Unappreciated & Overworked Immigrants

By Steve Alfaro Ocegueda
As the years pass by, more and more immigrants are arriving here in the United States. Different people have different opinions on people coming here to the United States illegally. Some see it as an issue, some see it as an opportunity. No matter what side you may be on, immigrant/undocumented workers bring nothing but work ethic and dedication to the United States’ workforce. They boost the economy more and more. Even with the positive impact, these workers continue to get treated badly and without respect. They aren’t appreciated enough and most of the time they get taken advantage. The sources I chose for my research provide detail on how underappreciated they are and how much they affect the United States in a positive way.
“The Undocumented Americans”

• “The Undocumented Americas” is a book written by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio who is a journalist that traveled around the United States to interview immigrants from different backgrounds and their experience working in the United States.

• The book contains the harsh and brutal ways undocumented workers are taken advantage of and how the United States does nothing about it. The book also goes into detail of the personal experience that Ms. Cornejo faced firsthand.

• The book really highlights the unfair and unappreciated treatment undocumented workers receive even when they put their heart and soul behind working here in America.
KFF & The Los Angeles Times Survey

• The KFF and The Los Angeles Times surveyed about 3,000 undocumented workers in the Los Angeles area and based on the results a lot of them get treated horribly on the daily basis.

• Most of them decided to come to the United States to seek opportunities and provide the best life for their children, however, most of them said they get harassed at work and half of them get discriminate at work. Half of them say that they get told “to go back to your country.” Half of them also admit that they get treated unfairly in healthcare centers due to their status.

• It’s overall an eye opener to see that people are okay with treating undocumented workers without any respect and courtesy.
An article written by Kelli Rodrigues who is a student that attends Boston College goes into detail about how much the documented community is so misrepresented.

In her article she explains that during the covid pandemic, former president Trump was accusing immigrants in taking away jobs from Americans, however, that was false. The pandemic itself was laying off a lot of people not because of immigrants. Rodrigues also mentions how the president blocked immigration into the country for a period of time so “Americans wouldn’t have to compete with immigrants for jobs.”

The overall article showcases how undocumented/immigrant workers are treated so terrible, and they have no way to defend themselves due the fear of being deported and losing their family.
An article published by the American Immigration Council delineates how undocumented workers bring a positive impact to the United States and study was done in 2019 to prove this.

The key takeaways from the article were that “28.5 million immigrant workers compromised 17% of the US labor force in 2019” and “immigrant-led households across the United States contributed a total of $330.7 billion in federal taxes and $161.7 billion in combined state and local taxes in 2019.”

The data showcases that undocumented workers do more good than bad and will continue to do so.
Another article that provides data that proves undocumented workers boost the United States’ economy was published by the American Progress. The article conducts a study of 4 different types of scenarios that show that undocumented workers make a difference.

- The 1st scenario is providing citizenship for all immigrants which would boost the United States’ GDP by $1.7 trillion over a decade and would create roughly 440,000 jobs.

- The 2nd scenario is providing citizenship for undocumented workers with essential jobs which would boost the GDP by $989 billion over a decade and create roughly 200,000 jobs.

- The 3rd scenario is providing citizenship for immigrants that are under the American Dream and Promise Act which would boost the GDP by $799 billion over a decade and create roughly 280,000 jobs.

- Lastly, the 4th scenario is providing citizenship for immigrants that either work essential jobs or are under the American Dream and Promise Act which would boost the GDP by $1.5 trillion over a decade and create roughly 400,000 jobs.
Conclusion

Overall, based on the research and data collected undocumented workers and undocumented individuals in general should be more appreciated and respected because they give as much as they can. All they ask for is honest work. All they want is to provide comfort and opportunities to their children so that can have a better chance of being successful in life and achieve whatever goals they may have. These workers boost the United States’ economy and without them the United States’ workforce would take a huge hit. All the discrimination towards these people must go away as well is show equal respect towards one another.


