

Should religious studies be taught in Malaysian schools?

Balakrishnan, Vishalache 1.

Masalah Pendidikan (Volume 31, No. 2, 2008, Pages 105 to 121)

Since independence till today, Malaysia's multiracial population has practiced different religions handed down from generation to generation, or adopted by marriage or through spiritual need. The first principle of the Rukunegara or national ideology is "Belief in God", and this implies that each Malaysian has a religion and practices it. This article will discuss 1) the multiplicity in understanding of the concept of God; 2) the different religions and beliefs found in Malaysia; 3) issues related to the need for religious education in schools; and 4) issues that support and hinder the teaching of religious studies in Malaysian schools.

Affiliation:

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

University of Malaya, Malaysia.