

Chapter 3

Stereotypes and Perception of Parenting from Non- South Asian Parents

ABSTRACT

This chapter explores the definition of the term “stereotypes.” It discusses some stereotype placed on parents of South Asian origin and explores the historic, social, and cultural factors that may be relevant in shaping those stereotypes. Some key stereotypes like South Asian parents value education over happiness, boys and girls are treated differently in South Asian parenting, the social interaction of South Asian parents is slightly different from other parents, and the stereotype of tiger parents have been explored in this chapter.

INTRODUCTION

The exploration of stereotypes within diverse communities is a critical aspect of social science that seeks to unravel the complex tapestry of human interaction and cognition. The term ‘stereotype’ itself, while often laden with negative connotations, is a subject of extensive academic inquiry, offering a multitude of definitions and interpretations across various disciplines. The work of sociologists, psychologists, economists, policy makers, and educators in this field is increasingly important as they delve into the nuanced implications of stereotyping on both individual and societal levels. The impact of stereotypes is far-reaching, affecting everyday experiences and shaping societal structures.

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Instances of depersonalization and discrimination, as highlighted by Siy and Cheryan (2013) and Kang et al. (2016), underscore the tangible consequences of stereotypical perceptions, particularly within Asian communities. These outcomes serve as a stark reminder of the work that remains in combating the pervasive influence of stereotypes. The push towards an equitable, non-discriminatory global society is gaining momentum, with concerted efforts to dismantle stereotypes and foster a deeper, more accurate understanding of diverse groups.

What Are Stereotypes?

Definition of stereotypes- Diverse communities, traits and attributes are part of ever evolving global world. Everyone in society aims to understand differences and similarities for ease of cognitive interpretation to help shape social interaction. Multiple definitions of the term "stereotypes" are presented in literature and evaluated through various perspectives (Gardner, 1994; Hamilton and Sherman, 1994, Hilton and Hippel, 1996). Sociologists, psychologists, economists, policy makers and educationist are becoming more aware of deeper implications of understanding and evaluating stereotypes. Some key outcomes like everyday frustrations of being depersonalized, (Siy and Cheryan, 2013) hiring discrimination (Kang et.al 2016) have been noted about Asian stereotypes. With more and more emphasis on equal, non-discriminatory global society, the desire to make sure that the stereotypes are busted and understood well is on the rise in both academic and non-academic communities. Stereotypes are evident and present everywhere and with the changing social cultural ethos these may take various other forms. As global citizens, it is not only important to understand what stereotypes are but also to understand the deeper implications of how distorted oversimplified views about groups and behaviours can be aligned to greater accuracy and relevance.

Stereotypes, by their very nature, are simplifications of complex human traits and behaviours, often perpetuated by cultural, social, and media narratives. They can be resistant to change, as they are embedded within the collective consciousness of societies. However, as the cultural ethos evolves, so too can the forms and expressions of stereotypes. This evolution presents both challenges and opportunities for individuals and communities to engage in critical self-reflection and dialogue.

As global citizens, the responsibility to recognize and address stereotypes extends beyond mere awareness. It involves a commitment to continuous

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