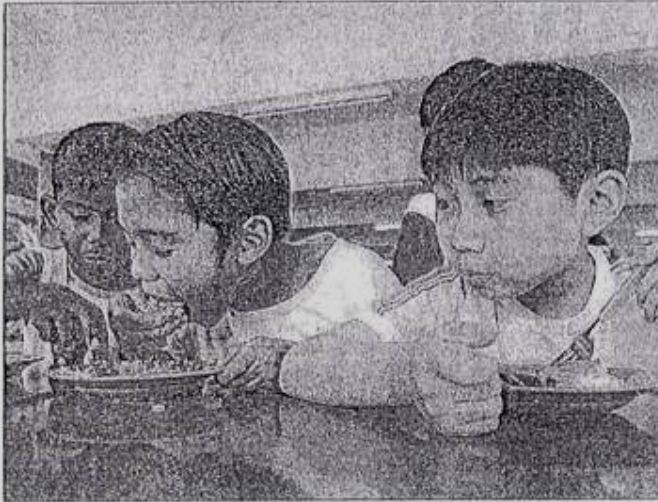


Headline	Bilingualism is the way to go		
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Bilingualism is the way to go



RACIAL HARMONY: Kids of different races can find common ground easily.

THIS is in response to Ong Soh Chin's column (Speak English Campaign, Aug 9).

Though she makes a good point about using English to communicate with other races, she makes the mistake of seeing language issues in Singapore as an either/or situation: If mother tongue is used more, the standard of English goes down.

What we need to inculcate in schools is balanced bilingualism where the children are equally comfortable in the mother tongue and English and can code-switch with dexterity.

It is like being equally comfortable in a skirt or sari and being sensitive to the domains which demand a particular dress code.

We don't need a Speak English Campaign. We need a Be Bilingual campaign.

VINITI VAISH

Research Associate

Centre for Research in Pedagogy and Practice

National Institute of Education