

# Differences of Views

By: Priya Panchatcharam

As cultural changes are occurring in almost all families that move abroad, so are changes in professions. With new learning atmospheres and cultivation of imagination and creativity abroad, many Asian children are interested in new and uncommon professions. What was once thought of as useless and unfruitful by most Indian parents, are now genuinely considered by their children. The famous quote, "When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us." by Alexander Graham Bell, elaborately parallels this situation. While parents hope for only the best for their children, they often unwittingly hurt them by crushing their dreams.

Asian parents don't necessarily "force" their children into careers of their liking, not blatantly anyhow. They coax their children and put the idea of a particular career from the beginning - Doctors, Engineers or Lawyers are the most popular choices. If you couldn't take the academic strain, business seemed the choice for you. Asian parents' biases stem from the level of respect professional degree holders get from society. Every Asian parent wants their kid to have a name for themselves and be well recognized. In trying to groom their child for a certain career, they sometimes overlook the natural talent within the child.

*They forget that respect is not only awarded to Doctors or Engineers, but a talented musician can have just as much respect as the others. They might overlook their child's desires and dreams in the name of practicality. Who knows what kind of possibilities that same child might unravel given the chance to make a free choice, with no guilt attached or no fear of disappointing one's parents. A pool of entire undiscovered talents lays in that of Asian children. In trying to benefit society by providing Doctors and Engineers, Asian parents deprive it unknowingly of a treasure trove of talents.*

*- Sheel Patel*

Since Asian parents have worked so hard to travel abroad, their reservations towards their children's new career choices are understandable. In an altogether new society with unfamiliar morals and cultural traditions, parents can't help, but being worried about their children's futures.

*I think that Indian parents are not forcing you to choose a career but they are being good, loving and motivating parents. All they want is you to be the best because they actually know how good you are in terms of academics.*

*- Joel Mathew*

More and more Asian teens regard their parents as controlling and not understanding of their aspirations and goals, and feel that they must take their future into their own hands. They feel that though their parents mean well, they do not understand their ambitions, and that they won't be hindered by their parents' opinions against jobs that go against the norms of Asian society.

*There's a difference between being cautious and controlling. Certain Asian parents feel that if their children are successful in their career that it will compensate for mistakes those parents made. Personally, my parents are pretty lenient about my plans for the future. However they do seem reluctant to the fact that I want to do some involving art. For some reasons I'm expected to be a computer engineer, doctor, or nurse. But their opinions won't stop my decisions.*

*- Natasha Bhamala*

*My dad doesn't approve of my career choice-Marine biologist-because he thinks I will die poor, friendless, and thoroughly miserable on the streets. I won't, and I'll be emotionally happier than if I was a doctor or an engineer.*

*- Vinuta Naik*

Though parents are becoming more open with new career choices, they are still quite uncomfortable with the thought of their child becoming a journalist or a teacher. They feel that they will not be as distinguished or respected in society. But with new fields of study and advancement in almost every aspect of life, more and more uncommon jobs are now esteemed, and Indian parents have come to realize that the fulfillment of their children's goals are far more important than their own prejudices.



**Entertainment Unlimited - at door steps**

**Special collection for kids**

cartoons, favourite movies  
educational CDs, games etc.

logon to:

[www.cinebazaar.com](http://www.cinebazaar.com)

