

WHAT DO ASIAN PARENTS THINK ABOUT AAR?

SUMMARY

56 Chinese parents participated in focus groups. We conducted 16 focus groups in total, 4 in English, 6 in Mandarin, and 6 in Cantonese. Participants are parents of children ranging from 0-18+ years old.



QUESTIONS



We asked five main questions:

1. What does AAR mean to parents?
2. What was AAR like for parents and their children, if they experienced it?
3. How do parents talk about racism with their children?
4. What are parents' challenges and issues with addressing AAR?
5. What can be helpful?

TALKING ABOUT AAR VS. NOT

Parents who talk about AAR either:

- Address behavior ("You can't be racist")
- Take a reactive approach (if an incident happens)
- Take a color-blind approach ("Everyone is equal")
- Explain race and individual differences



Parents who don't talk about AAR either tend to think that:

- It's not necessary ("AAR is not a serious problem")
- It's too early (AAR is not developmentally appropriate to talk about)
- It's too challenging ("What counts as racism?")
- "Racism is a mindset" (denying racism)

WHY DON'T ASIAN PARENTS TALK ABOUT RACISM?

NOT NECESSARY

- AAR is not serious
- My children will not experience racism
- "I have no experience of AAR"
- Kids will learn for themselves

TOO CHALLENGING

- Confusion about racism
- Don't know what racism means
- "I am still learning"

DENYING RACISM

- Racism is a label/mindset
- Normalizes racism
- Cultural Differences

DEVELOPMENTALLY INAPPROPRIATE

- Protecting children's innocence
- Don't want children to be overly sensitive about their race

6 STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS AAR

ASIAN-CENTERED RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

In particular, there is a need for educational resources that are Asian-centered and are intended to provide culturally sensitive support to both parents and the public.

DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES

Parents in focus groups speak on the need for AAR resources that are developmentally appropriate for different age groups, with ranging complexity levels.

ASIAN PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

Parents in focus groups request more spaces and communities where Asian, and in particular Chinese, families can connect with each other and share their experiences for mutual support.

INTERGENERATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

Asian households are often multigenerational. Different generations' experiences shape their perspectives on AAR. Intergenerational conversations can facilitate an exchange of these perspectives.

CURRICULUM AND EDUCATION

AAR and cultural education on East-Asian communities is often missing or very briefly covered in school curriculums. Parents note that institutionalized support and resources in school curriculums can have a positive impact.

RAISING EXTERNAL AWARENESS

Youth in focus groups suggest raising external awareness can help East-Asian communities find their voice and nurture allyship. They highlight social media and online spaces as a tool to further the social movement around AAR.