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**THE MEDIATING EFFECT OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION ON
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STUDENT'S NEGOTIATING
LEADERSHIP SKILL AND STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE AT
SELECTED UNIVERSITIES IN ZHEJIANG PROVINCE CHINA**



**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA
2025**

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ABSTRAK

Penggabungan kepemimpinan pelajar, aktivitas sukan, dan latihan penyelesaian konflik ke dalam kurikulum dipercayai dapat membentuk kemahiran hidup yang penting, mengukuhkan ikatan sosial, serta meningkatkan penglibatan pelajar, dan seterusnya memperbaiki hasil akademik. Walaupun terdapat banyak kajian yang terpisah dalam psikologi, pendidikan dan pengajian organisasi, masih wujud jurang pendidikan antara disiplin dalam memahami bagaimana faktor kognitif, emosi dan tingkah laku membentuk kepemimpinan pelajar, kebolehan penyelesaian konflik, dan kejayaan akademik. Kajian ini menangani jurang ini dengan menyiasat sama ada kemahiran penyelesaian konflik menjadi perantara hubungan antara kepemimpinan berasaskan rundingan (NLS) dan prestasi akademik dalam kalangan pelajar universiti di Wilayah Zhejiang, China. Dengan menggunakan reka bentuk penyelidikan kuantitatif keratan rentas, kajian ini melibatkan 1,861 pelajar daripada tiga institusi, dipilih daripada jumlah populasi sebanyak 37,527 bagi tujuan untuk menilai kesan penglibatan kokurikulum terhadap pembangunan kepemimpinan, kebolehan penyelesaian konflik dan hasil akademik. Dapatan menunjukkan kepemimpinan berasaskan rundingan mempunyai kesan positif yang signifikan terhadap prestasi akademik ($\beta=0.963$, $p<0.01$) dan kemahiran penyelesaian konflik ($\beta=0.980$, $p<0.01$). Selain itu, kemahiran penyelesaian konflik juga memberi kesan positif terhadap hasil akademik secara langsung ($\beta=0.618$, $p<0.01$) dan memainkan peranan perantaraan separa antara kepemimpinan rundingan dan kejayaan akademik (kesan perantaraan $\beta=0.606$, $p<0.01$). Kajian ini menekankan bahawa kepemimpinan rundingan memberi pengaruh secara langsung dan tidak langsung terhadap kejayaan akademik ($\beta=0.146$, $P<0.05$) melalui keupayaan penyelesaian konflik. Dapatan ini menegaskan kepentingan aktiviti berstruktur dalam membentuk kepemimpinan rundingan dan kejayaan akademik melalui pengurusan konflik yang berkesan. Ia mencadangkan implikasi praktikal bagi pentadbir universiti, pendidik dan pembuat dasar; Penggabungan latihan kepemimpinan dan pengurusan konflik melalui aktiviti kokurikulum ke dalam struktur kurikulum dapat menyokong pembangunan pelajar yang holistik dan meningkatkan prestasi akademik.

Kata Kunci: NLS Pelajar, Penyelesaian Konflik, Prestasi Pelajar, Kemahiran Perundingan, Kepimpinan Pelajar

ABSTRACT

Incorporating student leadership, sports activities, and conflict-resolution training into the curriculum is believed to foster essential life skills, strengthen social bonds, and increase student engagement, ultimately enhancing academic outcomes. Despite isolated research across psychology, education, and organizational studies, a notable interdisciplinary gap remains in understanding how cognitive, emotional, and behavioral factors collectively shape students' leadership, conflict-resolution abilities, and academic success. This study addresses this gap by investigating whether conflict-resolution skills mediate the relationship between negotiation-based leadership (NLS) and academic performance among university students in Zhejiang Province, China. Employing a quantitative, cross-sectional research design, the study surveyed 1,861 students from three institutions, drawn from a total population of 37,527 for the purpose of assessing extracurricular participation's impact on leadership development, conflict-resolution abilities, and academic outcomes. The findings reveal a strong positive effect of negotiation-based leadership skills on academic performance ($\beta = 0.963$, $p < 0.01$) as well as on conflict-resolution skills ($\beta = 0.980$, $p < 0.01$). Additionally, conflict-resolution skills independently and positively impacted academic outcomes ($\beta = 0.618$, $p < 0.01$) and partially mediated the link between negotiation-based leadership and academic achievement (mediation effect $\beta = 0.606$, $p < 0.01$). The results underscore that negotiation leadership has a direct and indirect influence on academic success ($\beta = 0.146$, $p < 0.05$), as mediated by conflict-resolution capabilities. These findings highlight the importance of structured student activities in nurturing negotiation leadership and academic success through effective conflict management. They also suggest practical implications for university administrators, educators, and policymakers: incorporating extracurricular-led conflict management and leadership training into curricula can support holistic student development and performance.

Keywords: Students' NLSs, Conflict Resolution, Student Performance, Negotiation Skills, Students' Leadership

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

In China HE has experienced marked changes from its elite and exclusive system in the past to its mass and broad-based system today. This evolution is in line with the whole process of the country's development and reflects positive role of the state in the socialization of education (Kim, 2024; Chen & Zhu, 2020; China Ministry of Education, 2023). China Ministry of Education (2023) mentions reform efforts attempt to provide broader access to HE and guarantee that the academic quality remains in pace with global change while rapid international changes take place.

Historically, only a few were able to attend HE in China. Admission into the universities was highly competitive and limited to top ranked students with only some seats reserved for top performing students (China Ministry of Education, 2023; Cai, 2019). It preferred exclusiveness with tight admission requirements and deposited all resources in only a handful of elite institutions. In content, educational policy, curriculum development, and institutional direction, control was therefore kept by the state (Oluwalola, 2021; Shanghai Ranking Consultancy, 2023).

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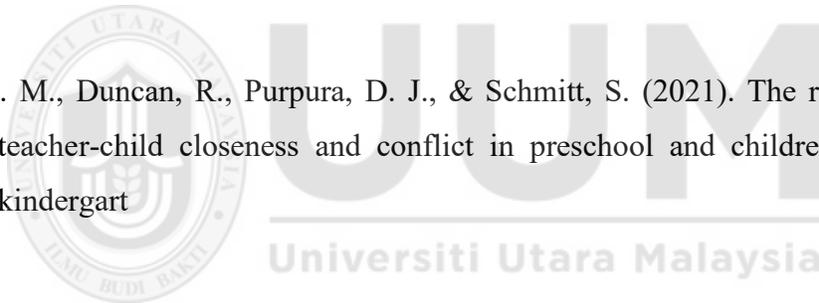
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Research Questionnaire (English Version)



QUESTIONNAIRE

THE INFLUENCE OF STUDENTS' STUDENT'S NEGOTIATING LEADERSHIP SKILL TOWARDS CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE IN UNIVERSITIES ZHEJIANG PROVINCE, CHINA

- Please answer all questions honestly based on your typical behavior and attitudes as a Universities college student
- Your responses will be kept confidential and used only for research purposes.
- Please rate your agreement with the following statements based on your typical behavior and attitudes.

Strongly Agree	1
Agree	2
Neutral	3
Disagree	4
Strongly Disagree	5

SECTION A
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. Gender:	
Male	
Female	
Other	
2. Age:	
Under 18	
18-20	
21-23	
Over 23	
3. Year of study:	
First year	
Second year	
Third year	
Fourth year	
Other (please specify)	
4. Major/Field of Study :	

5. My Current CGPA is (Please tick):

Below 2.0	
2.0 - 2.49	
2.5 - 2.99	
3.0 - 3.49	

6. Active in sports (Please tick) :

Yes :Type of Sports: _____(Please specify type of sports)

No

7. Not Active in Sports (Please tick) :

Yes

No

SECTION B
STUDENT'S NEGOTIATING LEADERSHIP

No.	Item	1	2	3	4	5
8	I prefer to take a directive approach when leading negotiations	1	2	3	4	5
9	I actively involve team members in the negotiation process.	1	2	3	4	5
10	I always inspire and motivate others during negotiations.	1	2	3	4	5
11	I clearly communicate my goals and expectations during negotiations.	1	2	3	4	5
12	I use active listening to understand the concerns and interests of other parties.	1	2	3	4	5
13	I effectively persuade others to support my proposals.	1	2	3	4	5
14	I am skilled at Resolving Conflicts that arise during negotiations.	1	2	3	4	5
15	I use collaborative problem-solving to address issues during negotiations.	1	2	3	4	5
16	I am able to mediate and facilitate discussions to reach agreements.	1	2	3	4	5
17	I typically employ distributive bargaining strategies in negotiations.	1	2	3	4	5

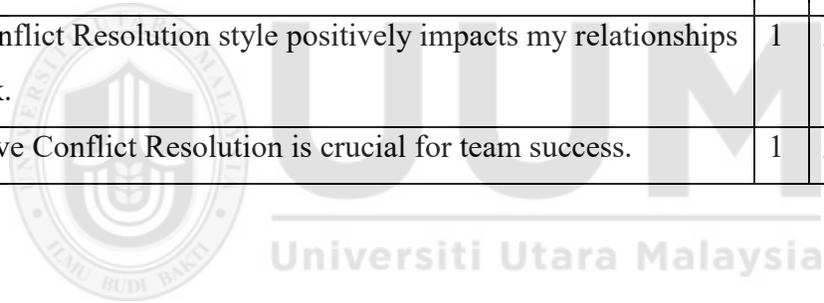
18	I prefer integrative negotiation approaches to find mutually beneficial solutions.	1	2	3	4	5
19	I balance assertiveness and cooperation effectively in negotiations.	1	2	3	4	5
20	I continuously seek opportunities to improve my NLSs.	1	2	3	4	5
21	I have undergone formal training or workshops related to negotiation and leadership.	1	2	3	4	5
22	My Negotiating Leadership style has positively influenced outcomes within my organization.	1	2	3	4	5
23	Effective negotiation has contributed to the success of my organization.	1	2	3	4	5
24	I face significant challenges as a negotiating leader.	1	2	3	4	5
25	There are ample opportunities to enhance Student's Negotiating Leadership within my organization.	1	2	3	4	5
26	The role of Student's Negotiating Leadership will become increasingly important in the future.	1	2	3	4	5
27	I would like to see more developments in the field of Student's Negotiating Leadership.	1	2	3	4	5

SECTION C

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

No.	Item	1	2	3	4	5
28	I often assert my own opinions during conflict situations.	1	2	3	4	5
29	I am willing to argue my point of view even if it means pushing others' concerns aside.	1	2	3	4	5
30	I try to integrate others' ideas with my own to come up with a solution that benefits everyone.	1	2	3	4	5
31	I emphasize finding a win-win solution when dealing with conflicts.	1	2	3	4	5
32	I try to find a middle ground when resolving conflicts.	1	2	3	4	5

33	I am willing to make concessions to reach an agreement.	1	2	3	4	5
34	I tend to avoid conflicts rather than confront them directly.	1	2	3	4	5
35	I prefer to postpone addressing conflicts when possible.	1	2	3	4	5
36	I often give in to others' demands to keep the peace.	1	2	3	4	5
37	I prioritize maintaining harmony over addressing my own concerns during conflicts.	1	2	3	4	5
38	I am aware of my preferred Conflict Resolution style.	1	2	3	4	5
39	I can adapt my Conflict Resolution style depending on the situation.	1	2	3	4	5
40	I believe my approach to Conflict Resolution is effective in most situations.	1	2	3	4	5
41	I seek feedback on my Conflict Resolution skills to improve them.	1	2	3	4	5
42	My Conflict Resolution style positively impacts my relationships at work.	1	2	3	4	5
43	Effective Conflict Resolution is crucial for team success.	1	2	3	4	5



SECTION D
STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE

No.	Item	1	2	3	4	5
44	I have a strong understanding of the subject matter in my courses.	1	2	3	4	5
45	I am confident in my ability to explain key concepts to others.	1	2	3	4	5
46	I consistently achieve high grades on my exams and assignments.	1	2	3	4	5
47	I can effectively apply the skills I learn in class to practical situations.	1	2	3	4	5
48	I am proficient in the technical skills required for my field of study.	1	2	3	4	5

49	I regularly participate in activities that help develop my practical skills (e.g., labs, projects, internships).	1	2	3	4	5
50	I see myself as a capable and competent student.	1	2	3	4	5
51	I identify strongly with my field of study and future profession.	1	2	3	4	5
52	I feel motivated to achieve my academic and career goals.	1	2	3	4	5
53	I am generally motivated to study and complete my coursework.	1	2	3	4	5
54	I manage my time effectively to balance study and personal life.	1	2	3	4	5
55	I feel confident in my ability to overcome academic challenges.	1	2	3	4	5
56	I use effective study strategies to enhance my learning.	1	2	3	4	5
57	I regularly review and reflect on my learning progress.	1	2	3	4	5
58	I seek help and feedback when I do not understand something.	1	2	3	4	5
59	My study environment is conducive to learning.	1	2	3	4	5
60	I have access to the resources and support I need for my studies.	1	2	3	4	5
61	The teaching methods used in my courses help me understand the material.	1	2	3	4	5

THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Your input is valuable in understanding the factors that influence student performance.

Appendix B: Research Questionnaire (Chinese Version)

问卷调查

中国浙江省高等教育机构（大学）学生谈判领导对冲突解决与学生成绩的影响

- 作为一名大学生，请根据您这一身份的典型行为和态度，诚实地回答所有的问题。
- 您的回复将被保密，仅用于研究目的。
- 请根据您的典型行为和态度，评价您是否同意以下陈述。

非常同意	1
同意	2
中立的	3
不同意	4
强烈反对	5

第一部分
人口统计信息

1. 性别（请勾选）：

- 男
- 女
- 其他

2. 年龄（请勾选）：

- 18 岁以下
- 18-20
- 21-23
- 超过 23

3. 学习年份（请勾选）：

- 大一
- 大二
- 大三
- 大四
- 其他（请注明）： _____

4. 专业/研究领域（请注明）： _____

5. 我目前的 CGPA 是：（请勾选）

低于 2.0	
2.0 - 2.49	
2.5 - 2.99	

6. 我经常运动（请勾选）：

是 如果是，运动项目是_____。(请注明具体运动)

否

7. 我不爱运动（请勾选）：

是

否

第二部分
谈判领导力

编号	项目	1	2	3	4	5
8	我更喜欢在主导谈判时采取一种直接的方法。	1	2	3	4	5
9	我积极地让团队成员参与到谈判过程中来。	1	2	3	4	5
10	我总是在谈判过程中激励和激励别人。	1	2	3	4	5
11	我在谈判过程中清楚地表达了我的目标和期望。	1	2	3	4	5
12	我通过积极的倾听来了解其他各方所关切的及利益所在之处。	1	2	3	4	5
13	我有效地说服了其他人来支持我的建议。	1	2	3	4	5
14	我擅长解决在谈判过程中出现的冲突。	1	2	3	4	5
15	我使用协作的方式来解决问题。	1	2	3	4	5

16	我能够调解和推动讨论来达成最终协议（合作）。	1	2	3	4	5
17	我通常在谈判中使用分配式谈判策略。（争取更多自身利益不在意他人）	1	2	3	4	5
18	我更喜欢用整合式谈判的方法来找到互惠互利的解决方案。（双赢的方式）	1	2	3	4	5
19	我在谈判中有效地平衡了独自做决策和与他人合作。	1	2	3	4	5
20	我不断地寻求机会来提高我的谈判领导能力。	1	2	3	4	5
21	我接受或参与过与谈判和领导力相关的正式培训或研讨会。	1	2	3	4	5
22	我的谈判领导风格对我的公司内部的结果产生了积极的影响。	1	2	3	4	5
23	有效的谈判促成了我所在组织（机构）的成功。	1	2	3	4	5
24	作为一名谈判领袖，我面临着重大挑战。	1	2	3	4	5
25	在我的组织中有足够的机会来提高谈判领导能力。	1	2	3	4	5
26	谈判领导力的作用在未来将变得越来越重要。	1	2	3	4	5
27	我希望看到谈判领导力领域的更多发展。	1	2	3	4	5

第三部分

冲突解决

编号	项目	1	2	3	4	5
28	在冲突事件中，我经常坚持自己的观点。	1	2	3	4	5
29	我愿意论证我的观点，即使这意味着置他人的想法于不顾。	1	2	3	4	5

30	我试着把别人的想法和我自己的想法结合起来，想出一个有利于所有人的解决方案。	1	2	3	4	5
31	我强调在处理冲突时要找到一个双赢的解决方案。	1	2	3	4	5
32	我试图在解决冲突时找到一个中间立场。	1	2	3	4	5
33	我愿意做出让步以达成合作。	1	2	3	4	5
34	我倾向于避免冲突，而不是直接面对它们。	1	2	3	4	5
35	我宁愿尽可能地推迟解决冲突。	1	2	3	4	5
36	我经常屈服于别人要求的维持和平的要求。	1	2	3	4	5
37	在冲突中，我优先考虑保持和谐，而不是解决我自己所关心的问题。	1	2	3	4	5
38	我知道我更喜欢的冲突解决方式。	1	2	3	4	5
39	我可以根据具体的情况来调整我的解决冲突的方式。	1	2	3	4	5
40	我相信，我解决冲突的方法在大多数情况下都是有效的。	1	2	3	4	5
41	我寻求关于我解决冲突的能力的反馈，以便提高它们。	1	2	3	4	5
42	我解决冲突的风格对我在工作（学业）中的人际关系有积极的影响。	1	2	3	4	5
43	有效的冲突解决是团队成功的关键。	1	2	3	4	5

**第四部分
学生成绩**

编号	项目	1	2	3	4	5
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44	我对我所学课程的主题有很深的理解。	1	2	3	4	5
45	我对自己向他人解释关键概念的能力很有信心。	1	2	3	4	5
46	我在考试和作业中一直都能取得高分。	1	2	3	4	5
47	我可以有效地将我在课堂上学到的技能应用到实际情况中。	1	2	3	4	5
48	我精通我的学习领域所需的技巧、技能。	1	2	3	4	5
49	我定期参加帮助我发展实践技能的活动（例如，实验室活动、学术项目、实习）。	1	2	3	4	5
50	我认为自己是一个有能力的学生。	1	2	3	4	5
51	我非常认同我的研究领域和未来的职业。	1	2	3	4	5
52	我感到有动力去实现我的学术和职业目标。	1	2	3	4	5
53	我通常都有动力去学习和完成我的课程作业。	1	2	3	4	5
54	我有效地管理着我的时间来平衡学习和个人生活。	1	2	3	4	5
55	我对自己克服学术挑战的能力充满信心。	1	2	3	4	5
56	我使用有效的学习策略来提高我的学习能力。	1	2	3	4	5
57	我定期回顾和反思我的学习进度。	1	2	3	4	5
58	当我不理解一些事情时，我会寻求帮助和反馈。	1	2	3	4	5
59	我的学习环境有利于学习。	1	2	3	4	5
60	我可以获得我的学习所需的资源和支持。	1	2	3	4	5
61	在我的课程中老师们使用的教学方法可以帮助我理解这些学习材料。	1	2	3	4	5

谢谢您!

感谢您花时间完成这份调查问卷。你的意见对于理解影响学生成绩的因素很有价值。



Consent Letters

CONSENT FORM

WANG YE, Matrix No.:905351, a PhD. Candidate from Universiti Ultra Malaysia (UUM) are authorized to collect data in accordance with relevant laws and regulations and academic norms for academic research titled: the influence of negotiating leadership towards conflict resolution and students' achievement in Zhejiang province higher education institution, china, by means of questionnaire survey and any other research methods in the campus of our university.

WANG YE promises not to use the data and relevant information for any other purpose besides this study, otherwise, our university reserves the right to pursue legal responsibility.



UUM
Universiti Utara Malaysia

Zhejiang Gongshang University
2022/07/21



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Zhejiang University of Finance and Economics

2021/07/20



UUM
Universiti Utara Malaysia

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Zhejiang University of Finance and Economics Dongfang College



UUM
Universiti Utara Malaysia

Questionnaire Validation Form

Title of Research:

THE INFLUENCE OF STUDENTS' STUDENT'S NEGOTIATING LEADERSHIP SKILL TOWARDS CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE IN UNIVERSITIES ZHEJIANG PROVINCE, CHINA.

Name of Researcher: WANG YE

Student ID: 905351

Programme Name / Code: Doctor of Philosophy

Name of Validator: YANG FEI

Degree of Validator: Phd.

Position of Validator: Lecturer

Direction: This tool asks for your evaluation of the questionnaire to be used in a data gathering for the investigation stated above, to establish its validity. You are requested to give your assessment using the criteria stated below; please check only one from the selection.

Scale	Interpretation	Description
5	Very high valid	The questionnaire is valid and can provide unbiased data for the investigation, allowing 0-5% error
4	High valid	The questionnaire is valid and can provide unbiased data for the investigation, allowing 8-10% error
3	Valid	The questionnaire is valid and can provide unbiased data for the investigation, allowing 11-15% error
2	Less valid	The questionnaire is valid and can provide unbiased data for the investigation, allowing 16-20% error
1	Not valid at all	The questionnaire is valid and can provide unbiased data for the investigation, allowing 21-25% error

Validator's Questionnaire Assessment

Indicators	Rating				
	1	2	3	4	5√
The indicators in the questionnaire consistently and accurately measure each variables of investigation.	1	2	3	4	5√
The questionnaire fits with the variables under investigation, thus measuring what it tends to measure.	1	2	3	4	5√
The questionnaire has the capability to measure items of variables within a given time frame.	1	2	3	4	5√
The questionnaire has the ability to distinguish the characteristics or the properties of differing attributes of the subject under study.	1	2	3	4	5√
The questionnaire has the ability to gather factual data, eliminating biases and subjectivity.	1	2	3	4	5√
Quick and complete data can be generated by the questionnaire within the time frame allowed to obtain the data.	1	2	3	4	5√
The questionnaire has no influence on the variables being measured.	1	2	3	4	5√
The questionnaire is framed in a clear, simple, in order to avoid risk of error.	1	2	3	4	5√
The questionnaire is capable of generating data that will be of value and practical use to the sectors concerned in the investigation.	1	2	3	4	5√

Comments and Suggestions:

The questionnaire is efficiently designed, ensuring high content validity with its concise and clear questions, which are particularly effective for the influence of Student's Negotiating Leadership towards Conflict Resolution and Students' Performance.

Signature of Validator

2022/07/10

Date of Validation

Questionnaire Validation Form

Title of Research:

THE INFLUENCE OF STUDENTS' STUDENT'S NEGOTIATING LEADERSHIP SKILL TOWARDS CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE IN UNIVERSITIES ZHEJIANG PROVINCE, CHINA.

Name of Researcher: WANG YE

Student ID: 905351

Programme Name / Code: Doctor of Philosophy

Name of Validator: LU Juanhong

Degree of Validator: Phd.

Position of Validator: Professor

Direction: This tool asks for your evaluation of the questionnaire to be used in a data gathering for the investigation stated above, to establish its validity. You are requested to give your assessment using the criteria stated below; please check only one from the selection.

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The questionnaire is capable of generating data that will be of value and practical use to the sectors concerned in the investigation.	1	2	3	4	5√

Comments and Suggestions:

The content of this questionnaire is very concise and clear, it allows the researcher to collect the data quickly. It's scale is very effective, and its language is easily understood and straightforward for the participants.

陈焯滔 

2022/07/11

Signature of Validator

Date of Validation

Questionnaire Validation Form

Title of Research:

THE INFLUENCE OF STUDENTS' STUDENT'S NEGOTIATING LEADERSHIP SKILL TOWARDS CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE IN UNIVERSITIES ZHEJIANG PROVINCE, CHINA.

Name of Researcher: WANG YE

Student ID: 905351

Programme Name / Code: Doctor of Philosophy

Name of Validator: WU JIANHONG

Degree of Validator: Phd.

Position of Validator: Associate Professor

Direction: This tool asks for your evaluation of the questionnaire to be used in a data gathering for the investigation stated above, to establish its validity. You are requested to give your assessment using the criteria stated below; please check only one from the selection.

Scale	Interpretation	Description
5	Very high valid	The questionnaire is valid and can provide unbiased data for the investigation, allowing 0-5% error
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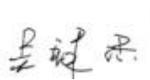
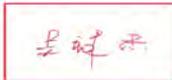
Validator's Questionnaire Assessment

Indicators	Rating
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The questionnaire is capable of generating data that will be of value and practical use to the sectors concerned in the investigation.	1	2	3	4	5√

Comments and Suggestions:

Generally, it is a concise questionnaire, it is easy for the researcher to collect the data efficiently. The scale is scientific comprehensive, meanwhile, the language is easily understood and straightforward for the participants.

Signature of Validator

2022/07/10

Date of Validation