

The Role of Gender and Acculturation Attitudes in Predicting the Second-Generation Indonesian Migrants' Adaptation in Malaysia

Nor Lelawati Jamaludin

Corresponding Author

norlelawati0019@uitm.edu.my

Faculty of Business and Management UiTM Puncak Alam, Malaysia

Sharifah Farradinna

Fakultas Psikologi, Universitas Islam Riau, Riau, Indonesia

Eshaq Ali Barna

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),

570 Jalan Bukit Petaling, 50460 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

The present study's aims were to test second-generation Indonesian migrants' attitudes toward their home culture and toward host culture as a necessary component of inclusion for society and to determine whether these acculturation attitudes (attitudes towards home and host culture) moderate the relationship between gender and acculturation outcomes (psychological adaptation and sociocultural adaptation) using a group of N=105 second-generation Indonesians in Malaysia. Structural Equation Model-AMOS was conducted to test the relationship among variables. The findings imply that among second-generation Indonesian migrants, the two fundamental aspects of acculturation attitudes (attitudes towards home and host culture) were mainly independent. The association between gender and sociocultural adaption is moderated by acculturation attitudes. The connection between acculturation attitudes and psychological adaptation was, in turn, mediated by sociocultural adaptation. The findings also demonstrated that sociocultural and psychological adaptation each had distinct predictors. Gender directly predicted psychological adaptation, whereas acculturation attitudes (attitudes towards home and host culture) directly impacted sociocultural adaptation.

Keywords: Acculturation attitudes, psychological adaptation, sociocultural adaptation, mental health, second-generation Indonesian migrants.

INTRODUCTION

Given that migration is a significant aspect of the 21st century and that the evidence suggests that it still poses both opportunities and challenges for both host and immigrant communities (UN, 2000:54). Approximately 271.64 million people are currently residing abroad, according to UN research (Gopinath, & Poornappriya, 2022). This study's focus stems from the realisation of the significance of second-generation immigrant experiences in getting ready for successful inclusion. This is due to the fact that many social and governmental programmes have been

motivated by the desire to create bridges between global experiences and knowledge across borders (Jamaludin et al. 2018; Pitts, 2005). Senator Fulbright's remarks (see Fulbright, 1976), suggest that inclusion initiatives can have excellent results. However, the full benefits are not always realised due to different social and psychological impediments (i.e., Loganathan et al., 2019; Sandhu, 1994). Pitts (2005) further argued that under the worst-case circumstances, this might escalate global tensions and fuel ethnocentrism on both sides.

The current study looks at two acculturation-related topics. The first one deals with second-generation Indonesians in Malaysia's acculturation attitudes regarding their home and host cultures as an element of social inclusion. The second concerns the moderating or mediating function of gender towards the relationship between acculturation attitudes (attitudes towards home and host culture) and second-generation immigrants' acculturation outcome (psychological and sociological adaption).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Acculturation Context of Indonesians in Malaysia

According to the current scenario, Indonesia had lots of workers who were both ready and inexpensively available for Malaysia's industries. The Indonesian community in Malaysia has expanded in number as a result of a lengthy recruitment period, family reunions, new marriages, and births, with roughly 40% of members being born in Malaysia.

The majority of the foreign employees in Malaysia, 728,870 in number, are from Indonesia, according to 2020 data from the Foreign Ministry. India with 114, 455 workers, followed by Bangladesh with 221,089, Myanmar with 127,705, and Nepal with 405,898 workers. In addition, Malaysia employs 59,281, 56,153, 29,039, and 15,399 people from Pakistan, the Philippines, Vietnam, and China, respectively. Thailand, however, employs 12,603 people, while Sri Lanka has 5,964, Cambodia has 5,103 and Laos has 39 workers.

Most of the second generation is still enrolled in school. However, the general perception of young immigrants is still depressing; they are frequently linked to crime, separation, and resistance to change (Hagendoorn, 1991). Despite being spread throughout the nation, Indonesians tend to congregate in the largest cities. The proximity between families is common. This is prompted by older Indonesian women's desire to maintain close relationships with one another and by the need for mutual assistance.

Gender, Acculturation Attitudes (Attitudes Toward Home Culture and Host Culture) and Adaptation (Psychological and Sociocultural)

According to Jamaludin et al., (2018), home culture is the culture of the country where a person is born and raised. In contrast, host culture is the culture of the country where a person is currently living or has lived. Research on how gender affects acculturation attitudes toward one's home culture and one's host culture has produced a mixed bag of findings.

Luo, et al., (2021); Arora, Metz, & Carlson, (2016) and Akhwan et al., (2021) proposed that an important factor influencing acculturation attitudes is gender. According to research (Parham et al., 2015; Liebkind, 1996), women are slower than men to establish identifications with the host culture and are more assertive of their host culture (Glas, 2021; Ghaffarian, 1987). Additionally, Fellmeth et al., (2021) and Ryan et al., (2021) noted that females had lower

psychological adaptation than males. Other research, however, found no distinctions between genders in psychological adaptation (Kolakowsky-Hayner et al., 2021; Furnham & Tresize, 1981; Nwadiora & McAdoo, 1996).

Furthermore, studies on the connection between gender and adaptation have yielded mixed results. Furnham and Shiekh (1993) discovered that females were more likely than males to experience psychological issues, experience a relative lack of participation with the host culture, and have fewer host culture-specific skills. On the other hand, Hashemi, Marzban, Sebar, and Harris, (2019) found that females were more psychologically adaptable than males. According to other positive psychology studies, most women believe they are content and pleased with their lives (see Diener, 2000). Nevertheless, some investigations found no differences between genders in psychological adaptability (Kolakowsky-Hayner, Goldin, Kingsley, Alzueta, Arango-Lasprilla, Perrin... & Constantinidou, 2021; Furnham & Tresize, 1981; Nwadiora & McAdoo, 1996).

The assertion that gender has been reported to be significantly connected with acculturation attitudes is still inconsistent, according to the literature. The aforementioned makes it very evident that studies studying the connections between gender and adaptation are likewise inconsistent. These discrepancies may be caused by weak effects, the omission of significant moderating variables in the studies, a combination of the two, or both.

Adaptation

Psychological and social adaptability are the two main categories of acculturation outcomes that have been categorised by acculturation researchers (Ward, Bochner, & Furnham, 2001). With regard to adaptation, acculturation researchers make a distinction between psychological and sociocultural adaptation (Schachner, Schiller, Van de Vijver, & Noack, 2014). Psychological adaptation includes well-being, life satisfaction, and mental health, whereas sociocultural adaptation refers to an individual's competence in mastering daily life in a particular cultural context (Ward, 2001). In this study, mental health was used as an indicator of psychological adaptation.

Psychological adaptation and sociocultural adaptation have been related, according to some theories; links between the two have been shown (Berry, 2003; English, Zhang, Stanciu, Kulich, Zhao, & Bojovic, 2021). Psychological and social adaptation results were found to be positively associated by Ward and Kennedy (1999). Additionally, it was discovered that the degree of cultural proximity and integration into the social host environment were positively correlated with the intensity of the link between psychological and sociocultural adaptation (Kanj, & Khamis, 2021; Ward, 1999; Ward & Kennedy, 1996; Ward, Okura, Kennedy, & Kojima, 1998; Ward & Rana-Deuba, 1999).

Acculturation Attitudes (Attitudes Toward Home Culture and Host Culture) and Adaptation (Psychological and Sociocultural)

Inconsistent findings have been found in research on the relationship between attitudes toward home and host cultures and adaptation, which appears to focus mostly on psychological adaptation as an outcome variable. Stronger ties to the host culture were shown by Singh (1999) and Xiao, Miao, & Sarkar, (2021) to be associated with higher levels of stress, while Padilla (1986) and English, Zhang, & Tong, (2021) found that they were associated with lower

levels of stress. A balanced identification with both cultures tends to co-occur with psychological adjustment (Jamaludin et al., 2021; Buriel, Calzada, & Vasquez, 1982). Strong host culture identification was linked to greater sociocultural adjustment, according to Ward and Kennedy (1994) and Ward, Chang, & Lopez-Nerney, (2020), while strong ethnic identity was linked to fewer issues with psychological adaptation.

According to Jamaludin et al. (2016), several researchers discovered significant and fairly consistent evidence for the relationship between acculturation attitudes and results. Immigrants who adapt more were linked to lower levels of psychological adjustment, whereas those who did not, were linked to greater psychological adjustment (Berry & Annis, 1974; Berry, Kim, Minde, & Mok, 1987).

METHODOLOGY

Hypotheses

The path analysis is carried out based on the literature to assess the moderating effect of acculturation attitudes (attitudes towards home and host culture). In the present study, academic and professional performance are examined as markers of sociocultural adaptation, while mental health is examined as a marker of psychological adaptation. The researcher limits the hypothesis in this study to the flow of effects from sociocultural adaptation to psychological adaptation. Second-generation Indonesians who attended schools in Malaysia and are familiar with its language and culture are the study's participants. Therefore, it is anticipated that gender, views about home and host culture and sociocultural adaptation (work and school success) would all have an impact on mental health. Summary of the tested hypotheses is listed below:

- H1: Gender influence acculturation attitudes (attitudes towards host culture).
- H2: Gender influence acculturation attitudes (attitudes towards home culture).
- H3: Gender influence psychological adaptation (mental health).
- H4: Sociocultural adaptation (school success) is significantly influenced by acculturation attitudes (attitudes toward home culture).
- H5: Acculturation attitudes (attitudes towards host culture) influence sociocultural adaptation (school success).
- H6: Acculturation attitudes (attitudes towards host culture) influence sociocultural adaptation (work success).
- H7: There is a relationship between sociocultural adaptation (academic success) and sociocultural adaptation (work success).
- H8: The relationship between sociocultural adaptation (work success) and psychological adaptation (mental health).

Participants

105 individuals who were Indonesians in their second generation made up the sample. The participants lived in Kuala Lumpur; their parents were from various provinces in Indonesia. They ranged in age from 18 to 25, with a mean age of 20.66. There were 23 females and 82 males among them. All of them had a history of working part-time. Bahasa Melayu was the native tongue of every participant, whereas Indonesian was the mother tongue of 53.2%. All participants said they were quite proficient in their native tongues. Malaysian nationality made up 85.8%. In Malaysia, residents stayed there on average for 15.55 years most people are Muslims (Details of the demographic profile of the respondents can be seen in Table 1).

There isn't a sample frame in the nation that would enable a precise proportional representation of second-generation Indonesians in Malaysia. However, the sample includes people of different genders, and professions in ways that would give researchers studying acculturation-related characteristics the variety they need. Although the age range of 18 to 25 is primarily made up of students, the researcher included many students who work part-time in the sample.

Details of the demographic profile of the respondents can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Descriptives

	<i>M</i>	<i>Cronbach Alpha</i>
Age*	20.66	--
Length of Stay*	15.55	--
Mental health	1.76	.99
Acculturation Attitudes (Initial Scale: all items)	3.52	.86
Attitudes toward Heritage Culture (Factor)	3.86	.87
Attitudes toward Host Culture (Factor)	3.30	.89
Work Success	3.65	.84

* Years

Instruments

Attention was paid to the validity of the tests constructed for the study from the very beginning. *Mental health.* Mental health was measured using life satisfaction using the scale developed by Diener, Emmons, Larsen, and Griffin (1985). The study used 5 items by Diener et al. (1985). It was measured with a 5-point scale (1 strongly disagree to 5 strongly agree). Sample of the questions are as follows: 'In most ways, my life is close to my ideal'; and 'The conditions of my life are excellent'.

Acculturation attitudes. This is a 66-item measure of the extent to which participants like or dislike elements of Indonesian culture and of Malaysian culture. There is a one-to-one correspondence between the items in each culture. Scores vary from not at all (1) to very much (5). The scale contains items pertaining to twelve cultural domains i.e, language ("Do you like Malaysian language?"), family ("Do you like parent-child relationship in the Malaysian family?"), friends ("Do you like boyfriend-girlfriend relationships in Malaysian culture?"), strangers ("Do you like the way Malaysian treat persons they do not know?"), The similarity between the user tag vector and web page tag vector. The high value is obtained by high similarity between the two vectors.

Procedure

Data were collected by means of questionnaires using informal networks of communication inside the Indonesian community. They were called upon for the recruitment of participants. This was done following a technique suggested by a study by Quarasse and Vijver (2005) who also studied acculturation on immigrants. Participants were told that the information provided in the questionnaires would remain confidential and that they were free not to contribute to the research.

RESULTS

Independence of Acculturation Attitudes

Factor loadings are presented in Table 2. It could be concluded that acculturation attitudes can be classified into two factors namely, attitudes toward home culture and attitudes toward host culture. Factor loadings (Oblimin-rotated) are presented in Table 2. Results shows that all home culture items loaded together on one factor that were called “attitudes toward home culture”. The remainder of the scale items, loaded on a second factor that were called “attitudes toward host culture”. It could be concluded that acculturation attitudes boil down to two factors namely, attitudes toward home culture and attitudes toward host culture. For example, the acculturation items about the home and host cultures were formulated in an identical way (e.g., “Do you like Indonesians table manners?” and “Do you like Malaysians table manners?”). The results suggest that the participants saw the two cultures as somewhat incompatible. The results between attitudes towards home culture and host culture have shown contradict results.

Table 2. Factor Loading Structure of Acculturation Attitudes

	Attitudes toward Host Culture (Eigenvalue: 8.66)	Attitudes toward Home Culture (Eigenvalue: 7.99)
Do you like Indonesian's food?	.06	.55
Do you like the way Indonesians food is prepared?	.04	.56
Do you like Indonesians table manners?	-.09	.56
Do you like Indonesian's home atmosphere?	.05	.67
Do you like Indonesian's home furniture?	.06	.48
Do you like Indonesians female clothing?	-.03	.54
Do you like Indonesians male clothing?	-.14	.44
Do you like Indonesian's child clothing?	-.03	.49
Do you like Indonesian's physicians?	.01	.36
Do you like Indonesians jokes?	.26	.41
Do you like Indonesian's music?	.55	.23
Do you like Indonesians feasts?	.46	.28
Do you like Indonesian's sport?	.02	.49
Do you like the Indonesians language?	.16	.48
Do you like the size of the Indonesians family?	-.14	.50
Do you like parent-child relationship in Indonesians family?	.05	.45
Do you like husband-wife relationship in Indonesians family?	.06	.55
Do you like sibling relations in Indonesians family?	.08	.44
Do you like marriage partner choice in Indonesian's culture?	-.11	.34
Do you like marriage laws in Indonesian's culture?	-.16	.55
Do you like domestic role distribution in Indonesian's culture?	-.20	.41
Do you like friendship in Indonesian's culture?	.04	.35
Do you like stranger-stranger relationship in Indonesian's culture?	.07	.45
Do you like the Indonesians media?	.09	.34
Do you like human rights in Indonesian's culture?	.03	.37
Do you like the rule of law in Indonesian's culture?	.05	.32
Do you like the Qurán?	-.07	.66

Do you Islamic prayer?	-.06	.51
Do you like fasting in Islam?	-.07	.60
Do you like food restrictions in Islam?	.00	.50
Do you like time use in Islam?	-.23	.54
Do you like money use in Islam?	-.10	.53
Do you like interpersonal relations in Islam?	-.14	.55
Do you like Malaysian food?	.39	-.14
Do you like the way Malaysian food is prepared?	.32	-.13
Do you like Malaysian table manners?	.47	-.00
Do you like Malaysian home atmosphere?	.57	-.15
Do you like Malaysian home furniture?	.48	.09
Do you like Malaysian female clothing?	.61	-.07
Do you like Malaysian male clothing?	.64	.11
Do you like Malaysian child clothing	.58	.13
Do you like Malaysian physicians?	.26	.12
Do you like Malaysian jokes?	.53	.07
Do you like Malaysians music?	.47	-.15
Do you like Malaysian feasts?	.52	-.15
Do you like Malaysian sport?	.25	.19
Do you like the Malaysian language?	.47	.13
Do you like the size of the Malaysian family?	.39	-.15
Do you like parent-child relationship in Malaysian family?	.63	-.09
Do you like husband-wife relationship in Malaysian family?	.62	-.08
Do you like sibling relations in Malaysian family?	.40	-.00
Do you like marriage partner choice in Malaysia?	.34	.01
Do you like marriage laws in Malaysia?	.66	-.01
Do you like domestic role distribution in Malaysia?	.54	.07
Do you like friendship in Malaysia?	.43	.03
Do you like girlfriend-boyfriend relationship in Malaysia?	.61	-.04
Do you like stranger-stranger relationship in Malaysia?	.39	.08
Do you like the Malaysians media?	.37	.03
Do you like human rights in Malaysia?	.35	.08
Do you like the rule of law in Malaysia?	.37	.17
Do you like fasting in Islam?	.38	-.16
Do you like food restrictions in Islam?	.35	-.16
Do you like time use in Islam?	.43	-.09
Do you like money use in Islam?	.50	-.08
Do you like interpersonal relations in Islam?	.49	.03

The Moderating Function of Acculturation Attitudes

Model estimation. The hypothesised model presents a very good fit to the sample data (GFI = 1.00; AGFI = .99; RMSEA = .00). All fit indices pointed to a good fit between the hypothesised model and the sample data.

Model assessment. The majority of parameter values showed the expected indications, which is strong evidence that the proposed model is adequate (see Table 3 for correlations). Results shows that gender influence attitudes towards host culture ($p < .01$). Acculturation attitude

(towards home and host culture have a relationship with academic success ($p < .01$). It also shows that in addition to this, academic success also has a relationship with work success and subsequently influence mental health ($p < .01$). Not all parameter estimations, though, had statistical significance. It's possible that this information reflects the small sample size (Byrne, 2001; Hoelter, 1983), but it still raises the potential that some hypothesised paths are not particularly significant to the model.

Table 3. Correlations among Background Factors, Acculturation Attitudes, and Acculturation Outcomes

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Gender	1.						
2. Attitudes toward home culture	-.06	1.					
3. Attitudes toward host culture	.30**	-.01	1.				
4. Academic success	.04	.20**	.28**	1.			
5. Work success	.12	.05	.26**	.31**	1.		
6. Mental health	-.16	.04	-.05	.12	.31*	1.	

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Model Modification

Only significant paths are represented in a new model (Figure 1), and it demonstrated a very good fit (GFI =.98; AGFI =.95; RMSEA =.00). This model obviously carries the risk of taking advantage of the characteristics of the present sample.

The findings demonstrate a link between gender and attitudes toward host culture ($\beta = .29$, $p.05$) H1, home culture ($\beta = -.20.0$, $p.05$) H2, and mental health ($\beta = 0.19$, $p.05$) H3, demonstrating that attitudes toward home, host culture, and mental health are all related to gender. Sociocultural adaptation has been measured by academic success and work success. Results shows that school success is significantly influenced by attitudes toward home culture ($\beta = 0.18$, $p .05$) H4.

The link between attitudes towards host culture and school and work success was positive and significant ($\beta = 0.26$; $p < .05$) H5 and ($\beta = 0.19$; $p < .05$) H6 respectively. Additionally, the relationship between academic success and work success was significant ($\beta = .31$; $p < .05$) H7. Finally, the relationship between work success and mental health was positive ($\beta = .35$; $p < .05$) H8. Results from these hypotheses testing are summarised in Figure 1.

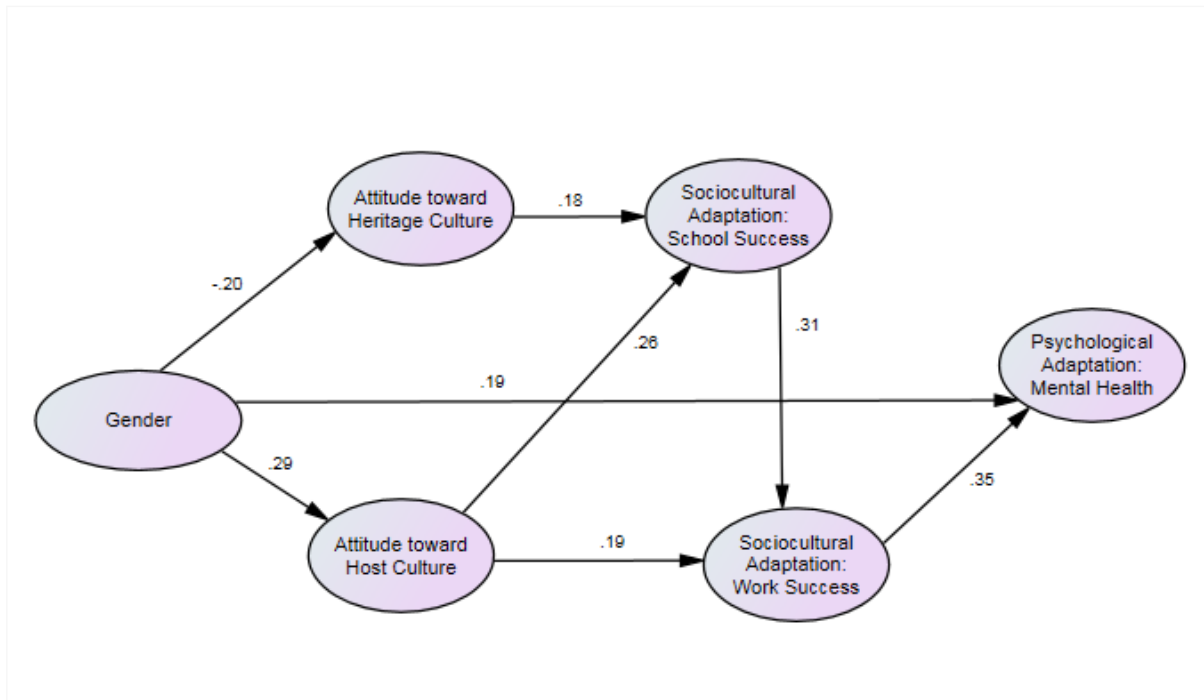


Figure 1: Empirical Model. (Note: All paths are significant at $p < .05$ and standardized)

To conclude, the association between gender and adaptation is moderated by views toward home and host culture. Additionally, gender directly impacts mental health. Acculturation attitudes only indirectly affect psychological adaptation through sociocultural adaptation. Both attitudes toward the host culture and attitudes toward the home culture were separate, and only sociocultural adaptation (academic success and work success) had an impact on psychological adaptation (mental health). Success in school and the workplace is positively impacted by attitudes toward home and the host culture, and improved mental health as a result. Results also show that second-generation Indonesian women are more likely than their male counterparts to positively appreciate Malaysian culture. All hypotheses H1-H8 is accepted.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to test 8 hypotheses that look at how gender influence attitudes towards host culture, attitudes towards home culture and mental health. This study looked at how sociocultural adaptation which was measured by school success and work success is influenced by attitudes toward home and host culture. In addition, it also looked at how attitudes towards host culture influence work and school success. This study also explores the relationship between work and school success and how this influence mental health.

It can be concluded that (i) that attitudes toward home culture and attitudes toward host culture are independent of one another; and (ii) that attitudes toward both of these cultures serve as moderators of the relationship between gender and adaptation (sociocultural and psychological) (iii) It can also be concluded that gender especially women, and sociocultural adaptation (work success) is a strong predictor of second-generation Indonesian immigrants' mental health. All hypotheses (H1-H8) were supported.

Acculturation Attitudes and Adaptation

Both attitudes toward the host culture and those toward the home culture are distinct. This finding is consistent with the acculturation model's two dimensions (Berry, 1974, 1984, 1994). This model proposes that young Indonesians may choose to identify or disassociate from a culture without limiting the possibility of identification or dissociation with the second culture. Future research will need to ascertain how and under what circumstances this attitude of independence generalises to behaviour.

Sociocultural adaptation has been measured by academic success and work success (Ouarasse and Vijver, 2005; Giuliani, Tagliabu and Regalia, 2018). Results shows that school success is significantly influenced by attitudes toward home culture ($\beta = 0.18$, $p .05$) H4. In addition, the link between acculturation attitudes (attitudes towards host culture) and sociocultural adaptation (school and work success) was positive and significant ($\beta = 0.26$; $p < .05$) H5 and ($\beta = 0.19$; $p < .05$) H6 respectively. Additionally, academic success also has an influence on work success ($\beta = .31$; $p < .05$) H7. Finally, the relationship between sociocultural adaptation (work success) and psychological adaptation (mental health) was positive ($\beta = .35$; $p < .05$) H8. This finding supported the suggestion by (Ouarasse and Vijver, 2005; Ward, 2022) who also conclude that sociocultural adaptation is related to psychological adaptation.

The Gender Factor

Gender heavily influences one's perception of the host culture. The findings demonstrate a link between gender and attitudes toward host culture ($\beta = .29$, $p .05$) H1, home culture ($\beta = -.20$, $p .05$) H2, and mental health ($\beta = 0.19$, $p .05$) H3, demonstrating that attitudes toward home, host culture, and mental health are all related to gender. The findings also indicate that women were more accepting of Malaysian culture than men, which contrasts with other research findings (Güler, & Yıldırım, 2022). The relative "attraction" of gender roles in Malaysian society for Indonesian women may be one explanation for these findings; Indonesian women appear to have more to gain from Malaysian culture (e.g., greater freedom and independence), whereas Indonesian men appear to have more to lose.

Combining this with the fact that attitudes toward ethnic culture are not gender-specific, it is evident that Indonesian culture's components cannot account for Indonesian women's comparative admiration of Malaysian culture. It appears that Indonesian women embrace Malaysian culture for its practical applications. A young Indonesian woman who steadfastly upholds Indonesian culture may yet view Malaysian culture as a valid instrument for promoting herself and her cultural ideals; greater power and independence might be two examples of such weapons.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the findings indicate that across migrants, the two basic aspects of acculturation (attitudes towards home and host culture) were mainly independent. The association between gender and sociocultural adaptation was modified by attitudes toward heritage and host culture. According to our assumptions and prior research, sociocultural adaptation in turn served as a mediator in the link between acculturation views and psychological adaptation (Ait Ouarasse & Van de Vijver, 2004a, 2004b, b).

The results suggest that the host and home cultures each play a slightly different role in adaptation. The researcher discovered that sociocultural adaptation which is divided into academic success and work success is strongly influence by host culture this supported a study by Ait Ouarasse & Van de Vijver, (2004a). Both host and home culture group characteristics were superior indicators of career success. Home culture variables were superior predictors of academic success. Although not instrumental, the home culture factors studied support values like the ability to adjust.

Similar to this, the researcher discovered proof that the major culture's impact on work success is more than just instrumental. Work success was significantly predicted by perceptions of how ethnic groups are treated in host society. This interpretation is supported by the current study's findings that attitudes toward both home and the host culture predict sociocultural adaptation (school and work success).

It is impossible to boil down the roles of the host culture and the home culture to their respective supportive and instrumental roles. A test of multigroup invariance is required before the model can be applied to other groups and other acculturation situations, even though the model developed provided a strong match to the data. The researchers argue that the current study provides some insights into the potential for gender, acculturation attitudes and adaptation in influencing mental health in Indonesia second generation immigrants' experiences. This approach could be developed further to offer new insights into research beyond seeing gender, acculturation attitudes and adaptation as predictors. However, the researchers believe much more research is needed in order to explain relational exchanges in this context, given the present competitive context in which they are now immersed. Despite the exploratory nature of this study, the findings add insights to the psychology of Indonesia second generation immigrants in Malaysia.

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