

# Seminar 2

## **Cultural awareness and the Heterogeneous (mixed churches) or Homogeneous (separate Asian Churches) debate**

### **(A) Understanding the mindset of Indians**

There are four basic cultural traits that we need to be aware of

- (1) The importance of people
- (2) The importance of family
- (3) The importance “izzat” or honour
- (4) The importance of work and social status

### **(B) Which model? - Heterogeneous (mixed churches) or Homogeneous (separate Asian Churches)**

#### **1) The homogeneous model**

##### **Advantages**

- Successful in reaching Asians
- Meeting cultural needs
- Demonstrate that Christianity is not only for Westerners

##### **Disadvantages**

- Two cultures within the homogeneous model
- Cross fertilisation of ideas and cultures
- Introspection
- Bad race relations
- Large families

#### **2) The heterogeneous model**

##### **Advantages**

- People feel free to invite others of different nationalities
- Success in reaching British Asians
- Unity and diversity

##### **Disadvantages**

- Not as successful as the homogenous model
- Not ministering to the needs of traditional Asian

### **The church's dilemma, which model?**

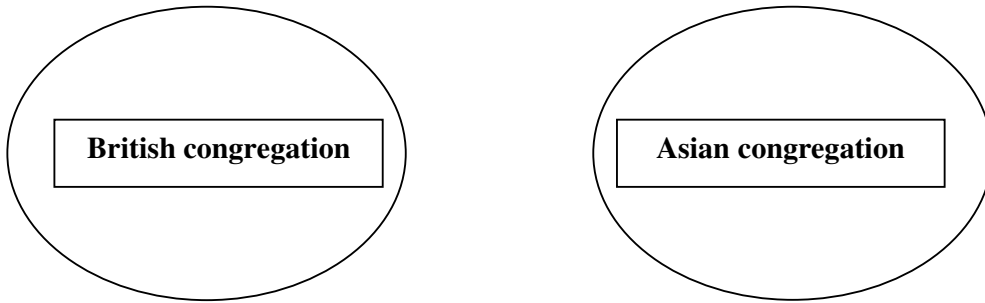
Heterogeneous church is more Biblical

Ephesians 4: 3-6, 2 Cor 5:19, John 17:11, Galatians 3:28, Col 3:11, Acts 11:18.

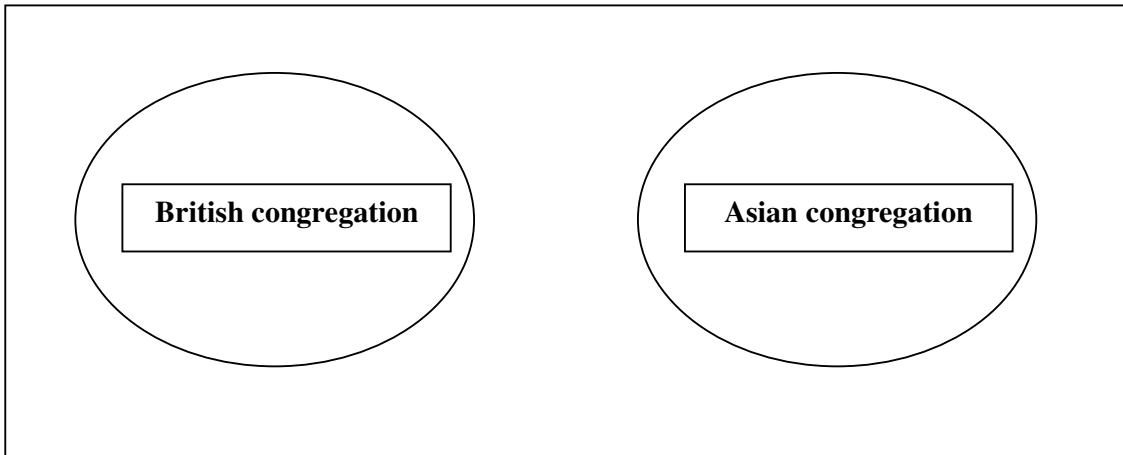
### **The hetro-homogeneous model**

Initially because of cultural diversity and language problems there may be a case for having separate services within a heterogeneous structure but then to move from a homogeneous to a heterogeneous model should be the long-term aim.

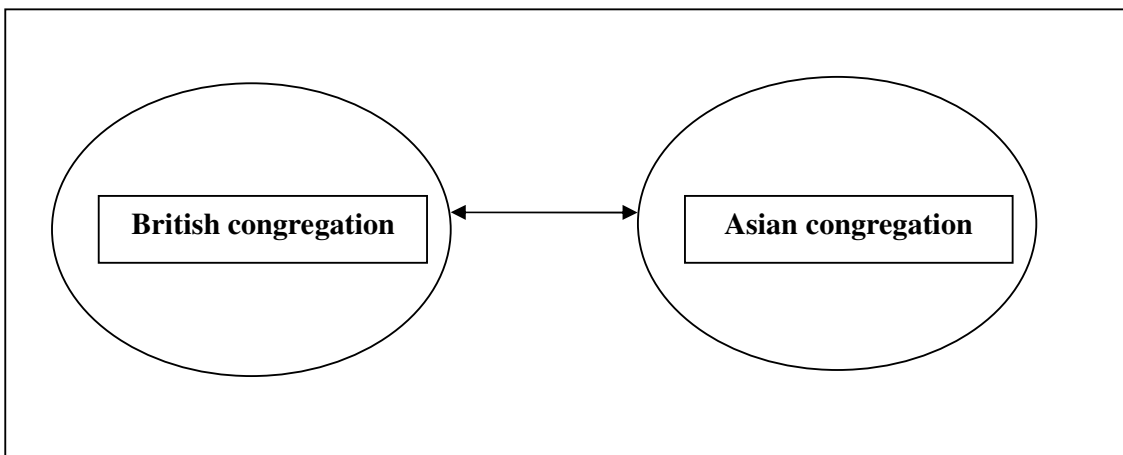
**1. Churches may be separate**



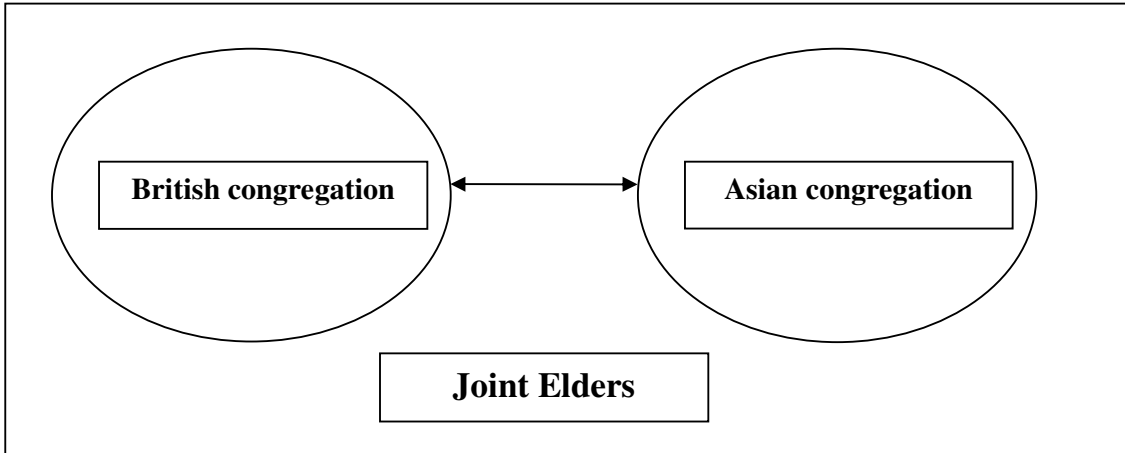
**2. Churches may be separate but meet in same building**



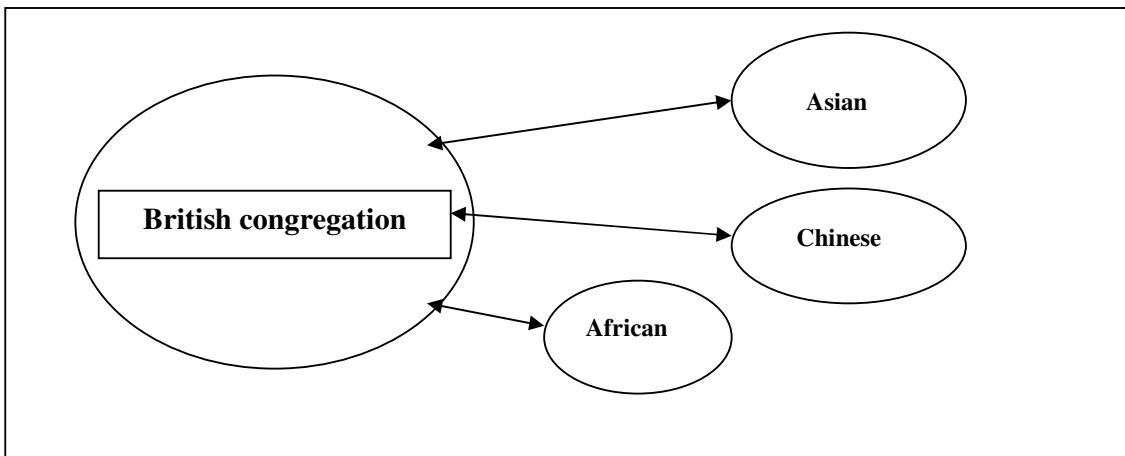
**3. churches may be separate but meet in same building & have fellowship**



**4. churches may still meet separately but have joint elders**



**5. Churches may have separate wings with one structure**



**6. Final goal**

