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ICRRD QUALITY INDEX RESEARCH JOURNAL
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
article
ISSN Number: 2773-5958, https://doi.org/10.53272/icrrd, www.icrrd.com

Confirmatory Factor Analysis for Measure Youth Maturity and Current Political Issues in Malaysian Public Universities

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Received: July 19, 2025 **Accepted:** September 05, 2025
Revision: August 11, 2025 **Published:** October 10, 2025. **Vol**-6, **Issue**-3

Cite as: Ali, Y. (2025). Confirmatory Factor Analysis for Measure Youth Maturity and Current Political Issues in Malaysian Public Universities. *ICRRD Journal, 6*(3), 264-278.

Abstract: There are two ways to conduct Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) using individual confirmatory factor analysis or group confirmatory factor analysis based on the measurement model. The number of items depends on the construct used in the study and the measurement model analysis is conducted separately if the number of items in the construct is more than four. Whereas, pooled CFA runs all measurement models at the same time. Items with a factor loading value of less than 0.6 are considered unimportant to the measurement of the construct and can be discarded Chik, Abdullah, Ismail and Mohd Noor (2024; 2022). A total of 600- study samples were involved in this research. Data were analyzed using the IBM-SPSS-AMOS (Structural Equation Modeling-SEM) program version 21.0. Adjustment tests were conducted to ensure that the tested indicators truly represent the construct being measured and Confirmatory Factor Analysis was conducted in this study as a prerequisite that must be met. The findings of the study show that all the correlations between the Government Administration, Concerned for the People, Stability Party, Based on Race, Based on Religion, Corruption Issues, Crony Issues and Current Political Issues Constructs have a value less than 0.85 (<0.85) in Malaysian Public Universities. The results of the combined confirmatory factor analysis of all measurement models (Pooled CFA), prove that all constructs do not have a strong relationship with each other to avoid the existence of multicollinearity problems.

Keywords: Youth Maturity, Current Political Issues, Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA), Pooled CFA

Introduction

The current plural society is the result of a long historical journey, especially after the British colonial occupation. The effect of the "divide and rule" policy, each race lived in social and cultural isolation even under the same government. It has produced racial and religious stereotypes that have persisted to this day. Each race is known for its negative elements and characteristics compared to its positive ones. Until now, the Malay race is known as a race that is lazy, unable to be independent, conservative and difficult to change (Faisal et al., 2020). Meanwhile, the Chinese are known as a race that likes to make noise greedy, self-centered in addition to being hardworking (Chua et al., 2021; Shamsul Amri, 2019). The same goes for other races who are described as cunning, twisted, stubborn and the like.

This stereotype creates a gap of separation between races. These racial and ethnic stereotypes also influence the country's political landscape. Racially based political parties that were developed after independence have caused unhealthy political competition, because each political party fights for the agenda and interests of their respective races (Syed Husin, 2021). The United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) with the struggle of the Malay race, the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) with the struggle of the Chinese race and the Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC) with the struggle of the Indian race (Nur Azuki, 2017). The indirect effects of the existence of segmentation in racial politics have caused the unity gap to not grow closer.

However, after the 15th general election (GE-15), this racial political bloc has become thinner due to the existence of political parties that transcend religious beliefs and racial boundaries. Many political parties fight for the rights and defend every race in Malaysia. As a result, sensitive issues that arise are no longer just focused on religious and racial issues, but rather on economic and social issues. However, behind this scenario, even worse, there are extremist groups, either with an ultra-nationalist banner based on a specific race, or groups that carry an ultra-pluralist banner that transcends race and religion in fighting for race and religion issues. In this regard, a moderate approach needs to be developed to address sensitive issues and the maturity of the youth in the post-GE-15 to offer solutions to create harmony together in the plural society in Malaysia and also the seriousness of the youth in facing current political issues. The impact of the GE-15 results is becoming increasingly evident among various races who are fighting for the struggles of their respective political parties. Resistance to current political issues is not only limited to politicians, but also to every race, especially to the youth who are still raw in the political arena of the country. Therefore, the youth or youth group is not left behind in embracing the current issues of the country's politics. The purpose of this research is to identify the influence of Youth Maturity (based on Government Administration, Concerned for the People, Stability Party, Based on Race, Based on Religion, Corruption Issues, Crony Issues on Current Political Issues in Malaysian Public Universities.

Research Methodology

The research method used is quantitative and uses research instruments that have been adapted according to the suitability of factors Maturity of Youth (based on Government Administration, Concerned for the People, Stability Party, Based on Race, Based on Religion, Corruption Issues, Crony Issues) and Current Political Issues constructs in Malaysian Public Universities. Data were analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) with the help of the IBM-SPSS-AMOS version 21.0 program. SEM is formed with two (2) main models namely Measurement Model and Structural Model. Before the SEM test is performed, an adaptation test should be conducted to ensure that the indicators tested truly represent the construct being measured. Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) is a measurement model test to ensure that each construct meets procedures such as validity and reliability for each construct tested (Kline, 2016; Hair, Black, Babin, Anderson & Tatham, 2006; Schumacker & Lomax, 2004). The fit of the measurement model is very important to ensure that each latent construct in this study has fit with the data studied before SEM can continue (Kline, 2016; Schumacker & Lomax, 2004).

Using the CFA method can assess the extent to which the observed factors are significant to the latent construct used. This evaluation is done by examining the value of the strength of the regression structure path from the factor to the observed variable (ie Factor Loading value) instead of the relationship between the factors (Byrne, 2013). Through the use of CFA, any item that does not fit the measurement model is dropped from the model. This discrepancy is due to the low value of the load

factor. Researchers need to perform the CFA process on all the constructs involved in the model, either separately or in a pooled CFA model (Alias & Hartini, 2017). The suitability of the tested hypothesis model was verified by using Fitness Indexes to see the value of Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA<0.08), Comparative Fit Index (CFI>0.90) and Chi Square/Degrees of Freedom (chisq/df<5.0). According to Hair et al. (2006) if the χ2 value is less than 2.00 but significant, then it is necessary to state whether the sample size is large or vice versa. A sample size that exceeds 200 can cause the χ2 value to be significant. Because of that, Hair and his colleagues suggested two other indices namely CFI and RMSEA to ensure that the CFA analysis forms the unidimensionality of the study model. If the CFI value exceeds 0.90 and the RMSEA is less than 0.08, it is said that there is unidimensionality for the formation of each construct.

Findings

Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)

There are two models that need to be analyzed in carrying out Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), namely the Measurement Model and the Structural Model. Chik et al. (2024; 2022) suggest two steps that need to be carried out in a Structured Equation Modeling (SEM) namely: a) Confirming the Measurement Model of all the constructs involved through the Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) method, and b) Modeling all the constructs into Structural Model as well as doing SEM procedures (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Hoque, Awang, Jusoff, Salleh & Muda, 2017; Kashif, Samsi, Awang & Mohamad, 2016). The fit of the Measurement Model with the study data is important to validate a SEM. If the Measurement Model does not match the data from the field, then the constructed SEM is invalid. Therefore, the first step in SEM analysis is to determine the appropriateness of the Measurement Model to the data from the field. Analysis of the fit of the Measurement Model with field data is done by using Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) to confirm the proposed Measurement Model of the construct. Testing the Validity and Reliability of the Measurement Model: Before evaluating the appropriateness of a constructed model, the evaluation of Unidimensionality, Validity and Reliability of the Measurement Model of the construct of this study needs to be carried out first. Unidimensionality: This requirement can be met through the items deletion procedure that has a low Factor Loading value until it reaches the set Fitness Indexes level. Items with a Factor Loading value of less than 0.6 are considered unimportant to the measurement of the construct and should be discarded. Validity: The three types of validity that must be achieved by a construct measurement model are Construct Validity, Convergent Validity and Discriminant Validity. Construct Validity: Refers to the accuracy of a measurement instrument used to measure the intended construct in the study. Construct Validity describes the extent to which a statement in the item used can measure the construct that the researcher wants to measure. Construct Validity is achieved when all Fitness Indexes for the construct in question meet the specified level (Chik et al., 2024; 2022). Table 1 below shows the three categories of fit index that need to be achieved by a construct measurement model, namely Absolute Fit, Incremental Fit and Passionate Fit.

Table 1 *Three (3) Categories of Matching Indexes and Recognized Index Types*

Name of Category	Name of Index	Level of Acceptance
Absolute Fit Index	RMSEA	RMSEA < 0.08
Incremental Fit Index	CFI	CFI > 0.90

Parsimonious Fit Index	Chisq/df	Chi-Square/ df < 5.0

Source: Chik et al. (2024)

Convergent Validity: Refers to the relationship of a measurement model with other measurement models in theory. Convergent validity of a construct will be achieved if all Average Variance Extracted (AVE) values reach a minimum value of 0.50. Discriminant Validity: Explains the extent to which a construct does not have too strong a relationship with another construct in the same model so that it can be said that a construct is a shadow or repetition (redundant) of another construct. Discriminant Validity is assessed through the discriminant validity index summary. According to Chik et al. (2024; 2022) and Hoque et al. (2017), discriminant validity for a construct can be achieved if all diagonal matrix values are greater than other values in row cells and also in column cells. The diagonal value of the matrix is the square root of the AVE, while the values in the matrix are the correlations between the constructs in the model. Average Variance Extracted (AVE): The AVE value is calculated from the factor loading value for each item in a certain construct and needs to reach a minimum limit of 0.50 (AVE > 0.5) to prove the reliability of the Measurement Model of a latent construct in this study, which can be achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Hoque et al., 2017). Reliability: SEM uses the Composite Reliability (CR) value to verify the reliability of the Measurement Model according to the factor loading value of each item. Each construct that has a value of CR>0.6, has achieved Composite Reliability (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Hoque et al., 2017).

CFA Analysis for the Measurement Model of Maturity of Youth Based on Government Administration Construct

The analysis of Fitness Indexes in Table 2 below shows that the Government Administration construct Measurement Model has reached the level of the Fitness Index level as stated in Table 1 above. This means that Construct Validity has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Hoque et al., 2017).

Table 2 *Analysis To Determine Validity for Government Administration Construct*

Category Name	Index Name	Index Value	Findings
1. Absolute fit	RMSEA	0.016	Reach the set level
2. Incremental fit	CFI	0.962	Reach the set level
3. Parsimonious fit	ChiSq/df	3.634	Reach the set level

The Measurement Model for the Government Administration construct has reached the value of the Conformity Index level. This means that Construct Validity for this construct, has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Kashif et al., 2016).

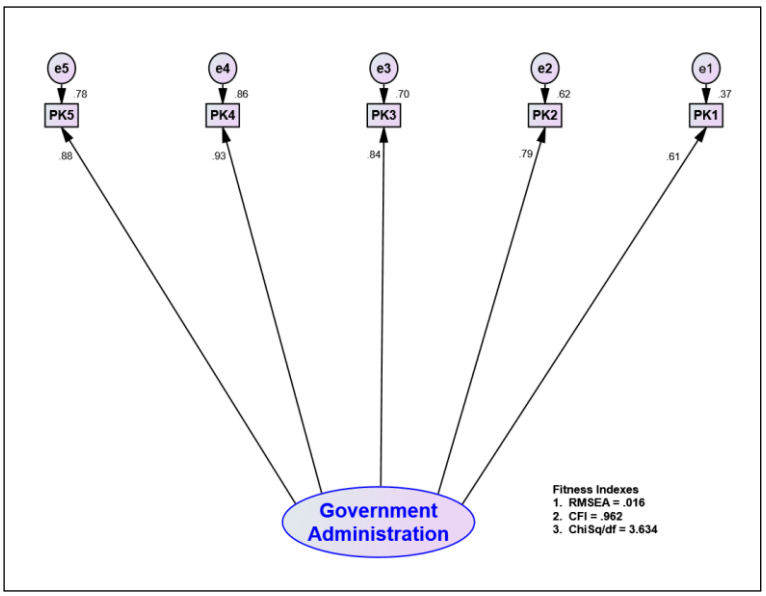

Figure 1. The Measurement Model of Government Administration Construct

CFA Analysis for the Measurement Model of Maturity of Youth Based on Concerned for the People Construct

The analysis of Fitness Indexes in Table 3 below shows that the Concerned for the People construct Measurement Model has reached the level of the Fitness Index level as stated in Table 1 above. This means that Construct Validity has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Hoque et al., 2017).

Table 3 *Analysis To Determine Validity for Concerned for the People Construct*

Category Name	Index Name	Index Value	Findings
1. Absolute fit	RMSEA	0.019	Reach the set level
2. Incremental fit	CFI	0.960	Reach the set level
3. Parsimonious fit	ChiSq/df	2.759	Reach the set level

The Measurement Model for the Concerned for the People construct has reached the value of the Conformity Index level. This means that Construct Validity for this construct, has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Kashif et al., 2016).

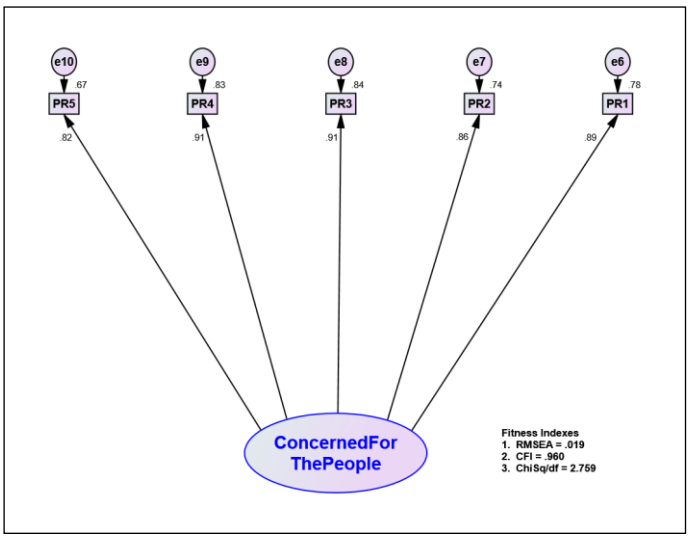

Figure 2. The Measurement Model of Concerned for the People Construct

CFA Analysis for the Measurement Model of Maturity of Youth Based on Stability Party Construct

The analysis of Fitness Indexes in Table 4 below shows that the Stability Party construct Measurement Model has reached the level of the Fitness Index level as stated in Table 1 above. This means that Construct Validity has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Hoque et al., 2017).

Table 4 *Analysis To Determine Validity for Stability Party Construct*

Category Name	Index Name	Index Value	Findings
1. Absolute fit	RMSEA	0.013	Reach the set level
2. Incremental fit	CFI	0.978	Reach the set level
3. Parsimonious fit	ChiSq/df	2.851	Reach the set level

The Measurement Model for the Stability Party construct has reached the value of the Conformity Index level. This means that Construct Validity for this construct, has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Kashif et al., 2016).

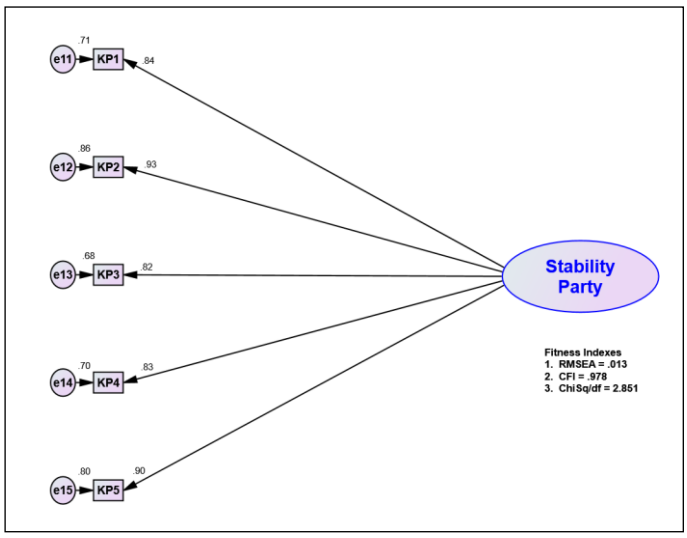

Figure 3. The Measurement Model of Stability Party Construct

CFA Analysis for the Measurement Model of Maturity of Youth Based on Based on Race Construct

The analysis of Fitness Indexes in Table 5 below shows that the Based on Race construct Measurement Model has reached the level of the Fitness Index level as stated in Table 1 above. This means that Construct Validity has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Hoque et al., 2017).

Table 5 *Analysis To Determine Validity for Based on Race Construct*

Category Name	Index Name	Index Value	Findings
1. Absolute fit	RMSEA	0.018	Reach the set level
2. Incremental fit	CFI	0.976	Reach the set level
3. Parsimonious fit	ChiSq/df	2.421	Reach the set level

The Measurement Model for the Based on Race construct has reached the value of the Conformity Index level. This means that Construct Validity for this construct, has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Kashif et al., 2016).

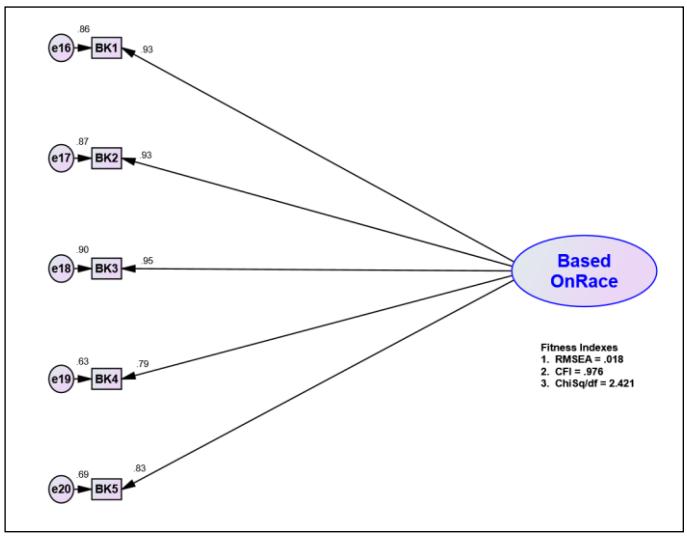

Figure 4. The Measurement Model of Based on Race Construct

CFA Analysis for the Measurement Model of Maturity of Youth Based on Based on Religion Construct

The analysis of Fitness Indexes in Table 6 below shows that the Based on Religion construct Measurement Model has reached the level of the Fitness Index level as stated in Table 1 above. This means that Construct Validity has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Hoque et al., 2017).

Table 6 *Analysis To Determine Validity for Based on Religion Construct*

Category Name	Index Name	Index Value	Findings
1. Absolute fit	RMSEA	0.069	Reach the set level
2. Incremental fit	CFI	0.998	Reach the set level
3. Parsimonious fit	ChiSq/df	1.474	Reach the set level

The Measurement Model for the Based on Religion construct has reached the value of the Conformity Index level. This means that Construct Validity for this construct, has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Kashif et al., 2016).

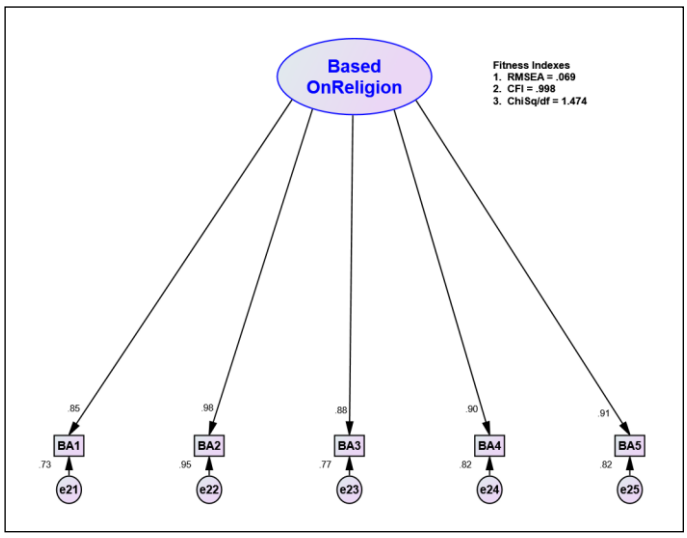

Figure 5. The Measurement Model of Based on Religion Construct

CFA Analysis for the Measurement Model of Maturity of Youth Based on Corruption Issues Construct

The analysis of Fitness Indexes in Table 7 below shows that the Corruption Issues construct Measurement Model has reached the level of the Fitness Index level as stated in Table 1 above. This means that Construct Validity has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Hoque et al., 2017).

Table 7 *Analysis To Determine Validity for Corruption Issues Construct*

Category Name	Index Name	Index Value	Findings
1. Absolute fit	RMSEA	0.013	Reach the set level
2. Incremental fit	CFI	0.983	Reach the set level
3. Parsimonious fit	ChiSq/df	2.720	Reach the set level

The Measurement Model for the Corruption Issues construct has reached the value of the Conformity Index level. This means that Construct Validity for this construct, has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Kashif et al., 2016).

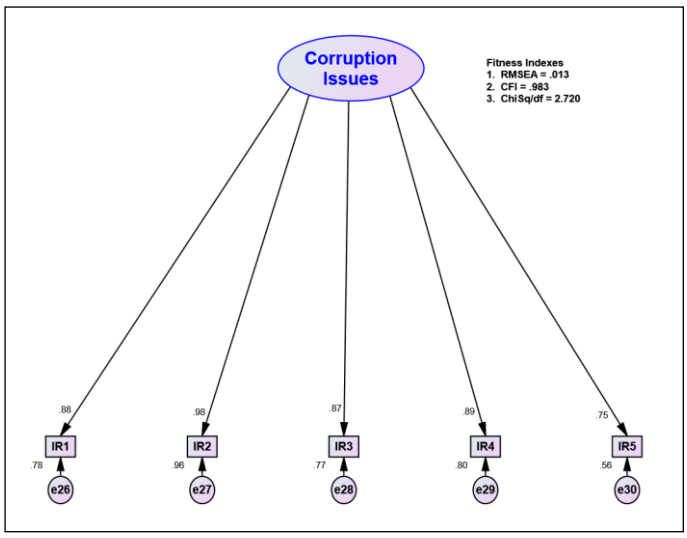

Figure 6. The Measurement Model of Corruption Issues Construct

CFA Analysis for the Measurement Model of Maturity of Youth Based on Crony Issues Construct

The analysis of Fitness Indexes in Table 8 below shows that the Crony Issues construct Measurement Model has reached the level of the Fitness Index level as stated in Table 1 above. This means that Construct Validity has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Hoque et al., 2017).

Table 8 *Analysis To Determine Validity for Crony Issues Construct*

Category Name	Index Name	Index Value	Findings
1. Absolute fit	RMSEA	0.018	Reach the set level
2. Incremental fit	CFI	0.996	Reach the set level
3. Parsimonious fit	ChiSq/df	1.686	Reach the set level

The Measurement Model for the Crony Issues construct has reached the value of the Conformity Index level. This means that Construct Validity for this construct, has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Kashif et al., 2016).

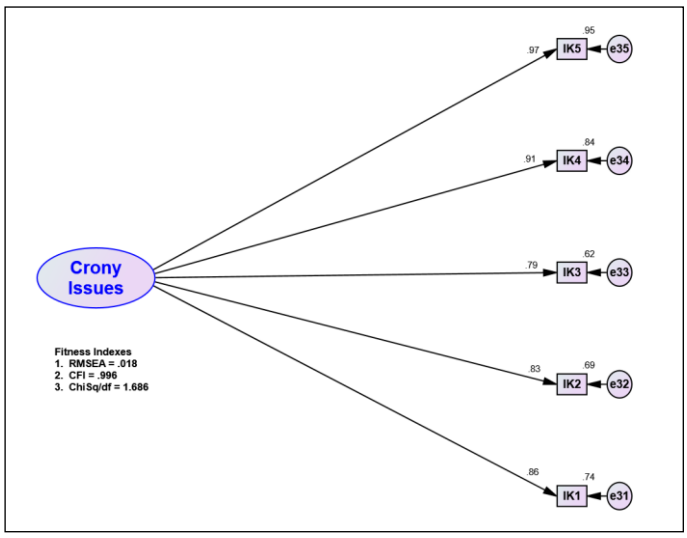

Figure 7. The Measurement Model of Crony Issues Construct

CFA Analysis for the Measurement Model of Maturity of Youth Based on Current Political Issues Construct

The analysis of Fitness Indexes in Table 9 below shows that the Current Political Issues construct Measurement Model has reached the level of the Fitness Index level as stated in Table 1 above. This means that Construct Validity has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Hoque et al., 2017).

Table 9 *Analysis To Determine Validity for Current Political Issues Construct*

Category Name	Index Name	Index Value	Findings
1. Absolute fit	RMSEA	0.022	Reach the set level
2. Incremental fit	CFI	0.966	Reach the set level
3. Parsimonious fit	ChiSq/df	1.212	Reach the set level

The Measurement Model for the Current Political Issues construct has reached the value of the Conformity Index level. This means that Construct Validity for this construct, has been achieved (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Kashif et al., 2016).

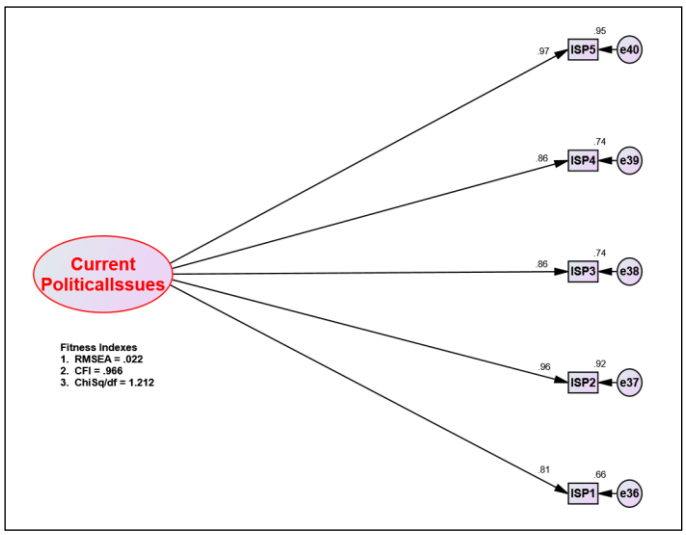

Figure 8. The Measurement Model of Current Political Issues Construct

Combined Confirmatory Factor Analysis of All Measurement Models (Pooled CFA)

This Pooled CFA analysis is necessary to evaluate the correlation value between the constructs in the Discriminant Validity procedure. If the correlation value between two constructs exceeds 0.85, then there is redundancy between the two constructs (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Hoque et al., 2017). A model involving a second order construct is a construct that has dimensions or sub-constructs where each dimension or sub-construct has a certain number of items. Researchers will have difficulty combining all the second-level constructs in one model to conduct Pooled Confirmatory Factor Analysis (Pooled CFA). The solution, all second order constructs need to be summarized into a first order construct model by taking the mean item of each sub-construct or dimension (Chik et al., 2024; 2022; Hoque et al., 2017). The results of the Pooled CFA procedure are shown in Figure 9 below. The single headed arrow value is the factor loading values of each item and the double headed arrow value is the correlation between constructs. Through the Pooled CFA method, only one model fit index that represents all the constructs is released. Table 10 below shows that all three categories of model fit index for the construct measurement model have been achieved.

Table 10 *Analysis To Determine Validity for All Constructs*

Category Name	Index Name	Index Value	Findings
1. Absolute fit	RMSEA	0.019	Reach the set level
2. Incremental fit	CFI	0.989	Reach the set level
3. Parsimonious fit	ChiSq/df	2.395	Reach the set level

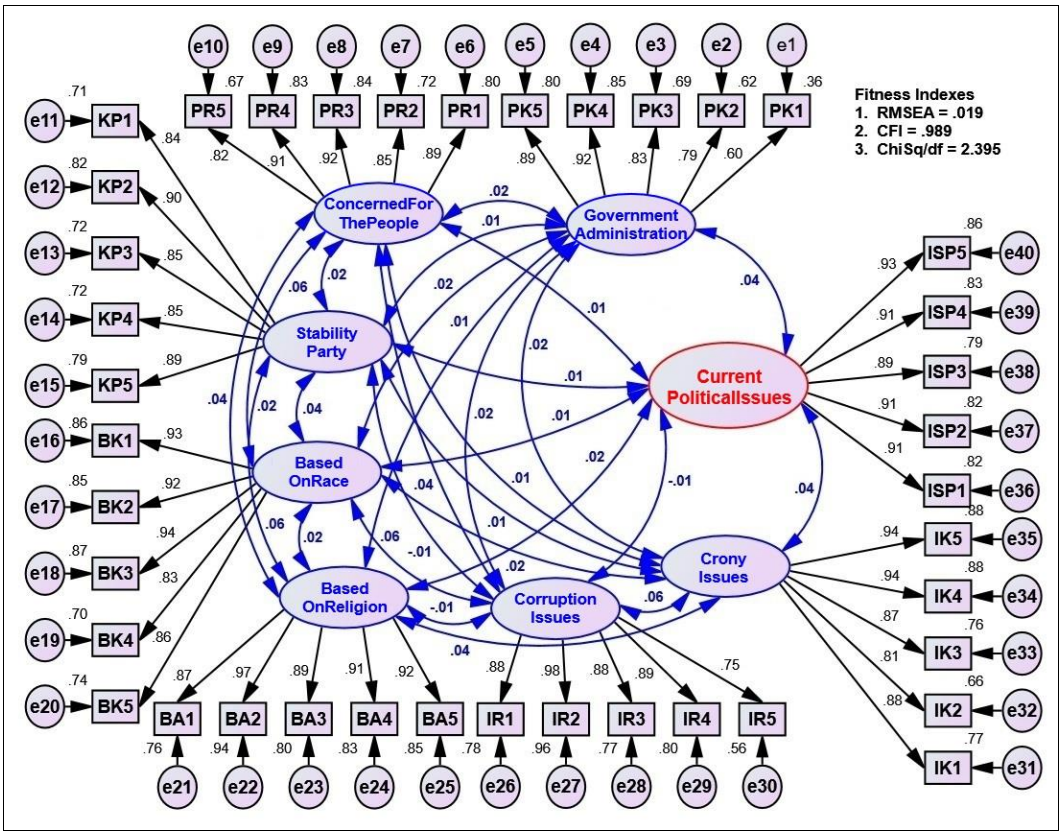

Figure 9. Pooled CFA Analysis Findings

Discriminant Validity is necessary to prove that all the constructs in the model do not have a strong relationship with each other leading to the problem of multicollinearity (Chik et al., 2024; 2022). Table 11 below shows the Discriminant Validity Index Summary between all the constructs in the model.

Table 11 *Discriminant Validity Index Summary*

Constructs	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
Government Administration (a)	**0.81**							
Concerned for the People (b)	0.02	**0.88**						
Stability Party, (c)	0.01	0.02	**0.87**					
Based on Race (d)	0.02	0.06	0.04	**0.90**				
Based on Religion (e)	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.02	**0.91**			
Corruption Issues (f)	0.02	0.04	-0.01	0.06	-0.01	**0.88**		
Crony Issues (g)	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.06	**0.89**	
Current Political Issues (h)	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	-0.01	0.04	**0.91**

Table 11 above presents the square root value of AVE for each construct on the diagonal matrix. The other values in the table are correlations between the two constructs. According to Chik et al. (2024; 2022), Discriminant Validity will be achieved if all the values of the square root of AVE (Diagonal) are greater than other values whether the values are in rows or columns. Findings from Table 11 show that Discriminant Validity for all constructs in the model has been achieved.

Conclusion

Overall, the CFA analysis conducted on the Youth Maturity measurement model (based on Government Administration, Concerned for the People, Stability Party, Based on Race, Based on Religion, Corruption Issues, Crony Issues) on Current Political Issues in Malaysian Public Universities, has reached the fitness index level. The combined results of the confirmatory factor analysis of all measurement models (Pooled CFA) prove that all constructs do not have a strong relationship with each other to avoid the existence of multicollinearity problems. Therefore, before real data is analyzed to identify the effects between constructs, the validation of each construct must be carried out first in this study. The CFA analysis has confirmed that each construct used in this study does not overlap (i.e. each questionnaire item used in this study does not show the same meaning in each construct used).

Acknowledgement

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA), Division Policy, Planning and Research Division & Commercialization Centre (RMIC) UniSZA & Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia (MOHE).

Funding: The research did not receive financial assistance from any funding entity.

Conflicts of Interest: The author has no conflicts of interest to disclose concerning this study.

Declarations: This manuscript has not been published to any other journal or online sources.

Data Availability: The author has all the data employed in this research and is open to sharing it upon reasonable request.

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