

# Racism: Past, Present and Future

MD Mehedi Hasan, Furqan Qadri, Synthia Tashfi, Dachiyani Mogan

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia , Kuala Lumpur (UTMKL)

## Abstract

Racism is one of the growing issues that is impacting the world. This informative poster explores the perception of racism, the history that incepted it and the current affect it still has over the people. Results of a survey is shown and detailed- a significant percentage of people is shown to have experienced racism at first hand and had less opportunities due to it. Overall, this poster is to shed light on how pressing the subject of racism really is and the instant need for it to be tackled.

## Introduction

Racism is the discrimination against a person or people on the basis that they belong to a specific racial or ethnic group, usually one that is a minority or marginalized. Racism is executed by individuals- or even communities or institutions- who deem their ethnic or racial background to be superior than that of the victim's.

## Objectives of the study

This survey was conducted to know the experiences of the people with racism. To know the various situations in which they felt that the colour of their skin played a role in how the people around them treated them. This would help in knowing which aspects of life are affected by racism. One of the objectives also was to know about what people feel about the various ways which can be used to eliminate racism an also suggest some ways of their own.

## Methodology

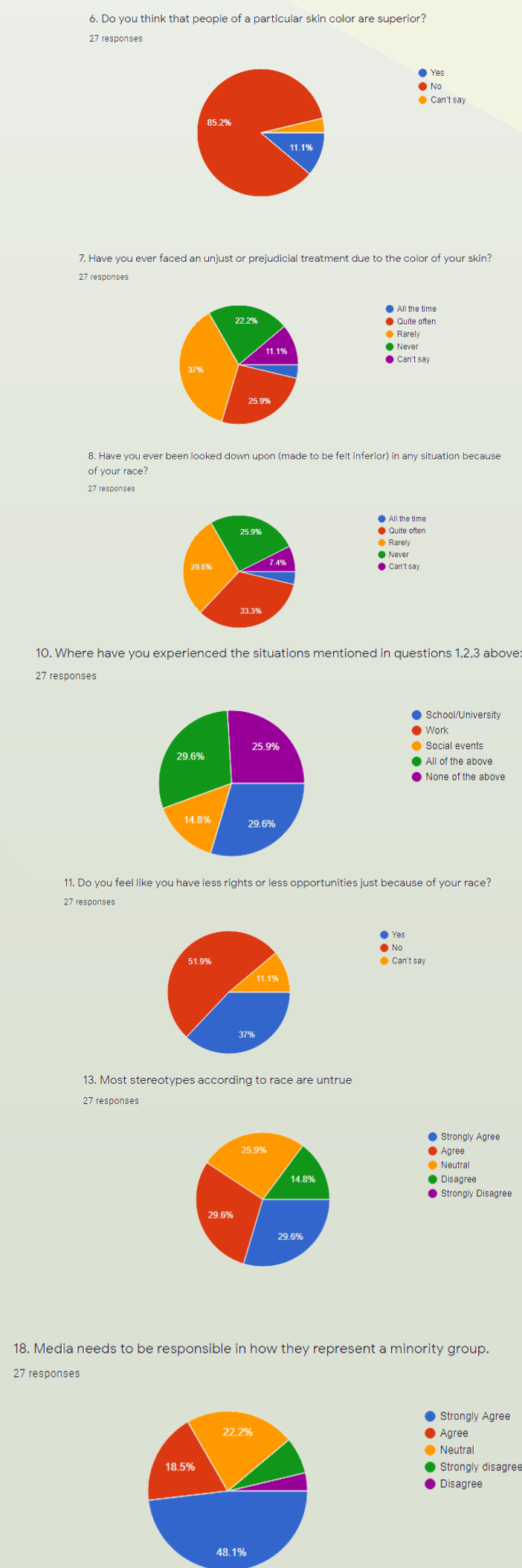
The study was conducted through a questionnaire which was prepared after due diligence. “Google Forms” platform was used and then the link of the questionnaire was shared and people responded.



## History

The roots of racism are painfully etched due to the popularity of the slave trade established in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. The slave trade originally developed due to the growing demand for sugar, which lasted in Britain for about 150 years. A trading system known as the “triangular trade” was created to obtain sugar and other goods. Britain traded textiles, gunpowder and silk in Africa for the sugar while also obtaining slaves well. By the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, Britain was one of the richest slave trading nations in the world and over 30 million people were taken from west Africa and forced into slavery.

## Results/discussion



85.2% of the respondents believed that a people who have a particular skin colour are not superior. This indicates that an overwhelming majority of people do believe in the equality of all people irrespective of skin-color and the proportion of racist people in society is lesser.

85.2% of the respondents believed that a people who have a particular skin colour are not superior. This indicates that an overwhelming majority of people do believe in the equality of all people irrespective of skin-color and the proportion of racist people in society is lesser.

More than one-third of the people said that they had been looked upon because ego their race. This is common in Western countries. Racist ideology considers some people inferior and they are thought of lacking abilities and less of a human than others all because of the colour of their skin. Again, a worrying result.

Almost one-third of the respondents had experienced racism not only in schools/universities but at work and social places as well. This shows that racism is not limited to the harassment at a particular institution but is widespread in the society .Its effects can be seen in most day-to-day scenarios of life.

37% of the respondents believed that they have less opportunities due to their race. This implies that racism has limited the opportunities available to the people. They feel that they will be treated impartially and people of a particular race will be preferred over them for job opportunities, leadership positions etc. This is a also a concern and makes eliminating racism all the more important.

55.5% people believed in one way or the other that most stereotypes according to race are untrue. This includes ones such white men are intelligent than others, black skinned people are meant to be working only in fields etc. Most of the people do realise that these stereotypes have no practical implication. All of us are born equal and no one is privileged because of his skin colour.

About two thirds of the respondents believed that media needs to be responsible in representing minority groups who often fall prey to racism. Media needs to highlight the issues of people who face racism and report responsibly on it. An impartial approach should be adopted when reporting incidents of racism.

## General Impact

Hundreds of years passed, but to this day there are many regions in the world that still have deeply rooted racism and hate crimes against minorities.

Many minorities start facing racism as early as their childhood and the implications of what they face are significant:

- ◆ **Negative** psychological impact
- ◆ **Loss** of education and educational opportunities (especially when a super race is favored)
- ◆ Promotion of **anti-social** behaviors and isolation
- ◆ **Increased criminalization** of children often for conduct that does not threaten the safety of others
- ◆ **Negative** psychological impact

## Conclusion

After understanding how ingrained racism is from the effects of slave trade and colonization, how it impacts minorities to this day and analyzing the results from the survey, we can conclude that racism is one of the most urgent issues or drawbacks in modern times. It is the most common type of inequality that is forcing many communities to retreat from growth and diversity, while also risking the lives of marginalized groups, as the antagonism of the “superior race” continues on. It is a problem that needs to be realistically addressed not just immediately, but consistently, our efforts stopping only when true equality is reached, when a person’s skin color and physical features are not defined on how he or she should be treated.

## References

1. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1B7Pdwyy--kF8dsMJ3MSicQ637Bx94IXW4aOPpaSmK6Gw/edit#responses>
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racism>
3. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/racism>
4. <https://www.aljazeera.com/tag/racism/>