

## The differences of cultural awareness based on gender, age, race, and region of the students of guidance and counseling

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### Abstract

This study was conducted to reveal differences in cultural awareness based on gender, age, ethnicity, and region of origin. The research conducted to reveal differences in student cultural awareness based on gender, age, ethnicity, and region of origin is a comparative type. The research sample amounted to 41 people who were selected using the accidental sampling technique. Data was collected by giving the cultural awareness instrument directly to the sample. The research datasets were processed using univariate and multivariate analysis. The results showed that the average cultural awareness score of students was 71.8%, with SD 1.04 being in the medium category. There is no significant difference in student cultural awareness based on gender, age, ethnicity, and region of origin. Differences in gender, age, ethnicity, and region of origin have no impact on the cultural awareness they have. External efforts are needed to increase cultural awareness so that cross-cultural counseling activities can be carried out properly and appropriately. The mastery of student cultural awareness has an impact on the cross-cultural counseling activities that will be carried out. The results of this study can be used as a guide for teachers in the guidance and counseling study program to consider the treatment that can be given to increase the cultural awareness of students in implementing cross-cultural counseling.

**Keywords:** Cultural awareness, cross-cultural counseling

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## Introduction

Indigenous counseling is a breakthrough in the world of counseling to understand individuals based on their cultural context. Indigenous counseling is considered as an important thing since the emergence of counseling theories that want to be applied universally, not only in some areas (Annajih, M. Z. H., Fakhriyani, D. V., Sa'idah, 2021); (Prasasti, 2020). Indigenous counseling is defined as a process of assisting indigenous people by utilizing a basic understanding of facts or information related to the local cultural context (Hawkins, B. P and Zuiker, 2019); (Chang, D. F., & Yoon, 2011). Indigenous counseling aims to make the counseling process more thorough, systematic, and universal both theoretically and empirically and can be proven wherever it is (Ariswanti, 2009); (Colledge, 2002). The discussion of indigenous counseling will never be separated from culture and all its detail. Culture has a very important function in individual lives, including as a giver of identity to citizens. It can be used to communicate and strengthen solidarity (Jamin, 2020); (Davide, 2019).

An understanding of cultural diversity and its influence on individuals is a must for a counselor to carry out indigenous counseling (Azzopardi, C., & McNeill, 2016); (Logan S, Steel Z, 2015). A good understanding of cultural diversity can increase the cultural awareness of counselors in indigenous counseling. Cultural awareness is defined as an ability to recognize and appreciate differences between the cultures (Matsumoto, 2008); (Smith, 2018). Counselors who work with individuals who have cultural diversity absolutely have to master cultural awareness to avoid misunderstandings in the counseling process carried out. Cultural awareness in indigenous counseling helps counselors understand the client

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from a cultural point of view, which influences the way the client thinks, feels, and behaves (Lestari, I., Mahfud, A., 2020); (Arifin, 2013).

Cultural awareness is defined as the ability to look outside oneself and notice cultural values and cultural habits that enter (Constantine, 2015); (Oluwole-Sangoseni, O., Jenkins-Unterberg, 2017). Furthermore, people can judge whether it is normal and acceptable in their culture or whether it may be unusual or unacceptable in another culture. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the culture that is different from his own and be aware of his beliefs and customs and be able to respect them (Wendt, D. C., & Gone, 2016); (Vacc, N. A., DeVaney, S. B., & Brendel, 2003). The process of becoming aware of their own values, biases, and limitations involves self-exploration of the culture until people learns that their perspective is limited, partial, and relative to their background. The formation of cultural awareness in individuals does not just happen, but through various things and involves various factors, including perception and emotion, so that awareness will be formed (Medvide, 2022); (Lee, H. S., Knutson, D., & Keyes, 2022).

Instilling an attitude of tolerance towards various cultures should be done early on. This is intended to create a person's mental readiness to respond to existing differences (Koch J. M., Knutson D., Loche L., Loche R. W.III, Lee H. S., 2020); (Pérez-Rojas A. E., 2020). Armed with mental readiness, people will not underestimate the culture of others. They will better understand the importance of respecting and honoring the culture of other people, so that social integration can be achieved properly. The values that are important factors in human life will also influence a person's cultural awareness (of the values espoused) and how they interpret them (Jannes, 2016); (Quappes. Cantatoreg, 2005). Cultural awareness is important in order to have the ability to understand the culture and important factors that can develop cultural values so that national character can be formed.

Cultural knowledge is an important factor for a person to deal with multicultural situations. Therefore, the knowledge of culture can be acquired through special training. The aim is to gain an understanding of the history of a culture, including the key cultural issues such as groups, leaders, dynamics, cultural virtues, and language skills, in order to understand a particular culture (Chan, C. D., Cor, D. N., & Band, 2018); (Torino, 2015). Having knowledge about the culture they adhere to and also the culture of others through various activities and training is important in order to understand the dynamics that occur in a particular culture (Supriatna, 2009); (Suhada, 2016). Therefore, it is important to continue to explore cultural understanding through an advanced training. The aim is to lead more to a deeper awareness of cultural specificity that provides understanding of the thinking process, motivating factors, and other issues that directly support the decision-making process (Sudarmin, S., 2018); (Chang, D. F., & Yoon, 2011). This study aims to show differences in cultural awareness based on gender, age, ethnicity, and region of origin where the results can be used as guidelines for teachers in the guidance and counseling study program to consider the treatment that can be given to increase students' cultural awareness in implementing cross-cultural counseling.

## Method

This research is a comparative type where the researcher will look at the differences in variables based on certain criteria (Sugiyono, 2011); (Tegeh, IM, 2014). The population in this study was the students in the guidance and counseling study program who attended cross-cultural counseling lectures. The sample was taken by using the accidental sampling technique on as many as 41 people (Yusuf, 2013); (Sukmadinata, 2006). The data collection technique uses a Likert scale with cultural awareness indicators (1) sensitive to their own culture, (2) sensitive to other cultures, (3) preserving the cultural heritage, (4) sensitive to characteristics that harm diversity, and (5) respecting differences (Wunderle, 2006); (Thompkins, D., Galbraith, D., Tompkins, 2006). The lowest score on the cultural awareness instrument was 40, and the highest score was 200. Using the Jeffreys' Amazing Statistics Program (JASP) application, the research data were processed using univariate and multivariate statistical techniques. The results of the study can be used as a basis for developing the ability of prospective counselors to implement cross-cultural counseling, especially increasing the cultural awareness of prospective counselors in the cross-cultural counseling process.

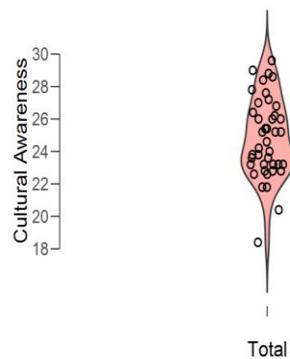
## Results and Discussion

### Result

Respondents in this study amounted to 41 students of the guidance and counseling study program with an age range of 20–24 years.

**Table 1 <The Description of Students' Cultural Awareness>**

	<i>Cultural Awareness</i>
<b>Valid</b>	41
<b>Missing</b>	1
<b>Mean</b>	24.815
<b>Std. Error of Mean</b>	0.386
<b>Median</b>	24.600
<b>Mode</b>	23.200
<b>Std. Deviation</b>	2.471
<b>Range</b>	11.200
<b>Minimum</b>	18.400
<b>Maximum</b>	29.600
<b>Sum</b>	1017.400



**Figure 1 <The Description of Students' Cultural Awareness>**

Based on the data in table 1, the total score of cultural awareness is 1017. The average score is 24.81, with SD 2.47 and SE 0.38 being in the medium category. The highest score for cultural awareness is 29.6 while the lowest score is 18.4 with a score range of 11.2. Cultural awareness owned by students is still not as expected in the implementation of cross-cultural counseling activities. There is still an inability to appreciate the differences between a culture and others. There is still selfishness in the application of the culture adopted while the students are outside of the region and feeling that the culture adopted is the most correct and underestimates the culture adopted by others, eventually make it difficult to adapt to the different cultures.

**Table 2 <The Percentage Score of Cultural Awareness Per Aspect>**

No	Aspect	% score
1	Sensitive to their own culture	73,8
2	Sensitive to other cultures	69,78
3	Preserving the cultural heritage	70,88
4	Sensitive to characteristics that harm diversity	71,7
5	Respecting differences	71,12
<b>An overage</b>		71,8

(The differences of cultural awareness based on gender ... )

Table 2 describes the level of cultural awareness of students per aspect. The average cultural awareness of students is in the medium category (71.8%). In general, students have been sensitive to their own culture (73.8%). More than half of students have been sensitive to foreign culture (69.78%). Many students have been able to maintain their cultural heritage (70.88%). Most students are sensitive to the detrimental nature of diversity (71.7%). Many students have been able to respect differences (71.12%). This means that there are many students who are sensitive to their own culture, able to be sensitive to foreign cultures, able to maintain cultural heritage, sensitive to traits that are detrimental to diversity, and able to respect differences.

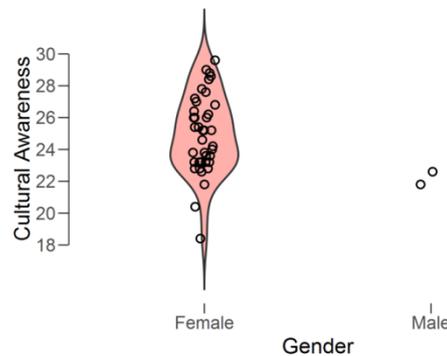
**Table 3 <Respondents' Demographics and the Overall Cultural Awareness Rating>**

Variabel	Category	N	%	Cultural Awareness M ± SD	Tes Value	p-Value			
Gender	Male	2	4,87	24,94±2,45	T = 1,562	0,126			
	Female	39	95,12	22,20±0,56					
Age	20year	2	4,87	28,20±0,84	F = 1.031	0,404			
	21year	21	51,21	24,52±2,52					
	22year	11	26,82	24,87±2,38					
	23year	4	9,75	24,75±1,77					
	24year	3	7,31	24,46±3,47					
Tribes	Banjar	1	2,43	22,60±0,00	F = 0,696	0,776			
	Batak	2	4,87	25,20±0,00					
	Gayo	1	2,43	29,00±0,00					
	Jawa	2	4,87	27,30±1,83					
	Kubu	1	2,43	25,20±0,00					
	Mandailing	1	2,43	24,00±0,00					
	Melayu	3	7,31	24,66±2,04					
	Minang	30	73,17	24,58±2,59					
	Region	Agam	8	19,5			25,42±2,15	F = 0,855	0,551
		Binjai	1	2,43			28,60±0,00		
Bukittinggi		7	17,1	24,31±1,90					
Dharmasraya		3	7,31	25,06±4,06					
Dumai		2	4,87	26,00±3,39					
Gayo Aceh		1	2,43	29,00±0,00					
Mandailing		1	2,43	25,20±0,00					
Mandailing Natal		1	2,43	23,20±0,00					
Medan		1	2,43	22,60±0,00					
Padang Panjang		2	4,87	21,30±4,10					
Pasaman		5	12,19	25,04±2,91					
Pasaman Barat		3	7,31	24,80±1,41					
Payakumbuh		1	2,43	22,80±0,00					
Perawang Riau		1	2,43	26,00±0,00					
Pesisir Selatan	1	2,43	22,80±0,00						
Tapanuli	Tapanuli	1	2,43	25,20±0,00					
	Tanah Datar	2	4,87	24,80±2,82					

M ± SD = score per group compared to total score. Test value = statistic test score including t-test (t) dan Anova (F)

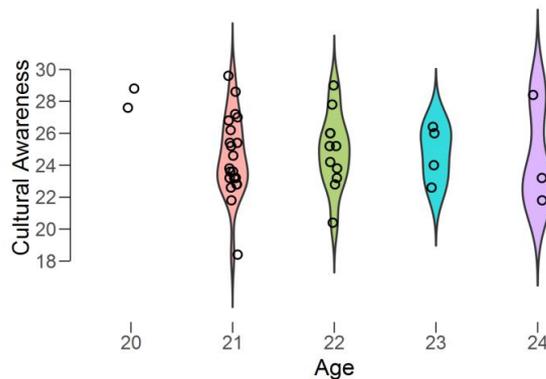
Table 3 shows that the number of female respondents is greater than the number of male respondents (95.12%). The majority of respondents are 21 years old (51.21%). The number of respondents from Minang is higher than other ethnic groups (73.17%). The cultural awareness of male and female respondents does not show a significant difference with  $t = 1.562$  and  $p\text{-value} = 0.126$ . This can be seen from the average score of cultural awareness in male respondents of 24.94 and by female students of 22.20, where the average score is in the same range. This means that the cultural awareness of male and female respondents is at the

same level. Male and female students have the same potential for understanding cultural awareness. The distribution of cultural awareness by gender can be seen in Figure 2.



**Figure 2 <The Distribution of Cultural Awareness Scores based on Gender>**

Based on their age, the respondents for cultural awareness also do not show a significant difference with the value of  $F = 1.031$  and  $p\text{-value} = 0.404$ . This is indicated by the average score of cultural awareness in respondents aged 20 years of 28.20; respondents aged 21 years amounted to 24.52; respondents aged 22 years amounted to 24.87; respondents aged 23 years amounted to 24.75; and respondents aged 24 years amounted to 24.46. All respondents' average scores by age were in the same range. This means that the cultural awareness of respondents aged 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 years old are at the same level. The distribution of cultural awareness scores based on age can be seen in Figure 3.



**Figure 3 <The Distribution of Cultural Awareness Scores based on Age>**

Cultural awareness based on the area of residence does not have a significant difference with the value of  $F = 0.855$  and  $p\text{-value} = 0.551$ . This can be seen from the average score of respondents living in Agam is 25.42; respondents who live in Binjai is 28.60; respondents who live in the Bukittinggi is 24.31; respondents who live in Dharmasraya is 25.06; respondents who live in Dumai is 26.00; respondents who live in Gayo Aceh is 29.00; respondents who live in Mandailing Natal is 25.20; respondents who live in Mandailing is 23.20; respondents who live in Medan is 22.60; respondents who live in Padang Panjang is 21.30; respondents who live in Pasaman is 25.04; respondents who live in West Pasaman is 24.80; respondents living in Payakumbuh is 22.80; respondents who live in Perawang Riau is 26.00; respondents who live in Pesisir Selatan area is 22.80; respondents living in Tapanuli is 25,20; and respondents who live in Tanah Datar is 24.80. All respondents' average scores by area of residence are in the same range. This means that the cultural awareness of respondents based on where they live is at the same level. The distribution of cultural awareness scores based on the respondent's residence area can be seen in Figure 4.



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(Kaihlanen, A. M., 2019); (Balasubramaniam N, Kujala S, Ayzit D, Kauppinen M, Heponiemi T, Hietapakka L, 2018).

The cultural awareness of respondents based on gender does not show a significant difference. This means that both male and female respondents have cultural awareness in the same range. Gender as an inherent trait of men and women is built through social and cultural means, so that the cultural awareness needed to be able to be positive in responding to the differences that exist in society between men and women will tend to be the same (Jalil, A dan Aminah, 2018); (Altugan, 2015); (Chang, D. F., & Yoon, 2011). Cultural awareness is needed in managing existing cultural differences to avoid unwanted conflicts. People sometimes forget that basically every society has different cultural patterns each other, so they tend to treat every form of culture in the same way (Wuryaningrum, 2020); (Beaumont, 2016). Whereas culture itself is formed according to the pattern of the community concerned. This kind of attitude often triggers misunderstandings that lead to the ethnical conflicts. By applying the cultural awareness in the community, it is hoped that social integration will be maintained (Foulidi, X., Papakitsos, 2021); (Choi, G., Mallinckrodt, B., & Richardson, 2015).

Cultural awareness based on age has no difference. This means that respondents aged 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 years old have the same cultural awareness, so that they often cause misunderstandings. Cultural socialization through educational institutions with the inclusion of local culture in the educational curriculum as local content is a wise step to better maintain the existence of local culture (Lestari, I., Mahfud, A., 2020); (Choi, G., Mallinckrodt, B., & Richardson, 2015). The younger generation today is starting to be reluctant to pay attention to their culture, which is actually a valuable asset that is mandatory and must be preserved (Sudarmin, S., 2018); (Rahmawati, Y., Ridwan, A., Chyana, U., 2020). The similarity in age and stage of development as well as cultural insight obtained in the school environment makes the cultural awareness they have tend to be similar. Various training and activities related to culture can be carried out to increase cultural awareness among the students. This training and activity is very important for students who are living in multicultural areas, especially prospective counselors who will work with counselees from different cultural backgrounds (Vines, N. L. D., 2018); (Altugan, 2015).

There is no difference in cultural awareness based on the area of residence. The cultural awareness owned by respondents from various areas of residence is in the same score range. This means that respondents based on their area of residence have the same cultural awareness. Basically, cultural identity is formed accidentally through a process of interaction that occurs in the environment. The clear data and information about a culture obtained from interaction with the society create an understanding of culture and what factors are the values of a particular culture (Cheung, Y., Shah, S., & Muncer, 2002); (Joo Hyung-Chul, 2011). This will give consideration to the concepts possessed by a culture in general and it can interpret the meaning of the culture code that exists in the local environment. These cultural considerations will help to strengthen the cultural awareness process itself. Cultural awareness can be increased when there is interaction among individuals from different cultures, so that mutual respect can be established (Kaukab, 2020); (Medvide, 2022).

There is no difference in cultural awareness based on ethnicity. Cultural awareness owned by respondents from various ethnic groups is in the same score range. This means that respondents based on ethnicity have the same cultural awareness. The highest level of cultural awareness is cultural competence. Cultural competence is an understanding of cultural flexibility (Coleman, H. L. K., Morris, D., & Norton, 2006); (Keith, 2011). This is important because cultural intelligence focuses more on understanding planning and decision-making for a particular situation. The implication of cultural competence is an intensive understanding of certain groups. Culture itself has three basic forms, named ideas, behavior, and physical form (Sue, 2018); (Davide, 2019). These three forms of culture exist in society. This should be preserved and considered because culture is an identity. Therefore, cultural awareness needs to be developed from an early age in order to interact with individuals from different cultures.

## Conclusion

Students' cultural awareness does not differ by gender, age, ethnicity, or place of residence. This happens because basic cultural awareness is formed unconsciously through interaction among society. It is easier for students to have an awareness of their own culture because they are always in touch with that culture in their place of residence. The awareness of other cultures can only be acquired by students when there is an interaction with the individuals from the different cultures. The way to grow cultural awareness is by inculcating an attitude of multiculturalism from an early age, cultural socialization through educational institutions, organizing various cultural performances, loving and maintaining the culture.

Cultural awareness is a person's ability to look outside himself and be aware of the cultural values and habits of other cultures. There are five levels of cultural awareness, namely data and information, cultural consideration, cultural knowledge, cultural understanding, and cultural competence. Cultural awareness is important for prospective counselors in carrying out cross-cultural counseling. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out various relevant activities to increase the cultural awareness of students in Guidance and Counseling Study Programs.

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