

THESIS

**STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS BUSINESS ETHICS: A
COMPARISON BETWEEN INDONESIA AND LESOTHO.**



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POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM

UNIVERSITAS ATMA JAYA YOGYAKARTA

2013



UNIVERSITAS ATMA JAYA YOGYAKARTA
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ETHICS: A COMPARISON BETWEEN INDONESIA
AND LESOTHO**

I here by declare that this thesis has not been submitted for award of a degree to any other University and to my knowledge this thesis is based on my own original work and has not been published or written by other authors except by this writer and bibliography used in this manuscript.

Yogyakarta, 25th November, 2013

Mpholle Clement Pae-pae

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks be to God Almighty, The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit for being with me throughout this research and successful completion of this paper entitled Students' Attitudes towards business Ethics: A comparison between Indonesian and Lesotho. This research is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Masters Degree of Management Universitas Atma Jaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The writer acknowledges that without the assistance and valuable inputs from supervisor, lecturers, fellow students and friends this research would not be a success. Therefore wishes to extend his greatest gratitude to:

1. The Rector of Universitas Atma Jaya (UAJ) and the Director of Postgraduate program UAJ.
2. The Dean of the Faculty of Management Universitas Atma Jaya Yogyakarta.
3. To the administration and all staff of the Postgraduate program of the faculty of Management.
4. To all academic staff of the Faculty of Management for their valuable lectures and hence inputs to this paper.
5. Drs. M. Parnawa Putranta, MBA, Ph.D in his capacity as Major Supervisor, I pass my sincere gratitude and thanks giving for his entireness efforts, time, valuable inputs and constructive criticism in helping me complete this work.
6. To the Examiners, I thank them for their critics and constructive direction for successful completion of this work.
7. All my friends of the Postgraduate program 2012 for their assistance throughout my studies.
8. To Johanna Lucia Amakali who helped me a lot with re-reading, correction and contributions for the success of this paper.

9. To my family, ‘Mapitsi Patricia Pae-pae (mother), Motlatsi Simon Pae-pae (latefather), all other siblings and niece for their continuous support throughout the period of this study, your phone calls and messages of encouragement got me through this period.
10. Thank you to all that have not been mentioned above for their help and assistance in the completion of this work.



MOTTO

“PRESERVE THE SPIRIT TO WORK FAIRLY AND HONORABLY, RESPECTING
PEOPLE, OUR WORK, OUR COMPANY AND OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY.”



DEDICATION

“IN GREATFUL AND LOVING MEMORY OF MY BELOVED PARENTS WHO
INSTILLED INTO ME THE PASSION FOR STUDY”



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ABSTRACT:

In this technology era and globalization age, business ethics has received an increased attention as the strongest asset to create, sustain and enhance goodwill and customer loyalty. Recently, Business ethics has great part in managerial decision making process. The purpose of this study is to investigate Indonesia and Lesotho management students' attitudes towards business ethics with different levels of religiosity and gender in preferences to three business philosophies: Machiavellianism, Social Darwinism and Moral Objectivism. In this case, business students as future drivers of the economic and social engine of the society, as prospective managers and potential employees, became the main target of this study.

Data was collected from both Indonesia and Lesotho undergraduate students using (ATBEQ) questionnaires. The total questionnaires that were distributed were 300, however out of those questionnaires returned only 229 were completed. The results indicate that there are significant differences across countries and I find that Indonesia and Lesotho students show no differences attitudes towards Social Darwinism and Moral Objectivism; while Lesotho students show more favorable attitudes towards Machiavellianism than Indonesia students.

For Machiavellianism the results are consistent whereas with Moral Objectivism and Social Darwinism the results show no differences. Results indicate that students who do not practice religion (non-practicing religion) were found to have a better assessment on the dimensions of Machiavellianism and Moral Objectivism, meanwhile both Indonesia and Lesotho students did not show any differences in relation to Social Darwinism. Inconsistent with religion practicing business students prefer Moral Objectivism in business ethics more than non-practicing business students was found. The results indicate that gender does not influence preferences for the three business philosophies.

KEY WORDS: ATBEQ, Attitudes towards business ethics, Indonesia, Lesotho.