

Life Satisfaction Level Among Javanese and Non-Javanese Students Who are Studying in Malang

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Abstract. As one of the largest archipelago country, Indonesia have various race and ethnicity, in which Javanese is the most dominant one. Javanese people are considered calm, polite and respectful in behaving. It tends to be different from non-Javanese society. Moreover, Javanese reside in the island of Java, precisely in East Java and Central Java. As a city located in East Java, Malang have been chosen by heterogenous students with various cultural background to study. Ethnic differences tend to have an influence on life satisfaction. Life satisfaction is a clear measure of quality of life. The purpose of this research is to find out whether or not there is a difference in life satisfaction among Javanese and non-Javanese students who are studying in Malang. There were 150 students indicated as recruited participants in this current research. The analytical method was used in line with Mann-Whitney test. The result of this research has shown that there is no difference in life satisfaction among Javanese and non-Javanese students who are studying in Malang, in which $p = 0.0765$ probability value and $p > 0.05$. In sum, Javanese and non-Javanese students who are studying in Malang have no life satisfaction differences.

Keywords: Life satisfaction, culture, java

Introduction

Life Satisfaction is a clear measure of life quality (Veenhoven, 1996). Someone is considered capable of creating greater happiness if he has ability to create a clear satisfaction. Rojas (2004) explains that satisfaction is a major component in determining happiness. The happiness is a part of emotional in ourselves. Thus, the satisfaction is a part of cognitive in ourselves. It belongs to cognitive sphere because satisfaction is a reflective assessment, an assessment of how well progress has been achieved as well as ongoing progress. On the other hand, the information of self-satisfaction can be simply explored, work, marriage and health are the instances.

Work-related health can determine general welfare in the long-term condition. Saturated level can cause symptoms of depression, but it cannot be predicted by the appearance of saturation. Fatigue and involvement in work can also lead life satisfaction and the appearance of symptoms of depression (Hakanen & Schaufeli, 2012).

In the study of Proctor, Linley & Maltby, (2010) have mentioned that adolescents with a high level of life satisfaction have significantly higher average scores in all school subjects, interpersonal (relationships with parents, relationships with peers and social acceptance) and emotional (the meaning of life, gratitude, aspiration, self-esteem, happiness, positive influence and healthy lifestyle) from teenagers who have a low level of life satisfaction.

The cultural diversity that exists in Indonesia is one of the distinctive aspects. The existence of diverse cultural background, ethnicity and beliefs may also lead to diversity in terms of individual behavior. Javanese is considered as the most dominant ethnic in Indonesia

(Jatman, 2008). Javanese is the largest tribe that puts forward sense, as well as expressing life satisfaction.

Contrasting to most tribes in Indonesia, Javanese has calm characteristics and it always does something with the principle of harmony and respect (Susetyo, Widyatmadi, & Sudiantara, 2014). Javanese is also tribe that predominantly occupies the area of Malang as well as its students. *Life Satisfaction* is a conscious cognitive assessment of a person's life in which the criterias of assessment are made according to his own wishes. For instance, a structured concept about a person's life within a certain period of time from negative to positive direction (Pavot & Diener, 2009). Thus, the research questions emerge regarding to the cultural factors are stated as follows; Do Javanese and Non-Javanese culture influence the results of *Life Satisfaction* in a person?

Are there differences in *Life Satisfaction* among Javanese and Non-Javanese students who are studying in Malang?

Method

In this current study, quantitative research was employed in which research methods were recruited to test hypotheses from researches that had been proposed (Santoso, 2010). Researchers used non-parametric with *Mann Whitney Test* so as to figure out the differences in the recruited variables. The non-parametric statistical method could be used if the analyzed data were not normally distributed (Pavot & Diener, 2009).

In this study, there were 150 selected participants who were studying at several universities in Malang. The criterions in determining the subject were rooted from Javanese and Non-Javanese backgrounds.

In this study, there was only one variable that was exposed called *Life Satisfaction*.

This scale was designed to measure a person's cognitive value comprehensively in his life satisfaction and it did not measure positive or negative influence (Diener, Emmons, Larrea, & Griffin, 1985). This scale consisted of five items where each item stood up from seven points, namely strongly disagree, disagree, slightly disagree, neither agree or disagree, slightly agree, agree and strongly agree. This scale was generally known as SWLS (*The Satisfaction with Life Scale*).

Preparing the scale called as SWLS was the initial stage of the research. Next, preparing a scale in an easier form, such as *Google Form*. Then, distributing the scale to students. The results of the scale were analyzed through normality test, homogeneity test and *Mann-Whitney test* by employing SPSS.

Results

The results show that the normality test has a probability value of 0.016 in which $p < 0.05$ and data are not normally distributed. Therefore, another test is conducted by using non-parametric statistics called *Mann-Whitney test*.

This current study also carries out homogeneity test by using *laven test* with a probability value of 0.98 and $p > 0.05$. In this test, data are declared as homogeneous. Thus, the probability value for *Mann-Whitney test* is 0,76 and $p > 0,05$. In short, there is no difference on *Life Satisfaction* among Javanese and non-Javanese students who are studying in Malang.

Discussion

From the above results, it can be said that the difference of *Life Satisfaction* has a probability value of 0.0765 and $p > 0,05$. Thus, there is no *Life Satisfaction* presence among Javanese and Non-Javanese students.

The t-score table shows that from 150 research participants, there are 84 students who have high *Life Satisfaction* level and there are 66 students who obtain low *Life Satisfaction* level. Moreover, it can be concluded that the *Life Satisfaction* variable for students who are studying in Malang, both Javanese and non-Javanese have a high score.

The absence of a difference in *Life Satisfaction* for Javanese and non-Javanese students who are currently studying in Malang is in line with Linsiya's study (2015), she has found that students life satisfaction who take bachelor and master program do not provide any significant differences.

In this study, researchers only limited the subject participants who are considered as Javanese and non-Javanese students without giving any details about the existing tribes. For succeeding researchers, it is suggested to add more variables such as *Job Stress*, *Perspectives*, *Gender* etc.

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