

# Observation of Cognitive Structure of

## Primary Students towards Values

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**Abstract:** The ever-changing and developing demands of the education among the new era children require to somehow adopt the value education into the curriculum to meet the interests and the needs of the students identified as the internet grosshoppers to be able to prevent the social conflict. As the nature of the human wanted to be educated is not same as the decades ago, we need to know their cognitive structure first to somehow design our instruction. In this study, it has been aimed to observe the cognitive structure of the primary students towards the specific social values in the social science lesson by a survey research using word association test as a data collection tool from 45 4<sup>th</sup> grade primary students during spring semester of 2019-2020 education year. The students have been given word association test including values: responsibility, respect. It has been concluded that the concepts used for the values by the students are restricted and the sentences created by using the concepts

**Introduction:** The most basic differences between the human being and the other living is the social contact. This social contact somehow creates a value system that shape our behaviours, attitudes, world view and so on. Values can vary from society to society, as well as from individual to individual. However, individuals are expected to acquire social values in order to ensure peace in the society. Values are not absolute, but they require a long time to change and are often closed to change. Values are a goal that guides them in adjusting the priorities of a person or a group in their lives and can vary from situation to situation. Similarly, values are defined as a scale for guides and behaviors that enable people to choose between alternatives.

**Method and Sample:** In this study, survey method has been employed. The sample of this study consists of 46 students (24 male, 22 female). In this research word association test has been used as data collection tool. , the purpose of this study is to observe the cognitive structure of the primary students towards two basic social values; responsibility, respect.

**Findings:** The key concepts created for responsibility by the students are about their daily routines from their school and house routine (homework and tidy up room). These are the most basic duties of a child at that age and are related to their school and house life. The key concepts for responsibility shows that the close surrounding of the child has an important factor on determining his/her responsibility circle. It reveals that all the concepts created for respect are the most close surrounding of the people such as father, sibling, neighbour and universal values such as nature, happiness and cooperation.

**Conclusion:** The findings of the study revealed which concepts students have in their cognitive structure. The results show that the students' cognitive structure towards especially to responsibility is mostly their close surrounding such as family, homework and tidying up room. In the literature, it has been emphasized that the human is surrounded by the value in his nature and a human create himself with these values. The findings of the value respect show that one of the most repeated concepts is a traditional action. It is stated in the value studies that some values such as respect, love and privacy can gain more different meaning with the universal values.