

00:03:16 Speaker 2Audio file

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Transcript

00:00:03 Giada

In today's episode, we are going to discuss and dissect student life as a first generation immigrant.

00:00:08 Giada

As someone who has grown up as a first generation immigrant, I've always wondered if other people from other cultures grew up similarly.

00:00:15 Giada

In today's episode, we are specifically focusing on school life flow, and I'm going to be interviewing some of my classmates.

00:00:23 Giada

Who grew up similarly to me, and who are also first generation immigrants.

00:00:29 Giada

So I'm going to be interviewing Salil Agurto and Jamie.

00:00:35 Giada

So I am doing this interview because I think that it is important for people who live.

00:00:42 Giada

I wouldn't say differently, but who you know, have grown up differently from American race children that they have the opportunity to talk about their lifestyle and their family and you know their.

00:00:54 Giada

Their views as as a first generation immigrant and an environment where.

00:01:00 Giada

They won't be judged.

00:01:03 Giada

So the point of today's episode is really to see how many students who are first generation immigrants.

00:01:11 Giada

Are often like stressed, or you know what have what is their family done.

00:01:18 Giada

To get them where they are at in their school life.

00:01:24 Giada

I'm going to be asking her some questions about being a first generation immigrant.

00:01:32 Giada

So for starters, how do you think being a first generation immigrant has shaped you as a student?

00:01:37

OK.

00:01:39 Salil

I feel like it's definitely encouraged me to do the best I can because having immigrant parents and their ideas of how you should be at school and all that has definitely put a lot of pressure on me like I have to get a good grade on this test.

00:01:58 Salil

I have to get good grades and all that.

00:02:00 Salil

And like of course, like it's good to have all those things, but.

00:02:03 Salil

It's really like it's stressful, but I feel like it's it's also the benefit of that is like working as hard as I can to get those good grades and like it's kind of like a reward for all that.

00:02:17 Giada

That goes into my next question.

00:02:20 Giada

So you mentioned you feel pressured.

00:02:23 Giada

Did you feel a lot of it growing up and do you think it helps you or do you think it like kind of worsened your academic career kind of?

00:02:34 Salil

I feel like it's definitely both because the pressure did.

00:02:41 Salil

Encourage me to kind of do my best I can and like the stress also was very hard.

00:02:48 Salil

But like at the same.

00:02:49 Salil

Time I feel like without being pressured and having all that stress, I wouldn't have gotten the good grades I have so far, but at the same time the pressure did cause me a lot of like.

00:03:00 Salil

Stress and like it wasn't like the.

00:03:02 Salil

Good type of.

00:03:04 Salil

It was like I would get burnt out a lot and it would be really it would just be really hard to kind of get myself back up to be more.

00:03:13 Salil

What is it called?

00:03:15 Salil

To actually want to get good grades.

00:03:16 Salil

And all that, but eventually.

00:03:19 Salil

I was pushed again.

00:03:20 Salil

I got stressed again and it's like.

00:03:21 Salil

Kind of like.

00:03:21 Salil

A cycle, but I feel like.

00:03:24 Salil

It has the good side and.

00:03:25 Salil

The bad side at the same time.

00:03:29 Giada

Would you go back in time and listen to any advice that your parents gave you regarding school and life?

00:03:38 Salil

There's nothing specific I can really think of.

00:03:41 Salil

I mean, of course, they always told me to do my best in school and all that.

00:03:45 Salil

I mean, actually, they did tell me never to rely on anybody.

00:03:49 Salil

Which is, I think, why?

00:03:51 Salil

Well, like any other parent, they want their kids to just put in school, of course.

00:03:54 Salil

But like they always wanted me to, like, do things for myself, of course, because relying on other people won't get you anywhere, and you can't really trust everyone.

00:04:03 Salil

So you kind of need to learn to depend on yourself more than just relying on others.

00:04:11 Salil

So I feel like that's something that's really important, not just just just like a life thing.

00:04:16 Salil

Also, getting good grades in school and all that, we're.

00:04:16 Giada

OK.

00:04:18 Salil

Leading up to that, so yeah.

00:04:19 Giada

Right.

00:04:22 Giada

So for my last question, how do you think your school life would be different if you, you know, weren't?

00:04:30 Giada

Raised the way you were.

00:04:34 Salil

I mean, I feel like depending on your environment, I wouldn't say I would would have done worse because it really depends on who you're around and how they kind of like operate kind of or whatever.

00:04:53 Salil

I feel like.

00:04:55 Salil

Personally, I feel like I would want to do good in school, but I guess it depends on how.

00:05:02 Salil

Like a person, I don't.

00:05:03 Salil

Know it's like, oh, that's.

00:05:05 Salil

I feel like I would still want to do good in school, but I guess it really depends on the circumstances of how you grew.

00:05:10 Salil

Up and all that, but yeah.

00:05:13 Giada

Do you think growing up as a first generation immigrant has shaped your like academic career or like impacted it in any way?

00:05:22 Giada

And if so, is it positive or negative?

00:05:26 Agertu

I would say it's a mix of.

00:05:27 Agertu

Both because positively that makes me, you know, work harder at the same time, you know, negatively.

00:05:33 Agertu

It can be overwhelming and too much at times.

00:05:38 Giada

Is there any advice that you wish to listen to that your parents gave you?

00:05:42 Giada

Like when you were younger?

00:05:45 Agertu

I would say.

00:05:47 Agertu

Yeah, I do wish that I listen a.

00:05:49 Agertu

Little bit more because.

00:05:51 Agertu

You know, I would say when I was younger, I did really try as much and I wish I did a little more, like around maybe like not younger, but like fresh around freshman year, like around that time I wish I worked a little harder cause.

00:06:01 Agertu

I feel like I slapped a bit, you know?

00:06:06 Giada

Do you think like the constant pressure is a?

00:06:09 Giada

Good or bad thing?

00:06:11 Giada

Or do you like?

00:06:12 Giada

Or do you think that your parents are not pressure you enough or like at?

00:06:15 Agertu

All, I think the kind of the pressure is I don't like it.

00:06:18 Agertu

I think it's too much because.

00:06:20 Agertu

It makes me.

00:06:20 Agertu

You know, overwhelmed and just.

00:06:22 Agertu

Feel like you know when I'm not doing the.

00:06:24 Agertu

Best I'm disappointing.

00:06:25 Agertu

And you know, not like living up to it and like doing better for them.

00:06:31 Giada

In like the future, if you decide to have kids, do you think you'd use like the same like methods that your parents like use?

00:06:37 Giada

Like when upbringing, you or would you incorporate some of it or like not at all?

00:06:42 Agertu

I think I'll incorporate some of it, but not all.

00:06:46 Agertu

Of it, because like it, like I said, it can be.

00:06:48 Agertu

Overwhelming and like.

00:06:49 Agertu

Put a lot on people's shoulders or like your kids shoulders, so I'll incorporate some, but I won't. Not all of it.

00:06:59 Giada

OK.

00:07:00 Giada

So would you like want to have grown up differently in any way, I'd say?

00:07:08 Agertu

In ways yes, but I.

00:07:11 Agertu

Feel like overall?

00:07:12 Agertu

I'm happy with the way that my parents grew up, like they tried their best.

00:07:17 Agertu

That's all you can really like.

00:07:17 Giada

Right.

00:07:18 Agertu

I feel like now I feel like I.

00:07:20

Like the way that I was born.

00:07:22 Giada

What is something that you want people to take away from this interview and like from your perspective of growing up as a first generation migrant?

00:07:33 Agertu

To you know, always like try your best and do your best.

00:07:38 Agertu

Like try not to give up when you feel overwhelmed or feel like you are obligated to be the best or you know just be better than others.

00:07:48 Agertu

Which is kind of what they put on you like you have to be the best.

00:07:52 Agertu

You have to do this because you have to make us proud.

00:07:55

This this, that.

00:07:56 Agertu

I feel like just.

00:07:57 Agertu

Try your best and don't like give up.

00:07:59 Giada

On yourself, right and.

00:08:02 Giada

So something Salil said.

00:08:03 Giada

She said don't take like, don't take things for granted.

00:08:06 Giada

Do you agree with that?

00:08:08 Agertu

I think you know don't think take things for granted cause.

00:08:12 Agertu

Some people don't even have that, so.

00:08:15 Salil

Yeah, like, definitely take those for me.

00:08:18 Jaime

And Jamie Aztatzi

00:08:20 Giada

So, Jamie, how do you think growing up as a first generation immigrant has like shaped your student life and the life you have like right now?

00:08:31 Jaime

So my parents grew up not having like.

00:08:37 Jaime

I guess like a neighborhood in education, like an education that was close to them or like.

00:08:44 Jaime

Financially available for them, so that caused me to like see education as more of an advantage than like something that's supplemented like it is normalized here in the United States.

00:08:57 Jaime

So because of that, my parents always forced me to do extra stuff and I guess involved myself around.

00:09:05 Jaime

School and I think that shaped me the way I am because it shows my efforts to try to be different and like, take advantage of what's right in front of me and what I have as a.

00:09:23 Jaime

Yeah, first generation kid and like, being the first American out of my whole entire family and balancing that and having to meet up to my parents expectations, not only educationally, but also I guess emotionally.

00:09:40 Jaime

It's really shaped the way I am and how I interact with people around me.

00:09:46 Giada

So are you stressed a lot because of your family or no?

00:09:54 Giada

Or like, if yes, is it a good thing or a bad thing?

00:10:00 Jaime

So the way my parents see it is that like good grades and being involved in school is what?

00:10:07 Jaime

Basically having a good education and they're so close minded that I can't like explain that.

00:10:12 Jaime

Like also volunteering and doing stuff outside of school and prioritizing yourself and like giving back to your community is what?

00:10:20 Jaime

Mainly admissions really look at.

00:10:22 Jaime

And so it's like like trying to meet up to my parents expectations in an Americanized way.

00:10:29 Jaime

So they don't really know anything and I have to explain stuff and then that kind of like backlashes on me because they're like, well, you're the first American here and you're not living up to what we're telling you because we know how life really is.

00:10:42 Jaime

But really it's like.

00:10:43 Jaime

All changed because they keep the.

00:10:45 Giada

They're used to what they grew.

00:10:47 Giada

Up on, yeah.

00:10:47 Jaime

They're used to what they saw on television.

00:10:49 Jaime

They're used to what they thought was the reality of the United States.

00:10:53 Jaime

But it's far different for, and so because of that, it's like I have to.

00:10:58 Jaime

I like walk on egg shells trying not to disappoint my parents, but also trying not to harm myself because I don't want to stress myself out so much that I end up harming my mental health physically or emotionally.

00:11:13 Jaime

And I guess it like helps at times because it pushes me like.

00:11:18 Jaime

Ohh I need to do I need to do good in this because it helps me with this.

00:11:21 Jaime

And then like I have this like burden that I can't ask my parents for because they've already done so much.

00:11:27 Jaime

And so like, I push myself to overdo things so that I won't need to depend on somebody else knowing that, like my parents, they still believe that anything and everything I do is not right, right.

00:11:39 Giada

Right it I mean, I feel like that's just like the thing with most immigrant parents.

00:11:47 Giada

And it might be different in like some cultures and you know other places, but.

00:11:53 Giada

You know, there is a lot of stress.

00:11:54 Giada

And there is.

00:11:56 Giada

You know a lot that you yourself have to sacrifice in order to make them proud and you know it's not.

00:12:03 Giada

It's not easy at all.

00:12:06 Giada

So last question, would you change anything like now or like is there anything that you wish you listen to from your parents or like just like anything that you would change, would you change it or are you satisfied with where you're at right now?

00:12:23 Jaime

Anything they tell me, really it's.

00:12:26 Jaime

Going like on the contrast of what I say.

00:12:30 Jaime

So they love saying that.

00:12:31 Agertu

I always think that I'm right because anything and everything I say or do is literally proven right.

00:12:37 Jaime

And so it like turns into this huge argument and stuff.

00:12:40 Jaime

But like things that my parents have told me to do or like, suggested me to do or like forced.

00:12:45 Jaime

Me to do it.

00:12:47 Jaime

I don't have like a beneficiary outcome of it.

00:12:49 Jaime

It's more of like doing it so that I don't disappoint them.

00:12:53 Jaime

So it doesn't really help me.

00:12:54 Jaime

And I feel like that.

00:12:56 Jaime

Like that doesn't.

00:12:59 Agertu

It does make me wish that sometimes they'd listen to me, but it doesn't make me wish that like I'd listen to them because of it.

00:13:06 Jaime

I feel like I just waste my time trying to please them, but yeah, I still want to please them because it's more like an internal thing.

00:13:13 Jaime

The only thing they really wish that could change is like.

00:13:17 Jaime

I guess like having parents that understand.

00:13:22 Jaime

That's it, really, because my mom, she's super heavy on.

00:13:27 Jaime

Well, I do all of this for you guys.

00:13:29 Jaime

I do this and this and that.

00:13:30 Jaime

And she, like backlashes on me.

00:13:32 Jaime

And then when I, like, tell her, like, that's what parents are supposed to do.

00:13:35 Jaime

She's so quick with saying ohh, but you don't help her on the House.

00:13:40 Jaime

You don't do that.

00:13:42 Jaime

And so I have to balance all of that together and I have to like explain to her that sometimes the way that you grew up and the way I grew up, it's different because everybody's different.

00:13:53 Jaime

And obviously, comparing to her going to Roosevelt here to this school, it's like she doesn't know the difference she expects.

00:14:02 Jaime

Everything to be easy.

00:14:03 Jaime

And yet when I show her everything I do, she's like.

00:14:06 Jaime

Why are you doing?

00:14:07 Jaime

That right? Yeah.

00:14:11 Giada

Well, thank you.

00:14:15 Giada

So to finish off this episode, we have looked at three different people and their experiences as a first generation immigrant.

00:14:21 Giada

We have learned that there are many difficulties and lots of pressure, but it is not impossible to get a good education.

00:14:27 Giada

Education is important to everyone and should be accessible no matter who you are or where you are.

00:14:31 Giada

In the world.