acquire an overview of the basic problems facing immigrant associations in Finland and the factors influencing their development processes. In this research we hope to gain deep knowledge about how immigrant associations help solve their social problems. Also acquire skills in collecting data and analysing information, and presenting findings verbally and in writing. We are involved in this thesis because of the cooperation between Multicultural Finland and

Laurea University of Applied Sciences. Besides, we are involved in this thesis as a result of passive need by society board members to connect their activities with partners in working life and other educational institutions which target work with individuals and groups from different ethnic backgrounds. Also, we are involved in Multicultural Finland project because as new immigrants from Gambia and Ghana, we are facing varieties of difficulties and challenges which include cultural change or shock, language barrier, job competition, food, weather, accommodation, health and integration (Multicultural Finland brochure, 2004).

We were ignorant of how immigrants association aimed to help new and potential immigrants to familiarize with immigration laws, to accustom to new culture and acquire advance training. This is a big factor on why we got involved with Multicultural Finland project. As we came newly, we were never aware of any immigrant association that helps new comers like us. We shouldered all the responsibilities on our own; this resulted in big difficulties before we could cope with the reality on the ground. After going through all these problems, we thought it wise to base our thesis on immigrants association and we hope our findings would help other immigrants.

2 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE THESIS

Multicultural Finland is an association of Swedish People's Party in Finland working on multiculturalism. Established in 2001, the initiative came from Member of Parliament Eva and Ms. Byoma Tamrakar who are board members of the association presently. Since then the association has worked with semi formal organisation with members from different countries. It focuses mainly on issues that concern immigration and foreigners currently residing in Finland. Among the group's various accomplishment are: the resolution that the group prepared for the party congress of Swedish People's Party in Pietarsaari in the 2002 and a political programme titled "Initiative for Integration" organised in 2003. The group also organised various seminars, cultural happenings and meetings (Multicultural Finland brochure, 2004).

In 2004 Multicultural Finland organised various seminars of which definitely needed foreigners but do they need us? The seminar was a success and it attracted new members in autumn and the working group decided to become a registered association as a member of Swedish People's Party became Multicultural Finland r.f. (Multicultural Finland brochure, 2004). This thesis is important because it is part of our final degree work and it will serve the interest of Multicultural Finland who provides us the opportunity to complement our theoretical and practical training and combine it with the aim and activities of Multicultural Finland. The research will help Multicultural Finland to know the practical need of immigrant association and help them to strategise ways and means to solve them with the involvement of the authorities.

There are more than 100 immigrant associations in Finland (Pyykkönen 2007, 204); we found these associations through infopankki website (http://www.infopankki.fi/en-GB/Associations_in_Finland/) and through our own connections to immigrant associations. Suomi-Gambia Yhdistys, Ghana Union Association contact are through our connection, the Finnish-Cambodians Friendship Association (in Finnish Kambodzhan ystäviä Suomessa) and Federation of Finnish French Societies (in Suomi-Ranska Yhdistysten Liitto) through infopankki. Until recently, helping immigrants get establish in Finland has focused on social rather than economic integration. The Multicultural Finland Association

wants to change this. They believe that to truly empower minority groups, they must play an active role economically, socially and politically. (Multicultural Finland old brochure)

This thesis work falls under the umbrella of Multicultural Finland project. This thesis work and the redesigning Multicultural Finland association's web site fall under the same project. Although, this later one is project based thesis, both researches aimed to enhance the integration of foreign citizens into the Finnish society. Economic integration will allow immigrants to get more involved in shaping Finland's integration policy. However, for this to succeed, society needs to be more pro-active, too. With this in mind, they have invited a panel of experts to discuss what government can do to help, and how Finland can attract qualified immigrants (Forsander 2002, 227). The association will work toward making Finland a more open and immigrant friendly society. Fair treatment of minorities is significant for a more competitive and creative Finland. The aim of the group is to promote, support and develop Multiculturalism in Finland and to follow and support the program and the activities of the Swedish People's Party (Multicultural Finland brochure, 2004).

3 ASSOCIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

An association could be defined as an organised body of people who have an interest, activity or purpose in common; like a society. An association is an organisation of social equals agreeing to work for a common purpose or to promote a common cause (Jensen Merrill, the founding of a nation, 1763-1776). According to Miner (2002), an organisation or association is a social device for efficiently accomplishing some stated purpose through group means". Howard (1986) defines an organisation as a goal-directed, boundary maintains activity system. However, an organisation is a group of people, divided up into parts that engage in three kinds of activities that achieve objectives, maintaining the internal systems and adopting to the external environment (Argtris 1971).

Every association or organisation has a purpose or reason for its existence. Some might be profit making while others are non-profit making, like charitable organisations. All the four immigrants associations we interviewed, none is a profit making organisation, and they are all charitable associations. An association has to have a cause for which it works for. The members will decide together, what the cause of the association is and what forms its operation will take. The purpose of the association can be, for instance, preserving one's own language and religion, spreading knowledge of one's own culture to others, studying or arranging shared hobbies and common interests. Speaking and representing one's own group is also a valid purpose of an association. Trying to obtain financial gain or collecting money for the members can not be the primary purpose of an association.

A registered association is registered in a Register of Associations in the National Patent and Register Board. Before registering, authorities will check that the association fulfils the demands stipulated in the regulations of the Finnish Associations Act. A registered association uses the abbreviation ry. at the end of its name. The founding and operation of an unregistered association is freer than that of a registered association. According to law, an association can be dissolved by a court decision if it has been established or act in an infringement of law and good morals. It may not be dissolved if it has ceased its illegal activities (Tornudd 1986, 171). A group can only register as an association if it demonstrates by its actions a respect for democratic principles (Fox and Roth 2000, 419). The association can run the association in the way that it wishes, as long as it is not

against the law and there are no violations against public decency. An unregistered association is not an artificial legal person. It cannot acquire possessions or be a member of another association. An unregistered association cannot get a permit for collecting money. The association is also not allowed to arrange money collections. In addition, it cannot make legal engagements. This means that members of the association who have made legal commitments are personally accountable for them. These commitments do not bind the association or its other members. The persons who have taken a loan for the activities of the association are accountable for it. It is worth consideration whether you want your association to be registered or unregistered. Being a registered association is useful at least if the association wants to apply for financial aid. Registering the association is also a good idea if the association has financial commitments, plenty of members and a big budget (Raittinen 1997, 7-8).

The Associations Act states how to found an association. In practise there are three phases: founding the association, drawing up the regulations and registering the association. You go through the same phases when you want to register an association that already exists. There has to be at least three founding members. They must be at least 15-years old. Founding the association can be done in two ways: Firstly, an informal contract, in other words a memorandum of association will be drawn up. The rules of the association will be included in the memorandum of association. The name of the association, date on which the contract has been drawn up and signatures of the founding members will be written in the memorandum of association. Secondly, a meeting is held in order to found an association. An official record of the meeting will be drawn up, in which the decision to found the association is shown. The records are signed by everyone who participates in the meeting and wants to become members of the association (Raittinen 1997, 8-10).

Registration means registering the association in the Register of Associations. The Register of Associations is maintained by the National Patent and Register Board. Register of Associations is public and it includes basic information on all registered associations of Finland. Anyone can for example find out from the Register if an association is registered, who is the chairman of the association and who are its persons entitled to sign the name of the association. Registration is done by filling in a form which is called basic legal notice, basic declaration. Forms and advice can be acquired from the

Register of Associations, the city administrative court of the local municipality and Internet on the website of the National Patent and Register Board - http://www.prh.fi/fi/yhdistysrekisteri/lomakkeet_mallisaannot.html. The forms are free of charge (Raittinen 1997, 10-11).

4 IMMIGRANT ASSOCIATIONS

Pyykkönen did a research on immigrant associations in Finland, administrative expectation for immigrant associations in Finland. He defined immigrant association as a registered or non registered voluntary organization that is either established by immigrants or actively run by them. Immigrant associations could be divided into nine (9) categories namely ethno cultural associations, religious associations, women's associations, multicultural associations, youth associations, integration associations, coalition associations, art associations and sports associations (Pyykkönen 2007, 200-205).

There are currently around 105,000 people of foreign nationality living in Finland base on Pyykkönen research. Although this number is very small when comparing to other European countries, immigrants in Finland have formed nearly 700 associations. In Jyväskylä there are 3,200 long terms or foreign born inhabitants (80,000 total populations), and they have 34 associations, 26 of which are registered. In Tampere out of 200,000 total populations 8,200 are foreign born and they have 29 associations of which 27 are registered (Pyykkönen 2007, 204). This categorisation is based on self definitions of the associations. They differ in particular structure, group interests they claim to serve, aims they take for their actions, methods of actions and ways of cooperating with public officials. However, due to the increase of the number of immigrants yearly in Finland lead to the increase of immigrant associations. The diversity and enlargement of the immigrants communities lead to the mixing of interests as a result wholly new kinds of associations were born and they claim to serve the interest of their members.

For example, immigrant associations in some countries play a vital role in boosting the economy of the host nation, western Canada is a typical example. Here the immigrants organised social networks and high-tech associations of cluster firms, institutions, end users for new entrepreneurship or high skilled employment. To explain such form of

economic integration by immigrants has been interactive model based on an explanation for immigrant enterprise that emphasizes the interaction between the opportunity structure of the host society and group characteristics and social structure of the immigrant community (Waldinger et al 1990, 47). However, beyond this theory (Schumpeter 1939) raise issues of whether reliance on ethno-cultural immigrants minorities, new immigrants as innovative men and women played major role. The most important thing to note here is that since western Canada immigrant entrepreneurs and highly skilled immigrant workers tend to pursue their success in the high tech sector in isolation by joining networks or high-tech associations and also initiatives that shape the new economy. By networking more ethno-culturally associations pursue transitional aims that favour linkages in the Indian and Chinese communities. Some associations focus on some particular sector to provide international linkages, home-country relations, network language, and membership criteria (Bennett 2005, 25).

In Finland policies on and attitudes toward foreigners, the question is what, the local reactions, within a single country, are to migration flows and globalization of cultures. In outlining its immigration policy, Finland is in an advantageous position in one sense: as a latecomer as a receiving country, Finland has the benefit of the political models of other receiving countries and is able to sidestep the mistakes others have already made. On the other hand, imported political models can be deceptive for the very reason that they seem to offer an opportunity to bypass local conditions. What kind of policy would utilize the knowledge and skill potential of immigrants and prevent inequality specifically under Finnish conditions. Since 1990 the Finnish integration contains principles on multiculturalism as a result of Swedish influence (Forsander 2002, 39).

From the first half of the 1990s, and especially after the accession to European Union in 1995, immigrant authorities and administration have emphasized the significance of immigrant associations in integration of immigrants in Finland. The purpose of the associations from the administrative perspective is to socialize and activate immigrant communities and individuals according to basic political rationalities, such as security of the society, happiness of the population and individuals, and cultural pluralism. In one way immigrant associations is technology through which integrative government of individuals and communities is implemented.

On the other way, associations themselves are governed through multiple techniques mainly funding and registration (Pyykkönen 2007, 197).

4.1 Spanish immigrant associations in the Netherlands

The history of Spanish associations in Netherlands started with the first migration at the end of 1950s and the beginning of the 1960s. A study conducted by Pereda on immigrant associations found the situation of associations in Netherlands is usual in that, at first factories organized many Spanish centres (supporting groups). On other hand there have been very few instances of organizations by Catholic mission (Rex, Joly & Wilpert 1987, 222).

Based on the same study, a second stage was the creation of centres for convivial reunions and recreation purposes, again funded by factories. Political parties and trade unions also existed, but clandestinely because they are feared reprisals from Franco administration. Such groups sometimes took the initiative in making claims on behalf of the centres. However, from the 1960s Spanish centres were funded increasingly by Dutch government via the so-called foundations for help to foreign workers. These foundations established organized social work with Dutch and foreign employees. Then since 1983, welfare work for immigrants has become the task of general institutions with concomitant changes in the function of immigrant associations (Rex et al, 222).

Again, the need for Spanish to form an association in the Netherlands arises since 1983, when welfare work for immigrants has become the task of general institutions with concomitant changes in the functions of immigrant associations. With family reunions and birth of new children in the host society increases a need for new organisation arises. One example is the *padres de familias* (associations of parents) intended to defend Spanish language and culture especially for the children. These associations asked for and obtained Spanish teachers from the Spanish government. The *padres de familias* formed a European confederation which was recognized as a representative body by the Spanish government. The *Padres de Familia* has not developed relations with Dutch institutions and culture. As result the children of Spanish immigrants are not completely identified with them and are inclined to form their own associations.

New youth clubs arise which are ambivalent with respect to the *Padres de Familias* because they fear that attempts will be made by parents to control clubs are the latest development in the history of Spanish associations (Rex et al, 222- 223).

4.2 Portuguese associations in France

According to (Rex et al), a study conducted by Hily and Poinard, there are almost 900,000 Portuguese nationals or one tenth of the population of Portugal, reside in France. They are the most important community of foreigners in France and represent almost 17 percent of all migrant workers. However, the Portuguese are the community which has established the most dense and active network of official associations who did not wait to begin to organize themselves until the left came to power and provided the institutional frame work for the organization of foreigners in 1981.

In 1982 based on a study, the state secretary for immigrants compiled with a register of 769 associations. This if related to the number of associations to the size of the immigrant population in France, and then there are nearly 1230 potential members per association. This very year alone, 192 new associations were discussed by the services de programacoe Apio as comunidades (SPAC) – planning and support service for the community. The need for Portuguese in France to form an association arises after they realise that they constitute the main flow of immigration into France but we are the only group which either does not know how to or does not wish to participate, collectively, in crucial debates on basic immigration issues. The fact that they do not want to close ties with the country of their origin and presenting their identity makes the need for forming the association.

Furthermore, it may be to say that this association network does not maintain a permanent mobilization of the entire Portuguese community, that the burden of management often falls on the same shoulders, and that apart from the presence of the unremitting old faithful; that of other members is episodic. The truth remain that this movement currently channels the essential expression of Portuguese autonomy in France. The expansion allows a certain number of activities to take place. The movement is capable of mobilizing the core of community at certain critical periods, and even those who are critical or who take issue with movement are compelled to go through their local association in order to

keep in touch with life back home (Rex et al, 127). To the indigenous French population, the discrete nature of this community seems to be reflected in reality by its sense of identity; by its concern to reconcile the Portuguese character with strong capacity to achieve a functional integration in the day to day life of the French community. This is done in order to work to find accommodation and to gain the support necessary for the success of their goal (Rex et al, 126-127).

4.3 Immigrants and Social Work

Migration is central to human experience. The hope and search for promise land which would be a home for the poor, oppressed and the opportunities of gaining wealth and power have always drawn people to seek their fortunes outside their native countries. This has been successful by the settlement of under-developed countries by sale of countries whose expansion depended on manpower they did possess themselves. All migrants however they fit in the host society do experience some hardship even if they are highly needed and welcome. Their presence in the host country is usually accompanied by tensions which become the concern of politicians and administrators. In recent years, social workers in many countries have also been concerned with immigrants and this involved them not only with their welfare but also, implicitly and explicitly, with the protection of those interests of the receiving society may be threatened by newcomers Cheetham (1972, 13).

The British social workers are facing these challenges and base on their contact with immigrants will be the focused of this theory. The attitudes towards immigrants and the treatment they have received have been influenced by Britain's perception of the reason of their migration, their social and cultural background and most importantly her understanding of the kind of contribution they were likely to make in their new country. This lead to various public concern about the number of immigrants coming to United Kingdom and the conditions in which they chose or where forced to live. Below, we will analyse how muddled these measures have been and how this confusion has been reflected in the contact social workers have had with immigrants Cheetham (1972, 13).

Firstly, according to Cheetham (1972, 13), immigrants as a stranger is the simplest and most sophisticated view of the immigrant is that of the stranger lost in an alien world.

The onus is on the new comer to find a place for himself in the host society and if the stranger does not return home, it is assumed the he or any of his children will gradually assimilate to the new country. These assumptions, which rely very much on laissez-faire principles, underlies the assertions until recently when British policy towards immigrants, that no special effort efforts should be made to meet their needs. Secondly, immigrants and minority groups, this perception of immigrants as members of minority groups, aware of their separate identity, with their own internal hierarchy and anxious to preserve their own cultural tradition. These groups may ask for little more than right to work and to be left in peace to pursue their own life. Although there is a risk that focusing on minority groups will encourage the view that some people are potentially always alien irritant in society. This underlines one of the most popular definitions of integration not as a process of assimilation involving the loss of immigrants of their own national characteristic and culture but as equal opportunity accompanied by cultural diversity, in an atmosphere of mutual tolerance (Jenkins 1996, 178). Furthermore, it cannot be assumed that mutual tolerance and cultural diversity will accompany each other if one group feels deeply that it own interest will thereby threatened.

4.4 The Role of Social Work

The future of immigrants and their children based on Cheetham (1972) theory depends largely on far reaching policies designed to alleviate the problems of the most deprived members of the society whatever their social background. These policies involve the redistribution of resources, the planning and rebuilding of urban areas, and the safeguarding of the rights of immigrant groups. The contribution of social work to these policies and the welfare of immigrants are very important. Also social work should be concerned to help immigrant minority groups with serious personal or social problems. The focus should be mainly on issues common to all methods of social work because very little is known about how immigrants of different backgrounds understand and use social services, what sort of treatment they receive from social workers, and whatever social services or methods of work should be evolved to meet their needs.

4.5 Immigrant policy and Issues for Social Work Practice

This theory is based on the study conducted by Yolanda c. Padilla on immigrant policy and issues for social work practice in United States. Immigrants make a significant segment of U.S. society. Immigration to United States has been characterized by steady growth, dramatic changes in ethnic composition and declining socioeconomic levels. The challenge for social work is to respond to social service needs of immigrants by designing appropriate programs that will contribute to the social and economic integration of immigrants. Immigrant policy refers to policies aimed at facilitating the social and economic integration of immigrants (Fix & Passel 1994, 597). Immigrant policy is distinguished from immigration policy which is concerned with regulating who enters the United States. Immigrant policies are related to social welfare, health, education, housing and employment programs. The provisions of social services play a central role in immigrant policy. As the primary function involved in social services delivery, social workers must consider the policy context of providing services to immigrants.

However, recent theories have concluded that social work has made limited important contributions to the study of immigrant's integration at a broader level, (Drachman1992, 68-72) and (Sherraden & Martin 1994, 369-384) provided a conceptual framework for understanding the relevance of earlier immigrant group experiences to their adjustment to their community destination. Generally, social work shows that to different degrees, immigrants face series of stress producing events that result in the need for assistance and support; such events may include separation from family and community, journeys of different durations etc. The primary concern of social work has been the conceptualization of psychosocial aspects of immigration and the impact of successful integration of immigrants. The focus has been on needs, experiences and circumstances of immigrants at different phases of immigration process and the need to consider this knowledge in designing responsive service delivery (Drachman1992, 68-72).

5 HISTORY OF IMMIGRANT ASSOCIATIONS IN FINLAND

According to (Salo 2004, 7), the number of foreigners living in Finland at the end of 2006 was 121,739, amounting to 2.3% of the resident population and marking an increase of 7,887 in the course of that year. The number of foreigners had remained fairly constant over 10,000 for a long time, the exact figure in 1950 was 11 423 (0.3% of the population), it was still just 12,000 in 1976 (Statistics Finland 2006, 38). Although the history of immigration in Finland is not very long however, its importance cannot be over-emphasized. Finland was under Swedish control for over 600 years until 1809, when it became a Russian Grand Duchy. In 1917, Finland achieved its independence. Despite several wars and conflicts, Finland has experienced mainly voluntary and economic emigration. Significant immigration occurred only between 1890 and World War II, and again after 1990. During both periods, the country has received both labour and asylum immigrants.

An important immigration period happened from 1890 until the Second World War and later in the 1990's. During the Russian rule from 1890 until 1917, there were at least 20 000 migrants in Finland. They were for example Swiss cheese makers, Bavarian brewers and Italian ice-cream makers. The biggest group was nevertheless the Russians who were as many as 15 000. Between the Second World War and 1970 the immigration to Finland was negative (Salo 2004, 7-8). The other immigration period started in 1990, when President Mauno Koivisto ratified a law which allows so called ethnic Finns, usually known as Ingrians, to return from Russia or sometimes Estonia to Finland. Their status was returning emigrants because they had left Finland in the 17th century. Until 1920's before Stalin's persecutions, the area of St. Petersburg was very much populated by small ethnic groups of Finnish people. They have different dialects from Finnish language but unfortunately they are nowadays rapidly vanishing and people are more used to speak Russian. Until 2003 over 25 000 Ingrians had returned Finland (Tanner 2004, 3).

The second significant group of immigrants was the Somalians who had been chosen to Finland by the United Nation's High Committee of Refugees and they started to immigrate in 1991 (Tanner 2004, 3). Nowadays there are around three thousands Somalians in Finland. Also the fall of Soviet Union in 1991 brought up small flow of refugees but among the politicians there was a fear of millions of Russian asylum seekers. At the same time

there were refugees from former Yugoslavia and Kurds from the Middle East (Salo 2004, 7). Finland is one of the rare countries in European Union whose asylum applications are raised every year. Annually from 1000 to 3000 applications are delivered to the authorities which are more than for example Denmark who has a long history of asylum seekers. Such favourable economic, technical, and social developments help explain why Finland again has become an attractive destination for both economic and forced migrants (Tanner 2004).

These statistics indicate the relatively strong impact of today's immigration (see appendices 3 & 4). First, the number of foreigners legally living in Finland without citizenship increased four-fold between 1990 and 2003, from 26,300 to 107,100. Second, the number of foreign-born Finnish citizens and residents doubled between 1991 and 2003, from 77,000 to 159,000, which is three percent of the total Finnish population. Third, the number of residents whose first language is not Finnish has tripled between 1992 and 2004, from 43,000 to 128,000. Today, Finland receives around 2,000 to 3,000 asylum applications annually, in addition to well over 10,000 applications for work and residence permits. Each year, between 2,000 and 3,000 people receive Finnish citizenship (Tanner 2004).

One reason for the recent immigration increase is the fall of the Soviet Union, which has opened Russia's borders and has allowed for freer movement in the region. Also, Finland's entry into the European Union (EU) in 1995 appears to have made it a better-known and more accessible country for potential migrants. Nevertheless, such a rapid increase is a phenomenon of only the past 15 years. Prior to 1990, the volume of forced and voluntary immigration to Finland was much lower. Finland was a country of voluntary emigration, with a small - although well integrated - immigrant population. Immigration questions have not gained a major foothold in political debates, nor have opposition parties chosen immigration as an issue for challenging ruling parties, including the current centre-left coalition government (Tanner 2004).

5.1 The Finnish-French Societies

The Suomi-Ranska Ydistys ry is a federation of the Finnish French Societies which have thirty (30) membership associations all over Finland from Hanko to Rovaniemi. Suomi-Ranska has a total membership of four thousand five hundred (4500) people all over Finland. The federation of Suomi-Ranska was formed in 1890. The French-Finnish association in Helsinki, the group we interviewed has approximately six-hundred and fifty (650) members. The goals of Suomi-Ranska are to promote friendship and cultural relations with the country they represent. The main goal of this association is to promote French language and culture, French civilisation, and promoting bi-lateral relationship with French speaking countries all over the world. Another goal of this association is to reduce or stop the prejudice of Finnish people towards the French speaking people.

The Suomi-Ranska organises French courses to their members and any individual who may be interested in French language at different levels from the beginners to advance level. The association organises different programmes like members event and they also participate in many programmes organised by the authorities or other groups if they got an invitation but they have been participating in world village festival organise yearly by “KEPA” (Service Centre for Development Cooperation). The rationale behind gracing these programmes is to give people the opportunity to see and know something about the French culture (<http://www.suomi-ranska.com/index.php>).

5.2 The Ghana Union in Finland

Ghana union in Finland is an association formed by Ghanaians residing in Finland. The association is for those Ghanaians that are legally residing in Finland. Although this association is mainly for Ghanaians, non-Ghanaians are encouraged to be members and also those people that have connection to Ghana re-married to a Ghanaian.

The Ghanaians residing in Finland have realised that they need to strengthen the bond of friendship and cooperation among themselves and other people, and to promote cordial relationship with their host nation (Finland) in all areas like political, social, educational, economic etc thus formed the association. The association currently has three hundred members (300) and of which fifty are registered members.

The goals of Ghanaian union in Finland are to bring together all Ghanaians legally resident in Finland and to maintain their cultural heritage as well as to assist the members of their association in time of difficulties. Another goal is to create awareness among Ghanaians with respect to the socio-economic and the political set-up in Finland to improve the living standard of Ghanaians in Finland. However, the national union of Ghanaians residents in Finland is a non-profit and non-governmental association that is governed by the constitution adopted by the general members. Their main source of funding is from their membership fees and yearly subscription from the members. The Ghanaians resident in Finland, recognising the need for close association to strengthen the bond of friendship the co-operation among themselves, and to promote cordial relationship with their host nation (Finland) in the areas of social, political, cultural, economic, educational and other related issues, in the interest of justice and peace (The constitution of the national union of Ghanaians resident in Finland).

5.3 The Finnish-Gambian Association

The Finnish-Gambia or Suomi-Gambia Yhdisty is an association formed by Gambians living in Finland. The association was officially registered in 1994. The primary reason for its formation is to help foster unity, cooperation and to promote practical help and support to Gambians living in Finland and friends of Gambians. The association has approximately three hundred (300) members. These include Gambians and their families, Finns and friends of the Gambia. The executive is responsible for the day to day activities of the association and officially represent the organisation on all official transactions both within and outside Finland. The executive is democratically elected by the general membership to one year tenure of office. The executive board meets once in a month while the general body meets once in every three month. The board reports directly to the general body about the activities of the association and all major decisions are discussed in the general meeting. Suomi-Gambia today is an active immigrant association that is working towards the welfare of their members

[\(http://www.gambiansinfinland.com/\)](http://www.gambiansinfinland.com/)

5.4 Finnish-Cambodian Friendship Association

Finnish Cambodian friendship association known as CAMIS in Finnish is formed by Finns for Cambodian. Today it is managed by Cambodians and the original founders are still members of the association. The purpose of most friendship association is to promote friendship and cultural relations with the country they represent, CAMIS is no exception and it is also a member of union of friendship association in Finland. The purpose of this friendship association is to promote cooperation between its members and with other members in order to maintain understanding and cooperation between all associations. The primary goal is to promote Cambodian culture in Finland and encourage Finns to visit Cambodia as well as to reduce or eradicate all prejudice against Cambodians. The association is working relentlessly to promote their culture through cultural activities and donating in multicultural development aid projects between Finland and Cambodia. (http://www.taksvarkki.fi/kambodzha/kambodzha/kulttuuri/ystavia_suomessa.html)

6 THEORY BASE OF NEEDS

The dictionary definition of needs is a condition or situation in which something is required or wanted. A lot of theories have been made on needs but one among all those theories have caught our attention on this literature review that is Murray's and Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs. We will review these needs in order for us to have a wider understanding on the subject.

6.1 Social Welfare Needs of Immigrants

The present knowledge of immigrant classification in United States is very important for social workers for several reasons. First, social workers can help clients obtain appropriate lawful immigration status, because that is the first step in becoming eligible for social services. Second, by keeping abreast of changes in program eligibility requirements for immigrants, social workers can provide accurate information and referral services. Thirdly, need to be aware that unqualified use of public services by some immigrant groups could lead to trouble. The challenge for social work practitioners and policy makers is to respond to the needs of immigrants by designing appropriate social services that will

contribute to a smooth social and economic transition in an environment of limited government resources. Furthermore, in evaluating the role of social work practice, it is also relevant to understand the alternative immigrant household survival strategies in the absence welfare assistance.

The current studies focusing on certain groups immigrants identify important areas of need among immigrant children and families. Socioeconomic background and the reasons for immigrating influence the social services needs of immigrants. Some immigrants who have professional backgrounds come improve their careers or business and bring with them access to sources of capital. However, the largest group of immigrants in United States is labour immigrants, who are concentrated in manual, low paying jobs and often came to escape poverty (Portes & Rumbaut 1990, 602). In addition, ethnographic studies show that settlement process involves the development of social, institutional and economic ties (Massey 1986, 670-684). When migrant communities are established, for example, they often provide the social networks necessary to help new immigrants reach their destination, find work, and adapt to the new environment to the extent that immigrants lack access to their own economic resources and networks of social support, they require other sources of assistance.

The wide range of economic needs among immigrants is related to other areas requiring assistance, including education and language needs. Immigrants with low levels of education and lower occupational status need help in obtaining job skills training that will prepare them work in better paying jobs. In addition, social workers can be of great assistance in helping clients overcome language barriers. They can advocate for clients by offering bilingual services, or providing information and referral services. Even though the scarcity of bilingual social workers is a real problem (Harrison, Wodarski & Thyer 1992, 602), some immigrant groups are developing innovative methods to serve their growing immigrant populations.

However, the immigrant population in Unites States is young 29 percent under age 20 (Rolph 1992, 603) and yet immigrant children and their families do not receive adequate health care (Plascencia & Wong 1991, 603).Information on the specific physical health needs of foreign born individuals is inconclusive.

In some cases, the health of immigrants who have lived in States for longer actually deteriorates. It is not clear what aspects of immigrant's lives results in positive outcomes. Supportive social services can be a key factor in promoting the health of immigrants. Knowing that the main factor preventing immigrants from obtaining medical care is lack of access to public and private health insurance, social services workers face a tough challenge in the current environment. Social workers can be a source of information and referral services to connect clients with available programs. Also social workers can be supportive and receptive to immigrant health care practices that produce healthy outcomes.

6.2 Needs of immigrant association

All association sees itself as meeting some need and most of them points to a particular reason for its formation. For the purpose of this research we looked at Josephides explanation of the needs of Cypriots immigrant population in Britain. According Josephides, the needs of Cypriot immigrants in some instances refers to the situation in Cyprus while their other needs are their general concern regarding the keeping of their community in London together. However, the bulk of the work of the association involves working after the welfare and educational needs of Cypriots in London. Britain which is still considered to be a welfare state, this raise questions regarding why it is necessary for Cypriots to make their own provisions in Britain. one of the answers to the above question, is the fact that until last decade the British state did not recognise the needs of the ethnic minorities or make any provision for them, so they had to provide for themselves whether they wanted or not (Rex et al, 42-51).

Although now the needs of immigrants in Britain are recognised but that does not lead to automatic provision, nor is the provision, when is forthcoming without adverse effects. Ethically associations are therefore involved in both pursuing for resources and in trying to have some control over how they are provided. At present most Cypriots want and expect state provision but there two ways in which resources and services can be made available. First is for the provision to be made directly by the relevant department or statutory body and second is for funds to be given to ethnic associations to provide for the needs of their community themselves (Rex et al, 51).

6.3 Maslow's theory

Maslow have observed that the chief principle of organisation in human motivational life is the arrangement of basic needs in a hierarchy of less or greater priority. He has set up a hierarchy of five (5) levels of basic needs. Beyond these needs higher level of needs also exist. These include needs for understanding, esthetic appreciation and purely spiritual needs. However in the levels of the five basic needs the person does not feel the second need until the demands of the first need have been satisfied or the third until the second has been satisfied and so on. Maslow's basic needs are as follows:

Physiological needs are biological needs. They consist of needs for oxygen, food, water, and a relatively constant body temperature. They are the strongest needs because if a person were deprived of all needs, the physiological ones would come first in the person's search for satisfaction. When all physiological needs are satisfied and are no longer controlling thoughts and behaviours, the needs for security can become active. Adults have little awareness of their security needs except in times of emergency or periods of disorganization in the social structure (such as widespread rioting). Children often display the signs of insecurity and the need to be safe.

When the needs for safety and for physiological well-being are satisfied, the next class of needs for love, affection and belongingness can emerge. Maslow stated that people seek to overcome feelings of loneliness and alienation. This involves both giving and receiving love, affection and the sense of belonging. When the first three classes of needs are satisfied, the needs for esteem can become dominant. These involve needs for both self-esteem and for the esteem a person gets from others. Humans have a need for a stable, firmly based, high level of self-respect, and respect from others. When these needs are satisfied, the person feels self-confident and valuable as a person in the world. When these needs are frustrated, the person feels inferior, weak, helpless and worthless.

When all of the foregoing needs are satisfied, then and only then are the needs for self-actualization activated. Maslow describes self-actualization as a person's need to be and do that which the person was "born to do." "A musician must make music, an artist must paint, and a poet must write." These needs make themselves felt in signs of restlessness. The person feels on edge, tense, lacking something, in short, restless.

If a person is hungry, unsafe, not loved or accepted, or lacking self-esteem, it is very easy to know what the person is restless about. It is not always clear what a person wants when there is a need for self-actualization (Maslow 1970, 77-104).

6.4 Murray's theory

An American psychologist Murray (1938) developed a theory on personality that was organized in terms of motives, presses and needs. Murray described needs as "potentiality readiness to respond in a certain way under certain given circumstances 1938". Theories on personality based upon needs and motives suggest that our personalities are a reflection of behaviours controlled by needs. While some needs are temporary and changing, other needs are more deeply seated in our nature. Based on Murray's theory, these psychogenic needs function mostly on unconscious level, but play a major role in our personality. However, Murray classified needs into two categories, namely primary and secondary needs. Primary needs are based upon biological demands, such as the need for oxygen, food and water. Secondary needs are generally psychological, such as the need for nurturing, independence and achievement.

Furthermore, based on his theory, Murray, believe that all people have the following needs but each individual tends to have a certain level of each need; firstly ambition needs includes success, accomplishment and overcoming obstacles. Secondly materialistic needs include obtaining things, keeping things, creating things etc. thirdly power needs includes independence and resistance, observing and cooperating with others, or attacking and ridiculing others and controlling others. Fourthly affection needs includes being helped and protected by others, taking care of another person, spending time with other people or having fun with others and last but not least information need includes seeking knowledge and asking questions and educating others (Murray 1938, 14-29).

In concluding this theory, Murray believed that each need is important in and of itself, and can conflict with other needs. For example, the need for dominance (power) may conflict with need for affiliation when overly controlling behaviour may drive away friends, families as well as romantic.

7 RESEARCH QUESTION

Immigrants are significant proportion of the Finnish population. Determining the needs of immigrants/associations and their adaptation into the new society is a special challenge for the authorities and social workers.

On this background, Multicultural Finland, a Swedish consultation group would like to concentrate on helping immigrant associations in the Helsinki-region to meet their practical needs.

How the representatives of immigrants associations in the Helsinki region described their needs?

7.1 Qualitative Method

Generally, qualitative research is an umbrella term that covers a variety of styles of social research, drawing on a variety of disciplines such as sociology, social anthropology and social psychology (Denscombe 2003, 267). Qualitative research is influenced by the researcher's political values. Conversely, other people might argue that such value freedom in social science is either undesirable or impossible. The same sort of argument can arise about 'flexibility'. For some people, this flexibility encourages qualitative researchers to be innovative (Silverman 2000, 2). A qualitative data understood simply as the analysis of words and images rather than numbers (Silverman 2000, 8). Equally, the issues of objectivity, reliability and validity are as relevant to qualitative research as to any other approach (Denscombe, 2003, 273).

The methods used in every empirical study have an essential role and there they should be chosen with great consideration (Hirsjärvi & Hurme 2001, 34). The reason why we chose qualitative was because according to Alitolppa-Niitamo (2004, 70), although qualitative methodology has been criticised for lacking scientific rigor, or as 'subject', and as producing merely 'idiosyncratic impressions of one or two cases, the naturalistic approach provides certain benefits compared to a so-called positivistic approach (Hammerley & Atkinson 1995). The criticism of positivists is often rejected with the claim that positivistic criteria for research produce only a certain kind of science, which is not

better or worse, but which leaves certain perspectives uncovered and too many voices unheard (Denzin & Lincoln 1998) (Alitolppa-Niitamo 2004, 70).

The key and the strength of naturalistic approach is that the socially constructed world is respected by the researcher as such and is not manipulated by purpose. Another aspect by the researcher that supports the use of qualitative methodology is founded on the understanding that human actions are based upon different interpretations or social meanings, in which various intentions, motives, beliefs, rules and values play an important role. Because these interpretations are constantly constructed and reconstructed, the social world cannot be explained by simple causal relationships, but needs to be described in more complex and dynamic terms. The way to do this is to participate as a social actor and to learn about the culture and subculture of the people. By participating in the social world of other people, as researcher comes closer to the meaning of the subject of the study and learns to make her or his own interpretations in how the informants or the subjects of the study interpret the world (Alitolppa-Niitamo 2004, 70-71).

7.2 Data-Gathering Method

Interviewing is a method of data collection that involves researchers asking respondents basically open-ended questions (Zina O-leary 2004, 162). Interview is not as easy as many think, when it comes to conducting an interview there are a number of options with its own strength, weakness, opportunities and limitations. Interviews involve a set of assumptions and understandings about the situation which are not normally associated with a casual conversation (Denscombe 2003, 163). The type of interview used in this research is semi-structured. With semi-structured interviews, the interviewer still has a clear list of issues to be addressed and questions to be answered.

However, with semi-structured interview the interviewer is prepared to be flexible in terms of the order in which the topics are considered, and, perhaps more significantly, to let the interviewee develop ideas and speak more widely on the issues raised by the researcher. The answers are open-ended, and there is more emphasis on the interview elaborating points of interest (Denscombe 2003, 167). As the name suggest, these interviews are neither fully fixed free and are perhaps best seen as flexible (Zina O-leary, 2004, 164). In this case, we started with a defined question but pursue a more conversational style of interview that may see questions in an order more natural to the flow of conversation.

However, we used audio recording in this interview, since it allows us to preserve raw data for review at a later date. It therefore allows us to focus on the question/ answer process at hand (Zina 2004, 169). We interviewed two (2) people from each association.

Semi-structured interview places the emphasis on the informants' personal interpretations and experiences. This supports the aim of this Bachelor's Thesis that is needs described by the immigrant representatives in the Helsinki-region. Semi-structured interview also takes into account that the formed meanings are created in interaction with the interviewer and the informant (Hirsjärve & Hurme 2001, 48). In a semi-structured interview the discussion is focused on certain subjects – certain "themes". It is known in advance that the informants have experienced a certain event and the interview will concentrate on that event. When planning the interview, these themes demand a careful consideration (Hirsjärvi & Hurme 2001, 46-66). The theme of this research is to determine the needs of immigrant associations. The concept of cooperation was also included even though no direct question was asked about the both needs and cooperation.

For successfully implementing this interview, the following were put into consideration, firstly we were at interview places on time meaning if you keep someone waiting, you might miss an appointment and you might never get a second chance, secondly is to set up and checked our equipment, the equipment were tested and set in advance to avoid failure, thirdly is to established rapport, this includes introduction and expression of appreciation and introduced the study, meaning reviewing who the interviewers were the purpose of the study, why his or her involvement is important and approximately how long the interview will last. The final part was the explanation of ethics; these involve assurance of confidentiality and the right to decline to answer any particular questions, and to end the interview upon request (Zina O-leary 2004, 167).

In some interview cases like employers of teachers, they seem to prefer the interview to help them make their decisions (Webster 1982; Bredeson 1983, 8-15; Galbo et al 1986), in spite of challenges to the validity of interviews, particularly unstructured ones (Reilly & Chao 1982, 1-62; Webster 1982; Hunter & Hunter 1984; Taylor & O'Driscoll 1995). Interviews enable employers to make judgements about the applicant's ability to fit with their view of the school's ethos and teaching, and mutual complementarily. They do this because interviews do indeed provide a rich source of information, making employers feel

comfortable in their decision-making, sometimes in spite of the lack of a rigorous search for ability or talent to do the job. The verbal and non-verbal information conveyed in an interview creates an impression, favourable or otherwise. In interviews, the facial expressions of candidates have a significant impact on interviewers, causing them to form opinions and judgements that are not necessarily well considered, but make employers feel comfortable or not with the applicant (Anderson & Shackleton 1990).

Further, verbal ability of candidates strongly correlates with measures of teacher competency identified by principals and other supervisors of teachers; and this is assessable in an interview (Shields & Daniele 1982). Interviews are also rich sources of attributions. Silvester (1997, 61-73) examined these and found that interviewers rated more highly those who took responsibility for any negatives in a consistent, stable way – e.g. those who acknowledged their own mistakes and systematically did something about them. When the interview is structured and focused on a particular specific job, its validity as a selection instrument goes up (Wiesner & Cronshaw 1988, 61; MacDaniel et al 1994, 79).

The data was collected during September, October and November in 2008. Both students (Alhagie and Mavis) participated fully in every session of the data collection. Both of us were interviewers and sometimes we do two interviews per day. The maximum time spent on one interview was forty-five (45) minutes. After each interview, we transcribe but mostly done by the student who lead the interview on that day. Duration of each transcript was three to four (3-4) hours. The total length of the recording was approximately thirty two (32) hours. After the transcription the total number of written text with 1.5, font Arial and font size 11 was 40 pages.

7.3 Participants

Informants or participants for a Bachelor's Thesis can be selected in many different ways. When planning the sampling of participants, the research question, methods and the purpose of the study need to be taken into consideration. We used purposive sampling in this research which aims to find the participants whose qualities and experiences support the realization of the research objective (Research Method Knowledge Base, 2008). The participants in this research were eight (8) people from four (4) immigrant association within Helsinki region.

The participants are from Europe, Africa and Asia. We interviewed four (4) males and four (4) females from the four (4) associations. We did not choose them personally, they were chosen by the association they all individually represent based on the knowledge and experience they have about their group. All the participants were initially contacted via email and telephone by the researchers and the interviews were scheduled according to the preference of the participants. The permission for the interview for its recording and for the data usage was applied for every participant. All the participants were given the consent letter (see appendix 1) before starting the interview. The consent letter was written in the English language, the language which was used to conduct the interview. The people we interviewed were all between 23-60 years old.

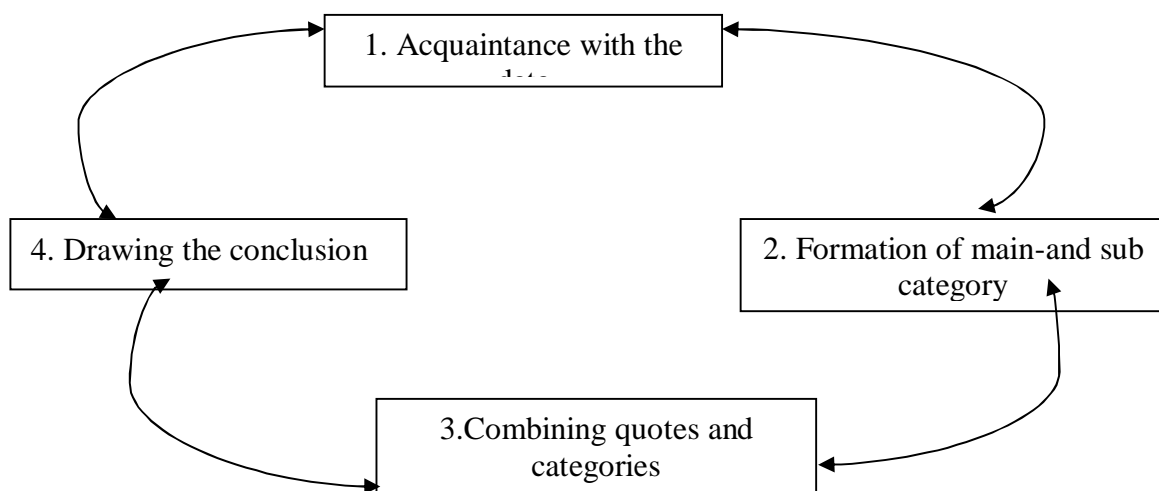
As a result purposive sampling was used, which is applied to those situations where the researcher already know something about the specific people or events and deliberately select particular ones because they are seen as instances that they are likely to produce the most valuable data. In that case, they are selected with a specific purpose in mind and that purpose reflects the particular qualities of the people and events chosen and their relevance to the research topic (Denscombe 2003, 14). According to Webster (1985) dictionary, a sample is a finite part of a statistical population whose properties are studied to gain information about the whole. When dealing with people, it can be defined as a set of respondents or people selected from a larger population for the purpose of a survey. Social researchers are frequently face with fact that they cannot collect data from everyone who is in the category been researched. As a result, they rely on getting evidence from a portion of the whole in the expectation and hope that what is found in that portion applies equally to the rest of the population (Denscombe 2003, 11-12).

7.4 Data Analysis Method

Data analysis in qualitative research means splitting of something into corresponding parts and elements. The mode of analysis depends on what is being analysed-the subject matter and why one is analysing, the purpose or motivation behind the analysis (Kvale 1996, 184). This research was analysed and the data derived from interviews conducted with immigrants associations. These interviews were studied, so that conclusion could be made in relation to theory. Ideally content analysis methodology examines words or phrases within a wide range of texts.

The data was analysed by using content analysis. Since content analysis comprises techniques for reducing texts. Content analysis however a systematic replicable technique for compressing many word of text into less content categorises based on explicit use of coding (Delyser & Dydia 2008, 233-244). Therefore it can be a useful technique for allowing us to discover and described the focus of individuals, groups, institutions, etc. It also allows references to be made which can then be corroborated using other data collection methods.

Content analysis is a scientific method which systematically and objectively aims to create conclusion from the collected data. Since the data of this study was gathered through interviews, the transcription differs from the conventional written text. This means that the written version of the interview includes many characteristics which are typical for spoken language, such as repetition. These distractions need to be somewhat ignored and the essential statements found amongst the data. The emphasis should be placed on what has been said what it really reveals about the topic. The informants' original expressions are important as they can be used as basis for encoding the data but also as quotations to increase the reliability of the findings. With the inductive content analysis, the researcher first divides that he summarise the findings and makes conclusion responding to the research questions (Kylmä & Juvakka 2007, 20-117).



In this Bachelor's Thesis the selected categories appeared both from the topics of the semi-structured interview and from the data itself. For example the topics surrounding needs of representatives of immigrant associations were emphasised in the interview. The questions concerning the challenges and services offered by the associations made the representatives talk of the needs facing them. The most essential expressions which occurred repetitively in the transcripts were coded with underlining and later the similarities were numbered according to the topic. Next the original expressions were simplified and later the most descriptive quotes were selected to be presented as examples of the data. Simplified expressions were gathered together and the group formed the sub-category of the finding.

The table above is an example of how, in this research, the smaller pieces of data such as the original expressions are combined to create sub-categories. First, quotes are made more easily and shorter so that the main idea becomes visible and the other data more manageable. Then the suitable sub-category is created, in this example, the category deals with needs and after together with other two related sub-categories, formed the main category which is needs expressed by representatives of immigrant associations within Helsinki.

Research finding in main and sub categories

From the above categorisation, we arrived at the three (3) needs identified by the representatives of the four (4) immigrant associations. In answering question of the main categories concerning needs, the representatives talked of money, information and lack of members as things hindering the effective functioning of their association. Eight (8) people were interviewed and six of them all spoke of these needs. As researchers we would discuss the recommendations we think if put into consideration, would help in meeting the needs mentioned by the respondent. This research finds three areas which the representatives of the four immigrant associations identified as their primary needs. These four immigrant associations were selected in order to cover all or most of the continent, two (2) were from Africa, one (1) from Europe and one (1) from Asia. We arrived into conclusion and identified these needs which are financial need, information need and membership need. These findings were made through qualitative method by using semi-structured interviews.

The respondent were interviewed by using audio-tape and later transcribed by the researchers. The question were put into categories and through those categories, we were to identify the areas of needs mentioned above. First divided the interview questions into three (3) categories discussed below:

First category: background questions

Second category: needs

Third category: communication

The first category which is background included questions pertaining to name of association, when and where it was formed and the goals. This gave us the clear picture of the association's history. The second category was aimed at knowing what the needs these associations lacked. So, the word need was avoided through the instead we asked of the services they offer, challenged they face and why they are approached. The last category was to see how they receive or disseminate information.

8 FINDINGS

The findings of this Bachelor's Thesis include straight quotes from the respondents, eight (8) of them. These quotes have been selected based on the reflectivity and essentialities in relation to the categories of the findings. These quotes are in the original words of the interviewees. The names and detailed information of the informants were left out in order to protect the informants. Below has been created based on the findings and also divided into sub and main categories of the Bachelor's Thesis.

8.1 Financial needs

Immigrant association perform a number of responsibilities of their members and some of these responsibilities include providing services, developing their members, undertaking basic administrative tasks and generating revenue to finance their activities. The immigrant association interviewed identified finance (money) as one constrains in meeting their needs.

And of course we always need more money, there is only one person working here and is not even full time,.....and eeeeh of course we should working is very very important I should have more time of course to do that and so now let's say I don't do about this institutes but I would like to work more with the museums and and as well as other cultural establishment and and so is the question of time and planning and of course financial resources we need most. (Interviewee 7)

How do I achieve that? aa. am anyway we don't have that much of our financial resources from the governmental level. Our main income at the moment is membership and ...so we have... fee of 10euros per each member that is what we rely on. (Interviewee 3)

The immigrant associations need money in order to make their plans operational. Most of them based on research do not have enough fund or sponsors to carry out their activities. Their only sources of income is the membership, they charge their members and some little fund raising they do engaged in. The fund raising is not a continuous process but the only one they do all participate is the world village festival (Maalima kylässä) organise yearly by KEPA (Service Centre for Development Cooperation) often referred as KEPA, is a service base for nongovernmental organisations.(Ministry for foreign affairs of Finland 2006, 74). In this they sell food, souvenirs from their countries and also meet people from different cultures. The amount raise from these programmes goes to the budget of the association and is used to finance their programmes or to help registered members if in need.

Well, we eeeh in fact, Cambodians friendship association, member of KEPA, do you know kepa? yeah, development centre, yeah kepa, we are the member of kepa, soo when kepa has something, they always send us message or telephone and send all to associations, so we are the member of kepa, and also a member of Caisa cultural centre and alsooo ystävyysseura Liitto and in English, it is the friendship eeeh the aaah belong to because this is the organisers and has member for example Cambodians friendship association, Vietnamese friendship association so all other organising and we weee cooperate with the a-a-a Finnish eeeh foreign ministry which aaah which is our main sponsor. And we have more cooperation with Cambodia Juvenile Organisation in Cambodia, its mainly legal door Juvenile Organisation; these are all we have. (Interviewee 2)

However, the executive committee are responsible for the finance of the association. Clarifying present and future is a process of comparing what is and what should be (Rothwell & William 2004, 128). All the income and outcome of the associations are recorded in the accounts. Though immigrant associations are not profit making associations and the people working there are not paid it, make it difficult to gather enough money. Operating immigrant association is purely voluntary work and the funds of the association are used for operating the association.

As mentioned earlier, the source of income for these associations primary is the membership fees. The membership fees usually paid once a year and usually not all the members do pay the membership fees. There are also other sources of getting income which the immigrant associations could utilise. They can get financial aid from municipalities. Financial aid can be general aid, specified or project aid. This aid is usually meant for financing the basic operation of the association. The association can apply for this from the municipality they are registered, the just has specify clearly in the application for financial aid and what the funds would be used for. The lack of fund has hindered the activities of these immigrant associations. Most of the programmes they embark on are self sponsored. The executive members we interviewed believed that money is one of the needs their associations are currently facing. Though as a non-profit associations, they think if their programmes are sponsored they would make a big impact to the society they are registered.

8.2 Recruiting members

All the eight immigrant association's representatives we interviewed from the four (4) immigrant associations all reiterated that lack of new members to handle the affairs of the association is something lack especially if they the current executives retires. Project success depends on leadership, and the leader has to earn the status of leadership from the people you are working with, as well as be consistent and reliable; the use of techniques can be inspire people of the project than authority to identify what matters to the members of the project (Kendrick 2004, 63). They are in need of members so that the activities of the associations will continue.

So they always need new people as I told you, to join and to help so some of the founding member of Camis may rather take least responsibilities in the future so we need more new people to join and to help us, but I don't know because there are in Finland there are not much Cambodia Cambodian people and the community is very small, we have approximately 200 Cambodian people in Finland. (Interviewee 2)

See if aam like I said, the greatest challenge have to be recruiting membership, right now, there are statically about 300 Ghanaians residents in Finland across Finland, but in Helsinki area. (Interviewee 5)

From the above quotes, one could ascertain that not only immigrant associations but every well run association or organisation depends upon interested and involved members for its success. Each new member will bring in fresh ideas and different perspective for the association. A big challenge for the immigrant association is recruiting new members. According to Young (2005, 24), recruitment is not easy and not a simple thing to do, it is an on-going activity. To recruit new members in an association is not an easy task especially with immigrant association. In general people need to be motivated before they could join any association. The immigrant associations sometimes use functions like party, as a fertile ground to recruit new members as many people attend parties than general meetings or board meeting. Although recruiting members is very important need for these association but these associations should also emphasised on retention of members they already got. Recruitment might be easy but retention is a bit more challenging. The long time members of the associations should offer experience and while the new members which might be the younger ones benefit of the entire association as the diversity among members could always be a key factor in attracting new members and retaining them.

8.3 Information needs

Information could be defined in terms of tools, processes or knowledge (Bates 2002, 1-16). According to Krikelas (1983, 5-20), information need is the recognition of the existence of uncertainty in decision making. Information need also refers to the extent to which information is required to solve problems, as well as the degree of expressed satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the information (Ehikhamenor 1990, 149-161). Ehikhamenor defined information seeking behaviour as any activity of an individual that is undertaken to identify a message that satisfies a perceived need. Information use occurs when information acquired by a person to satisfy an information need is actually put into use. Information is usually obtained from information sources, which are the carriers of information.

According to Wilson (2000, 49-55), information needs are influenced by a variety of factors such as the range of information sources available; the uses to which the information will be put; the background, motivation, professional orientation and individual characteristics of the user. Other factors are the socio-political, economic, legal and regulatory systems

surrounding the user, as well as the consequences of information use. The quality of sources of information available to the user is also important because relevant sources are most likely to beget useful information. Information sources are efficient if they provide relevant, useful, specific and accurate information that could help users solve their problems. Free flow of information is one of the needs this research concluded. The immigrant associations we interviewed pin-point information between them and their members, as well as other associations and authorities as something very lacking.

Aaah we very much rely on testivesti, like aaah telephone, text message by telephone and aah we are trying to improve internet aaamm by sending message to people but not everybody is very much use to this, so at the moment telephone is what we use most but aaah we are trying to our members to join to internet, is more cheaper. (Interviewee 4)

Eehh of course is the more information like I have told we have this magazine, which is printed twice a year, I have we have the internet or website and of course we participate in different kinds of fairs, like now go this very big travel 2009 in Messukeskus in Helsinki. (Interviewee 7)

As immigrant associations the best way for them to encourage people and their members to actively participate is to communicate and share information as often as possible about upcoming events, on-going meetings and other ways for them to get involved. Although within themselves, they are able to communicate to some extent, but communication or sharing information with other association is what is most lacking. The medium of communication the immigrant associations are using mostly is text messaging, telephone calls and word of mouth. Text messaging is the most popular, as most of them use that to reach to their members in many instances. Telephone calls are usually not very common as they are expensive and most of them could not afford that. It is due to the cost of telephone and text messaging that these associations sometimes rely on spreading information by word of mouth.

Although, all these associations have WebPages but it does not serve as the best way to spread information. The primary reason for this is that most of their target group (members) do not visit the WebPages to get information. The fact that the WebPages are not frequently updated is also a contributing factor why they are not accessing very much. Secondly, the fact that nobody is paid to update and put new information on the WebPages is also a factor why the WebPages are not updated frequently. Based on the findings of this research, there is no free flow of information among immigrant association.

Most of them are operating on their own. Although the associations are not communicating their activities to each other but all of them are doing well to inform their members in general meetings, or by sending text messages to all their members or minuting their members. Even though these associations are trying to spread and get information from their members and the concern authorities, they all view that information is one of the needs that could make them function better. Lacking information makes their operation very challenging and difficult.

9 DISCUSSION

Immigrant associations are formed primarily to foster unity, cooperation and to provide practical help and support to their members. Based on our findings, the immigrant associations had faced different hindrance which came out during the interview. Among the things which have been aroused as challenges towards these four (4) immigrant associations are: Finance in terms of money, inadequate members and inadequate information:

This research has focused primary on “needs described by the representatives of immigrant associations in the Helsinki-region”. It is also concentrated on the associations formed by immigrants or on their behalf but actively run by them. All the associations interviewed are voluntary and were not formed for profit making purpose. The aim of this research was to acquire an overview of basic needs or problems facing immigrant associations. These needs were identified and in the discussion and will recommend some alternatives that if put into consideration the immigrant association might solve some if not all the needs mentioned in the findings.

The study looked at the most common form immigrant associations within Helsinki. The most common form is based on nationality. All those from the same country, form an association like Ghanaians, Gambian living in Finland. Although all the immigrant associations claimed to open membership to other nationalities but only few other nationalities are members and these are mainly Finns who act as advisers to the associations or those Finns who are married to immigrants.

There is an urge to form associations by immigrant all over the globe. This urge is translated as need, just as Maslow and Murray pointed out in the literature review. As Maslow (1970) put it, "theory of needs, the immigrant associations provide safety and belongingness to its members". These members see themselves as outsiders from the host society and sometimes feel insecure and excluded from the community. These associations formed by people from their home country and whose goals are to promote integration, reduce prejudices and provide practical help and support to their members which are mainly immigrants. In these associations, they find safety and affection. Maslow (1970) maintained that safety needs arises when all physiological needs are satisfied then the need of security become active. Also if that need too is satisfied then follow need for love, affection and belongingness. These are exactly what the immigrant associations provide to their members.

In connection to Rex Theory, the need for the Spanish to form an association in Netherlands could be connected to the need why an association was formed by the Cambodians in the Helsinki region, which is today actively run by the Cambodians. As they just emerged from conflict, their citizens scattered all over the world and some of them wanted to re-connect with their families. Currently, there are many immigrants living in Finland, such as the Cambodians, Gambians, Ghanaians etc, the need to form immigrant association became relevant, in order to connect with culture and welfare of their people, just as the Portuguese in France and Spanish in the Netherlands did.

Furthermore, the theoretical background of this thesis relates to the connection between social work and immigrant associations. The observation made by Cheethan on the challenged faced by the British social workers in contacting immigrant groups is relevant in this argument. The social workers have contributed to the policies and welfare of immigrants associations, their concern in helping minority group. The primary focus of social work as Drachman argues, has been the conceptualization and successful integration of immigrants just the same as one objective in forming immigrant association, this is where they are connected.

Although, the purpose of this research was to look into the needs expressed by these representatives of the four immigrant association in Helsinki which primarily turn out to be

financial, information and recruitment but on the other hand too they highlighted the purpose of coming together, achievements they have registered despite their short comings and cooperation with other organisation. Cooperation according to (dictionary.com) is an act or instance of working or acting together for a common purpose or benefit. The four (4) associations have all cooperated with Service Centre for development cooperation (KEPA) in organising Maalima Kyllässä, known as world village festival, which is organised yearly. The festival offers views and possibilities as well as music, circus, dance, theatre, art and other activities. It also offers new perspective on tolerant, multiculturalism, development cooperation affecting everyday life.

The participation of immigrant association in this festival is not only limited in raising funds but primarily it provide them the opportunity to show their culture and teach the second generation of immigrants about their culture. Maintaining their culture is in line with an American psychologist (Murray 1983) theory of secondary need, because the associations sees it as nurturing their ideas, customs and practices which they nurture into younger ones who in turn will maintain the same standard when they take mantle to run the affairs of the association, this is perfectly executed, it is measured as a great achievement, that is why cooperating with KEPA is very important to them.

Maslow (1970) suggests that, all human beings either immigrant or natives have a need for a stable, firmly based, highly level of self respect and respect from others. Unless these needs are met, the person does not feel self confident and valuable in the community. Recognising this fact, the immigrant associations are working tirelessly to encourage self esteem in their members, by standing for them and making them feel comfortable and secure in the host society. The research on immigrant associations in Helsinki-region is a formal kind. Associations in an immigrant community context should be looked as one of the means through which the culture and meaning system of the immigrant community is expressed. The representatives interviewed, all spoke the desire to promote their cultures and languages, their civilisation promoting bilateral relationship with host country and as well as maintaining tie and helping to implement projects in their country of origin.

However these immigrant associations have more than a decade of experience in organising social events for their members. They organise events like soccer tournaments, cultural programmes, picnics and organising venues for meetings. They also function as mutual assistance to their members, playing a very vital role in helping immigrants to adjust and settle in Finland. The Immigrant associations though have limited resources which is mainly derived from membership fees but they do also engaged in some form of economic assistance within themselves especially to their full fledged members who might be in need. A classical example is garnering fund to help a member pay legal fees or sometimes in the case of African Immigrants transporting their deceased to their home countries for burials. One of the biggest challenges to these associations in the future is clearly stated in our findings but we will discuss a bit here. There is a big need for these associations to increase the human and financial resources in order to allow them to carry on the institutional, philanthropic and continue organising activities they want to carry out. This has to be done while on the other hand they maintain the current, close ties to their membership. They should maintained strategies for raising funds, recruiting members and free flow of information among members. We will discuss our recommendations in achieving these goals.

Moreover, the Bachelor's Thesis is usually student's first academic research writing in which the data gathering were done independently and the explored phenomenon is studied more thoroughly. It is however somehow self-evident that effect of the process is significant to our personal growth. This research has brought new perspectives to our attention which ultimately acted our way of thinking. The former unconscious concepts are replaced with new found awareness on the importance functions and formation of association. Prior to this research our concept was that forming and running an association was easy and could be done by anybody. The representatives of the immigrant association in Helsinki enable us to understand that running an association is very difficult considering all their short coming, in fact they made aware that formation is not just an easy task considering all the paper work, sacrifice and commitment it demands.

One of our objectives in this research was to bring the unique awareness of the needs of immigrant associations in Helsinki region to the attention of authorities and the general public through the guidance of Multicultural Finland (MF), a working group.

This research has given a voice to four (4) immigrant associations and eight (8) representatives and hopefully the opinions they expressed concerning their needs are heard by the professional or authorities working for the advancement of immigrant associations in Finland. Offering immigrant with tailor made programmes needs to be questioned instead they should consult immigrant associations on their needs to that they could be fully serve base on their needs on their associations and members.

The fact is as single individuals the possibilities to create meaningful changes are very limited, but through our profession and actions we have the opportunity to influence the working community in which we will work as future professional social workers. Immigrant and immigration issues have always divided society into pro and cons, and the representatives of immigrant associations are aware of these issues and they are working hard through their associations to combat these issues by portraying good images of their associations. By choosing this topic as immigrant students, we are contributing our quota in raising awareness to the needs of immigrant associations to the authorities and the general public.

Furthermore, our recommendation would be the following; we would recommend some tips in raising fund to meet the financial needs of these associations. This is because money is a big need to these immigrant associations. The following recommendations are practical examples of ways to raise money, Charge membership dues, although most of these associations are charging membership dues but the amount is too small, also they should print and sell association's T-shirts to members and non-members, They should Sell advertising space in association WebPages and newsletter and seek sponsorship from local businessmen. If the above recommendations are put in place, it will help in meeting the financial needs of immigrant associations.

In order for immigrant associations to attract new members and maintain their services for longer period of time, we would recommend the following; Firstly immigrant association should make visible changes as some people are more impressed with an association that works together and gets results. Some people need to see visible results of what an association could do before they would volunteer to join. Secondly, it is very important for associations to give feed backs to their members.

If they complete a project, it is important to let their members know what they accomplish. They could do this by using newsletters or announcing it in their parties and meetings. When some people realise what the association can accomplish, they are likely to be inspired to join and participate. Thirdly for immigrant associations to attract new members, they should be responsive and well coming. Lastly they should motivate their members by making them important. They should make sure all their members irrespective of status feels welcome at meetings or other gatherings. When people feel welcome and respected, they encourage others to join. It is our fervent believe that if the immigrant associations consider the above recommendations and implement them, then they would attract new members that will in future stir the affairs of the association. Then the association will continue to serve the purpose they were formed.

In order to have free flow of information between immigrant association and their members, as well as the authorities, we will recommend the following; firstly to have consistent logo, so that people know the information is from this particular association. Secondly to have newsletter- the immigrant associations should have newsletters that will accept article from members, include committee reports, advertise events and to invite people to write columns, to advertise events in local newspapers for example six degrees, schools etc. Thirdly to extend invitation to associations, people, about their upcoming events. Also they should participate in events organise by their council, other groups and distribute invitations, flyers, bulleting and other publicity materials to all those concern and make sure they all receive them. With the above recommendations, the most important thing to remember is that every association faces some setbacks and growing pain. The immigrant associations should recognise these needs and improve upon it for the future. Finally, we would recommend for further studies on this topic

10 ETHICAL ISSUES

10.1 Trustworthiness

According to Gibbs (2006, 239-249), however, the issue of trustworthiness cannot be avoided without the theory of knowledge approach of the research. All sorts of data that we will use for the thesis will be from responsible sources and valid. Social researchers should be ethical in the collection of their data (Denscombe 2003, 134). In conducting this research, the welfare of the participants was taken into great consideration. However, the fact that the participants are human beings, then it becomes a responsibility of the researchers to protect the participants from any harm or effect from questions that will be asked and the environment the interview will take place (Jackson 2006, 34)

The most important thing to ensure trustworthiness is confidentiality. In observing the principles of confidentiality, it means keeping information given by or about an individual in the course of a professional relationship and secret from others. This is seen as central to the maintenance of trust between professionals and service user. Furthermore, participants have been given an informed consent form before the interviews to enable them with sufficient information for making an informed choice. Information had been offered in accessible form that avoided the use of technical terms and other language difficulties. As the researcher collected data from people with different cultural background, the researcher has maintained as (Hostetler 1997,71) suggest, compromise which can be a way of preserving relationships with people, as it can show trust and loyalty to democratic dialogue as means to settle disagreements. In this situation the researcher adhere a great degree of compromise as to where and when the data would be collected

10.2 Validity

Validity is another word for truth. In this research we made sure that all the data we gathered were factual to avoid doubt. Sometimes one doubts the validity of an explanation because the researcher has clearly made no attempt to deal with the contrary case (Silverman 2000, 175). The validity of any measures how well the research answers to the research questions, this research is no exception.

In qualitative research, the validity can be divided into two different aspects namely exterior and interior validity. The exterior looks at the relation between the research questions, the findings and conclusions. This in a nutshell means the transferability of the findings, how well the research has succeeded in transferring the data into conclusions.

In practice this cannot be evaluated only by the researcher, since it mainly depend on the reader's assessment. The direct quotation from our respondents will proof the validity of this research in no small measure. These quotations are authentic and they represent the views of members of immigrants association in Helsinki region, those we interviewed. The interior validity refers on the suitability of the used method, concepts and theory. It creates the bases of credibility on the research that can and should be evaluated critically by the researcher (Hämeen-Anttila & Katajvuori 2007, 287; Parilla 2002)

The background of the research contributed to the validity of this research because the respondents feel more comfortable to speak with us. They had no sense of fear and they spoke and asked more clarification if the question is understood by them. One of the respondents even told us that we have to be active members of immigrant association, as our skills would be needed by them.

After transcribing the interview, we sent the transcribed material to all the respondents for them to double check whether the views represent them and all consented that it was their words. For the quotations we used in the findings and discussions, again these quotes were sent to them and they accepted that they were not misquoted. The above facts contributed immensely to the validity of this research.

However, cultural competence is part of inner validity and it refers to research's ability to internalise the findings to a certain level. The researcher has to have an adequate amount of knowledge about the subject without losing objectivity. (Isaksson 2008) argues that truly objective studies are impossible to follow and one should be cautious of one's own limitation instead of stating that person opinions will be ignored and thus do not affect the researcher process. In this research, like those sceptics, our own experience and attitudes do come across in our Bachelor's Thesis.

As both of us are immigrants and registered members of immigrant associations, our main aim was to maintain objectivity, open-minds and professionalism. This is because in no way, do we want the validity of this research to be compromise.

10.3 Reliability

Reliability refers to the degree of consistency with which instances are assigned to the same category by different observers or by the same observer on different occasions. Reliability is very important in a tape-recorded interview which we did. This is because if people are tape-recorded and transcripts may be gravely weakened by a failure to transcribe apparently trivial, but often pauses and overlaps (Silverman 2000, 188). The Bachelor's Thesis as any other study should be trustworthy. The evaluation of trustworthiness is a necessary part of the study report as it enables the readers to evaluate the accuracy of findings and importance of the study for further utilization. According to (Kylma & Juvakka 2007, 127), trustworthiness can be evaluated by using general reliability criteria for qualitative study.

Nevertheless, the reliability of qualitative research could be evaluated by reviewing content analysis. The content analysis should be done systematically with deliberation and by following researcher's predetermined criterion. The process should be reported in details, so that another researcher with the same data would end up in similar content analysis. (Hameen-Anttilla & Katajvuori 2007, 287) The examples which represent the formation of sub and main categories of our findings increase the reliability of this research. All the interviews conducted were tape recorded and anything or word that was unclear, we listen it again and again until the actual words are understood to avoid any misunderstanding. We keep the principle of double checking and this is also the reliability and validity of this research.

10.4 Ethical considerations

According to Silverman (2000), ethical awareness is a fundamental part of the professional practice of social workers. Their ability and commitment to act ethically is an essential aspect of the quality of service offered to those who use social work services. There are a number of key phrases that describe the system of ethical protections that the contemporary social establishment has created to try to protect better the rights of their research participants.

The principle of voluntary participation requires that people not be coerced into participating in research. This is especially relevant where researchers had previously relied on 'captive audiences' for their subject prisons, universities, and places like that.

Consent form essentially this means that prospective research participants must be fully informed about the procedures and risks involved in research and must give their consent to participate. Ethical standards also require that researchers not put participants in a situation where they might be at risk of harm as a result of their participation. Harm can be defined as both physical and psychological. There are two standards that are applied in order to help protect the privacy of research participants. (Denscombe 2003, 139-140)

Our consent form included our true identity as researchers so that the participants will know who is conducting this research and where they can be contacted and the organization under auspices the research is being contact. There are statement providing enough detail for the participants to understand the aims methods and anticipated outcome of the research. The participants will know in advance what we expect them to undertake and the reward they might expect for their effort.

Although we did not conceal the names of immigrant associations we interviewed, we decided to conceal the names, gender or any other personal details of individual we interviewed. This is the reason that we will put any name beside the quotations we used in the findings and discussions. Ethical considerations in any research pose a big challenge especially when you consider the cultural background of the researchers. Time was a big factor, as Africans we never wanted to fail any scheduled time as this affect the ethics of the research, but our challenge was that most of the respondents kept on changing time and rescheduling venues. This pose a bit threat about the quality of recording especially when we have to conduct one interview inside a car but the recording turned very good.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Consent letter

We are students of Laurea University of Applied Sciences, and we are conducting interview for our Bachelor's thesis titled "determining the needs of immigrant associations in Helsinki-region". We are conducting this research for Multicultural Finland, a Swedish People's Party working on multiculturalism in Finland. Our task is to interview immigrant associations in Helsinki region, to find out what a society like Multicultural Finland could concentrate on in order to meet their practical needs.

The interview will be tape recorded and all data would be kept confidential and will not be given to anyone without your permission after completing this research. If you participate in this interview, your association will benefit from Multicultural Finland by publishing the activities of your organization on their Website .Multicultural Finland will contact you for their future activities and vice versa, you could also contact them for advice or professional assistance.

For more information about this research, you can please contact the following students:

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I have read and understood the information written in this consent letter.

1. _____

Signature of participant

Date and place

2. _____

Signature of participant

Date and place

Appendix 2: Semi-structured Interview questions

Background

- What is the name of the association you represent?
- How many members do you have? men and women
- What are the goals of your association?

Needs

- What kind of services do you offer?
- Why do people approach your association?
- How do you achieve your goals?
- What are some of the things your association will need to make it function?
- What are the likely challenges of your association in the next few years?
- What kind of motivation do you get as a group?

Cooperation

- What kind of co-operation do your association have with other organisation
- What means of communication do you use?

Appendix 3: Foreigners, Asylum-seekers and refugees living in Finland:

Country of citizenship:	1990	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Russia	.	20 552	22 724	24 336	24 998	24 626	24 621	25 326	26 211
Estonia	.	10 839	11 662	12 428	13 397	13 978	15 459	17 599	20 006
Sweden	6 051	7 887	7 999	8 037	8 124	8 209	8 196	8 265	8 349
Somalia	44	4 190	4 355	4 537	4 642	4 689	4 704	4 623	4 852
China	312	1 668	1 929	2 086	2 372	2 613	2 992	3 382	3 978
Thailand	239	1 306	1 540	1 784	2 055	2 289	2 605	2 994	3 470
Germany	1 568	2 201	2 327	2 461	2 565	2 626	2 792	2 978	3 318
Turkey	310	1 784	1 981	2 146	2 287	2 359	2 621	2 886	3 182
United Kingdom	1 365	2 207	2 352	2 535	2 651	2 655	2 762	2 910	3 143
Iraq	107	3 102	3 222	3 420	3 485	3 392	3 267	3 045	3 036
Former Serbia and Monte negro	.	1 204	1 935	2 177	2 782	3 336	3 321	3 340	2 986
Iran	336	1 941	2 166	2 363	2 531	2 555	2 562	2 602	2 611
India	270	756	892	1 012	1 169	1 343	1 619	1 990	2 333
United States	1 475	2 010	2 110	2 146	2 149	2 040	2 086	2 199	2 296
Afghanistan	3	386	719	1 061	1 312	1 588	1 833	2 011	2 197
Viet Nam	292	1 814	1 778	1 713	1 661	1 538	1 657	1 811	2 010
Bosnia and Herzegovina	.	1 627	1 668	1 701	1 694	1 641	1 584	1 599	1 658
Others	13 883	25 600	27 218	27 739	27 129	26 869	29 171	32 179	37 072
Total	26 255	91 074	98 577	103 682	107 003	108 346	113 852	121 739	132 708

Table 1: Foreigners in Finland (Statistics Finland 2007.)

Appendix 4: Asylum-seekers and refugees in Finland as at the year 2007.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Asylum-seekers	973	1 272	3 106	3 170	1 651	3 443	3 221	3 861	3 574	2 324	1 505
Decisions on asylum ¹⁾											
- Asylum granted	4	7	29	9	4	14	7	29	12	38	68
- Residence permit granted	277	372	467	458	809	577	487	771	585	580	792
- No asylum or residence permit granted	278	240	1 330	2 121	1 045	2 312	2 443	3 418	2 472	1 481	961
Family reunification											
- Opinions in favour/decisions in favour ²⁾	509	240	186	214	475	363	303	162	355	129	267
- Adverse opinions/decisions ²⁾	299	769	357	302	762	324	499	746	316	209	136
Quota	500	600	650	700	750	750	750	750	750	750	750
- Additional quota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refugees received by municipalities ³⁾	1 406	958	1 189	1 212	1 857	1 558	1 202	1 662	1 501	1 142	1 793
Immigrating as refugees, from 1973-	15 476	16 434	17 623	18 835	20 692	22 250	23 452	25 114	26 615	27 757	29 550

1) Decisions of the Finnish Immigration Service

2) From 1 May 1999, decisions

3) Refugees by quota, asylum-seekers having received a favourable decision and persons admitted under the family reunification scheme

Table 2: Asylum-seekers and refugees (Statistics Finland 2007)