

The Sociological Perspective of Interracial Adoption and Child Development

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Abstract

Transracial adoption or interracial adoption is becoming quite popular worldwide as the number of people who are against racism is increasing. The particular article sheds light on the societal views of Indian society on interracial adoption as most of the Indian population still believes in racism. Acceptance of inter-cultural people and interracial children is low in India and people believe that interracial adoption is not good for a particular culture. The researcher has arranged a survey among the people between 25 and 50 for gaining their respective opinions on interracial adoption.

A total of 51 participants from different occupations have provided their opinions which are collected as data and evaluated in this study. The results are properly discussed for a better understanding about the perspective of society towards interracial adoption in India. It is identified as a result that most of the people still disagree that interracial adoption can be beneficial for social development. All the findings are converted into graphs and statistics with the use of SPSS software which are elaborated significantly.

Keywords

Cultural Discrimination, Interracial Adoption, Racism, Social Norms, Social Perspective.

INTRODUCTION

Background of Research

Interracial adoption refers to adopting children from different races and ethnicities [1]. Racism and cultural discrimination has been a part of social norms in India, beyond these norms the number of interracial adoption is increasing in the country. A few of the population are changing; these social norms are bringing cultural diversity, but interracial adoptions are mostly not accepted in Indian society. The figure below represents the number of in-country and inter-country adoptions in different states of India. As per the table, in 2020-21, about **3142 in-country children** were adopted whereas only **417 inter-country children** were adopted [2]. It signifies that racial discrimination is still a part of Indian society and that is enhancing challenges for interracial adoptions.

21	Nagaland	10	2	12	5	1	6
22	Odisha	76	94	170	4	5	9
23	Puducherry	4	6	10	0	0	0
24	Punjab	13	33	46	12	12	24
25	Rajasthan	42	87	129	11	10	21
26	Sikkim	11	7	18	0	0	0
27	Tamilnadu	137	216	353	11	11	22
28	Telangana	41	85	126	9	12	21
29	Tripura	4	10	14	0	0	0
30	Uttar Pradesh	72	125	197	15	27	42
31	Uttarakhand	7	9	16	0	4	4
32	West Bengal	96	101	197	10	10	20
	Total	1286	1856	3142	183	234	417

Figure 1: In-country and inter-country adoption in India[2]

The article examines the social views towards interracial adoptions and its critical impacts on children development. It is identified that racial discrimination leads to bullying in interracial adoption which negatively impacts the mental health of children as well as their upbringing [3]. A brief discussion regarding interracial adoption and its effect on Indian society is presented in this article.

Aim and objectives

The following article is focused on evaluating societal perspective on interracial adoption and its impact on children development. In regard to this, specific objectives are,

- To understand the concept of interracial adoption and its pros and cons
- To demonstrate the impacts of interracial adoption on children development
- To elaborate societal view on interracial adoption in India

Significance of the study

The study has the potential to provide relevant information about interracial adoption and its effect on children development. It also includes the perspective of society on interracial adoption as well as the potential impacts of

Sl. No.	State/UT	In-country			Inter-country		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	39	36	75	13	11	24
2	Assam	36	40	76	3	5	8
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	3	3	0	0	0
4	Bihar	29	93	122	5	10	15
5	Chandigarh	5	6	11	0	0	0
6	Chhattisgarh	44	51	95	6	7	13
7	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	1	2	3	0	0	0
8	Delhi	39	45	84	11	7	18
9	Goa	10	11	21	0	0	0
10	Gujarat	48	59	107	3	12	15
11	Haryana	19	16	35	4	5	9
12	Himachal Pradesh	0	3	3	0	0	0
13	Jharkhand	44	34	78	1	4	5
14	Karnataka	90	137	227	8	21	29
15	Kerala	62	65	127	3	7	10
16	Madhya Pradesh	50	91	141	6	12	18
17	Maharashtra	239	354	593	38	37	75
18	Manipur	3	3	6	0	1	1
19	Meghalaya	7	10	17	0	1	1
20	Mizoram	8	22	30	5	2	7

interracial adoption on social development. Most of the articles and journals which are based on interracial adoption show its positive and negative impacts on children, but this article also sheds light on societal view which ensures the significance of this study.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Choosing an appropriate method for gathering findings and evaluating them with proper understanding is important. Primary methods are survey and interview and secondary methods are previously published pieces of literature, articles, news and journals [4]. Considering this aspect, secondary methods are capable of collecting relevant data but primary methods lead to genuine data. Using original data in

a research study enhances its significance. Therefore, “*primary quantitative design*” is adopted for this study which refers to the collection of numerical data and evaluating them quantitatively [5]. The researcher has organised a *survey* in order to collect quantitative data.

About 100 people have provided their opinion of the topic but only *51 responses* are selected as the sample of this study based on relevance. All the participants needed to be above 25 years old and have proper knowledge about interracial adoption as per the criteria of the research. The standards helped to avoid irrelevant data in this study. Besides, *SPSS software* is used for conducting *statistical analysis* of the numerical findings.

RESULTS

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
1. Age group	51	0	3	1.49	1.120
2. Occupation	51	0	3	1.39	.940
3. Interracial or transracial adoption is important for reducing discrimination from society	51	0	2	1.29	.944
3. Interracial or transracial adoption is important for reducing discrimination from society	51	0	2	1.20	.980
5. Transracial adoption brings new traditions and experiences for a child and that improves child development	51	0	2	1.08	.977
6. Acceptance of an interracial child by family members is one of the major challenges in India society	51	0	2	1.57	.806
7. Interracial adoption and cultural diversity develops cultural intelligence in the children	51	0	2	1.41	.920
8. Racism is a barrier in Indian society that reduces acceptance of interracial adoption	51	0	2	1.65	.744
9. Risk of bullying enhances in interracial adoption which negatively effects child development	51	0	2	1.75	.659
10. Interracial adoption can lead to the loss of birth origin and culture by the children	51	0	2	1.31	.927
Valid N (listwise)	51				

Figure 2: Descriptive statistics of the variables [6]

Mean values play a crucial role in descriptive statistical analysis as the values help to gain knowledge whether most of the participants have provided positive responses or not [6]. It is important to notice whether the mean values are larger than 1 or not as a larger value signifies positive responses and a lower value signifies negative responses. As

per the figure above, 1.29, 1.20, 1.08, 1.57, 1.41, 1.65, 1.75 and 1.31 are the mean values of the specific variables in this article. Hence, all the values are larger than 1 and that helps to understand that most of the responses of the participants are positive.

		Correlations									
		1. Age group	2. Occupation	3. Interracial or transracial adoption is important for reducing discrimination from society	3. Interracial or transracial adoption is important for reducing discrimination from society	5. Transracial adoption brings new traditions and experiences for a child and that improves child development	6. Acceptance of an interracial child by family members is one of the major challenges in India society	7. Interracial adoption and cultural diversity develops cultural intelligence in the children	8. Racism is a barrier in Indian society that reduces acceptance of interracial adoption	9. Risk of bullying enhances in interracial adoption which negatively effects child development	10. Interracial adoption can lead to the loss of birth origin and culture by the children
1. Age group	Pearson Correlation	1	.859**	.863**	.876**	.897**	.726**	.828**	.644**	.525**	.870**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
2. Occupation	Pearson Correlation	.859**	1	.679**	.696**	.750**	.650**	.642**	.660**	.585**	.682**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
3. Interracial or transracial adoption is important for reducing discrimination from society	Pearson Correlation	.863**	.679**	1	.930**	.842**	.748**	.893**	.663**	.541**	.989**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
3. Interracial or transracial adoption is important for reducing discrimination from society	Pearson Correlation	.876**	.696**	.930**	1	.924**	.666**	.796**	.591**	.482**	.921**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
5. Transracial adoption brings new traditions and experiences for a child and that improves child development	Pearson Correlation	.897**	.750**	.842**	.924**	1	.603**	.720**	.535**	.436**	.834**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.001	.000
	N	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
6. Acceptance of an interracial child by family members is one of the major challenges in India society	Pearson Correlation	.726**	.650**	.748**	.666**	.603**	1	.837**	.942**	.768**	.773**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
7. Interracial adoption and cultural diversity develops cultural intelligence in the children	Pearson Correlation	.828**	.642**	.893**	.796**	.720**	.837**	1	.743**	.606**	.924**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000
	N	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
8. Racism is a barrier in Indian society that reduces acceptance of interracial adoption	Pearson Correlation	.644**	.660**	.663**	.591**	.535**	.942**	.743**	1	.874**	.686**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000
	N	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
9. Risk of bullying enhances in interracial adoption which negatively effects child development	Pearson Correlation	.525**	.585**	.541**	.482**	.436**	.768**	.606**	.874**	1	.559**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.001	.000	.000	.000	.000	
	N	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
10. Interracial adoption can lead to the loss of birth origin and culture by the children	Pearson Correlation	.870**	.682**	.989**	.921**	.834**	.773**	.924**	.686**	.559**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	
	N	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Figure 3: Correlation statistics of the variables[6]

Correlation statistics is a vital part of SPSS statistical analysis which helps to know whether the variables have positive or negative relationships [7]. Significance values play the key role in these statistics as a larger significance value than 0.05 is considered as negative and a lower significance value than 0.05 is considered as positive. The figure above represents the significance values are 0 which is less than 0.05 and that indicates the variables of this following study have positive relationships.

Above 25 years old people were allowed to participate in the survey as it was important to have accurate knowledge about parenting and adoption. Nearly 27.45% of the participants were 25-30 aged, 17.65% of the respondents were 31-45 aged, 33.33% of the respondents were 46-50 aged and 21.57% of the participants were above 50 aged. It is noticeable that the percentage of people from different age groups was quite the same in the survey.

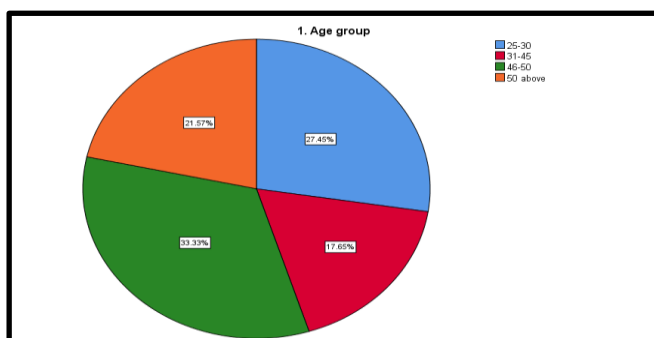


Figure 4: Age group of the participants (Generated from: IBM SPSS)[7]

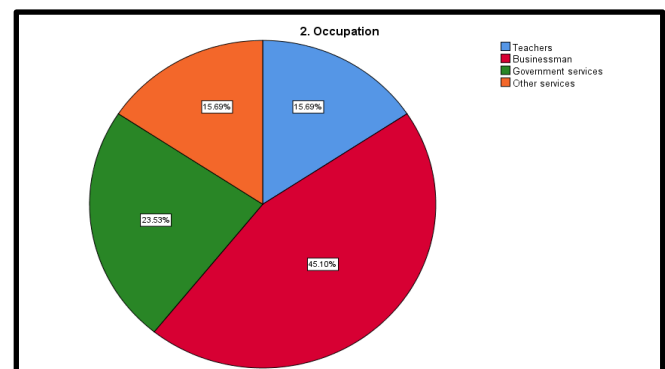


Figure 5: Occupation of the participants (Generated from: IBM SPSS)[7]

It was important to gain knowledge about the occupation of the participants for understanding the influences of educational factors and occupational factors on the intention of people towards interracial adoption. About 15.69% of the people were teachers, 45.10% of the people in the survey were businessmen/women, 23.53% of the respondents were connected to government services and 15.69% of the people were connected to other services.

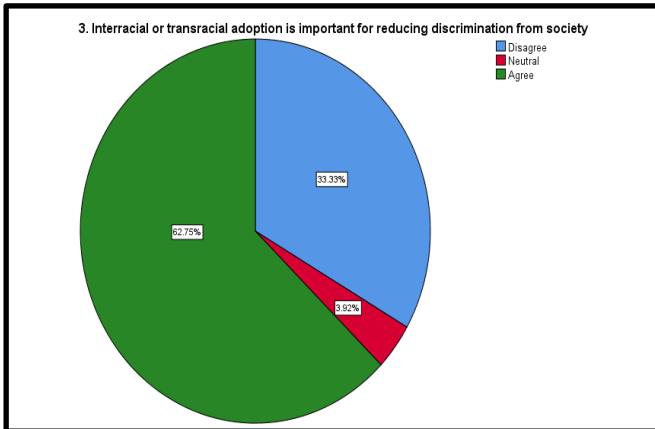


Figure 6: Interracial or Transracial adoption is important for reducing discrimination from society (Generated from: IBM SPSS)[7]

About 62.75% of the participants in the survey have “agreed” with the statement that interracial or Transracial adoption is important for reducing discrimination from society. The number of people in society, who believe that interracial adoption is essential for preventing discrimination, is increasing. Besides, 33.33% of the people have denied the statement and stated that interracial adoption enhances discrimination in society. In contrast 3.92% of the respondents were neutral in the survey and did not provide any specific opinion on the statement.

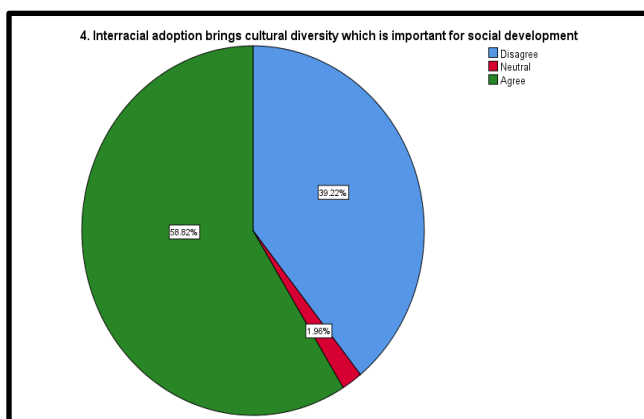


Figure 7: Interracial adoption brings cultural diversity which is important for social development (Generated from: IBM SPSS)[7]

“Interracial adoption brings cultural diversity which is important for social development” was the next statement for the respondents in the survey. Around 58.82% of the respondents positively believe that interracial adoption

enhances cultural diversity in society which is significant for social development. Thereafter, 39.22% of the participants have denied the statement and opinionated that interracial adoption reduces the significance of a particular culture and is harmful for social development. Besides, 1.96% of the people in the survey were unable to provide their respective opinions on the statement.

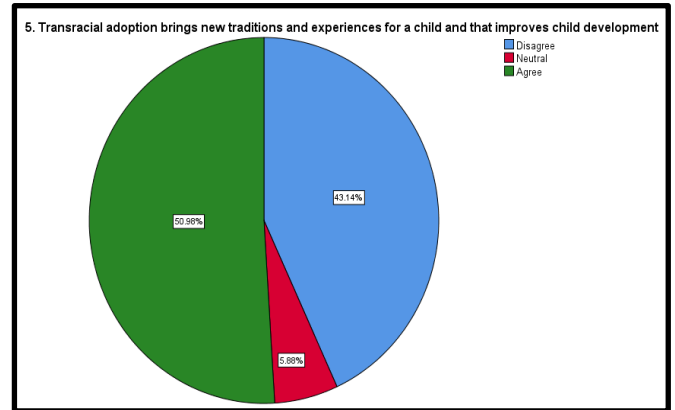


Figure 8: Transracial adoption brings new traditions and experiences for a child and that improves child development (Generated from: IBM SPSS)[7]

Nearly 50.98% of the participants in the survey have “agreed” with the statement that Transracial adoption brings new traditions and experiences for a child and that improves child development. More than half of the respondents provided a positive response and stated interracial adoption is capable of bringing new traditions and experiences which improve emotional intelligence of children. Besides, 43.14% of the people have denied the statement and stated that new traditions are not important and it is not good for maintaining the significance of a specific culture. In contrast 5.88% of the respondents were neutral in the survey and did not provide any specific opinion on the statement.

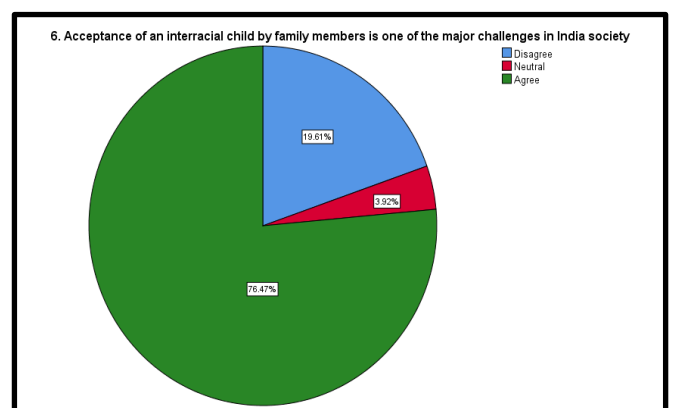


Figure 9: Acceptance of an interracial child by family members is one of the major challenges in Indian society (Generated from: IBM SPSS)[7]

The next statement for the respondents in the survey was “acceptance of an interracial child by family members is one of the major challenges in Indian society”. Around 76.47% of the respondents positively believe that most families do not

accept children from different cultures and religions, which is the main reason that the number of interracial adoption is lower. Further, 19.61% of the participants have denied the statement and opinionated that nowadays there are many families in India who are accepting interracial children. On the contrary, 3.92% of the people in the survey did not provide their respective opinions on the statement.

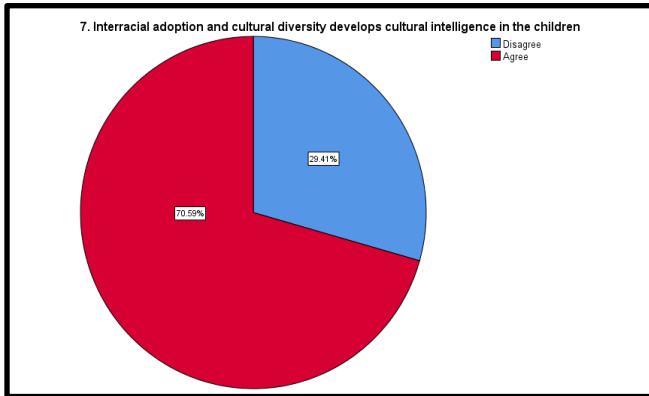


Figure 10: Interracial adoption and cultural diversity develops cultural intelligence in the children (Generated from: IBM SPSS)[7]

“Interracial adoption and cultural diversity develops cultural intelligence in the children” was the next statement for the respondents in the survey. Around 70.59% of the respondents positively believe that interracial adoption brings cultural diversity which enhances positive perspective of children regarding different cultures and religions and improves cultural intelligence. Nearly, 29.41% of the participants have denied the statement and opinionated that interracial adoption is not good for the society as well as the development of a child.

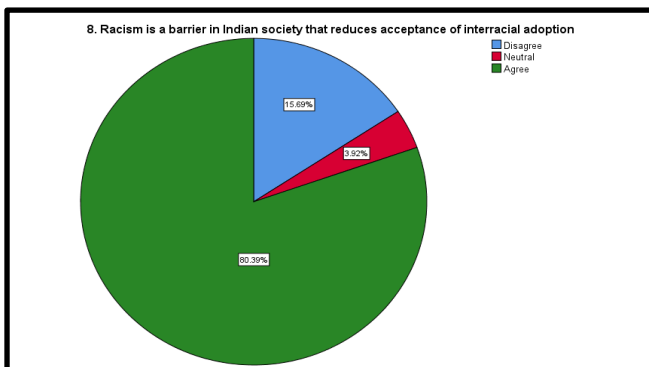


Figure 11: Racism is a barrier in Indian society that reduces acceptance of interracial adoption (Generated from: IBM SPSS)[7]

Around 80.39% of the participants in the survey have “agreed” with the statement that racism is a barrier in Indian society that reduces acceptance of interracial adoption. Maximum number of the respondents provided a positive response and stated racism is a crucial factor in Indian society and that reduces the number of interracial adoption in the country. Besides, 15.69% of the people have denied the statement and stated that racism is not a big factor as it is

reducing day by day but most of the people still cannot accept interracial children. Apart from that, 3.92% of the respondents were neutral in the survey and did not provide any particular opinion on the statement.

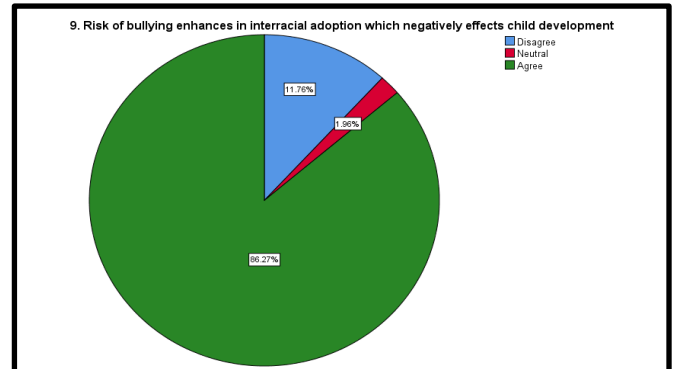


Figure 12: Risk of bullying enhances in interracial adoption which negatively affects child development (Generated from: IBM SPSS)[7]

The next statement for the respondents in the survey was “risk of bullying enhances in interracial adoption which negatively affects child development”. About 86.27% of the respondents believe that lack of acceptance by the society leads to the risk of bullying which negatively affects the mental health and perspective of children. Further, 11.76% of the participants have “disagreed” with the statement and stated that bullying regarding interracial adoption has decreased in the society and parents need to be aware and strong while adopting interracial children. Hence, 1.96% of the people did not provide their opinions on the statement and they were neutral.

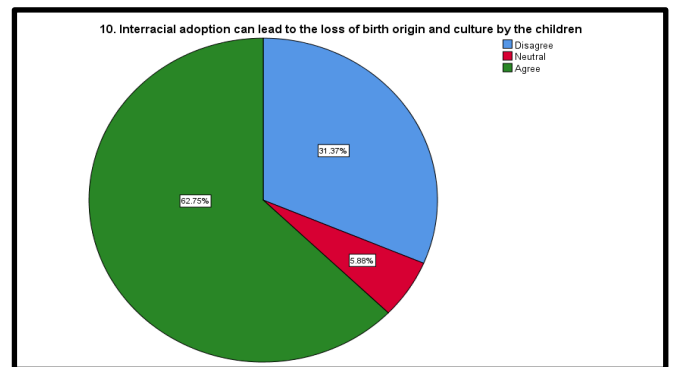


Figure 13: Interracial adoption can lead to the loss of birth origin and culture by the children (Generated from: IBM SPSS)[7]

The next statement was whether interracial adoption can lead to the loss of birth origin and culture by the children or not. Around 62.75% of the participants have “agreed” whereas about 31.37% of the respondents have “disagreed” with the statement. Most of the people believe that interracial adoption is not good for the child as there are higher chances that the child will lose his/her birth origin.

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.965	10

Figure 14: Reliability statistics of the variables (Generated from: IBM SPSS)[7]

Reliability statistics is also crucial in statistical analysis which brings accuracy about the reliability of the findings. Cronbach alpha value is the medium of checking reliability of findings which needs to be higher than 0.070 for ensuring that all the data are reliable [8]. The above figure shows that the Cronbach alpha value is 0.965 which is larger than 0.070 and that signifies that the data and findings of this study are reliable.

DISCUSSION

Pros and cons of interracial adoption

The world is rapidly evolving and the mentality of society is changing day by day, thus there are some *advantages* and *disadvantages* of interracial adoption. The advantages of interracial adoption are it helps to expand the culture and the cultural viewpoint of the people [8]. Every race has a different culture and interracial adoption helps people to evolve with different cultures of the world and expand their knowledge. The previous generation never accepted interracial adoption but the people in the 21st generation are proudly and profoundly accepting the process which is changing the old norms of society and the people of this modern age are making their own rules and norms for society [9]. This adoption process inspires people to learn about new traditions and helps them to adopt new cultural ideas and gather more new experiences.

The interracial adoption process embraces new cultural diversity as it does not support the old racist norm and rules of the society and it helps to change the point of view of the old people of the society and bring changes in the social system all across the world. People have started to accept people out of love regardless of skin, colour, race, culture or ethnicity [10]. However, there are some disadvantages of interracial child adoption which has impacted society in many ways. The world is evolving in many new ways but society is changing its norms and viewpoints very slowly and this slow progress has impacted the people. People who adopt interracial children and the difference between the child and the parent are seen by other people in society and the whole world [11]. Interracial children can be bullied by the whole world, and though their parents have accepted them other family members and society might not accept them warmly.

Besides all these points, interracial children need more care and protectiveness to adjust to another culture and a different place. The main risk factor of this is that the children get bullied by other people in society which can impact their mental health very badly. Skin colour or any race does not matter as every child deserves love, care and harmony and

proper guidance to stand in their lives. Every child needs parental love and guidance for a better future and through interracial adoption, people spread love and harmony around them all. However, besides all the pros and cons of the process, many people take this process to support the idea of the process and fulfil a child's needs and complete their family [12]. Many regional countries and nations do not support this process and people from those countries who take this step are often judged by society. In Countries like India and many others, society is full of old-generation thinking which impacts the mentality of the parents and also badly impacts the children. Some parts of underdeveloped countries are still not able to accept this adoption process but many developed countries are encouraging others by taking many initiatives regarding the process.

Effect of interracial adoption on children development

International adoption is annually increasing in the United States and other countries are also taking steps forward in this process. Though many regional countries are still not taking any initiatives to take a step ahead in this process, the whole world is reconsidering this idea. This process has already brought changes in child development not only physically but also emotionally and mentally. Especially the black child is getting their own new families through this process and getting proper care and love. "*The National Association of Black Social Workers*" (NABSW) 1972 passed a resolution to put an end to the adoption of African American children. The national survey has suggested that Africans and Americans have mixed feelings regarding the adoption process. The strengths of black families are inevitably huge and they stand for every child of their region [13]. This process affects the development of children as they have to switch from one place to another and not only that they need to adopt new cultures according to the place where they are being adopted to.

Changes in place and cultures affect the child's mind and it develops a confused sense of identity as the child needs to match the ethnicity of the family where they are growing up. The minority children adopted by white families their own rules and cultures sometimes help to build a great personality in the children but most of the time children suffer from adjustment issues [14]. Besides that, not only the children but sometimes the family members and parents also face issues while adjusting to them. About 6,650 interracial children were adopted by Indian families from 2017 to 2019 but because of these adjustment issues, almost 4% or 278 children were returned to their previous place [15]. Children from different regions and places need to adapt to a new culture and the parents train them to behave according to their culture which can be very hectic for the children and may take time to adapt to new behaviour [16].

Sometimes the children are unable to adjust and adopt new behaviour and grew up exactly with mixed and confusing cultural behaviour. Behavioural changes impact their mental health and when the parents are unable to train them in their socio-cultural behaviours they return the child from where

they have been adopted. Returning from the previous place those children suffer to adjust to their region and they sometimes suffer from depression as they have a feeling of being left alone some suffer from self-doubts as they have a feeling that they are not good enough. Sometimes those children are traumatized by the whole process and often changing places badly impacts their brain development. In the process of preventing racism society sometimes acts inappropriately and the adopted children face harmful bullies in society that burdened their mental health which badly affects their brain development [17]. These bad effects are seen through their behaviour, in their studies and sometimes they become physically ill.

Societal view on interracial adoption in India

Parents who adopt interracial children have to give extra effort into raising their children and make them used to a different culture. The whole country is emerging in this process and the interracial adoption process has increased by 87% around the world and especially it has increased in the US [18]. This process includes all the social, political and cultural aspects that affect the adoption process mainly India as this country is still not best suited for taking up this process. Indian families are still against inter-caste marriages, for Indian society it is very difficult to accept the interracial adoption process. The whole society of India is male-dominated and many of them think that taking up this adoption process will decrease their honour in society [19]. However, this process is a blessing for every parent who suffers from infertility issues. Taking an interracial child will bring happiness in their life and can change the future of the child.

The world is changing every day and some families in India have chosen the path of adoption the practice of adoption is changing in India day by day. According to Indian law, the parents can adopt only one child into foster care at a time. After the child becomes an adult or becomes 18 years old they are free from every tie as they are neither legally entitled nor inherit. It is up to the child's decide whether they want to live in that same place or not. In India, there are many religious people, such as Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Jains and many others and all of them are legally able to adopt kids. There are different laws for different religions in the adoption process and if anyone wants to adopt a foster child they need to follow these laws [20]. However, the society of India is still very narrow-minded about this adoption process, especially in the regional districts of the country people do not support the process.

Many questions arise with the adoption process of interracial adoption such as the best way to raise a black child in a white family, or a white child in a black family, what is beneficial for the behavioural growth of black children and white children and many others. There are many racial differences all across the world and interracial child behaves indifferently sometimes [21]. Though this process was badly criticized by Indian society, still some people take this step to bring happiness into their lives and change the typical social

mentality of other people. The societal mentality of India is still not able to inherit this process so many people do not practice this adoption process. Many families in India follow the normal adoption process but do not practice the interracial adoption process and to change the societal mentality people need to follow the process as much as possible for them.

CONCLUSION

This study has included all the necessary aspects regarding the interracial child adoption process all around the world. There is a detailed discussion about the facts that are related to the adoption process and the generic necessity of this process. People From different countries are taking initiatives in this process to build a child's future and bring happiness to their home and family. Adopting a child always spreads love and harmony and in this interracial adoption, people do it regardless of the child's colour, race, religion or any other baseless facts but only out of love and compassion.

This study has focused on the laws that are related to this adoption process and how this process impacts their growth. However, there are some advantages and disadvantages to this possess and the study includes all these pros and cons related to interracial adoption. The mental health issue of the children, their slow brain development and behavioural changes have been discussed throughout the study. In India, people are still not accepting this process. Some have followed the process and this study promotes all the usefulness and benefits of interracial adoption in India and many other countries around the world.

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APPENDIX: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Age group
 - a) 25-30
 - b) 31-45
 - c) 46-50
 - d) Above 50
2. Occupation
 - a) Teachers
 - b) Businessman
 - c) Government services
 - d) Other services

(Please rate your opinion against the following statements as per the following scale
0 = Disagree, 1 = neutral, 2 = Agree)

Statements	0	1	2
1. Interracial or transracial adoption is important for reducing discrimination from society	17	2	32
2. Interracial adoption brings cultural diversity which is important for social development	20	1	30
3. Transracial adoption brings new traditions and experiences for a child and that improves child development	22	3	26
4. Acceptance of an interracial child by family members is one of the major challenges in India society	10	2	39
5. Interracial adoption and cultural diversity develops cultural intelligence in the children	15	0	36
6. Racism is a barrier in Indian society that reduces acceptance of interracial adoption	8	2	41
7. Risk of bullying enhances in interracial adoption which negatively effects child development	6	1	44
8. Interracial adoption can lead to the loss of birth origin and culture by the children	16	3	32