

Social Identities and Religiosity Differences in Patterns of Self-Disclosure of Malaysians

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ABSTRACT

Self-disclosure plays a crucial role in facilitating friendship development, especially in cross-cultural context. Recognising this, scholars have studied self-disclosure involving various cultural groups. However, very little is known about the self-disclosure patterns of the multi-ethnic and multi-religious Malaysian community. Therefore, this study intent to explore if social identities of Malaysians influenced their self-disclosure patterns. Using a survey method, this study looks into gender, ethnicity, religion and religiosity differences in self-disclosure. Results indicate that gender did not affect self-disclosure patterns, except when the gender of the target receiver was taken into consideration. On the contrary, individuals differed in their disclosure patterns across ethnicity, religion and religiosity. Religiosity was also found to be positively, but weakly correlate with topics of disclosure. Future studies may consider aspects of identities that influences self-disclosure patterns.