

Character Values and Their Affecting Factors for Elementary Schools Students in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and Selangor Malaysia: A Multilevel Analysis

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ABSTRACT

The era of society 5.0 requires Elementary Education Institutions to prepare students to have noble character to meet the demands of the current era. Character education is one of the focuses in education. In the other hand, character values have extensive development. Therefore it is necessary to make a character profile on students. Indonesia and Malaysia are allied countries, but do not guarantee the similarity of the character profiles of their elementary school students. This study aims to: (1) determine what factors are most dominant in the character of students in Indonesia and Malaysia; and (2) look at the differences in character factors in students in Indonesia and Malaysia. This research was conducted in 13 elementary schools in Yogyakarta, Indonesia with 140 students and 15 elementary schools in Selangor, Malaysia, with a total of 300 students using a cross sectional survey approach. The validated questionnaire was used as a data collection instrument. Then quantitative descriptive statistical techniques were used to perform data analysis. The results of the study show that: (1) the average score at the character level of elementary school students in Indonesia and Malaysia is in the good category; (2) The most dominant factor in the character of elementary school students in Indonesia is *courage*, while in Malaysia it is *ethics*.

Kata Kunci: *Character Education, Elementary School Students, Indonesia, Malaysia*