

CHAPTER 4

SUMMARY AND SUGGESTIONS

The purposes of the study

1. To find and compare the belief patterns of university students from Thailand, Singapore and the United States of America.
2. To find the relationship between background variables which are sex, economic status, nationality and religious background and the beliefs being studied.

Sample

The subjects were 150 Thai students from Chulalongkorn University, 150 Singaporean students from the National University of Singapore and 150 American students from Whitworth College, Spokane, Washington, U.S.A.

Instrument

Questionnaires were used as the instrument. The items on the questionnaires covered wide range issues regarding human philosophy cultural issue, social issue and political economic issues. The questions were put forth in a five point agreement-disagreement Likert Scale.

The process of gathering data.

The questionnaires were distributed to the 450 subjects according to the selected classrooms through the assistance of the professors and lecturers.

Data Processing

1. Compute means and standard deviations of the belief issues of each national group.
2. Conduct factor analysis to find the belief patterns of each national group.

3. Conduct one-way Analysis of Variance to find the relationship between the background variables and the beliefs being studied.

Results :

The results from factor analyses are as follow.

For the Thai subjects, 5 factors were found.

- Factor I consisted of the beliefs of existence of God, existence of soul, existence of heaven and existence of supernatural spirits.
- Factor II consisted of the belief issues of adolescent independence, sexual equality, racial equality, social change and democracy.
- Factor III consisted of the belief issues of human as being controlled by the environment, human nature as good and also the idea of free enterprise.
- Factor IV was an independent factor of the belief that man has a free will
- Factor V consisted of a belief that man is controlled by psychological forces. It was also an independent factor

For the Singaporean subjects, 6 factors were found.

- Factor I Consisted of the beliefs of existence of God, existence of soul and existence of heaven.
- Factor II consisted of the issues of free sex, adolescent independence and sexual equality.
- Factor III consisted of the issues of human being as having a free will and human nature is good.
- Factor IV consisted of the issues of racial equality and democracy
- Factor V was an independent factor of the belief that human being is controlled by psychological forces.
- Factor VI was an independent factor of the belief that human being is controlled by the environment.

For the American subjects, 6 factors were found,

- Factor I consisted of the belief issue of existence of supernatural spirits, the belief that human has a free will, human nature is good, democracy and free enterprize.
- Factor II consisted of the issues of sexual equality and racial equality.
- Factor III consisted of the beliefs of existence of God and existence of soul.
- Factor IV consisted of the beliefs that human is being controlled by the environment, human is being controlled by psychological forces and the belief of adolescent independence.
- Factor V consisted of the issue of existence of heaven and the issue of free sex.
- Factor VI was an independent factor of social change.

The results from the one-way Analyses of Variance and Duncan Multiple Range Tests between the subject's background variables and the belief issues are as follow.

1. The background variables that effect the belief of existence of God are economic status, nationality, and religion.
2. The background variables that effect the belief of existence of soul are nationality and religions.
3. The background variables that effect the belief of existence of heaven are econemic status, nationality and religion.
4. The background variables that effect the belief of human of having a free will are sex and nationality.
5. The background variables that effect the belief of human being as being controlled by the environment are nationality and religion.
6. The background variables that effect the belief of human as being controlled by the psychological forces are nationality and religion.
7. The background variable that effects the belief of human nature as good is nationality.

8. The background variables that effect that belief of free sex are sex, nationality and religion.

9. The background variable that effects the belief of adolescent independence is nationality.

10. The background variables that effect the belief of ideal sexual equality are sex, nationality and religion.

11. The background variables that effect the belief of racial equality are nationality and religion.

12. The background variable that effects the belief of social change is nationality.

13. The background variables that effect the belief of democracy are nationality and religion.

14. The background variables that effect the belief of free enterprise are economic status, nationality and religion.

Suggestions for further studies.

1. This study provides a basis for further attitude or belief survey in the area of human nature, ideals for social and political systems and current events. The questionnaire can be developed into a more in-depth instrument by adding more relevant questions.

2. By using the word nationality as one of the background variables in this study, it actually includes several other background variables such as sub-cultur ethnic groups and political affiliation. It would be challenging to study in detail about the effect of group memberships mentioned above, **within** the same country to see how the people from the same country but from different backgrounds think and feel about themselves and their environment.