

DESCRIPTION AND COMPARISON OF STRENGTHS AND VIRTUES AMONG  
STUDENTS OF THREE PRIVATE BILINGUAL AND THAI SPEAKING  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN BANGKOK

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ABSTRACT

This causal comparative research was designed to describe, compare and predict the strengths and virtues among students of three private bilingual and Thai speaking secondary schools in Bangkok. Participants were made up of a total of 380 students, whose ages ranged from 12 to 17 years old. A simplified instrument for the strengths and virtues study adapted from the original Brief Strengths Test from the Values in Action Survey was utilized for this study (Peterson and Seligman, 2004). The findings of the study were: 1) The Cronbach's alpha coefficients for all the six strengths and virtues sub-scales indicated an overall reliability of the instrument. 2) The findings for age did not appear to be associated with the way both types of school students endorsed any of the domains; 3) The findings for gender showed that the Thai female students endorse humanity and love that indicates the need for interpersonal and reciprocated love, caring and sharing; 4) The findings for academic achievement indicated that the bilingual students endorsed the domains of wisdom and knowledge while the Thai speaking students' endorsed the same plus the domains of 'courage' as being positively and significantly related to academic achievement. It can be summarized that the findings indicated that with the exception of age, there are significant interrelationships between the selected demographics of gender, and academic achievement and six strengths and virtues domains.