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FACTORS THAT MOTIVATE
BAND MEMBERS
TOWARD BAND COMPETITIONS

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ABSTRACT

Marching band is a school's co-curriculum activity that involves playing music using different types and sizes of musical instruments. It involves marching drills and formations, which include military disciplines and techniques with synchronized steps. Annually, marching bands are involved in many events, for example participating and entertaining crowds during schools' sports day, National Day parade, cultural and floral parade and the most intense is band competitions. Currently, most secondary schools in Malaysia have their own marching band that represents the school's pride and joy.

The purpose of this study is to examine the factors that motivate secondary school band members in the Klang Valley toward marching band competitions using Walker's seven factors of motivation. This study was narrowed down to only one school in Klang Valley due to difficult procedure to obtain approval from other schools. The school studied is an all-boys school and The subjects for this study are students ranging from form 3 (aged 15) to form 5 (aged 17).

A total of forty-eight ($N = 48$) secondary school band members participated in this study. Subjects were selected from one high school in the Klang Valley. Band members were in form 3, 4 and 5. There were fifteen ($n = 15$) form 3 students, nineteen ($n = 19$) form 4 students and fourteen ($n = 14$) form 5 students. All of the students are male, since the school that was studied was an all-boys school. A questionnaire was prepared for this study which consists 13 items that allow the band members to express the factors that motivate them toward marching band competitions. A 5-point Likert scale was used to record subject's responses

The first factor which is fear was indicated through item 5. 52.1% (n = 25) of the band members involved in this research have answered strongly agree showing that the band members are afraid to lose in the competitions they compete in. According to item 5 a mean of 4.48 was recorded. Responses for item 1 which studied the factor of desire indicates that the majority of the band members strongly agree with the percentage of 52.1 (n = 25) and a mean of 4.44 was recorded.

A large number of the band members are excited to compete in the band competition. This was revealed on item 2. 56.2% (n = 27) have answered strongly agree and a mean score of 4.52 was found.

The thought of getting public and media attention if they win the band competition motivates most of the band members. This was shown through item 12 which revealed a percentage of 50 (n = 24) answered strongly agree. A mean of 4.31 that was also recorded.

Most of the band members have answered fair with a percentage of 54.1 (n = 26) on item 4 stating that they will try their best even if they think that their band will not win the competition.

Wearing the band uniform during the band competition would give the band members a sense of pride during the band competition. 58.3% (n = 28) have answered strongly agree with a mean score of 4.58.

Compliment is also a factor of motivation that was identified by Walker (1998). This was shown through item 12 which revealed 50% (n = 24) of the band members have answered strongly agree with a mean score of 4.31 to the statement that the thought of getting public and media attention motivates them if they win the band competition.