



## Factors Affecting Parents' Inclination Towards Private or Public Primary School

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### ABSTRACT

Education for children is one of the most concerning issues in the society especially among the parents. Recently, the numbers of private school in Malaysia are increasing rapidly. Despite the abundant of public school, demand for private school are still increasing. Therefore, this study aims to determine the most significant factors that affecting parents' decision in selecting private primary school for their children. Multistage sampling technique was used to determine the sample of 342 respondents. The factors included in this study were parent's income, parents' education level, teaching quality, school facilities and quality of education. Logistic regression analysis was used to determine the most significant factor since the dependent variable in this study was a binary categorical variable. It was found that parents with a diploma holder ( $p$ -value=0.004), parents with a degree holder ( $p$ -value=0.002), parents' income ( $p$ -value=0.001), and school facilities ( $p$ -value=0.000) were significant factors that influence parents' decision. In addition, results also found that the most significant factor that affecting parents' decision towards private primary school was parents with degree holder. It is hoped that this study will guide parents in selecting the best primary school for their children. Moreover, this study also benefits to the government in preparing strategy to develop defensive environment in public schools and to improve parents' satisfaction towards public primary school.

**KEYWORDS:** Primary School, Public School, Private School, Decision, Parents

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Nowadays, education for children is one of the most concerning issues in the society especially among the parents. In Malaysia, Education Act 1996 claimed that children at the age of 7 until 12 are necessary to be registered in school by the parents. In this regard, the person who is unable to do so will be fined for RM5000 or one year prisoned or both. Furthermore, there are two types of primary schools in Malaysia which are public and private. The decision to choose the best schools for the children had creates an atmosphere of competition among both category of the schools.

Despite the fact that there are many contributions offered by the government towards the public school such as infrastructure budgets which affects major financial spending, the Ministry of Education had confirmed that the number of private schools were boosting from 66 schools in 2010 to 126 schools in 2017. Unfortunately, those contributions are useless if the demands for the private school are stepping ahead them. This means that there will be least student registering in public school as well as assigning a bad impression from the society since the number of students enrolling in private school were rising. Nevertheless, the parents' satisfaction for public schools still one step behind the private schools even though the cost of the fee is affordable. Due to that, it can be seen that the society concern more on the quality offered by the schools compared to the cost.

According to Nasreen [1] the preference in enrolling children in private school was due to the parents' opinion for better education in private schools rather than public schools. Hartsell [2] also claimed that parents were satisfied with their children's current educational experience in private schools. Therefore, this research aims to identify the most significant factors that affecting parents' decision to enrol their children in private primary school. Hence, the outcome of this study will be advantageous for the government in taking attention towards the lack of the public school's performance and also worthy for private school to maintain the good quality and performance of the schools.

## **2 OBJECTIVE**

This study aimed to determine the most significant factor that affecting parents' decision in selecting private primary school for their children.

## **3 SIGNIFICANCE (S)**

This research gives a positive contribution to the society especially parents since it can guide parents in selecting the best primary school that suits their children. Besides, this study aspires the government to become more conscious about the rapid growth and high demand of private school. In view of this, the government can strengthen the improvement of the public school's performance to avoid facing a bad reputation. Moreover, this research will give an advantage to the government in preparing and applying strategy to develop defensive environment in public schools. Subsequently, this research is also useful to the private schools in maintaining the good quality and performance of the school by knowing the significant factors that affect the parents' decision to register their children in the private schools.

## **4 METHODOLOGY/TECHNIQUE**

This research was conducted in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan. Therefore, the target population for this study was all parents that enrolled their children to public and private primary school in Seremban. In addition, this study used a primary data. Self-administered questionnaire adapted from the study of Nasreen [1] were used in this study. Hence, 342 respondents were selected as samples for this research by using a probability sampling technique called as multistage sampling. The description of each variables involved in this study was given in Table 1. Logistic regression analysis was used to determine the most significant factor that influences parents' decision in choosing private primary school since the dependent variable in this study was a binary categorical variable.

Table 1: Description of the Variables

Variables	Type of Variables	Level of Measurement	Description
Parents preference	Binary	Nominal	1=Private School 0=Public School
Income	Numerical	Ratio	Income of parents monthly
Teaching quality	Numerical	Interval	Teaching quality
School Facilities	Numerical	Interval	School Facilities
Education Level	Categorical	Ordinal	Education Level: SPM, STPM, Diploma, Degree, Master, PhD
Quality of Education	Numerical	Interval	Quality of Education
School Performance	Numerical	Interval	School Performance

## 5 RESULT

The performance of the model was determined by Omnibus Test of Model Coefficient shown in Table 2. The p-value (0.000) of chi-square ( $\chi^2_{10}=92.144$ ) was less than significance value ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ). This result indicated that the new model outperforms the baseline model very well.

Table 2: Omnibus Test of Model Coefficient

	Chi-square	Degrees of Freedom	p-value
Step	92.144	10	.000
Block	92.144	10	.000
Model	92.144	10	.000

Table 3: Hosmer and Lemeshow Test

Chi-Square	Degrees of Freedom	p-value
11.846	8	.158

Table 3 shows the Hosmer and Lemeshow Test in measuring the model fitness. Since the p-value (0.158) was larger than 0.05, it was concluded that the model fits data very well.

Table 4 gives the value of Cox & Snell R square and Nagelkerke R square which are 0.236 and 0.315 respectively. It can be concluded that 31.5% of total variation in parents' preferences was explained by parent's income, parents' education level, teaching quality, school facilities and quality of education while another 68.5% can be explained by other factors.

Table 4: Cox &amp; Snell R square and Nagelkerke R square

Cox & Snell R	Nagelkerke R square
0.236	0.315

Table 5 represents the variables involved in the model of this study. As the result, it

revealed that there were three significant variables that influence parents to choose primary private school for their children namely as parents with diploma and degree holder (p-value=0.004 and p-value=0.002 respectively), income of the parents (p-value=0.001) and school facilities (p-value=0.000). Moreover, it can be seen that parents' education with degree contribute the most significant factor as it gave the highest value of Exp(B) which is 3.165. Thus, it indicated that, those parents who had Degree for their education level were 3.165 times more likely to choose private primary school compared to parents with SPM.

Table 5: Variables in The Equation

Factor	B	S.E	Wald	Df	Sig.	Exp(B)
STPM	1.273	0.6854	3.457	1	0.063	3.572
Diploma	1.019	0.353	8.359	1	0.004	2.771
Degree	1.152	0.364	10.024	1	0.002	3.165
Master	1.070	0.622	2.960	1	0.085	2.914
PhD	0.274	1.474	0.035	1	0.852	1.315
Income	0.00011	0.000	10.552	1	0.001	1.00011
Teaching Quality	-0.026	0.034	0.584	1	0.445	0.975
School Facilities	0.142	0.026	28.998	1	0.000	1.153
Education Quality	-0.056	0.053	1.108	1	0.293	0.946
School Performance	-0.026	0.037	0.507	1	0.476	0.974
Constant	-2.847	0.729	15.242	1	0.000	0.058

## 6 CONCLUSION

Education plays a significant role in flourishing Malaysia to become a developed country. There are two types of schools that can be chosen by the parents to enrol their children, which are public and private primary schools. Therefore, the factors affecting parents' inclination towards private or public primary school need to be investigated. Thus, the logistic regression technique was used to seek the most significant factor that contributed to the parents' preference for private primary schools. It found that most of the parents who had degree for their education level tend to send their children to private primary school. This result is supported by Noor Alyani [3] whereby income level and parents' level of education were the significant factors contributing towards the interest in choosing private schools for the children. As conclusion, this research gives a positive contribution to the society especially parents regarding factors that need to consider before selecting the primary school for their children. In a nutshell, this research is worthwhile as a guidance for the government in planning and implementing effort to form environment competitively in public schools.

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