Social Integration Among Multi-Ethnic Students: Malaysia Universities Experience

Hamdan Said

Head of Higher Education Research Group

Faculty of Education

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA

Outline

- **Population and Ethnic Groups**
- ***Orang Asli Tribes* and Education**
- **Issues in System of Education**
- **Social Integration at Tertiary Education**
- **Study on Social Integration**
- **Implications of the Study**

Introduction

- Peninsular Malaysia - 13 states and 3 Federal Territories

- Borneo - 2 states of Sabah and Sarawak

- Country Administration - West minister-style parliamentary system of democratic government with a constitutional monarchy.

- Middle-income country

Population and Ethnic Groups

- 28 million people
- 200 ethnic groups
- Peninsular Malaysia – Malay, Chinese, Indian, and Orang Asli
- Sabah and Sarawak- Kadazan, Dusun, Bajau, Iban, Dayak, Bidayuh, Murut, Penan, and others.

innovative ● entrepreneurial ● global

Population and Ethnic Groups

- Malays (51.3%), Chinese (30.6%), Indian (7.1%), and indigenous groups (11.1%).

- Malays and non-Malay indigenous groups - son-of-the-soil group or *Bumiputera*.

- Language – Malay, English, Mandarin, Tamil, Arabic, and Punjabi

- Religion - Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and others

innovative • entrepreneurial • global

Orang Asli Tribes and Education

Senoi	Malay-Proto	Negrito
Semai	Temuan	Kensiu
Temiar	Semelai	Kintak
Jahut	Jakun	Jahai
Che Wong	Kanaq	Lanoh
Mahmeri	Kuala	Mendriq
Semoq Beri	Seletar	Bateq

innovative • entrepreneurial • global

Categories of *Orang Asli* Village

Category	f	%	Criteria
Rural	327	38	- Can be reached with earth roads, road trails or waterways. - Do not have access to clean water, no electricity for 24 hours, and have no other basic amenities. - Economic resources are not fixed.
Outskirts of village	519	61	- Near the Malay villages. - Can be reached by road premix. - Basic facilities, potable water, and 24-hour electricity. - Having a land development project and the economic resources that remain.
City	6	1	- Having the complete facilities. - There is no land development project.
Total	852	100	

Orang Asli by Ethnic and State

State	Senoi	Malay-Proto	Negrito	Total
Pahang	29,439	37,142	925	67,506
Perak	50,281	605	2,413	53,299
Kedah	19	0	251	270
Selangor	5073	12,511	3	17,857
Kelantan	12,047	29	1,381	13,457
Terengganu	818	41	34	893
Negeri Sembilan	916	10,435	0	10,531
Melaka	28	1,486	1	1,515
Johor	55	13,083	1	13,139
Total	97,856	75,332	5009	178,197

innovative ● entrepreneurial ● global

Education for *Orang Asli*

- Malaysia has ethnic-based school system
- National School, National-Type Chinese School, and National-Type Tamil School.
- Orang Asli – National School
- Dropout rate – 50% for primary school, 30% for secondary school
- Common reasons of dropout - location, lack of awareness, family values

Issues in System of Education

- Ethnic-based polarization

- Access to education for *Orang Asli*

- Recognition one national language

- Establishment of a national school system

- Lack of inclusiveness in policy change

- Lack of clarity for higher education in social integration

- Lack of concerted efforts and directions from higher education communities

innovative ● entrepreneurial ● global

Social Integration Issues at HE

- Lack of clear agenda for integration

- Lack of consistency in policy implementation involving medium of instruction

- Lack of standardization regarding curriculum execution among institutions

- Lack of consistency on research reports regarding social integration

innovative ● entrepreneurial ● global

Study on Social Integration

- Measure the level of social integration among students of different ethnics

- Identify the students' perceptions and attitudes regarding inter-ethnic and inter-racial integration

- Instrument - Campus Social Environment Survey as an instrument.

- Social Behavior Index for higher education institution

innovative ● entrepreneurial ● global

Demographic

Characteristic	Number (n)	Percentage (%)
	Ethnic	
Malay	740	70.0
Chinese	141	13.5
Indian	37	3.5
Others	125	12.1
Total	1043	100
	Gender	
Male	199	19.1
Female	844	80.9
	Year of Study	
First Year	935	89.6
Final Year	108	10.4

innovative ● entrepreneurial ● global

Means and Standard Deviations

No	Dimension	Overall Means	Standard Deviation
1	Accommodation (9 items)	2.76	0.30
2	Acculturation (9 items)	2.64	0.29
3	Assimilation (11 items)	2.89	0.27
4	Amalgamation (5 items)	2.90	0.40

innovative ● entrepreneurial ● global

Implications of the Study

- Government initiatives
- Initiative by universities

innovative ● entrepreneurial ● global

Government initiatives

- *Transformation of Higher Education*

- Develop an inclusive plan which put more focus on widening access and increasing equity, improving the quality of teaching and learning, strengthening research and innovation, cultivating life-long learning and strengthening the delivery system of higher education.

- *Research fund for social integration*

New Academic Courses

- Focus on learning and understanding different culture

- Expose to the concept of ethnic relations

- Inculcate the feeling of appreciation and understanding different culture and civilization

- Provide opportunities to carry out activities together

Policies for on Campus Activities

- No single-based ethnic club
- Incentive to organize multi-ethnics events
- Reduce-rate for sharing accommodation with different ethnics
- Request for facilities must involve multi-ethnics
- Support for college committee members appointment must involve multi-ethnics
- Appoint academic advisors with diverse background

innovative ● entrepreneurial ● global

Other Initiatives

- Allocation for academic advisors to conduct activities for indigenous students

- Extra tutoring and coaching for indigenous students

- Encourage academicians to provide group assignments

- Organize Service-Learning at indigenous areas

- Organize Entrepreneurial course for indigenous

innovative ● entrepreneurial ● global

Thank You