UNDERSTANDING SOCIOLOGICAL ISSUES: CONCEPTUALIZING THE DIVIERSITIES

EDITOR
DR. A.H.M. ZEHADUL KARIM

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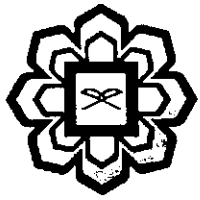

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Chapter 7

ROLE OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ENVIRONEMNT IN INFLUENCING SOCIAL NETWORK AND INTERETHNIC RELATION AMONG THE MALAYSIAN YOUTHS[1]

Khairulanuar Bin Abd Rahman

ABSTRACT

Interethnic relations among the Malaysian youth are very crucial and critical issues. These interethnic relationship are affected by few social factors and accordingly, this paper explores two important social factors. These are the role of education and the youth's social environment. The social environment includes their neighbourhood setting, network of friends as well as the relationship between the population and residential composition. To strengthen further the analysis, contact hypothesis is used to explain the importance of establishing contact with those of different ethnic groups. Problems and challenges in establishing harmonious ethnic relationship among Malaysian youth has also been discussed here very briefly relating it to the findings of the research.

Keywords: Education, Social Environment, Social Network, Ethnic Relations, and Contact Theory

INTRODUCTION

Ethnic relation in Malaysia is a very dynamic and complex process that needs to be analyzed from various perspectives. There are a lot of factors that contribute to the positive ethnic relation as well as strengthening the relationship between the Malays, the Chinese and the Indians. This writing will focus on the importance of social environment in establishing social network and building positive ethnic relation among Malaysian youth. The term social environment is too