Debunking Model Minority Education Myths

The model minority myth claims that Asians are the most successful among non-White groups. It assumes all Asians to be smart (i.e. naturally good at math, science, and technology), wealthy, hard-working, self-reliant, docile, submissive, obedient, uncomplaining, and not needing assistance (The University of Texas, 2019).

Model minority myths use the accomplishments of certain minority groups to diminish racism (Low, 2021). This process creates tensions between different non-White communities, because it undermines the role racism plays in achieving success (Chow, 2017). Below are myths and facts about Asian education experiences.

Education Myths



Education Facts



All Asian students are naturally good at school and achieve high academic accomplishments - especially in math, science, and technology.







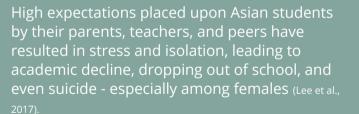
All Asians go to and excel in university. Asians usually graduate at the top of their classes, and rarely require extra help.

Many Asian students are negatively impacted by their university experience. Common causes of drop-out rates among Asian students include academic challenges, language barriers, lack of academic support, lack of social networks, and mental health challenges (Wang, 2016).





The belief that Asians excel at school is a compliment. There is nothing harmful about sharing positive beliefs about a group.







There is strong Asian representation on university campuses, so they must be accepted and treated equally by other students.

Asian international students have reported feeling left out and ignored by their peers on campus (especially by White domestic students). They have also reported being bullied for their accent, and experiencing racial microaggressions and discrimination on campus (Houshmand et al., 2014).



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