

# Respectful Racial Dialogue in “Group Shitemo”

– Interaction between Korean-Japanese minorities and Japanese  
arising from facing mutual differences –

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The purpose of this study is to propose a new concept designated as “Respectful Racial Dialogue” (RRD). The concept emerged from qualitative research using group interviews and documental investigations on a peer-support group for Korean-Japanese and Japanese people, known as “Group Shitemo” (or, “*Sore ga hitori no tame dato shitemo*” [“Even if it is for only one minority”]).

An analysis according to the Modified-Grounded Theory Approach revealed three findings, as follows. The first was the process of the integration of the “big” (socio-historical) and “small” (individual) stories in members of the Korean-Japanese minority group. The second was the process of change in the Japanese members, and the third was the characteristics of the group that allows them such changes. The results indicate the importance of three core elements: 1) racial self-awareness, 2) respect for the life stories of people who are struggling, and 3) dialogue that responds to relationships. RRD consists of these three core elements and has the potential to play an important role in encouraging dialogue between Korean-Japanese and Japanese people, thus providing ideas for psychosocial support for ethnic minorities.