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Advanced Science Letters

Volume 22, Issue 9, 1 September 2016, Pages 2207-2210

Religiosity and sustainable development among youths (Article)

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Abstract

Sustainable and resilient **development** refers to sustained competent functioning despite severely challenging circumstances. Resilience also implies effective coping, which includes thought and action as the person puts effort to restore or maintain equilibrium under certain threat. This paper attempts to test empirically the model of resiliency and the importance of **religiosity** in developing resilient youth by using structural equation modeling (SEM). The adolescents' conception of resiliency measures dimensions such as active skills, future orientation, risk taking and independence while **religiosity** is examined through one's ability to cope and involve in religious activities. This study was done on a total sample of 608 youths from the east-coast of peninsular Malaysia. Cross-validation was done using two sub-samples of 160 and 148 youths respectively. The Resiliency Belief Scales1 and **Religiosity** Scale2 were employed in this study. The instruments consisted of 53 items and the items were hypothesized to have non-zero loadings on all dimensions in the model. Analysis of the items resulted in a well-fitting model ($\chi^2/df = 1.318$; GFI = 0.967; CFI = 0.991; RMSEA = 0.02). The direction and magnitude of the factor loadings were substantial and statistically significant. This shows that the model fits with the sample of data in this study. **Religiosity** explains 65% of variance in resiliency. © 2016 American Scientific Publishers. All rights reserved.

Author keywords

Education; Religion; Resiliency; **Sustainable development**

ISSN: 19386612 Source Type: Journal Original language: English

DOI: 10.1196/asl.2016.7567 Document Type: Article

Publisher: American Scientific Publishers