

The Mind of The Youth: A Comparative Study

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When we talk about the mind issues that appear are whether the mind of a person or a group of people can be studied and whether its form and pattern can be identified or whether the form or pattern of the mind can change. If the mind can change, what are the factors that enabled it to change. These aspects will be the main focus of this paper.

Time changes and the civilization will change too. Generation will be replaced. The changing time will resulted in various changes in every aspect of life, i.e. social, political, economy, education and also the mind. All these changes will also change style and pattern of human life.

Malaysia which used to be known as Semenanjung Tanah Melayu has seen various changes. The issue is whether the people who live in this country during the English colonialzation, during early independence and now have the same pattern of thought/mind? This paper will focus on the form the mind of the youth of Malaysia. It will also look into whether changes do occur in their mind and the factors that cause the changes.

Studies on the mind

Other words to explain the mind are such word as, welstanchaug and thought. All these words refer to the type of process and interpretation. Various informations and phenomena will influence perception and mentality and furthermore will influence a

person behaviour. Mangantar (1987 : 8) says that “a cognitive theory is a study how perception influence behaviour”. The human mind can be studied using various methods.

The mind or method of thinking can be seen in a critical and uncritical dichotomy. Critical mind is a process of making decision rationally to determine whether a person will or not act or believe on something (Nooris, 1985). An uncritical mind is a pattern of unrational thinking. Halpern (1996) adds that a critical mind is:

The use of those cognitive skills or strategies that increase the probability of a desirable outcome. It is used to describe thinking that is purposeful, reasoned and goal directed - the kind of thinking involved in solving problems, formulating inferences, calculating likelihood, and making decisions when the thinker is using skills that are thoughtful and effective for the particular context and type of thinking task.

Edward De Bono introduces a method of thinking which says that in thinking critically, the most important step is thinking as a whole and in detail. As a whole means that a topic or phenomenon will be analysed from various aspects. In depth means that every aspect will be analysed in detail.

To enable a critical thinking, De Bono (1992) suggests six styles of thinking in analyzing something. These six styles of thinking are labelled as the “Six Thinking Hats”. Using this method a person analyses using the six schemata, which are differentiated using six different colours of hats. i.e. white, red, yellow, black, green and blue.

A person who thinks using the white hat schema will try to get as much information as possible from the present situation. In this way the person will not take an early decision, but on the other hand, he will gather as much information before making a decision. Using the red hat schema, emotions will be taken into account, yellow hat schema is a form of thinking which focuses towards positive aspects, while black hat

schema focuses on negative things. Lastly the green hat schema focuses on getting new ideas.

Table 1: Edward De Bono (1992) ‘Six Thinking Hats’ Model

Colour of Hats	Nature/Characters of Thinking Processes	Effects to Groups/Societies	Benefits
White	Getting or accumulating all the required information before making a decision	All groups or people were getting the required consideration.	Decision will not be made in a hurry, but based on complete information.
Red	Taking into consideration all the emotional aspects before making a decision.	Emotional aspects of groups or societies getting the required consideration.	Emotional aspects or feeling of groups or societies will be considered.
Yellow	Thinking processes that focused on the positive aspects of the situation.	Groups or societies will get the benefits or positive effects from the decision made.	Groups or societies can predict the positive effects from the decision made.
Black	Thinking processes that focused on the negative aspects of the situation.	Groups or societies will be saved from negative effects of the decision taken.	Groups or societies can predict the negative effects from the decision made.
Green	Thinking processes that focused on new ideas or information.	Groups or societies will get the benefits of new ideas and information.	Getting the benefits from new ideas or information.
Blue	Thinking processes that focused on the decision making.	Groups or societies will get the required orders or responsibilities.	Groups or societies are clear about their respective responsibilities.

Mind of a person or a group of people can also be analyzed using the Delphi Method., Scenario Building Method, Times-Lines Method and others. In the Delphi Method; views, suggestions or arguments from any member of a group will be fully used so as to enable the group to build a general opinion. The opinion of an individual can later be changed by exposing him/her to the general opinion of the group. In other words, this method is based on the assumption that individual opinion can be changed by exposing him/her to the general opinion of the group.

In the Scenario Building Method, it is hypothesized that an individual will think or comprehend a message in accordance to surrounding or contexts of situation. The state of the mind is predicted to be formed based on the assumptions of what going to happen in the future. This method also stressed the importance of thinking holistically or gestalt in outlook. We must understand or comprehend any phenomenon as a whole situation. In Time-lines method, it is suggested that we think or comprehend a phenomenon intuitively or by the method of introspection, that is looking inside our self.

Methods in thinking that have been described in the above can be used separately or in combination. For example, Scenario Building Method was usually used in combination with the Delphi Method. Beside that, the above methods can be used to analyze or determine the thinking processes of individual, group or society.

Objectives and Research Methodology

This research is done to attain a few objectives. The research objectives are as follow:

- (i) To determine the state of the mind of urban and rural youth.
- (ii) To compare the state of the mind of Malay, Chinese and Indian Youth.
- (iii) To compare the state of the mind of Malaysian youth of various economic status.

Data for this research is collected through the implementation of a set of questionnaire. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The questionnaire was formed using the Likert Scale. In this type of questionnaire, for each question, respondent will respond to one of the five choices given. More than 1000 questionnaire have been distributed to respondents in three research areas. All questionnaires which have been answered by respondents were collected and marked. Data from the questionnaires will be tabled and analyzed inferentially using the SPSSX.

Importance of the Research

This research has three significance importances for Malaysia. The importance is as follows:

- a. Determining the state of arts of the mind of Malaysian youths. This knowledge will help government in determining the necessary changes and developments that can be understood and accepted by Malaysian youths. This knowledge can also minimize the conflicts between government policies and the needs of the youths.
- b. Helping Malaysian government to predict changes that may happened in the mind of Malaysian youths (Malay, Chinese and Indians) if they were faced with certain phenomena, happenings or changes.
- c. Determining the strength and weakness of the aspects of the mind of Malaysian youths.

Research Findings

There are four items that is used to see how the youth minds, namely personality, interpreneurial, world view, and loyalty. The research showed that the Malay personalities aspects reach 82% score, Indian youths 76.8% and Chinese youths 76.2 %

(Table 2). The achievement score more the 70% proved that personality items are owned by the three ethnics in Malaysia. The existence of several factors; such as criticism sustains, rational, open minded, excellent future, and responsibilities are the one asset useful to national development.

In this research, the world view item focus on three main aspects, such as information technology, globalization, and language. The research showed the Chinese youths obtained the minimal score is 59.4%, followed by Indian youths 67.2% (Table 2). The lowest score does not mean that the both ethnics were not interested to information technology and globalization issues, but they had negative opinions about Malay language. Indian and Chinese youths are not confident if Malay language is used in technology and science field, but they agree that Malay language used as integration language in all ethnics in Malaysia.

The Malay youths obtain 74.3% score (Table 2) in item “world view”, and the highest score does not mean that Malay youths are excellent in information technology and globalization aspects. The research indicated that the Malay youths have a negative perception about information technology. Most of them not have private computers, internet network, so that they were left behind in this aspect. While, the government of Malaysia provided all information technology facilities, but the Malay youths have less tendencies. They also did not understand of what is the globalization concept. Is this because of reading interest in Malay youths lower? Most of them answer; really do not know, when the globalization issues asked for them.

The Chinese youths dominated the entrepreneurial rating is 69.2% followed by Malay youths are 66.0% and Indian 58.0% (Table 2). The highest score which obtained by the Chinese youths are not strange thing. Most of them known as excellent entrepreneurial. They concern deeply rooted in entrepreneurial field, and some times they inherited business proficiencies from generation to generation. It means that entrepreneurial field is the flesh and blood for them. Some questions had been asked to the Chinese youths about IKS, procedure, and how to get the loans, and they answered

that they confident to do the business well. It defferents with Malay youths and Indian youths did not know anything about IKS and it's procedure.

Besides, there are some Malay and Indian youths not to dare towards the risk if they do the IKS business. One of the aspects which cause the percentage of Malay and Indian youths low in score rating in enterprenarial field is, they mostly do hoped the government support. Moreover, if asked for them are there Malay/Indian successful in business field without government support, they did not agree. It can concluded that they always think, the government must help and finance them in order to success in business.

In establishing process of the nation and loyalty, the researchers suggest that these aspects have to be increased. The research proved that; the loyalty of Chinese youths are only 67.0%, compare to Indian 80.6% and Malay 85.0% (Table 2). The question were asked in loyalty aspects such as DEB, *rukun negara*, education system, Malay language as a national language and some other aspects. Is it possible, if some questions are asked about Malay language and education system, the racist sentiment problem will appears? This is the main question and important issue to new youths of Malaysia and they have to think how to overcome it.

Table 2: The Achievment Score of Personality, World View, Entrepreneurial and Loyalty for Malay, Chinese and Indian Youths.

	Personality	World View	Entrepreneurial	Loyalty
Malay	82.0%	74.3%	66.0%	85.0%
Chinese	76.2%	59.4%	69.2%	67.0%
Indian	76.8%	67.2%	58.0%	80.6%
Others	81.3%	77.0%	84.7%	86.7%
Totally	79.1%	69.5%	69.5%	79.8%

Conclusion

The finding of this research will be able to significantly contribute towards the development of this nation. Mind and action are two entities which cannot be separated. This is because human actions are controlled by their minds. The decision to carry out an action or response is an effect of after mind. The youth are the country's greatest assets. It is utmost importance to have efforts in understanding their ways of thinking. We have to be able predict the mind patterns of youths. With this, we would be able to avoid an assortment of problems or unwanted conflicts.

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