

**ANALYZING STUDENT SOCIAL PROFILE INVENTORY: SURVEYED ON
2006/ 2007 INTAKE IN UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH**

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**THIS DISSERTATION WAS SUBMITTED TO FULFILL A PART OF THE
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
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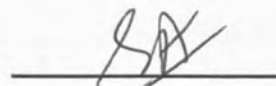
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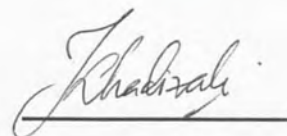
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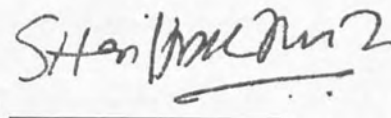
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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study is to examine the difference mean among the demographic factor and the student's behaviours in University Malaysia Sabah. Besides, this study also determined the influences of the family members, mass media and the peer group on the student's negative behaviours. There are 80 respondents aged between 19 to 24 years old who have been selected from University Malaysia Sabah to be involved in this survey and 56 respondents are female and the rest are male. The Kruskal-Wallis H test has been conducted to determining the significant mean of rank between the demographic factor and the student's behaviours as the variable of student's behaviour is not normally distributed. The result showed that the student's negative behaviours have the significant differences mean of ranks across the demographic factor. There is no relationship between the student's negative behaviours and the influence of the family members and the peer group when conducting the Spearman Correlation test. The Spearman correlation indicated that the student's behaviours are correlated significantly with the influence of the mass media only.



ANALISIS PROFAIL INVENTORY PELAJAR TAHUN 1, SESI 2006/2007**UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH****ABSTRAK**

Tujuan utama kajian ini adalah untuk mengenalpasti sama ada faktor-faktor demografik mempunyai pangkat min yang berbeza dalam tingkah laku pelajar dalam University Malaysia Sabah. Kajian ini juga bertujuan untuk mengkaji pengaruh keluarga, media massa dan rakan terhadap tingkah laku negatif pelajar. Seramai 80 responden yang berumur antara 19 hingga 24 tahun telah dijadikan subjek kajian dengan 56 perempuan dan selebihnya adalah lelaki. Ujian Kruskal-Wallis telah digunakan sebagai instrumen untuk menentukan pangkat min yang signifikan antara factor demografik dengan tingkah laku pelajar disebabkan pembolehubah tingkah laku pelajar adalah tidak normal. Keputusan telah menyatakan bahawa faktor-faktor demografik mempunyai pangkat min yang berbeza dalam tingkah laku pelajar. Tiada hubungan antara tingkah laku pelajar dengan pengaruh keluarga dan rakan wujud dalam kajian ini apabila kolerasi Spearman dijalankan. Kolerasi Spearman menunjukkan bahawa tingkah laku pelajar mempunyai hubungan yang signifikan dengan pengaruh media massa.



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LIST OF SYMBOL

λ_k	Eigenvalue
α	Cronbach's alpha
σ	Variance
r_s	Spearman's coefficient of rank correlation
H_0	null hypotheses
H_1	alternate hypotheses
χ^2	Chi-squared test
KMO	Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction of Dissertation

The education is essential to improve our quality of life. The education is a function or process of teaching or learning especially in the school or colleges to develop the knowledge and skills for future occupational roles, self development, and social functioning (Mooney *et al.*, 1997). The schools were built up several thousand years ago and educate the people to become successful leaders.

Different socioeconomic status will influence the educational success of a student. Students from the higher socioeconomic classes are more likely to do well in the school and to further their studies to the higher education in order to get better job in future (Mooney *et al.*, 1997). Many students from the lower socioeconomic classes can't afford to pay the cost in the higher level of education. Their parents have not much money for them to buy books, computers, attending some extra activities such as learning piano and drawing (Mooney *et al.*, 1997). They have no chance to go to college and only finish their studies until secondary or primary schools. Although the



societies are emphasizing the importance of education, many social problems occur in the societies especially among the adolescents. There are countless factors that affect adolescents in involvement of negative behaviours. The most important factors are the influence of mass media, problems in the family and the peer relationship.

1.2 Influence of Mass Media

Today, the development of the communication and information technology are very important for all of us as they help the society especially the students to study, learn, practice and gain the knowledge from all around the world. Mass media is including radio, television, computer (internet), film, newspapers, magazine and book (Tubbs and Moss, 2003). Mass media is primarily a medium for reporting news, educating, advertising and entertainment. Although the mass media brings us a lot of benefits of learning and culture; but it could bring a detrimental impact to our attitudes and behaviour at the same time, for example television (Macionis, 1994).

Television has grown more rapidly and most of the families in this world are having their own TV at home. Today, the adolescents spend more hours watching TV than in any other activities such as studying, reading, exercising or interacting with their parents. Sometime the programmes in the television can be very educational. However, exposure to television for hours and hours will cause the adolescents to clearly enjoy the gang violence, murder, suicide, child abuse and crime directly from TV.



A student will develop the drinking and smoking habits easily at the younger age of onset (Mooney *et al.*, 1997). Some of them become alcoholics just because of the influences by the movies. Besides, some teenagers had started to smoke when they were still very young as they like to follow the action of the actors in the movies. Because of no parental guidance or spiritual teachings, so they just watch and follow the actors. So the mass media can shape the moral attitudes of adolescents easily.

1.3 Problem in the Family

A family is a group of people including a mother, father and their children who live together and all are related to one another. The parents are responsible for the emotional well-being and healthy development of their children (Dacey & Kenny, 1994). Parents are essential and playing an important role of influence and support to the adolescents.

The parents-adolescents communication, support and control in the family influence the involvement of adolescents in the problems such as alcohol and drug taking, smoking and early sexual involvement. Poor relationship in the family makes the adolescents to feel no love and been rejected from the parents (Dusek, 1996). This will increase the maladjustment of their emotional and behavioural then cause the behaviour and academic problems in the school. Therefore, communication is very important in one family.



Some of the adolescents are coming from dysfunctional home environment. There are three types of family forms: two-parent family, single-parent family and family with no parent. Today, more teenagers are from single-parent families particularly single mothers who divorced or became pregnant unexpectedly but decided to continue the pregnancy without marriage (Lerner *et al.*, 2006). The divorces of the parents will bring negative impacts on their children. Those teenagers are more likely to have legal trouble in the school or divorce after marrying. Most of the teenagers who come from single-parent families are more likely to drop out of high school, withdraw and become depressed (Lerner *et al.*, 2006). They may wish to get more adult attention and guidance (Dacey & Kenny, 1994). Research indicates that the United States has the highest divorce rate when compare with Canada and most Western European nations (Lerner *et al.*, 2006).

Those adolescents who rely on the peer group for their support are particularly vulnerable to the peer pressure to engage in problem behaviours. According to the studies report, the boys are having more developmental problems by divorce than the girls (Zinn & Eitzen, 2002). They feel difficult to share some problems with their mothers (Noller & Fitzpatrick, 1993). They need the greater attention as they have more problems with alcohol and drug use than the girls (Zinn & Eitzen, 2002). So the fathers may be needed to discuss and help their boys. With only one parent in the family, the rates for violence severity, juvenile delinquency, school failure and teenage pregnancy are rising rapidly.



1.4 Peer Relationship

Peer group becomes increasingly important during the adolescents years when the maturing adolescents start to move beyond the immediate family. Peer group can be defined as a group where the members are all in the same age, social position and having the common interest (Dusek, 1996). For example, they may share the styles of dress and popular music with their friends in school which they would not share with their parents.

The adolescents are now more likely to share their feelings and problems to their close friends rather than to their family members especially parents. According to Dusek (1996), they spend more and more time in the company of their friends and less with parents at home as they grow older. Lack of parent presence, interest, and regard or are dealing with conflicting cues given by parents who frequently disagree with each other may encourage the adolescents to involve in dangerous age mates (Dacey & Kenny, 1994). Those who are not watched over enough by the parents are more likely to be rated on peer involvement, association with dangerous peers, and problems behaviours. Peer pressure will influence adolescents in harmful ways, such as encouraging involvement in antisocial or delinquent behaviour, alcohol or drugs abuse, smoking, becoming prematurely sexually active, or limiting one's achievement in school as they do not want to become the outsider, non-member or outcast.



1.5 Research Objectives

- a) To determine the difference mean of rank between the gender and the adolescent's behaviour.
- b) To determine the difference mean of rank between the ethnicity and the adolescent's behaviour.
- c) To determine the difference mean of rank between the religion and the adolescent's behaviour.
- d) To determine the relationship between the influence of mass media to the adolescent's behaviour.
- e) To determine the relationship between the influence of family to the behaviour of adolescent.
- f) To determine the relationship between the influence of peer group and the behaviour of adolescent.

1.6 Research Scope

This case study is focusing on the first year students, 2006/2007 intake in University Malaysia Sabah (UMS). The data is collected from the counsellor of UMS and it is based on the response of the students when they had filled in the questionnaires. There are some variables to be studied on the student's behaviour: demography factor, mass media, peer group and family.



CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The complex issues of juvenile delinquent such as crime and violence, alcoholic and drugs abuse, gangs, school dropouts and etc have been discussed for decades. According to Schlatter and Moorman (1996), the negative behaviours of adolescents today are caused by their experience personal, their family, economic, or the community situations. Adolescents can be categorized into some groups: different socioeconomic status, from single parent families, having abusive parents, abuse substances, teen pregnancy, delinquents and criminal behaviours and poor academic performances.



2.2 Demography factor

Demographic characteristics such as gender, ethnic and age are related to the behaviours of adolescents today. According to Ellickson and McGuigan (2000), the percentages for the males to engage in the crime and violent activities are much higher than the females. A smaller group of adolescents who begin to involve in the violent behaviours at their early age will likely to continue to offend it as adult such as stealing, cheating and aggressive behaviours (Calvert, 2002). Most of them began in their late childhood and cease these behaviours in late adolescence which is between 17 to 19 years.

2.3 Influence of Mass Media

Generally an example or model presented through the mass media plays a major role in influencing the children and adolescents' education. The young people usually identify themselves with the examples from politics, sports, music video and also action movies which will directly form their moral attitudes (Comstock & Strasburger, 1990). For example, many adolescents like to copy the action in the film of 'Rebel without a Cause'. They drove their cars towards steep cliffs in order to show their courage. Unfortunately, some of them had been killed in the accidents.

Adolescents imitate totally same as their models in the TV show because their models are able to do the things which they wish to do also especially use physical violence to obtain what they wish to get. When they adopt and imitate the immoral behaviours from the TV shows or magazines, these will greatly influence their inner



moral self. For example, they dress like in TV or magazines. They are doing the same activities, having same habits as their models like smoking, alcohol and cannabis use and act of violence and also read some pornographic magazines.

Sometimes, the examples presented by the parents have the opposing views from their children. The adolescents choose their models or example according to their self-realization, moral judgements and emotions. But the parents they themselves can be the model also. For example they play the important role in explaining the shows to their children. Some of the youth people are choosing their families members especially their parents as their models (Youniss, 1989). They learn much from their parents as the parents can cope a lot of difficulties. They prefer to share their troubles and sorrow with their parents this is because the parents have more experiences in mastering the development task where they cannot learn from the mass media.

2.4 Problem in the Family

The parents have to grow and change their mind progressively in order to accommodate the changing needs of the adolescents at home. This is because adolescents may find themselves difficult to form a healthy identity or positive self-esteem as they feel that they are lack of support and acceptance from their family members (Ryan & Lynch, 1989). Adolescents usually had great respect for their parents and wish their parents will feel proud of them when they have achieved something good (Atkinson, 1989). Some of the parents are able to make the adjustments and manage the conflicts that occur in the family (Paikoff & Brooks-Gunn, 1991; Steinberg, 1987).



Most of the children from one parent family have been less likely than children of two-parent families to further study to the higher level. According to Wallerstein (1987), he found out that most of the adolescents whose parents had divorced still studied in the college or university, but the performances were not very well. Only half of them were receiving financial help from their fathers. They felt disappointed as they were not given more support from their fathers to further their study. After divorce, whole the family members will suffer and feel anger, sadness and anxiety. Now, most of the mothers are more likely to be employed outside the home (Armistead *et al.*, 1990).

2.5 Peer Relationship

Peers play important part in the development of the antisocial behaviours of adolescents. Friends may have positive and negative impacts on adolescents (Brown, 2002). The lack of support and the attention from the parents will cause the adolescents more likely to rely to their friends.

The development of positive peer relationship can be improved by organizing some programmes; for example peer-mentoring programme in School of Health Science, Massey University as Wellington. A short peer-mentoring programme had been carried out on the second-year nursing student mentors and first-year mentee students. The aim or the objective of this programme was to help the first-year students during the period of their transition to university and nursing (Gilmour *et al.*, 2007). This is because they might encounter some problems and feel anxiety with the new university environment and academic in the first few weeks of the new semester.



Peer-mentoring is defined as being a purposeful and guiding relationship between an experienced mentor who give support, encouragement, advises and helps mentee with less experience where they are in the same age or same social status (Gilmour *et al.*, 2007). A good relationship between the peer groups enable the new knowledge and experience development and also increase their management and communication skills. The information and support from the peer groups can greatly encourage the students. Some of the first year students have a feeling of competition, nerves and stuff during the transition to the university (Gilmour *et al.*, 2007). When they are in time of troubles or sorrow, there is someone for them to share their problems. The student peer support makes them feel like they are belonged and be one member of a group.

Negative peer relationship will cause the multiple high-risk behaviours among the adolescents. Association with the delinquent peers are more likely to encourage the adolescents to participate in delinquent behaviours. Peers who abuse alcohols and drugs will encourage their friends to have similar behaviours (Conger & Reuter, 2002). The higher the proportion of drunkenness and cannabis using peers, the higher the members in the group's own drunkenness and cannabis use. The cannabis is readily available and fairly easy to obtain in the school. The students who bring the cannabis to the school make the cannabis more available for their peer group as it is not easily to obtain from outside (Kuntsche & Jordan, 2006). Some of the members in the peer group start to use alcohol and drugs because they want to fit in better with their peers. They do not want to become the outsider, non-member or outcast of the group, so they just follow all the actions from their peer group.



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