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An initial exploration of the adaptation status of African new residents in Taiwan

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While the presence of African new residents in Taiwan may not be as pronounced as that of Southeast Asian counterparts, a noteworthy number have settled in diverse regions of the island in recent years. The adaptation experiences of these African residents remain under-explored in academic literature, rendering this study a pioneering effort in examining this pertinent subject. Through meticulous in-depth interviews with 15 African residents, this research delves into multifaceted dimensions of their adjustment in Taiwan, encompassing social, cultural, quotidian practices, civic engagement, and professional integration. Our findings reveal both challenges and competencies in the adaptation process. While certain adaptive difficulties have been identified, the majority of respondents exhibit resilience and coping mechanisms. Drawing from our primary insights, the study subsequently offers specific recommendations for governmental agencies and relevant institutions, advocating measures to strengthen resident adaptation and foster a more inclusive Taiwanese society.

Key words: African new residents, Taiwan, adaptation status, cultural differences, language barriers.

INTRODUCTION

In an increasingly interconnected world, the phenomenon of global migration has become a significant force shaping the demographics and cultural landscape of various societies (Castles et al., 2014; Vertovec, 2007; Czaika and de Haas, 2014). As people from different countries and cultures move and settle in new environments, understanding their adaptation and integration experiences becomes paramount to ensuring social cohesion and the well-being of all members of the community (Berry, 1997). Taiwan, a vibrant and economically advanced society, has witnessed an influx of residents from different corners of the globe (Lan, 2006; Wang and Chang, 2002), including Africa.

The number of African residents in Taiwan remains relatively small compared to residents from other regions, such as Southeast Asia and mainland China. According to the statistics from the National Immigration Agency (NIA) of the Ministry of the Interior (2023), the average number of inbound visitors during the last ten year remains a steady increase from 2011 close to 9,000 to more than 12,000 in 2019 except for the last three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The purposes for African residents coming to Taiwan can be diverse. The purposes for African people coming to Taiwan, in descending order, are business, tourism, visiting relatives, attending conferences, and pursuing education.

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Gaining a comprehensive understanding of the demographic profiles of African residents in Taiwan presents challenges due to their dispersed settlement across the island. Notwithstanding, one can broadly delineate the African population in Taiwan into two principal categories:

1) Long-term residents and entrepreneurs: This segment predominantly consist of individuals who migrated to Taiwan for professional or business endeavors and have been long-term residents, spanning over two decades. A significant portion of this group has established familial roots, often through matrimony with Taiwanese nationals. Furthermore, a considerable number within this category have either secured Taiwanese citizenship or possess some form of residency status, be it temporary or permanent.

2) Academic pursuers: This group encompasses individuals who ventured to Taiwan bolstered by scholarships, holding student visas. Their primary academic ambitions range across fields like agriculture, engineering, international relations, and international business, with a subset aiming to master Mandarin Chinese. Post-academic completion, a segment seeks employment within Taiwan, aligning with their academic specializations. Successful employment often culminates in a visa transition from student to work status. Their professional roles in the Taiwanese corporate sphere are diverse, encompassing positions like international sales executives, regional managers, and engineers. Notably, their linguistic proficiency in Mandarin augments their employability, serving as a cornerstone of their professional success in the Taiwanese job market.

In summation, two pivotal motivations underscore the African diaspora's attraction to Taiwan. The first hinges on the allure of Taiwan's technologically advanced and rule-of-law-driven market landscape. Concurrently, the second motivation pertains to the academic opportunities proffered by Taiwan's eminent institutions of higher learning.

While the African immigrant population may not be as large as other groups in Taiwan, their experiences provide valuable insights into the complexities of cultural adaptation and integration. This paper aims to explore the adaptation status of African residents in Taiwan, delving into critical aspects such as language acquisition, cultural acculturation, employment opportunities, and social support networks. Therefore, this research seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the adaptation experiences of African residents in Taiwan by examining the critical areas of language proficiency, cultural adaptation, employment, and social support. Through this exploration, we aim to contribute valuable insights to the growing body of literature on immigrant adaptation and inform the development of policies and interventions that can foster a successful integration and well-being of the African residents in Taiwan.

Taiwan's legislative framework governing residents maintains a universalistic approach, without specific differentiation between nationals from African countries and those from other global regions. International students aspiring for academic pursuits in Taiwan are eligible to procure a student visa, subject to annual renewals. The stipulations governing work visas, as well as other visa categories, are consistently applied across all foreign nationals irrespective of origin. Notably, nationals from African countries that diplomatically recognize Taiwan benefit from a visa exemption for short-term stays, ranging from 30 to 90 days. (Bureau of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan, 2023)

Research objectives

In the backdrop of Taiwan's growing appeal as a destination for foreign residents—including a noticeable influx of individuals from Africa—it has become pertinent to address the adaptation experiences of these newer inhabitants. Factors such as cultural nuances, distinct societal norms, and linguistic barriers make their integration into Taiwanese society a subject of considerable interest. This study aims to comprehensively examine the adaptation trajectories of African residents in Taiwan, encompassing multiple facets such as political, economic, societal, and cultural dimensions. The ensuing research objectives have been delineated as follows:

1) To understand the living and working conditions of African residents in Taiwan, including their employment status, financial situation, housing conditions, and reasons for settling in Taiwan.

2) To explore the adaptation status of African residents in Taiwanese society, including language barriers, racial discrimination, cultural differences, political inclusiveness and other related factors.

3) To examine the support and assistance provided by the government and social institutions to African residents, and whether these services meet their needs.

4) To analyze the cultural adaptation status of African residents in Taiwan, including the impact of cultural differences on their daily life and work.

With this study, our objectives are to delve deeper into the adaptation experiences of African residents in Taiwan. In doing so, we seek to furnish pertinent public agencies and the wider society with insights and recommendations, thereby enhancing support mechanisms for foreign residents and facilitating their smoother adaptation into Taiwanese society.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A literature review on the topic of African residents in

Taiwan and their adaptation, including relevant academic journal articles, government statistical reports, social surveys, and related studies on ethnic and cultural diversity of residents are conducted. The literature review provides important information and insights on the adaptation of African residents in Taiwan, including their living and working conditions, social adaptation, support from government and social institutions, cultural adaptation, and more. As argued by Massey et al. (1999), migration cannot be understood as the action of individual decision-makers, but rather as a process that's embedded within broader social structures. These studies not only offer an in-depth understanding of the situation of African residents in Taiwan but also provide recommendations for local governments and societies to improve support and assistance for foreign residents, enabling them to better integrate into Taiwanese society.

Historically, the majority of residents in Taiwan have come from Southeast Asia and mainland China, largely due to geographical proximity and shared cultural and linguistic roots (Momesso, 2016; Wang and Chang, 2002). However, the past few decades have seen an increase in the number of African residents, driven by a combination of factors such as Taiwan's growing economic ties with African countries (Rich, 2009), educational opportunities (Ministry of Education, 2019), and the pursuit of better living standards (Everington, 2022). As this trend continues, the adaptation status of African residents in Taiwan becomes a topic of increasing relevance and importance for both researchers and policymakers.

Adapting to a new environment involves various challenges and processes, including learning a new language, adjusting to cultural norms, finding employment, and building social connections (Sam and Berry, 2010). The ability to speak and understand the local language is a fundamental factor in the adaptation process, as it directly influences the ease of navigating daily life, accessing resources, and forming relationships with locals (Chiswick and Miller, 2001). In Taiwan, African residents face the challenge of learning Mandarin Chinese, a language vastly different from their native tongues, both in terms of structure and script (Lan, 2018). This paper will examine the factors affecting language acquisition among African residents, as well as the impact of language proficiency on their overall adaptation experience.

Cultural adaptation serves as a cardinal component in the intricate tapestry of settling into a new environment, necessitating both the navigation and wholehearted acceptance of the traditions, core values, and societal anticipations of the receiving community (Ward et al., 2001; Gatwiri et al., 2021). In the context of Taiwan, African residents might grapple with an array of challenges rooted in local cultural nuances, evidenced in multifaceted realms of daily existence - ranging from culinary predilections and modalities of communication to entrenched societal etiquettes and foundational beliefs (Akyeampong, 2000; Anshan, 2015). This study will explore the cultural adaptation experiences of African residents, highlighting the challenges they face and the strategies they employ to overcome them.

The availability of viable employment opportunities and the assurance of economic stability play a pivotal role in the seamless adaptation of new residents, as they not only bestow a foundational sense of security but also act as catalysts in fostering deeper social integration and interconnectedness within the host society (Kogan, 2006). Our research will investigate the labor market experiences of African residents in Taiwan, focusing on the barriers they face in securing jobs, the types of employment they obtain, and the role of education and skills in shaping their economic outcomes.

Compared to cultural, social, or educational dimensions, political integration of new residents is an aspect that often receives limited attention (Dollmann, 2022). In their study, Just and Anderson (2014) assert that prevailing societal attitudes, whether characterized by hostility or openness towards immigrants, have a substantial impact on the landscape of immigrant political engagement. These attitudes shape the potential social costs and political benefits linked to political participation. A friendly opinion climate towards immigrants is argued to not only foster political action among immigrants but also to facilitate the transformation of political dissatisfaction into active political engagement.

Lastly, social support networks emerge as indispensable pillars during the adaptation journey, offering not only emotional sustenance and pragmatic aid but also instilling a profound sense of belonging and communal affinity within the individual, as underscored by Ager and Strang (2008). This study will examine the social networks and community involvement of African residents in Taiwan, exploring the sources of support they rely on, the challenges they face in building connections, and the role of community organizations in facilitating their integration.

RESEARCH METHODS

At present, there remains a significant dearth of research and information regarding the adaptation of African residents in Taiwan. In order to study this topic and the proposed objectives, this study uses in-depth interviews to understand the individual situations of the respondents through one-on-one interviews. I opt for a qualitative research methodology, particularly in-depth interviews. The rationale behind this choice stems from the logistical challenges associated with researching this specific demographic. Given the relatively limited number of African residents in Taiwan, attempting a large-scale quantitative study encompassing over 150 participants would be a daunting, if not an almost impossible task. Moreover, qualitative methods, like in-depth interviews, allow for a richer and more nuanced understanding of the personal experiences, stories, and challenges faced by these residents. This approach ensures that even with a much smaller sample size, the insights gleaned are both profound and representative.

In-depth interviews offer a range of benefits when studying the adaptation status of new African residents in Taiwan. These interviews would provide comprehensive insights into the personal experiences, opinions, and feelings of the interviewees which allow researchers to better understand the complexities of cultural adaptation. The flexibility of this method also enables researchers to somehow tailor their questions to each participant, exploring different aspects of adaptation based on the interviewee's responses, leading to more accurate and insightful information. Furthermore, in-depth interviews are effective in establishing rapport and trust with interviewees, making them feel comfortable and encouraging them to share their honest opinions and experiences openly, which is essential when discussing sensitive topics like adaptation. By conducting one-on-one in-depth interviews, researchers can uncover unique perspectives on adaptation that might not be captured in group settings or through quantitative research methods. Analyzing data collected from multiple in-depth interviews can help identify recurring themes and patterns related to adaptation, shedding light on the broader experiences of African residents in Taiwan. In-depth interviews are well-suited to explore complex and sensitive topics related to adaptation, such as language barriers, cultural differences, discrimination, and personal struggles, which may be difficult to address through other research methods. Additionally, in-depth interviews can provide insights into how African residents navigate and make sense of their new environment in Taiwan, revealing the strategies and resources they use to adapt and integrate into the local society.

Sample selection and sample overview

Selection of interviewees

The research focuses on African newcomers in Taiwan as its primary subjects. To ensure a diverse and comprehensive sample, participants are meticulously recruited through various channels, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations, and other networks deeply rooted within the immigrant community. Engaging these entities not only broadens the outreach but also aids in accessing a more representative cross-section of this demographic. Once identified, these participants are then engaged in face-to-face interviews, allowing for an in-depth exploration of their experiences and insights.

Sample overview

The study encompasses a cohort of 15 African nationals currently domiciled in Taiwan. The demographic profile of participants spans an age spectrum of 20 to 50 years, with a gender composition manifesting 11 males and 4 females.

These individuals originate from a diverse array of African nations, notably Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Uganda, Senegal, and Kenya. Their tenure in Taiwan exhibits variance, ranging from a minimum of one year to a maximum of eight years. Within this cohort, a segment is enrolled in tertiary educational institutions, undertaking both undergraduate and postgraduate courses, while others are embedded in various professional sectors, inclusive of entrepreneurial ventures, industrial employment, and pedagogical roles in English-language cram institutions. The primary impetuses for their relocation to Taiwan are delineated as academic aspirations, vocational pursuits, and matrimonial affiliations. Each qualitative interview transpires over an approximate duration of one hour, and is orchestrated in environments conducive to candid discourse, predominantly eateries or beverage outlets. Subsequent to each discourse, verbatim transcripts are disseminated to the corresponding interviewees for verification, ensuring fidelity and eliminating potential misinterpretations. The culmination of this rigorous analysis elucidates the acclimatization trajectories of African residents in Taiwan, concurrently highlighting the inherent challenges and exigencies they confront. To address these insights, the research promulgates astute policy recommendations and socio-supportive frameworks, intended to ameliorate the experiential and adaptive paradigms of African expatriates in Taiwan for the consideration of policymakers and affiliated stakeholders.

Outline of the interview guidelines

Here are six interview guidelines that are used to investigate the adaptation of African residents to life in Taiwan. It is not necessary to follow the order of the following guidelines when performing interviews. The authors may adjust the order according to the flow of the interviews.

1) What motivated you to move to Taiwan, and how has your experience been so far in terms of adapting to the local society and culture?
2) What challenges have you faced while living in Taiwan, both in terms of practical issues like language barriers and in terms of broader social and cultural differences?
3) How have you found the job market in Taiwan, and have you experienced any discrimination or other obstacles in finding work?
4) In your view, how does Taiwan's political and social environment compare to that of your home country, and do you feel that you have been able to fully participate in Taiwan's civic life?
5) How have you found the overall standard of living in Taiwan, and have you encountered any issues related to housing, healthcare, or other basic necessities?
6) What suggestions do you have for the Taiwanese government or civil society organizations to better support the needs of residents, and what changes would you like to see in terms of policies and programs related to immigration and integration?

FINDINGS

ANALYTICAL OVERVIEW AND PRIMARY INSIGHTS

Drawing from the rich qualitative insights garnered from our in-depth interviews, we delineate the subsequent analysis and distill the pivotal findings as follows:

Motivations and diplomatic influences to choose Taiwan

The interviewees articulate a myriad of motivations driving their desire to immerse themselves in a lifestyle divergent from that of their native lands. Prominently, the allure of scholarship opportunities emerges as a pivotal factor.

Additionally, the prospect of mastering Chinese—a language commanding immense global resonance given its status as one of the most widely spoken tongues—stands out as another significant incentive. Their predilection for Taiwan, specifically over China, is influenced by the diplomatic rapport Taiwan shares with their home nations, rendering it a more congenial and accessible choice for their overseas endeavors. One respondent, for example, mentions that:

"I wanted to learn Chinese, one of the most spoken languages in the world, to capitalize on the fact that knowing Chinese would open more doors of opportunity. I came to Taiwan because my country had diplomatic ties with Taiwan, making it easier for me than going to China."

Embracing cultural integration: Resilience through open-mindedness and faith

Several interviewees underscore the pivotal role of cultivating an open-minded disposition, demonstrating adaptability, and grounding oneself in biblical principles to seamlessly navigate and meld into the host culture and society.

Confronted with the inevitable episodes of culture shock, these individuals harnessed their resilience and foundational beliefs, not merely to surmount these challenges but also to derive pleasure and fulfillment from their journey of immersion into Taiwanese cultural intricacies. One interviewee, for instance, makes a remark that:

"I have faced many instances of culture shock but I managed to overcome them and enjoyed being integrated in the Taiwanese culture."

Navigating linguistic and social challenges in Taiwan

The interviewees provide detailed insights into the multifaceted challenges encountered during their acclimatization journey in Taiwan. Grappling with the intricacies of Mandarin Chinese emerges as a formidable challenge, given its nuanced tonal distinctions and the complexity of its characters. On a social front, they observe a certain reticence among segments of the Taiwanese populace, where interactions with foreigners might be more restrained. Moreover, they occasionally grapple with the discomfort of derogatory remarks and incongruous inquiries, which further underscores the complexity of their adaptation experience. For example, one respondent mentions that:

"Socially, many Taiwanese are shy and rarely interact with foreigners to the extent that some of them call foreigners especially black people 'monkeys' which is not a social attitude in the global world. They also ask many irrelevant questions that add no value to them."

Adjusting to the local cuisine is another challenge, as they find the food to be overly sweet due to high sugar and salt content. Despite these initial difficulties, the interviewees eventually learn to adapt to Taiwanese culture, embracing the idea of 'when in Rome, do as the Romans do.' Over time, they manage to overcome language barriers and cultural misunderstandings, becoming more integrated into the local way of life.

The interviewees discuss the challenges of entering the Taiwanese job market, especially for foreigners. They highlight the importance of Mandarin Chinese proficiency, as it is often a requirement for most job opportunities. One interviewee, for instance, argues that:

"Taiwanese job market is very challenging based on the education requirements. Almost all jobs in Taiwan require at least Mandarin Chinese proficiency to secure one."

Additionally, they note that obtaining employment can be difficult without being a student or a spouse of a Taiwanese citizen, as an Alien Resident Certificate (ARC) and work permit are typically necessary. While the interviewees acknowledge that these challenges can be seen as forms of discrimination and obstacles for foreigners, particularly recent graduates, they do not conclusively determine if there is specific discrimination against black individuals in the job market. They do observe that speaking Chinese can significantly increase job prospects, and that companies are ultimately focused on hiring skilled individuals to maximize profits. One of the interviewees expresses that:

"What I have noticed is that if you speak Chinese, you will have more job opportunities than if you do not. Companies are looking to make profit, therefore, they will not refrain themselves from hiring a skilled black person."

Perceived political stability and civic inclusion in Taiwan

The respondents underscored the commendable facets of residing in Taiwan, notably its robust democratic governance. Such a system has cultivated a tranquil atmosphere devoid of tumultuous rallies or election-related protests. The consistent stability and safety of Taiwan's socio-political landscape stand in marked contrast to their native countries. In terms of politics, Taiwan's commitment to democracy and political liberty ensures an ambiance of peace, conspicuously absent of riots and demonstrations pre and post-elections. The sense of security here is unparalleled. One of the interviewees articulately remarks that:

"Politically, there's democracy and political freedom in Taiwan which makes it peaceful without riots and demonstrations before, during and after elections. Taiwan is more secure."

Respondents commend Taiwan for its pristine

environment and reduced levels of pollution, clearly distinguishing the nation's commitment to cleanliness. Yet, they also express concerns regarding the hurdles faced by foreigners in assimilating into Taiwan's civic milieu, attributed to stringent immigration policies, a predominantly homogenous societal fabric, and a perceived deficiency in multicultural inclusivity. Nonetheless, despite these impediments, Taiwan garners consistent appreciation for its stability, safety, and impeccable sanitation standards. For instance, one respondent claims that:

"I feel like it difficult for foreigner to participate in Taiwan's civic environment given its tough immigration laws, and also its (almost) homogenous population and its lack of multiculturalism."

Perceptions of living standards in Taiwan

The interviewees elucidate that Taiwan's high standard of living often reflects its elevated cost of living, encompassing significant expenses in healthcare and housing. While they personally remain insulated from healthcare-related concerns or challenges in accessing basic necessities, they do observe some African acquaintances grappling with impediments, especially when seeking housing — an issue that could be rooted in potential prejudice from security personnel or fellow residents. One of the interviewees mentions that:

"I did not personally encounter any issue related to healthcare or satisfying basic necessities. But some black friends have found it difficult to rent houses. Some people complained that the security guards or some tenants give them suspicious looks."

On a lighter note, they comment on the fresh produce market in Taiwan; despite the premium price tags on fruits, many, with the exception of oranges, lack the rich flavor they expect. In summation, while the participants acknowledge Taiwan's commendable standard of living, they don't shy away from highlighting the specific adversities certain foreigners might encounter.

Enhance foreign residents' experience in Taiwan

The interviewees offer actionable recommendations aim to amplify the experiences of foreign nationals in Taiwan. Foremost among these is a suggestion for the government to grant work permits to all international students graduating from Taiwanese institutions. This step would be instrumental in seamlessly integrating these graduates into the nation's workforce. In a bid to enhance communication and comprehension, they advocate for a widespread adoption of bilingual policies

across governmental bodies, corporate entities, and civil society organizations, taking a cue from initiatives already underway in the educational domain. One respondent argues that:

"Taiwanese government, companies and civil society should adopt bilingual language as they have started in Education sector."

On a broader scale, a call is made for a more inclusive approach by the Taiwanese authorities. This includes introducing social benefits tailored for foreigners, crafting special assistance programs, and even setting up dedicated institutions that support their seamless assimilation into the local community. A resounding sentiment shared by the respondents is the aspiration for a more straightforward route to Taiwanese citizenship, one that doesn't necessitate the relinquishing of their original national identity. A number of interviewees claim that:

"I really hope, it could be easier to apply for the Taiwanese citizenship, i.e. a person willing to be Taiwanese should not have to renounce his/her citizenship."

Based on the preceding analysis and discourse, several dimensions—social, political, and economic—related to the adaptation experiences of African new residents in Taiwan emerge. They are presented as follows. In terms of social adaptation, as with Gatwiri et al. (2021), most of the interviewees find it challenging to adapt to Taiwan's social norms, particularly the language barrier, cultural differences, and the difficulty of making friends with locals. Some of them also mention experiencing discrimination and prejudice due to their skin color and nationality. Almost all interviewees indicate that the biggest challenge they face is the language barrier. Most people do not speak Chinese when they come to Taiwan, which causes great difficulties for their daily lives and work. Even though they make efforts to learn Chinese through various adaptation courses and language exchange programs, they still need to spend more time and energy to consolidate and improve their Chinese proficiency. While some respondents report that they have adapted well in Taiwan, family issues have become a barrier to their adaptation. Some are single-parent families who need to take care of their children and maintain their family income, while others are experiencing problems in their family relationships, which make them worried.

In terms of political adaptation, the majority of interviewees express satisfaction with Taiwan's political system, particularly its democracy and human rights protection. Nevertheless, there are apprehensions about the underrepresentation of new residents in the political arena and a limited awareness of their rights and needs

within the Taiwanese population, aligning with the findings of Just and Anderson (2014). Interviewees also indicate that they encounter difficulties and obstacles in obtaining their legal rights and assistance in Taiwan. Some people are not clear about how to fight for their rights and welfare, while others do not know how to apply for documents and insurance.

In our study examining economic integration, feedback from interviewees elucidates the multifaceted challenges present within Taiwan's employment sector. Many highlighted not only structural barriers in recruitment, professional advancement, and wage structures, but also broader impediments related to language proficiency, cultural nuances, and instances of perceived discrimination. This observation resonates with the insights presented by Grigoryev et al. (2020).

A notable concern among interviewees was the limited access to coherent and reliable sources of information regarding job vacancies and associated resources in Taiwan. For the African new residents, the inherent demand for Chinese language proficiency in many professional sectors acts as a substantial impediment. Further compounding these challenges is the occasional undervaluation or non-recognition of foreign-acquired qualifications and skills within the Taiwanese employment framework. Notwithstanding these challenges, it is encouraging to note instances of resilience: a segment of our interviewees have ventured into entrepreneurship, charting their own course in the economic landscape of Taiwan.

Regarding cultural adaptation, as with Gatwiri et al. (2021), the interviewees express interest in learning more about Taiwanese culture and making connections with the local community. Some mention that they have participated in cultural events and festivals and have learned about Taiwanese customs and traditions. There are significant cultural differences between Africa and Taiwan, from clothing and dietary habits to values and social behavior. Many people feel lonely and helpless as a result. Furthermore, some interviewees have encountered situations of racial discrimination and disrespect, which make it difficult for them to adapt and adjust to unequal treatment. Regarding the nuances of everyday life adaptation, a substantial segment of our interview respondents appreciates Taiwan's safety and the ease accompanying daily routines. Yet, a segment voice challenges—primarily rooted in linguistic impediments and cultural disparities—when seeking access to certain services, with the healthcare and education realms emerging as particularly salient sectors of concern.

Policy recommendations

Drawing upon the insights derived from our research findings, we put forth the following recommendations for the public agencies and associated entities in Taiwan.

1) Language and Cultural Training: Implement mandatory Mandarin language courses for new residents alongside cultural orientation sessions, while simultaneously training service providers in healthcare, education, and employment sectors to understand and respect African cultures.
2) Public Awareness Campaigns: Launch widespread media campaigns that educate the Taiwanese population about the rights, contributions, and needs of foreign residents, addressing myths and misconceptions.
3) Centralized Job Portal: Develop a centralized online platform where new residents can access information on job opportunities, work rights, and employment services, available in multiple languages.
4) Community Integration Events: Organize regular community events, such as cultural fairs, workshops, or sports events, that actively involve both local and foreign residents, fostering mutual understanding and camaraderie.
5) Political Inclusion Initiatives: Engage new residents through consultation forums or advisory councils where they can voice their concerns and provide feedback on policies affecting them, ensuring their representation in the decision-making process.

In short, African new residents in Taiwan face a number of difficulties and challenges in adapting to Taiwan. They need to spend more time and energy to learn the language, adapt to local culture, find suitable jobs, and obtain assistance.

However, there are also opportunities for them to succeed and contribute to Taiwanese society. It is crucial for policy makers and relevant organizations to understand and address the needs and challenges faced by African residents and to work towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for them. In the face of these difficulties and challenges, Taiwanese authorities should actively implement immigration policies, provide more educational opportunities, improve legal protection and welfare measures, and strengthen racial difference education to build a more inclusive and livable environment.

Conclusions

Based on the responses of the 15 African new residents interviewed, they have encountered various difficulties in adapting to life in Taiwan, including language barriers, cultural differences, employment opportunities, family issues, and difficulty in accessing help. These challenges are mainly due to the language barriers and cultural differences resulting from their cultural backgrounds and habits, which make the adaptation process slower and can lead to feelings of loneliness and helplessness, making it the biggest obstacle they face in adapting.

Additionally, because the education and skills of African new residents are not widely recognized in Taiwan's job market, many people also face economic problems when

looking for work. This requires us to develop more friendly policies, provide more assistance and resources to help them improve their language skills, find suitable jobs, and adapt to local culture and way of life.

Furthermore, there is a need to strengthen racial equality and diversity education, fundamentally easing racial divisions and barriers in understanding, and jointly shaping a more just and inclusive society.

Despite encountering numerous challenges, the interviewees in this study persevere, continuously acquiring linguistic and cultural knowledge, proactively seeking assistance, and dedicating themselves to their work. Their tenacity and efforts command our respect.

Regarding the local residents of Taiwan, it is essential for us to actively comprehend the adaptation challenges and needs they face in their daily lives and professional pursuits. Concurrently, we must strive to foster a more inclusive and equitable societal atmosphere to aid African newcomers in Taiwan in realizing enhanced development and quality of life. This endeavor can bolster understanding and dialogue among us, laying the foundation for reciprocal global civilization learning.

The exploration into the adaptation status of African new residents in Taiwan represents just an initial foray into this significant area of study. While this research undeniably sheds light on the issue and contributes to filling the current literature gap, it comes with inherent limitations. Specifically, the study's generalizability may be limited given the small number of participants, making it potentially non-representative of the broader African new resident community in Taiwan. This confined sample might also introduce potential biases by not capturing the full diversity of experiences and perspectives. While the insights from these participants are indeed profound, the breadth of experiences that a more extensive study might offer is missing. Moreover, the findings provide a temporal snapshot and might not necessarily capture long-term adaptation processes. Variabilities in adaptation experiences based on factors like age, gender, or length of stay could also remain underexplored. There's also the risk of the study being heavily influenced by particularly vocal participants, leading to an over-reliance on anecdotal evidence. While the research does point towards previously uncharted territories and could inspire subsequent studies, it's crucial for future researchers and policymakers to interpret the results within the context of these limitations. Nevertheless, this research illuminates previously unexplored facets of the issue, bridging a gap in the current literature. It is hoped that this preliminary study can act as a catalyst, encouraging further investigations into this significant topic.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

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