A STUDY ON SOCIAL CONTROL IN FORMATION OF ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

An important and continuing area of behavioral accounting research has examined the relation between the effects of social factors on the accounting system and its development. This research has explicitly recognized that the importance of social control in formatting the development of accounting information system is determined not only by irrelevant products of information but also by the user complain of difficulty to use it that refers to the gap between the rules and practice. Accounting Information System (AIS) is a complex and fast growing area particularly in the field where the social norms are involved. Recent studies have found social influence to be positively related to information system development. The study was conducted on 100 postgraduate students studying in UUM. The results of the study indicated that social norms have no effect on AIS development. The implication of the study is a suggestion that developers of accounting system should take into their account the social factors more involved in the development of the system. Another potential area of study is to compare the AIS programs and Post AIS graduates of different universities to see if there are differences. The results of this study may help universities to develop better AIS programs.

Keywords: Social Control; Social Norms, Subjective Norms, Accounting Information System.

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In the name of Allah, most gracious, most merciful

"And say: work (righteousness): soon will Allah observe your work, and his messenger and the believers"

All praise and glory to Allah the almighty who alone made this small objective to be accomplished. Peace is upon the Prophet, his companions and all who followed him until the Day of Judgment.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 An Overview of the Background Study

The growth of computer technology in 1950s had initiated increasing development in information storing and processing (Rashid, Hossain, & Patrick, 2002). Computer technologies increase the use of information due to its capabilities of analyzing huge amount of data and in producing accurate and timely reports. These unique features of computer capabilities have led to the introduction of a variety of information systems such accounting information system (AIS) manufacturing resource planning system (MRP) and human resource system (HRM).

Human is one of the most important resources in an organization. Unquestionably human resource is an uncompromisable factor that ensures the success, or at least the survival of an organization. An organization cannot manage by itself. Control in organization is largely based in management control theory with its roots in systems theory while social and cultural modes of control are recently recognized.

Nowadays, dramatic changes have occurred in the field of Information Technology (IT) and its progress has been so pervasive therefore it has created changing trends in different areas (Salehi

The contents of the thesis is for internal user only

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APPENDIXES