

The influence of inter-ethnic student social interaction at SMAN 4 Batam

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Abstract. *This study examines the dynamics of social interaction among inter-ethnic students at SMAN 4 Batam, considering the diverse cultural landscape of Indonesia. Utilizing a qualitative case study approach, data was collected through observation, interviews, and documentation analysis. The findings revealed both positive and negative impacts of social interaction. On one hand, solidarity among students of the same ethnicity was evident, fostering a sense of familiarity and trust. Conversely, stereotypes and prejudices emerged towards students from different ethnic backgrounds. The role of teachers in fostering positive interaction was notable, including forming study groups comprising students from various ethnicities, organizing cultural events like Fashion Shows, and advocating the use of Indonesian language to facilitate communication. Recommendations include implementing multicultural learning activities to promote unity, enhancing teachers' understanding of students' ethnic diversity, fostering mutual respect among students, and suggesting further research on inter-ethnic social interactions for future exploration and understanding. This study contributes to understanding the complexities of social dynamics in multi-ethnic environments and underscores the importance of fostering inclusive and respectful interactions among students of diverse backgrounds.*

Keywords: *Ethnicity; Social interaction; Student*

INTRODUCTION

Public Indonesia in the state of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia are diverse, covering various ethnicities, languages, religions, cultures and social statuses. Diversity can be an “integral force” that binds, but it can be a reason for conflicts between cultures, races, ethnic, religious and interpersonal values (Akhmadi, 2019). Diversity culture (multicultural) is a natural opportunity for encounter, interaction of various individuals and groups by bringing cultural behavior, having a different and specific way of life. Diversity such as cultural diversity, family background, religion and ethnicity interact with each other in the Indonesian community (Akhmadi, 2019).

Humans are born as social beings, this fact causes humans to not be able to live normally without the presence of other humans. This relationship can be categorized as social interaction. The definition of social interaction according to experts is that social interaction is dynamic social relations related to individuals, groups to groups, as well as individuals to groups or vice versa (Setiadi, 2011). Social interaction is also interpreted as a reciprocal relationship between individuals and individuals, individuals and groups, and groups and groups (Soekanto, 2010).

The interaction process has basic elements, namely, social contact and communication, also has several forms. Forms of the process of social interaction, including, First, the associative process, this process contains the meaning of unite, unite or unity, or integration. Because there is something that is shared by a group of people, then associative is born in society (Sudarma, 2014). Second, the dissociative process, is a process of resistance (opposition) carried out by individuals and groups in the social process

among themselves in a society. Opposition is defined as a way of fighting against a certain person or group or norms and values that are considered not to support change in order to achieve the desired goals (Bungin, 2008).

The existence of social interaction in a multi-ethnic society can give rise to a movement or form of society that leads to a positive attitude when there is mutual openness to one another, and vice versa will be negative if the community is closed and always thinks badly of other ethnicities (Huda, 2013). such as social interaction can have a positive or negative influence on inter-ethnic students at SMA Negeri 4 Batam. As for the ethnicity of the students at SMA Negeri 4 Batam, namely Javanese, Malay, Sundanese, Batak, Palembang, Minang and others. The number of student ethnic groups that dominates is from the Batak ethnic group with a total of 366 students.

METHOD

The research method used in this study is a qualitative method with a case study approach. Qualitative research is an inquiry strategy that emphasizes the search for meaning, understanding, concepts, characteristics, symptoms, symbols and descriptions of a phenomenon, focused and multi-method, natural and holistic, prioritizing quality, using several methods, and presented narratively. In simple terms it can be said that the purpose of qualitative research is to find answers to a phenomenon or question through the systematic application of scientific procedures using a qualitative approach (Yusuf, 2014). One type of qualitative research with a case study approach that is carried out by looking closely at individual interpretations of experiences, (Ezmir, 2010).

The research informants were determined using a purposive sampling technique with the following criteria: Teachers, Students, and Student Assistants at SMAN 4 Batam. In order for the data obtained to be more valid, this research uses data triangulation techniques which include source triangulation, data collection technique triangulation, and time. Data collection was carried out by researchers in this study through observation, interviews, and documentation studies. The method of qualitative data analysis is carried out as described by Miles and Huberman in the book (Akbar & Purnomo, 2009).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. The Impact of Inter-Ethnic Student Social Interaction

[a] Solidarity among the same Ethnicity

Solidarity is an important thing for the same Ethnicity when it is in the midst of various Ethnic Nations. The importance of solidarity in life is to achieve goals and intimacy in the social relations of each individual. Familiarity in a relationship can make individuals feel comfortable in groups. If every individual trusts one another, they will respect each other, have the same responsibilities and interests. The findings of the researchers show that students at SMA Negeri 4 Batam from the same Ethnicity are more familiar because according to them the same Ethnicity is one frequency. This familiarity can be seen when in class these students prefer bench mates from the same Ethnicity, and during recess students with the same Ethnicity go to the cafeteria to eat together.

Based on the results of an interview with Desyifa on July 25 2022, who is a student from the Javanese ethnic group, the following is her statement:

“... If we are from the same tribe, it feels like we are very united, ma'am. It's like one frequency, madam, to the extent that the mindset is almost the same, right? Especially if you sit on the same bench with a friend from the same tribe, you can connect more, if you want to chat or do assignments, you can do it together Ma'am”

This opinion is reinforced by the results of an interview with Wahyu on 2 August 2022 who is a student from the Malay Tribe, stating:

“... According to Wahyu, not all of our friends can understand us, Ma'am, especially if we are from different ethnic groups, right, Ma'am. But if we are from the same tribe, it feels like we can understand each other in every way. It's quicker to be close to friends who are of the same tribe as you, for example, now you are acquainted the next day, you are immediately close, madam. Then if you borrow money or borrow anything, it's more flexible, ma'am, because you trust each other, right, ma'am, there's definitely no negative thinking, he won't replace it, it won't be returned. That's the point according to Wahyu Ma'am”

This opinion is reinforced by the results of an interview with Ayudia on 16 August 2022 who is a student from the Batak tribe, stating:

“... It's more compact, Mom, if we're from the same tribe. We can eat canteen together. Then if you bring food from home, you can taste each other, right? If you come from a different tribe, let alone a Muslim, we can't do that, Ma'am. Especially if we invite them to eat together, they always refuse, right? So, yes, one tribe is a friend that you can get close to. Like the proverb of the equation that unites us”

Based on the narratives of the two informants above, it can be concluded that strong interaction between students from the same ethnicity will foster a sense of solidarity because these students feel the frequency of being from the same ethnicity. According to Ayudia, if you have friends from the same ethnic group, you can do activities together, such as being able to try each other's food if you bring provisions, which is different from other ethnic groups.

Based on Figure 4.10, it can be seen that 5 students from the Batak tribe are having a conversation after having lunch together in the school garden. From the picture it can be seen that students from the same ethnicity make themselves compact because of the similarities they have.

[b] Stereotypes of Different Ethnic Nations

With a different ethnic background, Batam 4 State Senior High School students tend to have a prejudiced attitude towards their friends from different ethnic groups. With this prejudiced attitude between students from different ethnic groups, each student will feel hatred and act discriminatory towards friends from different ethnic groups.

Based on the results of an interview with Artaja on August 17 2022, who is a student from the Batak tribe, the following is his statement:

“... I don't mind being close friends with friends from different tribes, ma'am. But those who don't want to be close to me, I don't know why they don't want to be close, every time I invite them to eat together, if I bring a bekel, they always refuse. So I have to be self-aware, sis.”

This opinion is reinforced by the results of an interview with Cindy on August 15, 2022 who is a student from the Palembang Tribe, stating:

“... If you have friends with friends from the same tribe, it seems more frequent, ma'am. If you have different ethnicities, there are many differences, not only are the tribes different, but also the way of thinking is too, ma'am. What's more, those of us from Palembang are considered to be people who like to play shamans, if they are offended they will be in trouble. So you're tired, ma'am, it's better if you digitize it, ma'am.”

This opinion is reinforced by the results of an interview with Ramadhani on August 29, 2022, who is a student from the Minang tribe, stating:

“... They are a bit different ma'am, especially if you are a friend from Batak, his voice is really loud Ma'am, in class he can hear his voice. So you don't focus on studying, ma'am”

Based on the narrative of the two informants above, it can be concluded that the negative impact of the interaction of students from different ethnic groups is the feeling of being prejudiced against friends from different ethnic groups. As always assume that students from non-Islamic ethnic groups always eat food that is not halal, when they speak they are always rude. There is another student from the Palembang tribe who is considered a person who likes to play the dukun when he is offended by other people.

2. The Role of the Teacher in Inter-Ethnic Student Interaction

[a] Unite in the Form of Study Groups

One of the roles of the teacher at SMA Negeri 4 Batam in seeking interaction between students from different ethnic groups is by giving assignments to be done in groups. On the same occasion the teacher deliberately formed these students into a group consisting of several students from different ethnic groups. So with the existence of study groups like that indirectly students will interact and communicate well among fellow groups even though they are from different Ethnicities.

Based on the results of an interview with Ms. Dian on September 13, 2022, who is an English teacher, the following is her statement:

“... Personally, Miss Yona, the best I can do is so that our students from different ethnic groups can interact with each other by forming them into a study group. I give them assignments according to the syllabus, then make papers and present them later, indirectly they will definitely interact with each other about how and what the assignment will be done”

This opinion is reinforced by the results of an interview with Raudhatul on 17 August 2022 who is a student from the Minang Tribe, stating:

“... At least Dhatul interacted quite a lot with his friends from that ethnic group when a teacher divided us into study groups, ma'am. But if there is no study group then Dhatul is just one day ma'am”

Based on the narratives of the two informants above, it can be concluded that the effort made by the teacher in overcoming the form of dissociative student interaction is by forming students in a study group, and the study group consists of students from different ethnicities. According to Ms. Dian, this effort was made so that students from different ethnic groups could interact because when they were given assignments, they would indirectly talk to each other.

[b] Organizing Fashion Show Contest Activities

Another role played by the teacher and involving the school in the interaction of students from different ethnic groups is by holding a Fashion Show contest. Demonstration/Fashion Show is an activity in introducing clothing from each region. With this Fashion Show activity, students can know that the differences that exist among themselves are not a barrier for them in interacting and students appreciate these differences more.

Based on the results of an interview with Ms. Rini on September 13, 2022, who is the Deputy Head of Student Affairs, the following is her statement:

“... As we all know Mrs. Yona, with the differences in ethnicity among students or students, it is felt necessary to carry out an activity that aims to introduce each of the cultural characteristics of the ethnic groups with the aim of mutual respect for one another. other and there is no distance when interacting. So, we usually hold these activities once a year, such as activities that demonstrate the clothes of each ethnic group.”

This opinion is reinforced by the results of an interview with Ms. Dian on 13 September 2022 who is an English teacher, stating:

“... Another effort so that student interaction is not limited because of differences in ethnicity is that the school is holding a fashion show, Mrs. Yona. So these students can get to know more about the culture, the traditional clothes of each of their friends, later without them realizing their interest in their friend's culture will encourage them to ask about the meaning and uniqueness of the clothes that their friends demonstrate.”

This opinion is reinforced by the results of an interview with Ayudia on 16 August 2022 who is a student from the Batak ethnic group, stating:

“... It would be interesting if you saw the fashion show from each ethnic group, ma'am. What's more, there will be winners in the event, right, Mrs. Of course, after the announcement of the winning ethnic group, we huddle up if our ethnic group doesn't win, then there are other ethnic groups as well, we definitely huddle with that ethnic group, ma'am. So it's also cool to be able to interact with other ethnic groups, isn't it, Ma'am?”

Based on the narratives of the two informants above, it can be concluded that another effort made by the teacher to form associative interactions is by holding a fashion show once a year. This is done by the teacher with the aim that students from different ethnic backgrounds know each other's uniqueness from each culture and are embedded in themselves that the differences between them are unique so they must respect these differences.

[c] Advise the Use of Indonesian

SMA Negeri 4 Batam requires all school members including students, teachers and other staff to use Indonesian when communicating in the school environment. The use of Indonesian is applied so that there are no misunderstandings in communication because students do not understand each other's regional languages because of different ethnic backgrounds. However, sometimes students use their local language when communicating with friends from the same ethnic background.

Based on the results of an interview with Ms. Rini on September 13, 2022, who is the Deputy Head of Student Affairs, the following is her statement:

“... Because the average population of our school comes from a different ethnic background, for that we require the use of Indonesian in communicating Mrs. Yona, the goal is to avoid misunderstandings in interactions and can also understand each other's delivery of what is being said”

This opinion is reinforced by the results of an interview with Atikah on 3 August 2022 who is a student from the Sundanese tribe, stating:

"... Indonesian is easy for one to understand ma'am, not all of us understand each other's regional languages. So according to Tikah, with the application of Indonesian, it's mandatory, it's good, ma'am, it's also pleasant to listen to, ma'am, the language is polite too, so those who are from the Batak ethnic group can adapt, so they speak softly."

Based on the narratives of the two informants above, it can be concluded that another effort made by students to overcome dissociative interactions is to require students to interact using Indonesian when they are in the school environment. This is done so that there are no misunderstandings between students from different ethnic backgrounds.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

Based on the research that the researchers have produced, the following conclusions are obtained: there are several impacts arising from the social interaction of inter-ethnic students at SMAN 4 Batam, both positive and negative impacts. The positive impact is solidarity between ethnic groups, and the negative impact is stereotypes towards different ethnic groups. The teacher's role in the social interaction of inter-ethnic students at SMAN 4 Batam includes uniting in study groups, holding Fashion Show contests, and advocating the use of Indonesian so that there are no misunderstandings between students from different ethnicities.

Suggestions

- 1) For Schools Must strive to build learning activities or extracurricular activities that are more able to unite students from different ethnic backgrounds. The learning suggestions that researchers can give are multicultural learning.
- 2) For Teachers Teachers should be able to understand every problem faced by students because of differences in ethnicity and strive to instill more social values in students so they can accept differences from one another.
- 3) For Students Students must respect each other more even though they come from different ethnic groups and not discriminate against these ethnic differences.
- 4) For Further Researchers For researchers who are interested in conducting research on problems related to forms of social interaction of students from different ethnicities, the results of the research can be used as a reference that can be used as material and supporting materials in research related to this material.

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