

MY3S (MALAYSIAN SOFT SKILLS SCALE) STRATEGIES FOR SOFT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE FOSTERING OF ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS: AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This study is done to look into the formation of 'human capital' among students of Higher Learning Institutes in Malaysia, through the fostering of entrepreneurial skills. The study sample of 480 first degree students from the sixth semester are taken from the Malaysian Technical University Network or MTUN comprising of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM), Universiti Tun Hussein Onn (UTHM) and Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UNiMAP). In the meantime, researchers have used the three-layer group sampling. Then, the study data were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 19.0 in order to obtain the value of the mean, standard deviation and Pearson's Correlation. The study outcome points to the moderately strong relationship, significant between the value of trust with the mastery of entrepreneurial skills. Meanwhile, accountability shows a very strong significance with the entrepreneurial skills. Finally, the study outcome demonstrates the level of mastery of students' entrepreneurial skills remains at a high level. All in all, this study concludes that there exists a significant correlation between the human capital with the mastery of entrepreneurial skills which needs to be given due attention to elevate the performance of the university and students' potential.

Keywords: Human capital, trust, accountability and entrepreneurial skills

INTRODUCTION

The most valuable asset for a country would be the people. The development of human capital and paradigm shift and the way people think have constituted the biggest set of challenges. If we are to step into the economic era without axis on knowledge, if we want to become a developed country and remain there, the human capital development must be prioritised. In the context of the global world, high-quality human capital is a need, and no longer a luxury. The efforts to develop quality human capital will be increased. Approaches to the human capital development must be done holistically, stressing on the development of knowledge, skills, intellectual model including science, technology and entrepreneurship, and also the acculturation of progressive attitude, also high ethics and moral values. This is what we would term human capital with the first-class mind. Three main strategies to produce first-class human capital will be carried out:

- Firstly, To Increase the Capacity and Mastery of Knowledge*
- Secondly, To Consolidate the Capacity for Science, R&D and Innovation*
- Thirdly, To Instill a Cultured Community Who Owns Moral Strength*

YAB Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia
31 March 2006 at the Parliament when presenting the 9th Malaysia Plan

Since the 1960s, the human capital theories (Malaysian Qualifications Agency, 2006) have begun to tap into the relationship between human capital and productivity and also the national economic growth. In this context, experts of the human capital theories have made an assumption that the association between the enhancement of productivity and economic growth identified by economists can be explained through the investment done on human capital, that is through education and career enhancement training which is able to increase individual's income and further drive the growth of the economy (Sunday Star, 2006). Such an