

**AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF LEADERSHIP STYLES AND THE  
EFFECT ON PERFORMANCE AMONG MANAGERS AT MALAYSIA  
AIRPORTS TECHNOLOGIES SDN. BHD.**

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**A Dissertation Submitted to the College of Business  
Universiti Utara Malaysia,  
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## **ABSTRAK**

Penyelidikan tentang gaya kepimpinan telah banyak dilakukan oleh ramai pengkaji sejak berabad lalu. Kepimpinan diertikan sebagai gaya seseorang pemimpin menyelaraskan sebuah kumpulan di dalam organisasi di dalam mencapai sesuatu matlamat atau cita – cita. Sehingga kini masih ramai lagi pengkaji yang mencari kesesuaian terhadap perspektif kepimpinan yang berkesan ke atas prestasi kerja di kalangan pekerja khususnya. Walau kita sudah menerjah ke dalam arus kemodenan, masih terdapat kekurangan prestasi kerja di sesetengah organisasi di Negara kita. Dengan persaingan global di dalam Negara, para pemimpin yang berkualiti di dalam sesebuah organisasi amat diperlukan di samping dapat memotivasi kakitangan di dalam meningkatkan prestasi dan kualiti kerja mereka.

Oleh yang demikian, tujuan utama kajian ini dilakukan adalah untuk menentukan perhubungan di antara persepsi gaya kepimpinan dengan prestasi kerja di kalangan pengurus – pengurus di tempat kajian yang dibuat; Malaysia Airports Technologies Sdn. Bhd. Secara khususnya, tujuan kajian dilakukan ialah untuk mencapai objektif – objektif tertentu. Pertama sekali ialah, mengenalpasti hubungan gaya kepimpinan transformasional dengan prestasi kerja di kalangan pengurus di dalam organisasi tersebut. Keduanya, mengenalpasti hubungan gaya kepimpinan transaksional dengan prestasi kerja pengurus di dalam organisasi tersebut. Ketiga, mengenalpasti hubungan gaya kepimpinan “pasif avoidance” dengan prestasi kerja pengurus di dalam organisasi tersebut. Akhir sekali adalah mengenalpasti hubungan gaya kepimpinan dominan dengan prestasi kerja pengurus di dalam Malaysia Airports Technologies Sdn. Bhd.

Sampel untuk kajian ini terdiri daripada sebahagian pengurus di organisasi kajian ini. Majoriti responden adalah di kalangan umur 30 – 39 tahun, dengan pengalaman bekerja kurang daripada 3 tahun. Seramai 114 responden telah memberi kerjasama di dalam menjawab borang kaji selidik yang telah diedarkan.

Kajian yang telah dijalankan ini telah dapat memberikan jawapan bahawa terdapat kesan di antara gaya kepimpinan transformasional dan transaksional ke atas prestasi kerja di kalangan pengurus Malaysia Airports Technologies Sdn. Bhd. Penemuan ini dapat membantu organisasi ini di dalam menyelaraskan strategi – strategi yang inovatif dengan menggunakan gaya kepimpinan transformasional untuk mencapai kejayaan organisasi di dalam jangka masa panjang.

## **ABSTRACT**

Past researchers have done many studies on leadership several centuries ago. The meaning of leadership is more to organizing a group of people in order to achieve the goal. Nevertheless, researchers have still finding the perfect match on different perspective of leadership styles. This is important to measure what is the best leadership style in order to increase the performance of workers in any organizations. In addition, we could see there is still a scarcity of performance from many workers during their hours in the work place. Therefore, with the global growth happening everywhere currently, we have to deliver a good and effective leader to bring out the success of his people and accordingly to produce the effectiveness in the organization.

The primary objective of this study was to explore the perceived leadership styles and the commitment of work performance among managers in the studied organization; Malaysia Airports Technologies Sdn. Bhd. The study has been done is to achieve certain objectives. Firstly, to identify whether there is any relationship between transformational leadership styles employed by the supervisor and the effect on managers' job performance. Secondly, to identify whether there is any relationship between transactional leadership styles employed by the supervisor and the effect on managers' job performance. Thirdly, to identify whether there is any relationship between passive avoidant leadership styles employed by the supervisor and the effect on managers' job performance. Lastly, to identify the most dominant leadership styles employed by the supervisor that contributed to the performance of the managers.

This study is conducted on managers in the sample organization; Malaysia Airports Technologies Sdn. Bhd. Majority of respondents were around 30 – 39 ages whose having a working experience less than 3 years in the organization. About one hundred and fourteen (114) respondents have given their commitment to answer all questionnaires distributed by the researcher. Therefore, it is very hopeful that this study reveals perceived leadership styles have a significant positive relationship between managers in Malaysia Airports Technologies Sdn. Bhd. In addition, leaders could adopt innovative strategies using the suitable leadership style on them in order to produce work performance at the very best level as well as to gain the success for the long term period.

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## **Chapter 1: Introduction**

### **1.0: Introduction**

Leadership is the key enabler to all organizations to achieve their goals and objectives (Bennis & Nanus, 1985). According to Muijs (2011), leadership has long been seen as a key factor in organisational effectiveness. There are numerous studies on the leadership and researchers have concurred that leadership is the ability to influence the attitudes, abilities, and beliefs of employees towards achievement of organizational goals (e.g., Bass, 1985; Burns, 1978; House, 1971; Kouzes & Posner, 2007; Stogdill, 1974). Based on Bass's study (1960), effective leaders at all levels are measured by the leadership styles employed in improving employee's performance and hence ensure organization's success. Although there is intense studies throughout the years, dramatic societal changes over the past two decades has shown the importance of effective leadership more than ever (Kouzes & Posner, 2007; Yukl, 2006).

Similar to various other organizations, hospitality arena also experienced changes in their internal and external environments over the past twenty years and the study is become more important during tough economic downturn (Testa, 2001; Tracey & Hinkin, 1994). Numerous theories and models were developed to promote effective organizational leadership qualities and most applied to private or business settings. Therefore, this study employed leadership styles that comprises transformational, transactional and passive/avoidance to describe the most effective

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