

A Study on Chinese Education in Malaysia: the Case of Younger Generation

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The historical development of Chinese Education in Malaysia, to a certain extent, reflected the development of the local Chinese nationalism. The existence of Chinese Education system in Malaysia was viewed an important symbol signifying the existence of the Chinese People; and a Chinese Malaysian's attitude towards Chinese education was validly applied to examine Chinese Malaysian's cultural/national identity. However, are these statements or propositions are still valid if we particularly look at the younger-generation Chinese Malaysian?

With rapid industrialization, Malaysian society has transformed from a traditional agrarian society to an industrialized state since 1970s. For those grew up in "modern" time and had less experience of poverty than their predecessors, they might acquire a very different value system/world view than the older generation did (Inglehart, 1977). Through questionnaire survey and in-depth interview with the Independent High School students, this study aims to understand these students' views toward the education system in which they are currently involved.