

**SOCIO-CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT AMONG INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS IN MALAYSIAN UNIVERSITIES  
IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA**

**By  
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Management**

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## **ABSTRAK**

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji kesan dua pemboleh ubah bebas iaitu lokus kawalan dan sokongan sosial terhadap penyesuaian sosio-budaya dalam kalangan pelajar antarabangsa di universiti awam di Wilayah Utara Semenanjung Malaysia. Secara keseluruhan, seramai 120 orang pelajar antarabangsa di Universiti Malaysia di Wilayah Utara Semenanjung Malaysia telah terlibat dalam kajian ini. Analisis regresi telah digunakan untuk menguji hipotesis kajian. Keputusan kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa lokus kawalan luaran mempunyai kesan yang signifikan dan positif terhadap usaha bersifat peribadi, rasa berkaitan budaya, dan empati budaya. Selain itu, didapati bahawa lokus kawalan dalaman mempunyai pengaruh yang tinggi dan negatif kepada empati budaya. Di samping itu, sokongan sosial dari keluarga dan lain-lain yang ketara memberi kesan penting dan buruk kepada rasa berkaitan budaya. Akhir sekali, sokongan sosial daripada rakan-rakan bukan peramal yang signifikan bagi semua dimensi dalam pelarasan sosio-budaya. Implikasi, batasan kajian, serta cadangan penyelidikan akan datang juga dibincangkan.

## **ABSTRACT**

The present study aims to examine the influence of locus of control and social support on socio-cultural adjustment among international student in public universities in Northern Region of Peninsular Malaysia. A total of 120 international students in Malaysian Universities in Northern Region of Peninsular Malaysia participated in the study. Regression analysis was used to test the hypothesis. The results showed that the external locus of control had a significant and positive impact on impersonal endeavour, cultural relatedness and cultural empathy. Moreover, it was found that internal locus of control had a significant and negative influence on cultural empathy. Further, social support from family and significant others had a significant and negative impact on cultural relatedness. Lastly, social support from friends was not a significant predictor of all dimension in socio-cultural adjustment. Practical and theoretical implication, limitations of the study and recommendations for future research were also highlighted.

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Permission to use	i
Abstrak	ii
Abstract	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Table of Content	v
List of Tables	viii
List of Figures	ix
List of Abbreviation	x

### **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background of Study	1
1.2 Problem Statement	7
1.3 Research Questions	11
1.4 Research Objectives	11
1.5 Significance of Study	12
1.6 Operational Definition	13
1.6.1 Dependent Variable	13
Socio-Cultural Adjustment	13
1.6.2 Independent Variables	13
Locus of Control	13
Social Support	13
1.7 Summary of the Chapter	14

### **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

2.0 Introduction	15
2.1 The conceptual background of Socio-Cultural Adjustment	15
2.2 Concept of Locus of Control	18
2.3 Concept of Social Support	20

2.4 Underlying Theories	22
2.4.1 Locus of Control Theory	23
2.4.2 Stress and Coping Theory	24
2.5 Hypotheses Development	26
2.5.1 Locus of Control and Socio-Cultural Adjustment	26
2.5.2 Social Support and Socio-Cultural Adjustment	28
2.6 Theoretical Framework	30
2.7 Summary of the Chapter	32
 <b>CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY</b>	
3.0 Introduction	33
3.1 Research design	33
3.2 Unit of Analysis	34
3.3 Measurement and Instrument	34
3.4 Population and Sample	41
3.5 Data Collection Method	42
3.6 Pilot Test	43
3.7 Analysis Techniques	45
3.8 Summary of the Chapter	46
 <b>CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSES AND FINDINGS</b>	
4.0 Introduction	47
4.1 Data Screening	47
4.2 Respondent's Demographic Profile	48
4.3 Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA)	51
4.4 Re-statement of hypotheses	55
4.5 Reliability Analysis	56
4.6 Descriptive Statistic	57
4.7 Pearson Correlation Analysis	58
4.8 Multiple Regression Analysis	60
4.9 Result and Hypotheses Status of The Result and Analysis	63

4.10 Summary of the Chapter	64
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION</b>	
5.0 Introduction	65
5.1 Discussion	65
5.1.1 The Relationship Between Locus of Control and Socio-Cultural Adjustment	66
5.1.1.1 Internal Locus of Control and Socio-Cultural Adjustment	66
5.1.1.2 External Locus of Control and Socio-Cultural Adjustment	67
5.1.2 The Relationship Between Locus of Control and Socio-Cultural Adjustment	69
5.1.2.1 Family and Significant Others and Socio-Cultural Adjustment	69
5.1.2.2 Friends and Socio-Cultural Adjustment	71
5.2 Limitations of The Study	72
5.3 Suggestion for Future Research	72
5.4 Implications	73
5.4.1 Theoretical Implications & Practical Implications	73
5.5 Conclusion	75
<b>REFERENCES</b>	76
<b>APPENDICES</b>	
Questionnaire	89
Frequencies Statistics of Respondents' Profile	97
Descriptive Statistics of Variables	104
Reliability Analysis of Variables	105
Pearson's Correlation Analysis of Variables	111
Multiple Regression Analysis of Variables	112



## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1	The Malaysia's source of countries of international students enrollment	3
Table 3.1	Items and Sources of Items for Each Variable	37
Table 3.2	Total Number of Distributed and Received Questionnaires	42
Table 3.3	The Sum of Reliability Test	44
Table 4.1	Frequencies Distribution of Respondents Demographic Profile	49
Table 4.2	Factor Loadings based on Exploratory Factor Analysis	53
Table 4.3	Reliability Coefficients Results	57
Table 4.4	Descriptive Statistic	58
Table 4.5	Correlation Analysis	59
Table 4.6	Results of Multiple Regression Analysis	60
Table 4.7	Results of Multiple Regression Analysis	61
Table 4.8	Results of Multiple Regression Analysis	62
Table 4.9	Result and Hypotheses Status of The Result and Analysis	63

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 2.1: Hypothesized Theoretical Framework	31
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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATION**

MOHE	Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia
LOC	Locus of Control

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the background of study, the problem statement, research questions, research objectives, significance of the study and also the operational definition of the key terms used in this study.

#### **1.1 Background of study**

In the previous years, travelling to places further away from the area of origin is rarely done because it is difficult and limited access to transportation. Along with the advent of the era of globalization which is characterized by the development of technology and rapid transportation, things started to change (Sumer, 2009). The rapid development of technology and transportation have ultimately led to a lot of people from one country to visit other countries. Individuals who are traveling to another country for a specific purpose within a period tentatively called sojourner (Church, 1982). Sojourners travelled to another country with a variety of different interests, such as in the field of economic, social, political, military, education, and so forth. One area that is currently experiencing rapid growth is education. In this 21st century, internationalization of higher education is an essential issue which drives the high degree of enthusiasm by many students. The demand for higher education makes education turned into the key for each entryway,

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