

## Students' perception on disciplinary measures in public secondary schools in Kedah, Malaysia: A case study

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J. C. Lee<sup>1,\*</sup>, R. Mohan<sup>2</sup>, M. Abdul Halim<sup>1</sup>, M. Mua'azam<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of Education and Modern Languages, UUM College of Arts and Sciences, 06010 UUM Sintok, Kedah Darul Aman, Malaysia

<sup>2</sup> School of Language, Civilization and Philosophy, 06010 UUM Sintok, Kedah Darul Aman, Malaysia

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### ABSTRACT

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Facing and dealing with discipline problems caused by secondary schools students probably among the most difficult and unpleasant part of teaching profession. Disciplinary measures adopted for ensuring discipline has been a very challenging encounter. School administrators and teachers have often overlooked, marginalized or even neglected the inclusion of an important component, "the student's opinion" in seeking solutions for problems pertaining to student related matters. It is only rational or rather logical to ask the most informed group that is the students themselves on what they actually think or feel regarding issues directly concerning their welfare. This study therefore, explores the perception of secondary school students on disciplinary measures imposed by the school authority. 1200 secondary school students from 24 secondary schools were purposively selected. The study findings revealed that even though majority of the students in this study perceived that some disciplinary measures imposed were unfair, unreasonable and unsuitable, interestingly, the same students perceived that those disciplinary measures will decrease their indiscipline behaviors in future. Among all the disciplinary measures imposed, counselling yielded the highest percentage of agreement that it is fair, reasonable and suitable for the students. This suggests that in order to deal with indiscipline behavior caused by the students in secondary school, counselling approach is essential.

#### Keywords:

Secondary school, students, disciplinary measures, perception

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## 1. Introduction

No doubt that students are considered as priceless assets and most essential elements in education, but on the other hand, we have to accept the fact that they sometimes become burdens on teachers and school administrators whenever they engaged in any indiscipline behavior. According to Burden [1] any behavior that threatens the conduct of teaching and learning, or the flow of academic performance in a particular context, can be defined as indiscipline behavior. Basically, indiscipline behaviors occur when a student refuses to obey rules of the classroom or school. Rules that deal with human actions will eventually be broken and require some sort of

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [junchoi@uum.edu.my](mailto:junchoi@uum.edu.my) (Lee Jun Choi)