DETERMINANTS OF REPAYMENT PERFORMANCE IN MICROFINANCE PROGRAMS IN MALAYSIA: THE CASE OF TEKUN NASIONAL PROGRAMS

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Thesis Submitted to Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business, Universiti Utara Malaysia, in Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to assess the potential factors influencing micro entrepreneur's repayment performance in microfinance programs in Malaysia by developing a model of repayment performance. The study chooses TEKUN Nasional (TN) microfinance programs as a case study. The research framework of this study is built by four factors namely individual/borrower factors, firm/business factors, loan factors and institutional/lender factors. The study used mixed methodology, combining between quantitative and qualitative data through survey questionnaire and in depth interviews. However, the main study is based on quantitative data and supported by qualitative data. The analysis began with a descriptive exploration, followed by multinomial logit regression analysis and content analysis. Data were collected using multi stage random sampling in Peninsular Malaysia. 401 microentrepeneurs were selected as a sample for quantitative data and 21 microentrepreneurs and 6 TN State managers were selected for qualitative data. The results show that in terms of individual/borrower characteristics, only micro entrepreneur's religious education level is statistically significant in the relationship between delinquent and good borrowers and between default and good borrowers. Whereas, in firm/business characteristics, the result shows that distance, business formality and total sales are statistically significant. The finding shows that total loan received, loan type and repayment schedule are the loan characteristics that affect micro entrepreneur's loan repayment. In terms of institutional/lender characteristics, the finding shows that loan monitoring is statistically significant in the relationship between delinquent and good borrowers. This study contributes significantly to the knowledge of microfinance program at large, wherein it explains that repayment performance plays an important role to ensure that MFIs can continue providing microfinance to the micro entrepreneurs without depending on subsidies.

Keywords: Repayment Performance, Individual Lending Methodology, TEKUN Nasional

ABSTRAK

Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk menilai faktor-faktor yang berpotensi yang boleh mempengaruhi prestasi pembayaran usahawan mikro dalam program pembiayaan mikro di Malaysia dengan membangunkan model prestasi pembayaran balik. Kajian ini memilih program kewangan mikro TEKUN Nasional (TN) sebagai kajian kes. Kerangka penyelidikan ini dibina oleh empat faktor iaitu faktor individu/peminjam, faktor firma/perniagaan, faktor pinjaman dan faktor institusi/pemberi pinjam. Kajian ini menggunakan kaedah campuran iaitu gabungan antara data kuantitatif dan kualitatif melalui kaedah soal-selidik dan temubual secara mendalam. Walau bagaimanapun, kajian utama adalah berdasarkan data kuantitatif dan disokong oleh data kualitatif. Analisis data dimulakan dengan penerokaan deskriptif, diikuti oleh analisis regrasi multinomial logit dan analisis kandungan. Data kajian telah dikutip menggunakan persampelen rawak pelbagai peringkat di Semenanjung Malaysia. Seramai 401 usahawan mikro telah dipilih sebagai sampel bagi data kuantitatif dan 21 usahawan mikro dan 6 orang pengurus TEKUN negeri telah dipilih untuk data kualitatif. Hasil kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa dari segi ciri-ciri individu/peminjam, hanya tahap pendidikan agama usahawan mikro yang signifikan secara statistiknya dalam hubungan di antara peminjam yang bermasalah dan baik dan di antara peminjam yang tertunggak dan baik. Manakala, bagi ciri-ciri firma/perniagaan, hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa jarak, formaliti perniagaan dan jumlah jualan adalah signifikan secara statistiknya. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa jumlah pinjaman yang diterima, jenis pinjaman dan jadual pembayaran balik pinjaman adalah ciri-ciri pinjaman yang member kesan kepada pembayaran balik pinjaman usahawan mikro ini. Dari segi institusi/pemberi pinjam, dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa pemantauan pinjaman adalah signifikan dalam hubungan antara peminjam bermasalah dan baik. Kajian ini menyumbang kepada pengetahuan program pembiayaan mikro secara amnya di mana ia menjelaskan kepentingan prestasi pembayaran balik pinjaman bagi memastikan institusi pembiayaan mikro boleh terus menyediakan pembiayaan mikro kepada usahawan mikro tanpa bergantung kepada subsidi.

Kata Kunci: Prestasi Pembayaran Balik, Kaedah Pinjaman Individu, TEKUN Nasional.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PERM	IISSION TO USE	iv
ABST	RACT	v
ABST	RAK	vi
ACKO	OWLEDGEMENTS	vii
TABL	E OF CONTENTS	ix
LIST (OF TABLES	xiii
LIST (OF FIGURES	xvii
LIST (OF ABBREVIATIONS	xviii
CHAP	TER ONE	1
INTRO	ODUCTION	1
1.1	Background of the Study	1
1.2	Problem Statement	8
1.3	Objectives of the Study	19
1.4	Research Questions	20
1.5	Significance of the Study	22
1.6	Scope of the Research	24
1.7	Operational Definitions of Key Words	24
1.8	Organisation of the Thesis	26
CHAP	TER TWO	29
LITEF	RATURE REVIEW I: OVERVIEW OF MICROFINANCE IN DE	EVELOPED
AND	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	29
2.1	Introduction	29
2.2	The History of Microfinance	30
2.3	Microfinance Definition	34
2.4	Microfinance Lending Model	39

2.5	Microfinance Institutions	47
2.6	The Leading of MFIs in the World	51
2.7	Microfinance in Malaysia	61
2.8	Government Plan on SMEs towards Vision 2020	96
2.9	Summary	101
CHAP	TER THREE	102
	RATURE REVIEW II: THEORY AND MODELS OF LOAN REPAYMEN ORMANCE	NT 102
3.1	Introduction	102
3.2	Agency Theory	103
3.3	Asymmetric Information	105
3.4	Agency Problem	107
3.5	Adverse Selection	109
3.6	Moral Hazard	111
3.7	Repayment Performance of MFIs	115
3.8	The Model of Loan Repayment Behaviour	123
3.9	Previous Models of Repayment Performance	126
3.10) Factors Affecting Repayment Performance	133
3.11	Factors Affecting Loan Payment Problems in Microfinance Programmes	151
3.12	2 Conceptual Framework	152
3.13	3 Summary	153
CHAP	TER FOUR	154
RESE	ARCH METHODOLOGY	154
4.1	Introduction	154
4.2	Research Design	154
4.3	Sources of Data	171
4.4	Quantitative Approach	173
4.5	Qualitative Approach	214
4.6	Summary	224

CHAPTER FIVE	226
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	226
5.1 Introduction	226
5.2 The Criteria Used by TN in Selecting Borrowers Compared with Othe 226	r MFIs
5.3 Results of Descriptive Analysis	233
5.4 Bivariate Correlation Analysis Results	251
5.5 Multicollinearity Test	253
5.6 Outliers	255
5.7 A Goodness of Fit Test	255
5.8 Correlation between Independent Variables and Dependent Variable	258
5.9 Factors Affecting Repayment Performance: Multinomial Logit Model	261
5.10 Model Improvement	264
5.11 Factors Affecting Repayment Performance: Qualitative Analysis	272
5.12 Factors That Cause Repayment Problems	279
5.13 Summary	288
CHAPTER SIX	290
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	290
6.1 Introduction	290
6.2 Summary and Major Findings	290
6.3 Research Recommendation	298
6.4 Research Contributions	303
6.5 Research Limitations and Suggestions for Further Research	305
6.6 Summary	307
REFERENCES	308
APPENDIX 1	374
APPENDIX 2	375
APPENDIX 3	376
APPENDIX 4	377
APPENDIX 5	387
APPENDIX 6	396

APPENDIX 7	397
APPENDIX 8	399
APPENDIX 9	404

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1:	Summary of Previous Study on Repayment Performance of Microcredit Program	13
Table 1.2:	Causes and Action to Improve Loan Repayment	16
Table 2.1:	Progress of Microfinance from 1997 to 2010	39
Table 2.2:	The Comparison between Individual Lending Method and Group-Based Lending Method	42
Table 2.3:	Poverty Line and the Eligibility Income	67
Table 2.4:	Types of Products Offered by AIM	70
Table 2.5:	Total Fund Received by TN from 1999 until 2011	87
Table 2.6:	Total financing by types of loan from 1999 until 2011	88
Table 2.7:	Total Financing by State from 1999 until 2011	89
Table 2.8:	Total Repayment by Year from 1999 until 2011	90
Table 2.9:	Percentage of Repayment Rate by State from 2009 to 2011	91
Table 2.10:	Comparative Table on Microfinance Scheme Offered by Non-Bank Institutions in Malaysia	93
Table 3.1:	Measurement of Repayment Performance	119
Table 3.2:	Individual/ Borrower Characteristics that Affecting Repayment Performance	138
Table 3.3:	Firm Characteristics that Affecting Repayment Performance	140
Table 3.4:	Institutional/Lender Characteristics that Affecting Repayment Performance	142
Table 3.5:	Loan Characteristics that Affecting Repayment	144

Performance

Table 3.6:	Overview of Past Literature on Determinants of Repayment Performance	146
Table 4.1:	Summary of Previous Research Methodologies	161
Table 4.2:	Triangulation Design	170
Table 4.3:	Theoretical Expectation	178
Table 4.4:	Total Borrowers of TN in Peninsular of Malaysia from 2005 until May 2010	190
Table 4.5:	Total Branches of TN in Peninsular of Malaysia	191
Table 4.6:	Summary of Sample Used in the Previous Study	194
Table 4.7:	The Response Rates of Survey Questionnaires	195
Table 4.8:	Sample Size of the Study	196
Table 4.9:	Distribution of Variables	201
Table 4.10:	Repondents' Demographic Profile	218
Table 4.11:	Repayment Performance by State at 2011	219
Table 5.1:	Credit Risk Applied by TN in Selecting Borrowers	230
Table 5.2:	Comparable Table Between TN and Other Institutions That Offer Individual Lending Microfinance	231
Table 5.3:	Gender of borrowers	235
Table 5.4:	Education Level of Borrowers	236
Table 5.5:	Religious Education Level of Borrowers	237
Table 5.6:	Descriptive Analysis on Age, Business Experience and Total Household Income	239
Table 5.7:	Borrower's Business Location	240
Table 5.8:	Borrower's Business Sector	241

Table 5.9:	Borrower's Business Status	242
Table 5.10:	Borrower's Business Area	242
Table 5.11:	Business Formality	243
Table 5.12:	Descriptive Results on Years of Business Establishment, Distance to TN Office and Total Monthly Sales	244
Table 5.13:	Types of Loans of Borrowers	245
Table 5.14:	Borrower's Repayment Schedule	246
Table 5.15:	Borrower's Repayment Period	247
Table 5.16:	Descriptive Analysis on Total Amount Received and Total Monthly Installment	248
Table 5.17:	Loan Monitoring	249
Table 5.18:	Loan Approval	250
Table 5.19:	Borrower's Repayment Status	251
Table 5.20:	Pearson Correlation Matrix of the Independent Variables	252
Table 5.21:	Multicollinearity Test	254
Table 5.22:	Pseudo R-Square	256
Table 5.23:	Model Fitting Information	258
Table 5.24:	Correlation Table: Individual Characteristics	259
Table 5.25:	Correlation Table: Firm Characteristics	260
Table 5.26:	Correlation Table: Loan Characteristics	261
Table 5.27:	Correlation Table: Institutional/Lender Characteristics	261
Table 5.28:	Multinomial Logit Estimation Model of Loan Repayment Performance	263
Table 5.29:	Model Improvement of Multinomial Logit Estimation	265

Model of Loan Repayment Performance

Table 5.30:	Factors Affecting Repayment Performance: Content Analysis	276
Table 5.31:	Causes of Loan Repayment Problems among Respondents	283
Table 5.32:	Factors that Cause Loan Repayment Problems among Borrowers in TN Microfinance Program	286

LIST OF FIGURES

Page

Figure 1.1:	Microfinance model	3
Figure 1.2:	The Triangle of Microfinance	12
Figure 1.3:	The Framework for Research Process	28
Figure 2.1:	The Evolution of Micro Financing in Malaysia	65
Figure 3.1:	The problems and solutions of loan repayment performance	114
Figure 3.2:	The Natural Behavior of Borrowers toward Their Debt	124
Figure 3.3:	Repayment Performance Conceptual Model for Research	152
Figure 4.1:	Sources of Data and Information	173
Figure 5.1:	TN Loan Management Procedure	228
Figure 6.1:	Model of Repayment Performance in Microfinance Individual Lending	297

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AID	Agency for International Development
AIM	Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia
ALC	Approval Loan Committee
ASA	Association for Social Advancement
BAAC	Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperative
BRAC	Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee
BKK	Badan Kredit Kecamatan
BNM	Bank Negara Malaysia
BPR	Bank Perkreditan Rakyat
BRI	Bank Rakyat Indonesia
BUD	Bank Rakyat Indonesia Unit Desa
ССМ	Company Commission of Malaysia
CGAP	The Consultative Group to Assist the Poor
CGC	Credit Guarantee Corporation

DFIs	Development Financial Institutions
EPU	Economic Planning Unit
EU	European Union
FIs	Financial Institutions
FFIs	Formal Financial Institutions
FINCA	Foundation for International Community Assistance
GGS	Grameen Generalized System
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFIs	Informal Financial Institutions
KKR	Koperasi Kredit Rakyat
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LDKP	Lembaga Dana Kredit Pedesaan
MEs	Microenterprises
MECD	Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development
MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOF	Ministry of Finance

NEM	New Economic Model
NEP	New Economic Policy
NKRA	National Key Result Area
NSDC	National Small Medium Development Council
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPLs	Non-Performing Loans
OMs	Owner-Managers
PNB	Permodalan Nasional Berhad
PUNB	Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Berhad
ROSCAs	Rotating Savings and Credit Associations
SKM	Suruhanjaya Koperasi Malaysia
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SME Corp	Small and Medium Enterprise Corporation Malaysia
SFIs	Semi-formal Financial Institutions
TN	TEKUN Nasional
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar

VO Village Organisation

YUM Yayasan Usaha Maju

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Microfinance has been recognised as an essential socioeconomic and financial mechanism for poverty alleviation, promoting entrepreneurial development, and increasing the profile of disadvantaged people in numerous countries throughout the world (Hossain, Rees, & Millar, 2012). Microfinance serves to promote rural livelihoods and the urban poor by the creation of entrepreneurship opportunities that encourage the reduction of unemployment through creating potential business based on their interests and skills. Microfinance is targeted to poor people because these people usually lack collateral, have no steady employment and a verifiable credit history, which therefore, cannot even meet the most minimal qualifications to gain access to normal banking. Besides, it can avoid the poor people from illegal lending sources such as moneylenders and loan sharks that charge exorbitant or excessive interest rates.

The Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) provide funds for start-up business and for working capital purpose. In addition, some MFIs also provide funds for non-business activities such as for education and emergency purposes. Usually the MFIs offer credit as low as RM500 (USD142) to a maximum of RM50,000 (USD14,285) with a repayment

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