POLYTECHNIC COMMERCE STUDENTS PERSONALITY FACTORS IN RELATIONS TO THEIR PREPAREDNESS TOWARDS WORKPLACE

A thesis submitted to the Graduate School in partial **fulfilment** of the requirements for the degree Master of Science (Management)

Universiti Utara Malaysia

by

Nek Kamal bin Yeop Yunus

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Nama (Name) Encik Munauwar Mustafa (Penyelia Utama/Principal Supervisor)	Tandatang (Signature)		Mustafi.	
Nama (Name) Dr. Nik Kamariah Nik Mat	Tandatang (Signatur		Jul .	
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ABSTRAK

Pelajar-pelajar politeknik Malaysia yang bergraduat untuk memasuki **alam** pekerjaan diharapkan telah terdidik, mempunyai personaliti yang baik dan bersedia. Personaliti pekerja mempunyai kesan yang hebat ke atas gelagat mereka dan seterusnya prestasi di tempat kerja. Oleh itu pengetahuan tentang personaliti individu boleh membantu dalam pengurusan sumber manusia yang berkesan. Lantaran perkembangan ekonomi negara yang pesat, tempat kerja telah mengalami perubahan yang ketara sekali dalam ertikata pekerja perlu melengkapkan diri dengan kemahiran teknikal dan personaliti yang baik untuk berjaya. Tujuan kajian ini dijalankan ialah untuk menyelidiki andainya terdapat sebarang pertalian yang **positif** antara personaliti pelajar dengan kesediaan mereka terhadap **alam** pekerjaan. Diandaikan pelajar yang mempunyai harga **diri**, kawalan **diri** dan kawalan lokus yang tinggi akan juga mempunyai prestasi yang tinggi di dalam akademik, latihan industri dan kebolehan menjalankan tugas. Kajian ini menggunakan kaedah persampelan rawak sistematik dengan soalselidik yang mengandungi 68 soalan yang diedarkan kepada 252 pelajar kursus diploma pemasaran, perakaunan dan perniagaan di enam buah politeknik di Malaysia. Angkubah tidak bersandar dalam kajian ini iaitu (harga diri, kawalan diri dan kawalan lokus) sementara angkubah bersandar (prestasi akademik, prestasi latihan industri dan kebolehan pelajar) dianalisa menggunakan pekali korelasi Pearson dan regresi Stepwise dalam SPSS. Setelah dianalisa ,didapati pertalian yang bermakna di antara kawalan diri dengan kebolehan pelajar menjalankan tugas di tempat kerja. Walaubagaimanapun tidak terdapat pertalian yang bermakna di antara harga diri dan kawalan lokus pelajar dengan kesediaan mereka terhadap alam pekerjaan. Pelajar perdagangan perlukan kawalan diri untuk berjaya dalam menjalankan tugas mereka dalam persekitaran pasaran yang majmuk dan kompetitif di Malaysia. Faktor personaliti seperti harga diri, kawalan diri dan kawalan lokus boleh dipupuk di dalam diri pelajar dengan latihan yang sesuai. Adalah dicadangkan penyelidikan selanjutnya dalam subjek ini dijalankan dengan persampelan yang lebih besar sambil menimbangkan faktorfaktor lain seperti kaedah pengajaran, jangkamasa latihan dan kesesuaian kandungan kursus.

ABSTRACT

Malaysian Polytechnic students joining the workforce are expected to be highly educated, have good personality and well prepared. Employees' personality have great impact on their behavior and performance at the workplace. Therefore knowledge of individual personality can lead to a more effective human resource management. Over the years, due to Malaysian economic growth, the workplace has undergone significant changes in the sense that workers need to prepare themselves with technical skills and good personality in order to be successful. The purpose of the study was to investigate if there was any positive significant relationship between commerce students personality factors with their preparedness towards workplace. It was hypothesized that students with high self-esteem self-monitoring and locus of control would have performed better in terms of industrial training performance, academic achievement and perceived ability to understand and perform at workplace. The methodological approach was systematic random sampling using a structured, 68 items questionnaire which was distributed to 252 marketing, accounting and business students at the six polytechnics in Malaysia. 199 questionnaires were returned and analyzed. The independent variables (self-esteem, self-monitoring, locus of control) and the dependent variables (ability, academic performance and industrial training performance) were analyzed using Pearson correlations coefficient and Stepwise regression methods in the SPSS. It was found that there was a positive significant relationship between self-monitoring and students perceived ability to understand and perform at the workplace. However there was no significant relationship between students self-esteem and locus of control with their preparedness towards workplace. Commerce students need self-monitoring in their sales and marketing tasks in order to be successful in the heterogeneous market environment in Malaysia. Personality factors like self-esteem, self-monitoring and locus control can be developed in students by proper training. It was recommended that further research on this subject be conducted with larger sample size and by taking into consideration of other factors such as teaching methods, length of training and the relevancy of course contents.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PERMISSION TO USE	1	
ABSTRACT (BAHASA MALAYSIA)		
ABSTRACT (ENGLISH)	iii	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv	
LIST OF TABLES	vii	
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	vii	
CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION		
1.1 Problem statements	7	
1.2 Objectives of the study	8	
1.3 Justification of the study	9	
1.4 Background informations	10	
1.5 Limitations of the study	13	
1.6 Layout of the chapters	14	
CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE RE	VIEW	
2.1 Definitions of personality	19	
2.2 Personality theories	21	
2.2.1 Psychoanalytical theory	2 2	
2.2.2 Self-concept theory	2 2	
2.2.3 Learning theory	23	
2.2.4 Traits theory	24	
2.3 Applications of personalities at workplace	25	
2.3.1 Personality job-fit	26	
2.3.2 Personality and job performance	28	
2.3.3 Personality and marketing job	30	
2.4 Self-esteem at workplace	3 7	
2.5 Self-monitoring at workplace	40	
2.6 Locus of control at workplace	41	
2.7 Preparedness towards workplace	4 4	
2.8 Hypothesis	47	

CHAPTER THREE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	
3.1 Research design3.2 Population and sample	50 51
3.3 Instrumentations	52
3.3.1 Self-esteem	54
3.3.2 Self-monitoring	55
3.33 Locus of control	55
3.3.4 Preparedness towards workplace	56
3.3.5 Demographic variables	57
3.4 Pilot study	58
3.5 Questionnaire reliability of pilot study	59
3.6 Data collection	61
3.7 Data analysis	63
3.8 Basic assumptions	65
CHAPTER FOUR FINDINGS	
4.1 Demographic variables	67
4.2 Tests of hypothesis	73
4.3 Regression analysis	77
CHAPTER FIVE DISCUSSIONS AND RECOM	MENDATIONS
5. I Self-monitoring and preparedness towards workplace	78
5.2 Self-esteem and preparedness towards workplace	81
5.3 Locus of control and preparedness towards workplace	83
5.4 Preparedness towards workplace	87
5.5 Management implications	92
5.6 Recommendations for further research	94
5.7 Conclusions	96
BIBLIOGRAPHY	98
APPENDICES	105
A Questionnaire	
B Contact letter	
C Permission from Ministry of Education	
D Letter from Registrar of Graduates School	

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1	Course offered by Commerce Departments	12
Table 2	Previous research on personality factors	33
Table 3	Distribution of questionnaires items	58
Table 4	Reliability coefficient of pilot study	59
Table 5	Reliability coefficient of previous study	61
Table 6	Polytechnics involved in the study	62
Table 7	Statistical tets used in the study	64
Table 8	Respondents by course of study	68
Table 9	Gender of respondents	68
Table 10	Ethnic origins of respondents	69
Table 11	Age of respondents	70
Table 12	Working experience of respondents	69
Table 13	Religion of respondents	7 1
Table 14	Parents gross monthly income	72
Table 15	Pair-wise correlations matrix	74
Table 16	Stepwise regressions results.	77

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

POLIMAS Politekenik Sultan Abdul Halim Muadzam Shah.

POLISAS Politeknik Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah

PPD Politeknik Port Dickson

PKB Politeknik Kota Baharu

PUO Politeknik Ungku Omar

PKS Politeknik Kuching Sarawak

PKK Politeknik Kota Kinabalu

SPM Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia

HEP Hal Ehwal Pelajar

CGPA Cumulative Grade Point Average

GPA Grade Point Average

USA United State of America

SPSS Statistical Package for Social Sciences

ITM Institut Teknologi Mara

TARC Tunku Abdul Rahman College

KUSZA Kolej Agama Sultan Zainal Abidin

EPQ Eysenk Personality Questionnaires

MBTI Myer-Brigg Temperament Indicators

R&D Research and Development

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Malaysia is one of the few countries in the world which has, in the span of two decades, succeeded in bringing about a major socio-economic transformations. The future of our country has been mapped out in the National Development Policy which outlined the steps we will take to become a fully developed nations by the year 2020.

Polytechnics and university students will play an important role in Malaysian future development. Jobs prospects in the 1990's will remain good for workers with tertiary education as the economy expands and sustains it growth.

McGregor (1987) stated the university (and polytechnics) is the proper place for educating managers. It is the function of the university to provide leadership in intellectual fields and therefore to the academic world that industry should look for the best, the most up to date and the most critical thinking on brand matters which **affect** the managerial tasks.

The contents of the thesis is for internal user only

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