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THE IMPACT OF MULTIGROUP ETHNIC IDENTITY AND COLLECTIVE SELF-ESTEEM ON COLLEGE STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH: A STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELING APPROACH

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Abstract

This study examines the associations between Multigroup Ethnic Identity (MEI), Collective Self-Esteem (CSES), and mental health outcomes in a multicultural context. A sample of 305 Indonesian university students was used to explore how MEI is related to CSES dimensions—identity-based self-esteem, group membership esteem, private self-regard, and public self-perception—and indirectly linked to mental health, measured by the Mental Health Continuum-Short Form (MHC-SF). Validated psychometric tools were used for data collection, and partial least squares structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM) with bootstrapping (5,000 resamples) analyzed relationships and

mediating effects. Results showed significant positive correlations between MEI and all CSES dimensions; however, only the public dimension of CSES mediated the association between MEI and mental health, emphasizing the role of societal validation and public image in psychological well-being. While private, membership, and identity dimensions of CSES were positively linked to MEI, they did not mediate mental health outcomes. These findings highlight MEI as a psychological and community resource that supports resilience in diverse intergroup settings. Practical implications suggest fostering MEI in educational and professional environments to promote self-esteem, inclusivity, and well-being. © 2025, University of Salento. All rights reserved.

Author keywords

Collective Self-Esteem; mental health outcomes; Multicultural environment; Multigroup Ethnic Identity; Structural equation modeling

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