

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN BUSINESS ETHICS: SOUTH EAST ASIAN MANAGERS' PERSPECTIVES



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Contemporary Issues in Business Ethics: South East Asian Managers' Perspectives

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CHAPTER 8

BUSINESS ETHICS FROM RELIGIOSITY AND SPIRITUALITY PERSPECTIVES

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the chapter is to show the connection between religion and spirituality with ethical conduct in business activity. In terms of methodology, we reviewed 15 articles from various sources and databases and interviewed personally with five (5) managers. We found out that these articles tried to identify the key features on several religion and spirituality that whether these religions and spirituality promote ethical conduct in business ethics or not. A content analysis of these articles is conducted. The paper examines the impact of religiosity and spirituality value on business ethics, but more research need to be conducted because every religion has different values, norms and cultures and how are those points applied specifically in the workplace. Overall most religion and spirituality promote ethical conduct. This paper introduces the linkage on how spirituality and different religion promote the same point to be ethical in daily life especially in business ethics.

Keyword: Business ethics, religion, spirituality.

INTRODUCTION

Ethics is a fundamental value within oneself. By definition ethics means the basic concepts and fundamental principles of right human conduct. It includes study of universal values such as the essential equality of all men and women, human or natural rights, obedience to the law of land, concern for health and safety and, increasingly, also for the natural environment.

Business ethics is one of the main focuses of ethics. It refers to a system of moral principles applied in the commercial world. Business ethics provide guidelines for acceptable behavior by organizations in both their strategy formulation and day-to-day operations. An ethical approach is becoming necessary both for corporate success and a positive corporate image. Following pressure from consumers for more ethical and responsible business practices, many organizations are choosing to make a public commitment to ethical business by formulating codes of conduct and operating principles. In doing so, they must translate into action the concepts of personal and corporate accountability, corporate giving, corporate governance, and *whistleblowing*.