HAVE YOU EVER

The Tennis Ball Test Activity

The Purpose

To provide participants with an opportunity to understand the experiences of people from different racial and cultural backgrounds.

The activity

Time: 1 hour

1. Participants should stand next to their cylinders of tennis balls or other chosen visual device.
2. Participants should listen carefully to the questions. For Part 1, if the answer to a question is 'yes', they retrieve a ball from the cylinder and releases it on the floor. For Part 2, if the answer to a question is 'yes', they pick up a ball from the floor and return it to their cylinder.
3. After all the questions have been asked, participants regroup to discuss the following:
    a. How did that feel?
    b. How did you see yourself in relation to other participants? Has it changed?
    c. Which question made you think the most?
    d. What have you learned from this experience?

The questions

Part 1

1. In your personal experience, has anyone ever assumed anything negative about your character because of your nationality?
2. Has an online comment criticizing foreigners in Singapore ever made you feel sad or angry?
3. Have you ever been called a derogatory name that identified you by only your nationality? (eg. Maria, Ah Tiong, Ah Neh).
4. Have you ever received a direct message from a stranger that insulted you for your nationality? (eg. Bangla, Maria, go home.)

5. Has anyone ever refused to explain something of a local context to you, because they thought you "wouldn't understand" anyway?
6. Have you ever felt excluded at work or school because of your nationality?
7. Have you ever felt that you have been denied recognition of your contributions or unfairly passed over for an opportunity at work or school because of your nationality?
8. In your personal experience, has anyone in Singapore ever looked down on you because of your nationality, or have you ever thought to yourself that people of a certain nationality are inferior to your own?
9. Have you ever been afraid of joining a group event because you thought people wouldn't want someone of your nationality there?
10. Have you ever feel that your actions are constantly been scrutinized for wrongdoing because of your nationality?
11. Have you ever felt threatened or in danger in a public place because of your nationality?
12. Have you ever "liked" or shared a post that portrayed people of a different nationality in Singapore in a bad light?
13. Have you ever implied to someone that his views aren't welcome because of his nationality?
14. Do you deliberately avoid making friends with people of a different nationality, even when they're nice to you?

Part 2

1. Have you ever met Singaporeans/foreigners in Singapore who are curious to know more about your country?
2. Have any Singaporeans/foreigners in Singapore ever invited you out to sample their local food or activity?
3. Does your teacher or employer fairly recognize your skills and work, as they would a Singaporean/foreigner?
4. Do you have a Singaporean/foreign friend whom you talk to on a regular basis in Singapore?
5. Has a Singaporean/foreigner in Singapore ever tried to help you understand a situation better by explaining their local term or cultural practice?
6. Has a Singaporean/foreigner in Singapore ever tried to teach you how to say something in their local language or dialect?
7. Has a Singaporean/foreigner in Singapore ever asked to learn a word or phrase from your country or language?
8. Have you ever been in a romantic relationship with a Singaporean/foreign partner?
9. Has someone of a different nationality ever defended you from criticism, whether online or in person?
10. Have you ever had a positive discussion about xenophobia and cultural differences with a Singaporean/foreigner?
11. Have you ever wished for a more open and honest discussion about xenophobia in Singapore?