

The Influence of Selected Asian Adventist Universities on Students' Development of Life Skills, Religiosity and Altruism

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to describe the influence of four Adventist universities in Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand on the development of life skills, religiosity and altruism among students. Survey research methodology was the design used to collect data using printed questionnaires. The questionnaire was primarily designed to elicit information on reasons for attending the universities, engagement in curricular and extra-curricular activities, and the extent to which the university influence student development of life skills, religiosity and altruism. One thousand nine hundred and sixty-eight (1968) students participated in this study. Students generally agree that the universities have positively influenced the development of their life skills ($M = 4.05$, $SD = 0.59$), religiosity ($M = 4.15$, $SD = 0.69$), and altruism ($M = 3.88$, $SD = 0.60$). There are no significant class status or gender differences on these variables. There are some variation among the universities but the effect size is small ($\eta^2 \leq .05$). Approximately 45% of the variance on the linear combination of the development of religiosity, life skills and altruism can be explained by student engagement in religious and extra-curricular activities, and interaction with professors/staff and friends. It is quite apparent that the university experience influence both religious and non-religious aspects of the student life development.

Keywords: *life skills, religiosity, altruism*