Bicultural Socialization Practices in the Netherlands, Norway, and the United States of America with Children Adopted from India

A cross-national sample of 622 internationally adopted children from India with White parents in the Netherlands (n = 409), Norway (n = 146), and the United States of America (USA) (n = 67) was used to contrast country-specific bicultural socialization (BCS) practices among families of transracial intercountry adoption. The three countries vary in their degrees of minority (USA > the Netherlands > Norway) and Indian populations (USA > Norway > the Netherlands). The current study examined parental survey trends among BCS practices, children’s negative encounters about adoption, racial and positive discrimination, and parental worry about these issues. Country-specific differences were revealed: The USA and Norway (greatest Indian populations) reported the greatest similarity in BCS practices, classmates being a source of negative reactions/racial discrimination, and parental worry. The American sample encountered greater negative reactions to adoption from others; Dutch children experienced the least negative reactions from others overall, yet like the USA (samples with the greatest minority heterogeneity) still noted significant experiences of racial discrimination. Country-specific socio-political perceptions about adoption, ethnicity/race, and immigration are considered as factors that may have been used to inform parenting practices that facilitate children’s biculturalism into family life (i.e., adoptive family stigma; percentages of Indian/minority populations; immigration policy trends). Concluding, cross-national research like the current study may help intercountry adoption policy makers and practitioners to better understand and inform BCS practices in adoptive families.