

**THE EVALUATION OF ENRICHED
THEISTIC CENTRED CURRICULUM IN
SEKOLAH DIAN HARAPAN AND
SEKOLAH LENTERA HARAPAN,
INDONESIA**

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**ASIA e UNIVERSITY
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THEISTIC CENTRED CURRICULUM IN
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SEKOLAH LENTERA HARAPAN,
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ABSTRACT

The Indonesian national 2013 *kurikulum* (K13) draws from the national ideology of *Pancasila*. There are five principles in *Pancasila*. The first one is the theistic principle relating to God-centred education emphasising faith and piety. It accommodates diversity in religions. The research was conducted to evaluate the implementation of the theistic principle in *Sekolah Dian Harapan* and *Sekolah Lentera Harapan*, as a Christian school system under a head office collectively known as SDLH. Both schools used enriched K13. The evaluation of curriculum implementation was done using Stufflebeam's Context, Input, Process and Product evaluation model. The study employed qualitative methodology. It addressed both the macro and micro perspectives by looking at the whole school system as a single case, while treating each CIPP stage as a distinct unit of analysis. The data were collected through observations, interviews, and participatory self-studies. The respondents were the leadership team of 39 schools which consists of principals, vice-principals, and curriculum-coordinators. The findings show that God-centred education occurred intentionally in the SDLH school system. Nevertheless, this study found substantial shortcomings in the alignment of the implementation of the theistic *Pancasilaist* God-centred education from Input to product of learning. While SDLH intended to convey GCE at the contextual level, the implementation was not deeply and profoundly effective. The inconsistency started at the input stage resulting in a weak learning process that affected the GCE delivery as reflected well in the product of learning. The research makes significant contributions to the theistic God-centred education in Indonesia in a way it highlights the crucial gaps which will help enable constructive curriculum alignment from policy to practice.

Keyword: *Theistic, Divinity, Education, Curriculum Evaluation, Pancasila, CIPP*

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this thesis conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in quality and scope, for the fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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18 May 2022

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis submitted in fulfilment of the PhD degree is my own work and that all contributions from any other persons or sources are properly and duly cited. I further declare that the material has not been submitted either in whole or in part, for a degree at this or any other university. In making this declaration, I understand and acknowledge any breaches in this declaration constitute academic misconduct, which may result in my expulsion from the programme and/or exclusion from the award of the degree.

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Date: April 2022

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AeU	Asia e University
GCE	God Centred Education
HNI	High Net Individuals
MOE	Ministry of Education
SPH	Sekolah Pelita Harapan
SLH	Sekolah Lentera Harapan
YPPH	Yayasan Pendidikan Pelita Harapan

CHAPTER 1.0

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Indonesia is a country with multi-cultural, diverse religions and hundreds of dialects. It is the largest archipelagic country in the world and has the largest Muslim population in the world. Despite its large Muslim population, this country is neither a religious nor secular state. The Pancasila or five principles united all elements of Indonesian diversity, including unifying religious pluralism. This research discussed the extent of application of the first principle of Pancasila or the Lordship of one True God in the context of Christian education.

1.1.1 Indonesian Ideology Context: Lordship of God

The majority of Indonesian citizen's view *Pancasila* as a public religion (Intan, 2006). Due to that fact, *Pancasila* in the same time is an open theistic political framework, and theistically centred, because Pancasila recognises God's Oneness and acknowledges the Lordship of God over His creation as stated in the first principle: Belief in the Almighty God or *Ketuhanan Yang Maha Esa*.

Pancasila is an open system because it functions as a "*leithstar*" or a dynamic principle that unites the characteristics" of different official /(legal) religions and belief systems in Indonesia. Its openness permits different dogmatic positions between diverse religions as far as everyone believes in God's existence as the primary cause of Creation and the Lord over His creation (Soekarno, 2006). This first principle becomes the central pillar of faith among Indonesian society.

The authenticity of Pancasila makes the education system in Indonesia also philosophically unique. However, there are some sceptics that undervalue Pancasila by simplifying its meaning as mere propaganda and political tool. Sceptics may

consider Pancasila as virtually empty, thus, naturally function merely as the government propaganda tool (Bev, 2010; Densmoor, 2014).

On the other hand, some researchers discerned Pancasila more positively. They see it as a pillar to build the "*Pancasilaist*" society that believes in God. Therefore, naturally a theistic centred education can be considered as a unique Indonesian educational system.

1.1.2 Cardinal Aim of Education in Indonesia

This research scrutinises the uniqueness of theistic education systems in Indonesia from the perspective of the primary purpose of Indonesian education according to the law, as stated below:

“Education in Indonesia aims to develop and dignify characters and Indonesian civilisations and intellectually shape both the character and the Indonesian people's nature. Developing Indonesian to have faith and obey God; so that Indonesians can have noble moral virtue. Developing the society with influential intellectual, creativity and entrepreneurship, hence Indonesians will have the capacity to manage the Indonesian land as a heritage to bear more significant benefits. Developing the nationalistic citizens' attitude, who are democratic, respect differences and are responsible primarily and morally to God” (President, Translated, 2003, ch.3)."

This research focuses on the second objective of the national aim of education, to achieve a devout Indonesian society and has faith in God through God-centred education.

1.1.3 The Brief History of Yayasan Pendidikan Pelita Harapan (YPPH)

Yayasan Pendidikan Pelita Harapan (YPPH) established its first school in 1995. At that time, the Indonesian government was permitting *Sekolah Pelita Harapan* (SPH) in Lippo Karawaci to recruit foreigners as teachers and run the oldest Indonesian-

owned school under the international curriculum. SPH is a model for improving Indonesia's overall educational quality, owned by the Indonesian and run by the Indonesian board.

Indonesia's ultra-rich high net individuals (HNI) have access to this prestigious elite school. Hence, they did not have to send their children abroad to get an elite education. Shortly after, SPH opened more campuses in Sentul and later also in Cikarang and Pluit. Currently, there are five SPH campuses throughout Indonesia. SPH is a religion-based school with a reformed-evangelical Christian backdrop. SPH places God as the centre of the educational process and operates under the international curriculum system.

SPH runs as an international collaboration school and operates an international curriculum, the International Baccalaureate curriculum (IBO). SPH certainly provides an excellent opportunity for native Indonesian teachers to understand and learn firsthand how international quality education is possibly happening in Indonesia. However, the next challenge is real because SPH was accessible only by a handful of the wealthiest Indonesians.

Therefore, in 1995, also YPPH opened another school system called the Dian Harapan Schools (SDH). SDH aimed at the students from the middle-upper-class affluent family. However, the main difference is the curriculum used. Instead of implementing IB curriculum, SDH runs under the national curriculum hence is significantly more affordable.

SDH appointed Westerners as school system advisors to bring SDH relatively as “par with” or ideally approaching international standards but running the national curriculum. In the 2012-13 academic year, YPPH began to revamp the national curriculum. Therefore, enrichment of the national curriculum was done systematically

based on the best practices taken from SPH. Thus, SDH can still fulfil both the main objectives of education in Indonesia as mandated by the national curriculum and at the same time approaching international standards. A while later, YPPH opened the Lentera Harapan (SLH) School, which was furthermore accessible to the public at a very affordable cost that was located mostly in the rural area.

SLH was born because of the concern and the need for good quality schools in Indonesia's rural areas hence it is accessible to all Indonesians. SLH is primarily located in district cities, rural and small cities. SLH schools are designed as non-profit oriented schools to ensure the school fees are affordable. SLH provides scholarships called the Lantern for the Nation (LBB) program to anticipate if the tuition is still unreachable.

Another significant difference between *Dian* and *Lentera* School lies in the application of the national curriculum. In comparison to SDH, SLH oriented towards the national education system without pursuing the quality of education "on par" with elements in international standard schools. This study will cover both the Dian and the Lentera Harapan School (or SDLH).

1.2 Problem Statement

With such idealism and departing from the spirit of improving the quality of national education through implementing K13, SDLH decided to enrich the K13 national curriculum. The enrichment process has a Biblical centred worldview in mind, while being more compatible with the SDLH tradition as a school with a reformed evangelical tradition.

Thus, it is said that SDH / SLH enriched curriculum framework or SDLH Curriculum framework (SCF) was born as an enriched form of the 2013 national curriculum. The 2013 national curriculum (K13) was initially (also) theistic centred.

Therefore, it includes faith as one of the learning domains. K13 was in line with how theologian Dallas Willard viewed faith and obedience to God as the basis of science and knowledge. Hence agreeing with Willard, the SCF also has every assumption and thought to begin with the basis of belief in God Almighty (Willard, 2002, p.12, pp. 22-23).

However, the factual implementation of K13 is still problematic. Although the nature of K13 is theistic and holistic, it does not form "deeper critical thinking and profound spiritual reflectiveness (PISA, 2015). The weak practice in learning and teaching failed to foster critical, creative and systematic thinkers. While K13 agree that faith could function as the foundation of proper knowledge, the faith facts still became memorised lesson materials for final tests (Towaf, 1990, pp.142–145). Therefore, in K13, Pancasila virtue and value reduced to merely the shallow and superficial list of memorised morality function as mere political tools that have failed to develop the spiritual and psychomotor domains (Towaf, 1990, p.52)

Towaf's research reveals gaps that occur in the application of weak curriculum practices. The patterns of shallow memorisation of moral lists are undoubtedly inadequate to effectively building noble national character as mandated by the cardinal aim of national education. Therefore, this research emerged out of this concern, "The God-centred education delivery in Indonesia simply is not profound enough (Towaf, 1990)." One of the causing element of this phenomena is that because cognitive memorisation in K13 was inherited from the previous curriculum called "Active learning curriculum - *Cara Belajar Siswa Aktif*" (or CBSA curriculum).

The CBSA was humorously titled as "a note-taking the textbook style of learning- or *Catat Buku Sampai Abis*." The CBSA curriculum, despite the name, heavily relied on the process of memorising facts for tests and called the mastery of

content. CBSA was a content-based curriculum (Towaf, p.144). Unfortunately, a significant number of assessments inside the 2013 curriculum textbook were still reflecting the CBSA method of memorising these facts. Hence this CBSA inherited style that is not sufficient to foster good moral virtue (Sudrajat, 2010, pp.1–3). It is simply too shallow to establish the formation and spiritual confidence of students. Therefore, curriculum 2013 is inadequate as the practical framework for achieving national education, especially in the dimension of faith and obedience formations to God (President, 2003).

1.2.1 Issue That Leads to Research: The Lesson Memorization for Test

The Indonesian ministry of education's (MOE) was well aware of such substantial gaps in building students' higher order of thinking (Wamendik,2015). The MOE identified three main challenges from the Indonesian education situational analysis:

1. General practices in the kindergarten to grade 12, or K-12 as compulsory learning is still substantially weak.
 - (a) The mandatory K-12 education program's teaching and learning practice is still inadequate to shape the national character
 - (b) The mandatory K-12 education program's teaching and learning improvement in practice, is immediately needed.
2. Ineffective teaching and learning.
 - (a) The government still considers that the quality of Indonesia's education system is still low, especially in the quality of students' evaluation and assessments.
 - (b) It is essential to improve the quality of teaching and learning, especially from learning evaluation and students' assessment.
3. The K-12 graduate quality is also flawed.