Patriotism Among MARA University of Technology (UiTM) Machang Branch Students

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ABSTRACT

Patriotism means strong feelings to love, respect and serve the country. This research was conducted to find the responsibility of the respondents as Malaysians and also about their knowledge of the historical background of the country. The main purpose of this study is to measure the level of patriotism among MARA University of Technology (UiTM) Machang branch students. The total number of respondents for this study is 300 from different faculties in UiTM Machang, Kelantan. Sampling technique used for the research was probability sampling. The Sampling chosen was stratified random sampling because it can minimize the possibility of classification errors. They were asked to evaluate their feelings of patriotism using structured questionnaire. The reliability analysis for each component produced a Cronbach Alpha between 0.751 and 0.942. The findings illustrates that 91.0% of the respondents are proud to be Malaysians. They wanted to know more about new historical material discovery. The respondents believe that loving the lyric of the song can increase their spirit to love this country. It showed that more females likes to visit the historical places.

INTRODUCTION

What we now know as Malaysia, was in history, consists of two very different parts; one being West or Peninsular Malaysia, and the other East

Malaysia. The latter consists of Sabah and Sarawak, the two Malaysian States on Borneo Island, and the Federal Territory of Labuan, off the shores of Sabah. Sabah and Sarawak make up more than 55% of the total land area of Malaysia, yet they are very distinct from the "mainland" in culture and traditions, which should never be forgotten. While the Sultanates of old Malaya, which make up Peninsular Malaysia, became quite naturally part of Malaysia in the middle of last century, Sabah and Sarawak are truly new territories and states of the fascinating cultural melting pot that distinguishes the whole of Malaysia.

The political history of the Malay peninsular has its roots in the Malaccan Sultanate during the 15th and 16th centuries. Subsequently, Malacca was colonised by the Portuguese in 1511, and later by the Dutch in 1641. However, it was mostly up to the Malay rulers, the Sultans of the loosely connected sultanates on the Peninsular, to rule over their respective counties. The British only arrived in Penang in 1786. Later they took over Singapore (1819) and Malacca (1824). An Anglo-Dutch Treaty was signed in 1824 and that divided the Malay World between the English and the Dutch. The Straits of Malacca, a body of water that linked the Malay world in present Indonesia and Malaysia, together became its chosen border.

Under the British, the Peninsular was carved up into five colonial administrative blocks. In 1825 they founded the Straits Settlements in the South (Penang, Singapore, Malacca and the Dindings); in the northern region, the Malay states of Kedah, Pedis, Kelantan, and Terengganu were all under Siamese influence until the Bangkok Treaty of 1909, when the latter surrendered these territories to the British. Also in the early 1900, British intervention on the west coast states of Malaya gave rise to the resident system.

With the issuing treaties, the Federated Malay State was formed and the British administered the whole territory until the Japanese invasion at the beginning of World War II (WWII). For the duration of the war, Japan ruled over much, of what is present-day, Malaysia inclusive of Sabah and Sarawak.

After the Japanese Occupation the Malayan Union was proposed to unify the peninsular under one central administration. Singapore remained a Crown Colony, but the other British settlements and protectorates came

under the administration of a British High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur. The traditional power of the Malay rulers were restricted, and the large immigrant population, namely the Chinese and the Indians, were accorded citizenship in the new federation.

Malay opposition to the Malayan Union proposal was powerful, and the Malayan was quickly replaced with the Federation of Malaya and preparations for self-government began. The Malayan Union gave rise to the United Malays National Organization (UMNO) then led by Dato' Onn Jaafar, the Menteri Besar of Johor. Dato' Onn resigned when his idea to open UMNO to non-Malay participation was opposed by a majority of UMNO members. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra al-Haj became UMNO's second president. Tunku was aristocratic, an anglophile and popular among the non-Malays. He was considered idea for the stewardship of a new nation, and it was him who steered the people of Malaya and Borneo towards present-day Malaysia.

However, the road to independence was not without obstacles, the biggest of which was certainly the up-rising of the communists, mostly from Chinese quarters. In 1948, a state of Emergency was declared when communist rebels in Sungai Siput murdered three European planters. The communists declared an armed struggle to liberate Malaya from the British and started the bloodiest British undeclared war that lasted twelve years. Eventually the communists were beaten through a combination of aggressive jungle warfare, the cutting-off of supplies and the establishment of multi-racial co-operation between the respective race-based parties in Malaya. Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaya's first Prime Minister, declared the end of Emergency in 1960. During the 1951 Kuala Lumpur Municipal Elections, UMNO decided to join the Malayan Chinese Organization (MCA) to woo voters. This formula of racial co-operation saw the establishment of the Alliance Party that eventually won the first Malayan elections in 1955.Tunku Abdul Rahman became Malaya's first Chief Minister and began negotiations with the British for independence.

Following the favourable recommendations of the Reid Commission, Tunku arrived home from London with the good news that Malaya would finally gain independence. Between the years 1955-1957, Tunku and his Cabinet prepared the Malayan constitution, discussed the administration of justice, cemented racial harmony in the country and resolved to beat the

communists. Tunku led the nation when he shouted "merdeka" seven times at the newly built Merdeka Stadium on 31st August 1957.

On 27th May 1961, the Prime Minister of theFederation of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman, revealed in Singapore the concept of Malaysia plan that could come about if an understanding could be reached between Malaya, British North Borneo (Sabah), Brunei and Sarawak to achieve amongst then a closer cooperation in politics and economy.

The British government regarded the "Malaysia Plan" as an ideal solution to end its colonial rule through peaceful means. In 1963, Tunku was finally able to announce the foundation of the Federation of Malaysia, a new nation that would include the Crown Colony of Singapore (which left the Federation in 1965), and the British territories on Borneo Island but without Brunei Darussalam. Indonesia opposed to the formation of Malaysia and President Sukarno initiated the Indonesia Confrontation against what he considered a neo-colonial state in Southeast Asia. However, the British were at the defense of the new country, and after the initial clashes, Malaysia emerged as an independent and recognized nation.

In September 1963, Malaysia was officially established and Tunku was declared "Bapa Malaysia" or the "Father of Malaysia". The National Flag was hoisted for the first time in all 13 states and two Federal Territories of the new nation on 16 September 1963. In Kota Kinabalu, then still Jesselton, Tun Fuad Stephens read the Proclamation of Independence of Sabah through Malaysia. He was to be Sabah's first Chieft Minister, and later he became Sabah's third Yang Dipertua Negeri or Head of State.

PROBLEM STATEMENTS

Patriotism means strong feelings to love, respect and serves one's country. We realized that the respect for the country is decreasing among teenagers. Many programmes, namely "Program Latihan Khidmat Negara (PLKN) or National Service Program and "Biro Tata Negara (BTN)" has and are still being conducted by our government to inculcate the feelings of love for the country among teenagers. People know that 31st August is Malaysia's Independence Day. They, especially teenagers, are waiting for this date to celebrate that historical moment. This is the whole scenario.

This study attempts to investigate the level of patriotism among UiTM Kelantan students, as young educated generation, that will lead this country soon. The development of information technology has changed the structure of life and mind of the public. Majority of the people have forgotten the heroes who were in battlefield to free this country. Thus, the main problem statement in this research is the concern about "THE LESSENING OF THE SPIRIT OF PATRIOTISM AMONG UiTM MACHANG BRANCH STUDENTS".

OBJECTIVES

This study sets out to achieve a few objectives. Among those are:

- To measure the level of patriotism among UiTM Machang Branch students.
- To determine the students' knowledge about the country's history.
- To determine the students' responsibilities as Malaysians.

HYPOTHESIS

Hypothesis is defined as an educated guess of a researcher concerning the research problem. The important roles of hypotheses are to reflect general problem statements or questions that motivate the research to investigate the issue. In this study, a few hypotheses were formulated as follow:

Hypothesis 1

Ho: There is no significant relationship between courses towards proud to be a Malaysian.

H1: There is significant relationship between courses towards proud to be a Malaysian.

Hypothesis 2

Ho: There is no significant relationship between gender towards like to visit historical place in this country.

H1: There is significant relationship between gender towards like to visit historical place in this country.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Patriotism is the love of and loyalty to one's country. A patriot is someone who loves, supports, and is prepared to serve his/her country. The word patriotism comes from a Greek word meaning fatherland. From history, the love of fatherland or homeland was an attachment to the physical features of the land but that notion changed in the eighteenth century, when the ideals of democracy, socialism, and communism strongly emerged into political thought. Patriotism was still a love of one's country that included connections to the land and people, but then also included its customs and traditions, pride in its history, and devotion to its welfare.

Today most people agree that patriotism also involves service to their country, but many disagree on how to, best perform, such service. Some believed that the national government speaks for a country; therefore, all its citizens should actively support government policies and actions. Others argued that a true patriot speaks out when convinced that their country is following an unwise or unjust action.

Generally, any selfless act that directly benefits the nation is considered patriotic. Perhaps the clearest example is the act of risking death in battle. However, many other less dramatic beneficial acts, such as performing the backup work needed to keep a military force functioning, or looking out for the morale of soldiers, are also considered patriotic.

In addition, symbolic acts are also often considered to be patriotic. Such acts would include displaying the national flag, singing the national anthem, participating in a mass rally, placing a patriotic sticker on one's vehicle, or any other way of publicly proclaiming one's allegiance to the nation.

The line between the two kinds of patriotic act is blurred by the fact that some people feel that in committing an act of symbolic patriotism, they are raising the determination or morale of their fellow citizens, who then will be more likely or able to commit acts that benefits the nation directly.

Levels of patriotism vary across time and among nations. Typically, patriotic acts and feelings are greater during wartime or when the nation is otherwise under external threat. It is less well understood why nations vary in their levels of patriotic feeling. Among modern societies, many have observed a difference between the United States, where symbolic patriotic expression is highly prevalent, and the nations of Western Europe, where symbolic patriotic expression certainly exists but plays a less important role. Various theories have been advanced, often related to the relative ages of the countries, and the greater historical perspective afforded to European countries.

The types of acts considered patriotic depend very much on ones point of view. Acts that one person considers patriotic may appear treasonous to another. For example, both soldiers and war resisters may consider their actions driven by a love of their country and a desire to see the greatest good for it, while at the same time seeing the others' actions as damaging and unpatriotic.

The Ethics of Patriotism

Different people have different opinions about whether patriotism is morally good. Often, these opinions vary according to what sort of patriotism is involved. Some instances of patriotism induce almost universal admiration. Here is one of many possible examples. In 1940, a number of Dutch soldiers gave their lives in a hopeless cause attempting to defend the Netherlands from the invading Nazi armies. This act would be considered by almost everyone to be a clear case of selfless, admirable patriotism.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

Data Collection Method

The study of these research used survey method. In these survey method, questionnaire given to the respondents to elicit information for the study. 300 question were distributed and the respondents were asked based on the structured questionaire.

Secondary data, from journals, magazine and article from websites used extensively in analyzing the data and in literature review to provide the information for this study.

Target Population and Sample Size

Population
The population for this research included all students who study in UiTM Machang Branch. There are more than 3000 people who are studying in UiTM Machang Branch for the diploma and degree course in several faculties.

Sample Size
300 respondents from UiTM Machang Branch were selected randomly as the sample. The sample size of this research was limited to respondents in the diploma level only.

Sampling Technique
For this research, probability sampling technique was used. The sampling chosen was stratified random sampling. The estimate obtained through stratified sampling is more accurate since it represented the relevant strata. Simple random sampling has the least bias since each unit of the population has an equal chance of being selected. It is very easy to use this method and offers the most generalization. In addition, it can minimize the possibility of classification errors.

DATA ANALYSIS

SECTION A (DEMOGRAPHIC)

Gender

Table 1

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	**150**	50.0
Female	150	50.0
Total	300	100.0

Gender

50% ^   P 50%
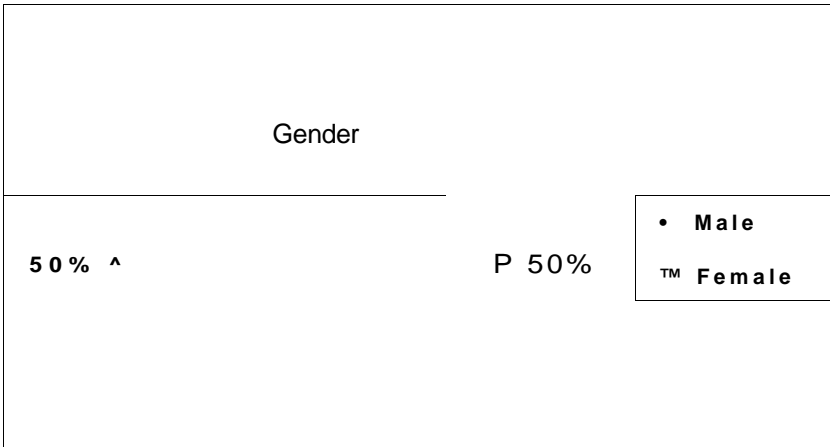
- **Male**

™ **Female**

Figure 1

The pie chart shows that the percentage for gender is the same which comprise of 50% for male and 50% for female.

Age

Table 2

Age Groups	Frequency	Valid Percent
Below 20 years	206	68.7
20-21 years	**81**	27.0
22-23 years	**10**	3.3
24 years and above	**3**	1.0
Total	300	100.0

Age Percent

Figure 2

The bar chart shows the number of respondents who are below 20 years is 68.7%. The smallest percentage is 1.0% for the age group of 24 years and above. The respondents are the diploma students only.

Occupation

Table 3

Agency	Frequency	Valid Percent
Government	75	25.0
Private	51	17.0
Pensioner	43	14.3
Self employed	110	36.7
Others	21	7.0
Total	300	100.0

Table 4
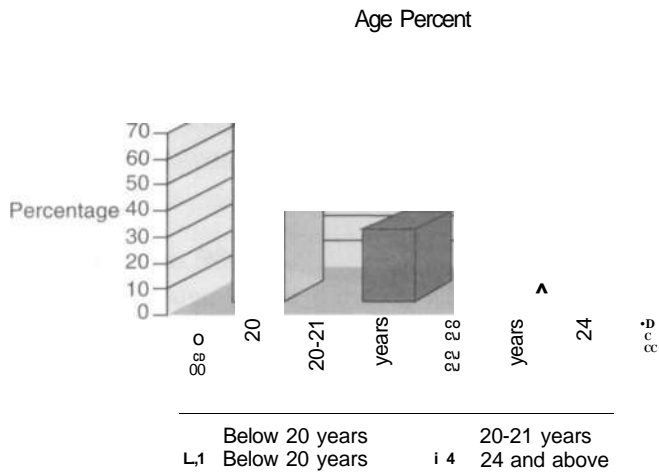
Singing the National Anthem	1.3	1.7	12.3	35	49.7	4,3000	4,0000	0.84798
Loving the lyrics	2.3	2.7	20.3	45	29.7	3,9700	4,0000	0.90471
Program PLKN & BTN	4.7	5.7	16.3	40	33.3	3,9167	4,0000	1.06780
Relationship with other community	1	2	6.3	33	57.7	4.4433	5,0000	0.78454
Politic system	2.3	2	9.3	42	44.3	4,2400	4,0000	0.87843
Important dates	3	13.3	46.3	30.7	6.7	3,2467	3,0000	0.87657

Elective Course

occupation

£3 Government   ™ Private   o pensioner   ra Self employed   • Others
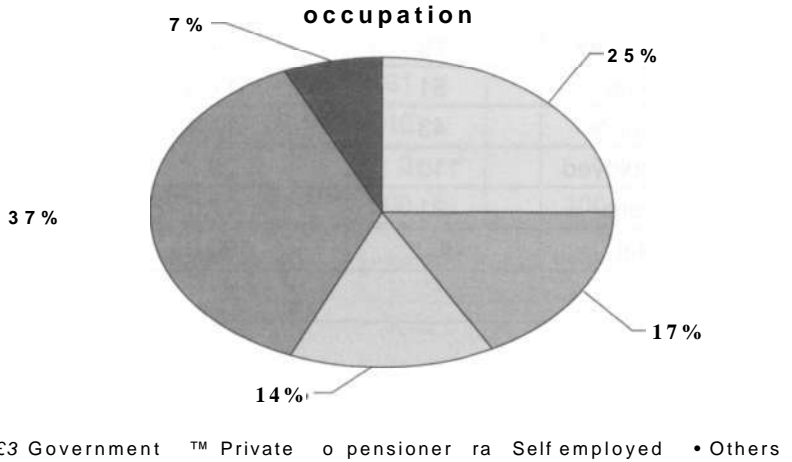
Figure 3

The bar chart shows 43% of the respondents agree that history should be an elective course. It is because they can choose other subjects that they like. Meanwhile, 8% of the respondents strongly disagree that history should be an elective course.

Read History Book

Table 5

Preferences	Frequency	Valid Percent
Strongly disagree	**21**	7.0
Disagree	**47**	15.7
Not sure	**93**	31.0
Agree	**113**	37.7
Strongly agree	**26**	8.7
Total	300	100.0

The table shows that 46.4% respondents like to read history books because it can improve their knowledge of this country. On the other hand, only 7% dislike reading history books. This maybe because they have no interest in reading.

Programs

16.70%   16.70%

16.70%   16.70%

6.70%   16.70%

- Diploma in Statistics   • Diploma in Accountancy
- Diploma in Information Studies • Diploma in banking
- Diploma in Art and Design   • Diploma in Business Study
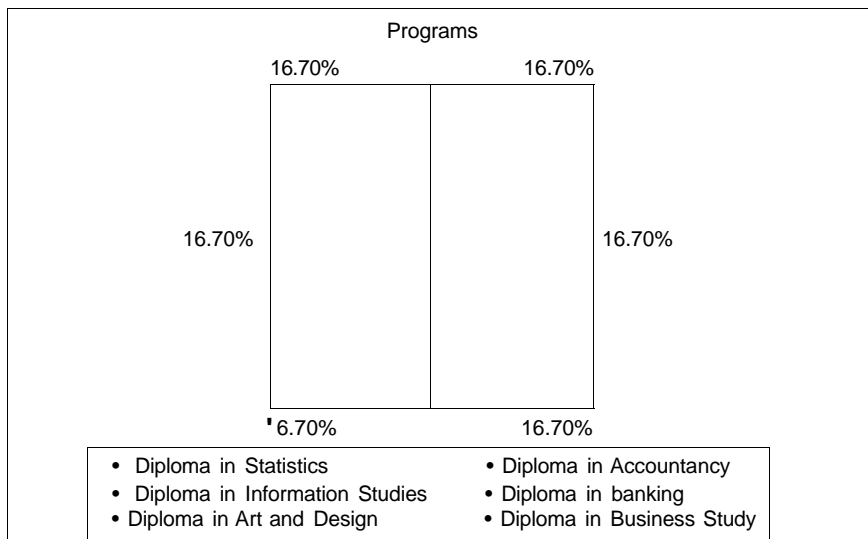
Figure 4

The pie chart shows that most occupation of the respondent's parent are self-employed, that is 37% and 7% is for others.

Program

Table 6

Programs	Frequency	Valid Percent
Diploma in Statistics	**50**	16.7
Diploma in Accountancy	**50**	16.7
Diploma in Information Studies	**50**	16.7
Diploma in Banking	**50**	16.7
Diploma in Art and Design	**50**	16.7
Diploma in Business Studies	**50**	16.7
Total	300	100.0

elective course

Figure 5

The pie chart show the percentage of respondents that represent each program is the same throughout, that is 16.7%. Thus, it is an equal and balanced reperesentation of each program.
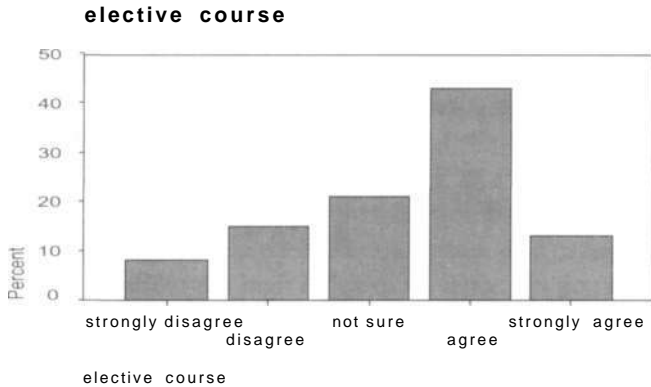
SECTION B (HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE)

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Not sure	Agree	Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	Median	Std deviation
Like history course	8	24	24.3	34.3	-	3.1300	3.0000	1.12427
Elective course	8	15	21	43	13	3.3800	4.0000	1.13131
Read history books	7	15.7	31	37.7	8.7	3.2533	3.0000	1.04856
Collect materials	4.7	16.7	33.7	32	13	3.3200	3.0000	1.04622

cont.

Collect articles	9.7	28.7	39.7	19.3	2.7	2.7667	3.0000	0.96019
Visit historical places	1.3	5.7	14.7	43.3	35	4.0500	4.0000	0.91850
Know historical places	1.3	5.7	18	43.3	31.7	3.9833	4.0000	0.91971
New discoveries	2.7	8	27	41	21.3	3.7033	4.0000	0.97904
Watching historical stories	11.3	18.3	40	22.3	8	3.6767	3.0000	1.08777
My idol	6	10.7	20	36.3	27	3.6767	4.0000	1.15610

New Discovery

Table 7

Preferences	Frequency	Valid Percent
Strongly disagree	**8**	2.7
Disagree	**24**	8.0
Not sure	**81**	27.0
Agree	123	41.0
Strongly agree	**64**	21.3
Total	300	100.0

Based on table above, 62.3% respondents are interested to know about new information because they want to know something that have historical values and that they have not seen before. Some respondents are not interested in archaic things.

My idol

Table 8

Preferences	Frequency	Valid Percent
Strongly disagree	**18**	6.0
Disagree	**32**	10.7
Not sure	**60**	20.0
Agree	109	36.3
Strongly agree	**81**	27.0
Total	300	100.0

The table shows more than 50% our respondents make the Prime Minister as their idol. It is 36.3% agree and 27% strongly agree. This is because they would like to follow their idol character and responsibility as a leader.

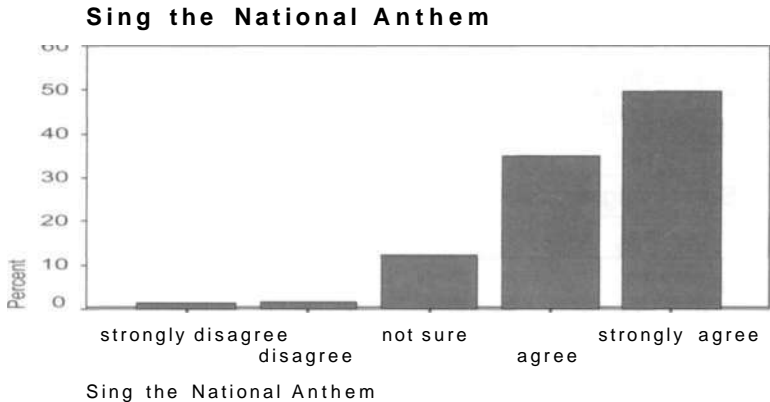**Sing the National Anthem**

Sing the National Anthem

Figure 6

Based on the bar chart most of our respondents agree that we must sing the National Anthem during any formal assembly. 35% agree and 49.7% strongly agree to this and that reflects their spirit of patriotism.

54

Relationship with other community

Table 9

Preferences	Frequency	Valid Percent
Strongly disagree	3	1.0
Disagree	6	2.0
Not sure	19	6.3
Agree	99	33.0
Strongly agree	173	57.7
Total	300	100.0

The table shows that 57.7% respondents strongly agree and 33.0% agree that a good relationship with other community can enable Malaysia to be peaceful. Only 1% respondents strongly disagree with this statement.

SECTION C (RESPONSIBILITY)

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Not sure	Agree	Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	Median	Std deviation
Be Malaysian	1	0.3	7.7	17.7	73.7	4.6200	5.0000	0.72849
Concern about current issues	0.7	5	27.7	52	14.7	3.7500	4.0000	0.72849
Community culture	0.7	3.3	15.7	58.3	22	3.9767	4.0000	0.75588
Think of future	0.3	-	16.7	50.7	27.7	4.0067	4.0000	0.81373
JalurGemilang campaign	2	3	14	42.7	38.3	4.1233	4.0000	0.90046

cont.

Wave flag	2	5.3	8	41.7	43	4.1833	4.0000	0.93415
National Day celebration	2.7	6.7	32	32	26.7	3.7333	4.0000	1.01274
Lessen holidays	10.3	18.3	37.7	20	13.7	3.0833	3.0000	1.15795
Meet PM	4	3	12.7	36.3	44	4.1333	4.0000	1.01604
Exam results	4.7	15.7	38	27.7	14	3.3067	3.0000	1.04383
PM strategies	1.3	4	12	44.7	38	4.1400	4.0000	0.87347
Students' attitude	3.7	7.7	28.7	38.7	21.3	3.6633	4.0000	1.01328
Support program	1.7	4.7	14.3	48.7	30.7	4.0200	4.0000	0.88820
Voluntary services	4.3	4	25.7	53.3	12.7	3.6600	4.0000	0.90580
Male better than female	8	10	14.7	27.3	40	3.8133	4.0000	1.27956
Course support	1.7	1.3	8.7	33	55.3	4.3900	5.0000	0.83279

Be Malaysian

Table 10

Preferences	Frequency	Valid Percent
Strongly disagree	3	1.0
Disagree	1	0.3
Not sure	23	7.7
Agree	53	17.7
Strongly agree	220	73.3
Total	300	100.0

The table shows that 91.0% of the respondents are proud to be Malaysians. It is because they are living in a peaceful country, share facilities and celebrate the different cultures together. Only 1.3% of the respondents are not proud to be Malaysians.

Concern about current issues

Table 11

Preferences	Frequency	Valid Percent
Strongly disagree	2	0.7
Disagree	15	5.0
Not sure	83	27.7
Agree	156	52.0
Strongly agree	44	14.7
Total	300	100.0

The table shows that 66.7% of the respondents agree that they are concern about issues in Malaysia and only 0.7% of the respondents strongly disagree .

Community culture

Table 12

Preferences	Frequency	Valid Percent
Strongly disagree	2	0.7
Disagree	10	3.3
Not sure	47	15.7
Agree	175	58.3
Strongly agree	66	22.0
Total	300	100.0

The table above shows that 80.3% of the respondents agree that as Malaysians, they must know about the culture of other communities. Meanwhile, only 4.0% of the respondents disagree to this matter.

PM strategies

Table 13

Preferences	Frequency	Valid Percent
Strongly disagree	**4**	1.3
Disagree	**12**	4.0
Not sure	**36**	12.0
Agree	134	44.7
Strongly agree	**114**	38.0
Total	300	100.0

The table above shows that 82.7% of the respondents agree that the success of a country depends on the Prime Minister's strategies and only 5.3% of the respondents strongly disagree to this.

Support program

Table 14

Preferences	Frequency	Valid Percent
Strongly disagree	**5**	**1.7**
Disagree	**14**	**4.7**
Not sure	**43**	**14.3**
Agree	**146**	**48.7**
Strongly agree	**92**	**30.7**
Total	300	**100.0**

The table above shows 79.4% of the respondents agree that supporting government programs can give advantages in developing this country. Just 6.4% of the respondents disagree and 14.3% of the respondents are not sure that supporting the programs can give advantages in developing this country.

Program support

Table 15

Preferences	Frequency	Valid Percent
Strongly disagree	5	1.7
Disagree	4	1.3
Not sure	26	8.7
Agree	99	33.0
Strongly agree	166	55.3
Total	300	100.0

The table shows that most of the respondents agree that the program they are enrolled in now is very important to improve country's development and just 3.0% of them disagree with this statement.

HYPOTESIS RESULTS
HYPOTESIS 1

The relationship between courses towards proud to be a Malaysian

Chi-square tests

Table 16

Tests	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	34.815(a)	20	.021
Likelihood Ratio	29.890	20	.072
Linear-by-Linear Association	8.547	1	.003
N of Valid Cases	300	-	-

The independent two samples chi-square test was performed to determine the relationship between responsibility as a Malaysian and the six programs. The test is significant at the 5% level. Hence the null hypothesis could be rejected. So there are significant differences between proud to be Malaysian and the programs they are enrolled in.

HYPOTESIS 2

The relationship between gender toward like to visit historical place in this country.

Chi-Square Tests

Table 16

Tests	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	14.504(a)	4	.006
Likelihood Ratio	15.068	4	.005
Linear-by-Linear Association	3.323	1	**.068**
N of Valid Cases	300	-	-

The independent 2 samples chi-square test was performed to determine the relationship between interested to visit historical places and gender. The test is significant at the 5% level. Hence the null hypothesis could be rejected. So there are significant differences in aspects of visiting historical places between male and female.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the research, we would like to share some suggestions on how to improve patriotism level among UiTM Machang Branch students.

Firstly, we would like to suggest that all students and UiTM staff celebrate Independent Day together in the campus. Plan and carry out many activities that can involve every member of the campus.

Secondly, UiTM can also invite historian to give speeches about how Malaysia gained her independence. Students will be very much interested to know more about the history of the country because they can get the information direct from the historians. So, this can improve and widen their knowledge. Besides that, this can also instill the spirit of patriotism among the audience.

Thirdly, we would suggest setting up a 'Patriotism-Club'. The membership of this club should be opened to every member of the campus including their spouses and families. The club should organize activities that could instill the love for the country. Among others the club could organise activities such as the assembly for independence day, visiting to historical places and maybe can discover new historical places which have a lot of archaic things. The club can also do research about the level patriotism among students.

CONCLUSION

From our research, we find that, our respondents are not sure about important dates related to Malaysian history. They are interested to know more about new historical discovery. They collected article about the warriors or any other materials that have historical values. This means that our respondents are interested to research for new thing that have not been done yet. We investigate about the knowledge of history to the six programs available in the campus. We can see that the Diploma in Accountancy respondents know more about current issues. This is in contrast with the Diploma in Business Study program.

The Prime Minister suggested the singing of the National Anthem before any assembly and that is acceptedly positive by the respondents. They support this order. They believe that loving the lyric of the song can increase their spirit to love this country. This also lead to the issue of being proud to be Malaysians and this aspect get high percentage from the respondent. We also look at the responsibility to the country by gender and also at visiting historical places. It showed that more females likes to visit the historical places. This is because they are interested to know more about the place.

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