



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**BELIEFS AND INTENTION IN CHOOSING AGRICULTURE AS A CAREER
AMONG ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS' STUDENTS**

NUR HUSNA BT ABD WAHID

FPP 2010 33

**BELIEFS AND INTENTION IN CHOOSING AGRICULTURE AS A CAREER AMONG
ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS' STUDENTS**

By

NUR HUSNA BT ABD WAHID

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Science**

November 2010

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for Master of Science

**BELIEFS AND INTENTIONS IN CHOOSING AGRICULTURE AS A CAREER
AMONG ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS STUDENTS**

By

NUR HUSNA ABD WAHID

November 2010

Chair : Associate Professor Ramlah Hamzah, PhD

Faculty: Faculty of Educational Studies

The study involved 698 form four agricultural students in academic and technical schools in four zones of peninsular Malaysia (North zone, Central zone, South zone, and East zone). The respondents consisted of students from four groups. First were students who enrolled in agriculture science subjects in academic schools. Second were students who enrolled in agriculture vocational subjects in academic schools. Third were students who enrolled in agriculture subjects in technical schools and the fourth group were students who enrolled in agriculture vocational subjects in technical school. The study aims to examine students' beliefs and intention towards choosing agriculture as a career. The variables studied were attitudinal beliefs, normative beliefs, and intentions towards choosing agriculture as a career. The instrument employed in this study was adapted from the instrument used in the studies which also measures people's

belief and intention. Stratified sampling was applied to ensure that a representative sample from the population of agriculture students was obtained in this study. The response rate for this study was 87.3 %. The findings indicate that attitudinal belief for construct 'contribution to other people or organization' shows the highest mean value of belief among agriculture students. Findings also indicate that mothers and agricultural teachers were among the people who strongly influenced students towards choosing agriculture as a career. Overall, agriculture students showed a high level of intention towards choosing agriculture as a career. However, ANOVA confirms that demographic characteristic namely types of agriculture subjects enrolled were found to have significant difference in students' beliefs [$F(3,692, P<.05) = 20.88$] and intentions [$F(3,694, P<.05) = 14.36$] towards choosing agriculture as a career. In addition, Correlation test indicates that attitudinal belief for construct 'perception of other people close to students', demonstrated a very high relationship with students' intention of choosing agriculture as a career.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Master Sains

**KEPERCAYAAN DAN HASRAT TERHADAP PEMILIHAN KERJAYA
DALAM BIDANG PERTANIAN DALAM KALANGAN
PELAJAR PERTANIAN**

Oleh

NUR HUSNA ABD WAHID

November 2010

Pengerusi : Profesor Madya Ramlah Hamzah, PhD

Fakulti : Fakulti Pengajian Pendidikan

Kajian ini melibatkan 698 pelajar pertanian tingkatan empat dari sekolah menengah harian dan sekolah menengah teknik di semenanjung Malaysia (zon utara, zon tengah, zon selatan dan zon pantai timur). Pelajar pertanian yang terlibat dalam kajian adalah pelajar yang mengambil mata pelajaran pertanian iaitu (1) pelajar yang mengambil mata pelajaran sains pertanian di sekolah menengah harian (2) pelajar yang mengambil mata pelajaran vokasional pertanian di sekolah menengah harian (3) pelajar yang mengambil mata pelajaran pertanian dalam aliran teknikal di sekolah teknik dan (4) pelajar yang mengambil mata pelajaran pertanian dalam aliran vokasional di sekolah teknik. Kajian ini bertujuan mengkaji kepercayaan dan hasrat pelajar pertanian terhadap pemilihan kerjaya dalam bidang pertanian. Antara pembolehubah yang dikaji adalah kepercayaan *attitudinal* , kepercayaan *normative*, dan hasrat

terhadap pemilihan kerjaya dalam bidang pertanian. Dalam pengumpulan data, soal selidik yang digunakan adalah direka bentuk berdasarkan soal selidik yang digunakan dalam kajian-kajian yang telah mengkaji kepercayaan dan hasrat seseorang. Kaedah persempelan berlapis digunakan untuk memastikan bahawa setiap persempelan dapat mewakili populasi pelajar pertanian di semenanjung Malaysia diperoleh. Kadar respon untuk kajian ini ialah 87.3%. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan konstruk 'sumbangan kepada orang lain atau organisasi' memberikan nilai min kepercayaan *attitudinal* tertinggi pelajar pertanian. Bagi kepercayaan *normative* pula, ibu dan guru mata pelajaran pertanian dilihat memberi pengaruh yang kuat terhadap kepercayaan pelajar memilih pertanian sebagai kerjaya. Secara keseluruhannya, pelajar pertanian menunjukkan hasrat yang tinggi dalam memilih kerjaya dalam bidang pertanian. Namun begitu, ujian ANOVA menunjukkan faktor demografi iaitu jenis mata pelajaran yang diambil oleh pelajar menunjukkan perbezaan yang signifikan terhadap kepercayaan [$F(3,692, P < .05) = 20.88$] dan hasrat [$F(3,692, P < .05) = 20.88$] pelajar dalam pemilihan kerjaya dalam bidang pertanian. Dari aspek hubungan diantara kepercayaan *attitudinal* dan hasrat pelajar untuk memilih pertanian sebagai kerjaya, konstruk 'persepsi dari orang lain' yang hampir dengan pelajar menunjukkan hubungan yang sangat tinggi dengan hasrat pelajar.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Path leading to this degree is one of the challenging roads I have ever treaded. I would not have completed without the people who were with me on the trip. Firstly, all glory and honor go to the Almighty Allah, for without his guidance and power, I would not have accomplished this goal.

Sincere thanks to my Supervisor, Associates Prof. Dr Ramlah bt Hamzah who paved the way for my study. Your patience, support, guidance and encouragement throughout the study were appreciated. Thank you to Prof. Madya Dr. Abdul Patah b. Abd Malek and to all lecturers that had shared their knowledge with me. All the knowledge gain throughout those years is really valuable and has guided me in completing this thesis.

I wish to extend my thanks to my family especially my beloved mother, father, brothers and sisters for your love and support all these while. To my friends, my best friend Nad and my cousin Angah thanks for being there to support me.

Thanks for the experience.

Finally, thank you very much too all those who have either directly or indirectly helped me to produced this work. In particular to all the teachers and students who provided me necessary inputs, my sincere thanks due to you.

I certify that an Examination Committee met on 26 November 2010 to conduct the final examination of Nur Husna bt Abd Wahid on her Master of Science thesis entitled “Beliefs and Intentions in Choosing Agriculture as a Career Among Academic and Technical Schools’ Students” in accordance with Universities and University Collages Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U (A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Masters of Science.

Members of the Thesis Examination were as follows:

Rosini Abu, Phd

Associates Professor
Science and Technical Education Department
Faculty of Educational Studies
University Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Mohd Ibrahim Nazri, PhD

Associate Professor
Science and Technical Education Department
Faculty of Educational Studies
University Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Zaidatol Akmaliah Lope Pihie, Phd

Professor
Science and Technical Education Department
Faculty of Educational Studies
University Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Ramlee Mustapha, Phd

Professor
Faculty Technical and Vocational
Education Department
Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris
(External Examiner)

BUJANG BIN KIM HUAT, PhD
Professor and Deputy Dean
School of Graduate studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Masters of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

Ramlah Hamzah, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Educational Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Abdul Patah bin Abdul Malek, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Educational Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

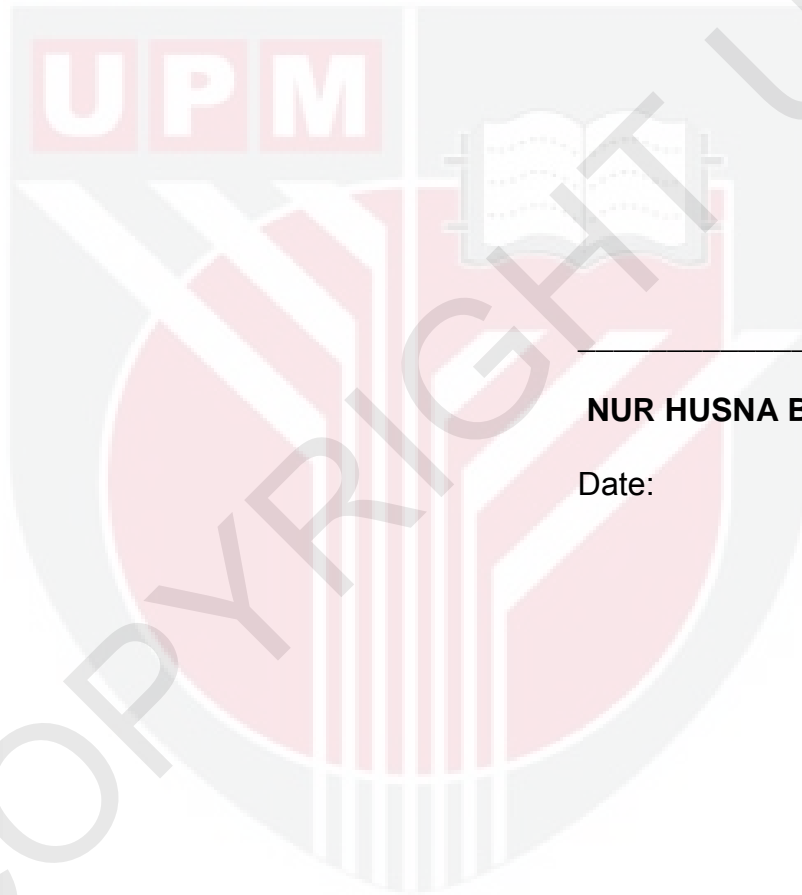
HASANAH MOHD GHAZALI, PhD

Professor and Dean
School of Graduate Studie
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotation and citation which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other Institutions.



NUR HUSNA BT ABD WAHID

Date:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
	ABSTRACT	ii
	ABSTRAK	iv
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vi
	APPROVAL	vii
	DECLARATION	ix
	LIST OF TABLE	xii
	LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
	LIST OF ABBREVIATION	xv
	 CHAPTER	
1	INTRODUCTION	
	Background of the study	1
	Statement of the Problem	7
	Purpose of the Study	11
	Research Questions	12
	Definition of Term	13
	Significant of Study	15
2	REVIEW OF LITERATURE	
	Introduction	18
	Agriculture Education	18
	Agricultural Education in Malaysian School System	19
	Career in Agriculture	28
	Conceptual Background: Intention	35
	Belief	38
	Attitudinal beliefs	39
	Conceptual Framework for Attitudinal belief	41
	Normative beliefs	43
	Conception Framework for Normative Belief	41
	Beliefs	42
	Conceptual framework of the study	47
3	METHODOLOGY	
	Introduction	48
	Research Design	48
	Population	49

	Sampling	55
	Instrumentation	61
	Establishing Validity	64
	Report on Pilot Study	66
	Procedure	67
	Data Collection	67
	Data analysis	68
	Method to determine level of attitudinal belief and Intention	71
4	ANALYSIS AND INTERPERTATION OF DATA	
	Introduction	72
	Demographic information	72
	Analysis on Students' Attitudinal Belief	75
	Analysis on Students' Normative Belief	82
	Analysis on Students' intention	86
	Differences between students' belief	89
	Differences between students' intentions	95
	Correlations between attitudinal belief and intention	100
5	SUMMARY, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION	
	Introduction	101
	Summary of the study	101
	Discussion	106
	Conclusion	114
	Recommendation for practice	116
	Recommendation for further study	118
	REFERENCES	119
	APPENDICES	
	A Letters of Approval	127
	B Approval to use instrument	133
	C Instrument	136
	D List of Panel	150
	BIODATA OF STUDENT	152