

The significance of patriotism, especially among the youths in shaping societal values cannot be underestimated. Youths are the bedrock of any country as far as development is concerned. Thus, it is imperative that they demonstrate a high sense of enthusiasm towards their country. Regrettably, the younger generation, those born after independence have an extremely low level of patriotism. Malaysia is a typical case where youths have not only shown open lack of practice of Malaysian values but also failed to demonstrate the spirit of being good Malaysians.

Lack of patriotism among the youths in Malaysia is a serious issue. As Binti Bandu, Ahmad, and Awang (2015) opine, a low spirit of patriotism has increasingly become a commonplace phenomenon among the younger generation, those born after independence. The lack of patriotism among the youths has been attributed to many factors with one of them being a low level of multi-ethnic solidarity in the Malaysian's educational system. A study conducted by Binti Bandu, Ahmad, and Awang (2015) found a weak ethnic relation in the institutions of higher learning. The same study demonstrated that even in circumstances where students know each other well, they do not feel comfortable when they occupy a similar area, something that has been attributed to their differing taboos and religious practices.

Besides the above, other factors that have been linked to the low level of patriotism among the Malaysian youths include low frequency in terms of the use of Malaysian language by the non-Malays, a low spirit of patriotism among the non-Malays, especially the Indians and Chinese, and prejudice that is common in a multiracial society. Thus, an effort by the Malaysian government to restore sanity as far as patriotism among the youths is concerned should be geared towards addressing the challenges expounded in this paper. For instance, they should solidify ethnic relations in higher institutions of learning; promote the use of a single language to promote harmony among the different racial groups, and to educate the youth on the importance of being patriotic.

References

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