

ABSTRACT

Individuals who migrate to pursue higher education outside of their home region will likely face cultural differences, from customs and traditions to lifestyle and social norms. This study aims to explore the cross-cultural adaptation process of students from Balikpapan who are pursuing higher education in Bandung, including the strategies they employ to overcome various challenges. Using a qualitative approach with a case study method and constructivist paradigm as the theoretical framework, this research examines the five phases of cross-cultural adaptation as described by Young Yun Kim: planning, honeymoon, frustration, readjustment, resolution. Data collection techniques include in-depth interview, observation, and documentation. Each informant has unique experiences and adaptation strategies, such as adjusting communication styles, participating in campus organizations, and maintaining their original cultural values as guiding principles. The study highlights the importance of mental preparedness, openness, and intercultural communication skills as essential factors for Balikpapan students to navigate challenges and establish a balanced cultural identity in their new environment.

Keywords: *Cross-Cultural Adaptation, Migrant Student, Balikpapan, Bandung Culture*