

**THE TYPOLOGY OF ENTREPRENEURS AMONG SINGLE MOTHERS IN KUCHING,
SARAWAK**



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2. Letter of Offer (Research Grant)



Surat Kami : 600-RMI/SSP/DANA 5/3/Dsp (110/2011)
Tarikh : 09 April 2011

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KELULUSAN PERMOHONAN DANA KECEMERLANGAN 04/2011

Tajuk Projek : The Typology of Entrepreneurs among Single Mothers in Kuching, Sarawak
Kod Projek : 600-RMI/SSP/DANA 5/3/Dsp (110/2011)
Kategori Projek : Kategori F (2011)
Tempoh : 1 April 2011 – 31 Mac 2012 (12 bulan)
Jumlah Peruntukan : RM 5,000.00
Ketua Projek : Pn Nurul Lizzan Kamarudin

Dengan hormatnya perkara di atas adalah dirujuk.

- Sukacita dimaklumkan pihak Universiti telah meluluskan cadangan penyelidikan Y. Brs Prof./tuan/puan untuk membiayai projek penyelidikan di bawah Dana Kecemerlangan UiTM.
- Bagi pihak Universiti kami mengucapkan tahniah kepada Y. Brs. Prof./tuan/puan kerana kejayaan ini dan seterusnya diharapkan berjaya menyiapkan projek ini dengan cemerlang.
- Peruntukan kewangan akan disalurkan melalui tiga (3) peringkat berdasarkan kepada laporan kemajuan serta kewangan yang mencapai perbelanjaan lebih kurang 50% dari peruntukan yang diterima.

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- Untuk tujuan mengemaskini, pihak Y. Brs. Prof./tuan/puan adalah diminta untuk melengkapkan semula kertas cadangan penyelidikan sekiranya perlu, mengisi borang setuju terima projek penyelidikan dan menyusun perancangan semula bajet yang baru seperti yang diluluskan. Sila lihat lampiran bagi tatacara tambahan untuk pengurusan projek.

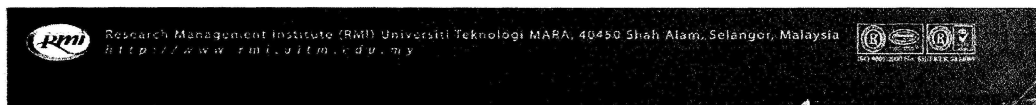
Sekian, harap maklum.

"SELAMAT MENJALANKAN PENYELIDIKAN DENGAN JAYANYA"

Yang benar


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5.2 Enhanced Executive Summary

Urbanization, migration, globalization, and the demand for socio-economic well-being have led to the break-up of families. There are concerns for single mothers in the gender-bias society, and single mothers form a target group of the vulnerable in *The Tenth Malaysian Plan* (2011-2015). Entrepreneurship has been proposed as a strategy for economic development in general and socio-economic development and self-reliance of the less fortunate in particular. Given the scenario, this study seeks to identify the typology of single mother entrepreneurs in Kuching, Sarawak with respect to social-cultural background, experience and decision making. Data was collected by in-depth interviews of single mother entrepreneur of various ethnicities who ran their businesses in Kuching. The study drew on case studies on these entrepreneurs to explore the relationship between socio-cultural background and entrepreneurial development. It reviewed the experiences of these entrepreneurs within their respective socio-economic settings. It traced the single mother entrepreneurs' decisions at various stages of their lives in general and business cycles in particular. A number of entrepreneurs interviewed had run their current businesses for at least two years. Some of the entrepreneurs became single mothers before they started their current businesses because of their interest and motivation from family members, friends and other mentor-entrepreneurs. Some entrepreneurs started their businesses after becoming single mothers mainly to be better able to support themselves and their families, especially schooling children. A number of the entrepreneurs with secondary education were better able to access government facilities to develop their businesses. Social networks such as participation in the Sarawak Single Mothers' Association provided entrepreneurial exposure and business contacts to facilitate some entrepreneurial development. Some of the entrepreneurs had businesses which are resilient to economic vulnerabilities, although their businesses provided minimal income. It appears that the various government programmes to support single mother entrepreneurs have to be re-organised for the micro needs of the single mother entrepreneurs and made more accessible to the entrepreneurs.

Keywords: Single mother, Entrepreneur, Social-cultural background

5.3 Introduction

Modernization, urbanization, out-migration and the effort to be abreast with globalization has brought about many negative influences. These changes include the break-up of the families, which produce many single parents, especially single mothers. A research done by the Rotary Club of Bernam Valley District 3300 showed that there are more than half a million single mothers in Malaysia and that there is an urgent need to empower them to work, instead of just handing welfare aid that keeps them trapped in a failed system (<http://www.rcbv.com/singleM-default.aspx>). For that matter, the Women Development Department under the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development Ministry has funds for its Single Mothers Skill Incubator (I-KIT). In Sarawak, the Ministry of Welfare, Women and Family Development was also formed with the re-organisation of the State Government in 2011 to support single mothers.

This study examines the typology of single mothers entrepreneur in Kuching with respect to socio-cultural background, life experience and decision-making. The present study also aims to identify the factors that are most relevant to each of the categories above. Focus group discussions and indepth interviews have been conducted amongst the single mother entrepreneurs. A profile of the single mother entrepreneurs and the factors contributing to entrepreneurial development that are most relevant to each of the categories from this study will assist in the design of support programmes for single mothers.

The United Nation Development Program (UNDP) claimed that there is an increasing numbers of single mothers who are forced to rely on modest government assistance to put food on their table. Involvement in entrepreneurship not only increases income for the well-being of the single mother and children, but also generates employment required for the growth of the country in the current time of economic uncertainty. Furthermore, single mother is a target group of the vulnerable, which the Tenth Malaysia Plan (2011-2015) priorities.