## ENVIRONMENTAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS: THE APPLICATION OF THEORY OF PLANNED BEHAVIOUR MODEL

By

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Dissertation Submitted to Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business, Universiti Utara Malaysia in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Business Administration



## Kolej Perniagaan (College of Business) Universiti Utara Malaysia

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#### ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to examine the environmental behaviour specifically recycling behaviour of undergraduate business students in three Public Institutions of Higher Learning, namely; Universiti Malaya, Universiti Putra Malaysia and Universiti Utara Malaysia. Specifically, this study applies the Theory of Planned Behaviour, an approach to understand the relationship of attitude towards recycling, subjective norm, perceived behaviour control, behavioural intention and recycling behaviour. A total of 500 sets of questionnaire had been distributed but only 370 questionnaires (74 percent) could be used for coding, analyzing and hypotheses testing. Data for all the study variables were collected through self-administered survey questionnaires and analyse using SPSS version 20.0. A total of five hypotheses were formulated and the results showed that only four hypotheses are supported. The results indicated that: (1) attitude towards recycling is significantly ( $\beta = .355$ ) related to behavioural intention. (2) Subjective norm is significantly ( $\beta = .216$ ) related to behavioural intention. (3) Perceived behavior control is not related ( $\beta = .061$ ) to behavioural intention. (4) Behavioural intention is significantly ( $\beta = .569$ ) related to recycling behaviour. (5) Behavioural intention partially mediates the relationship between attitude towards recycling, and subjective norm with recycling behaviour. Perceived behaviour control was dropped in hierarchical analysis due to insignificant finding in step 1 of regression analysis. This study also found that the recycling behaviour of undergraduate business students from Universiti Putra Malaysia is better than Universiti Malaya and Universiti Utara Malaysia. Theoretical, practical and policy implications of the study as well as suggestions for future studies were discussed.

Keywords: Attitude towards recycling, Subjective norm, Perceived behaviour control, Behavioural intention, Recycling behaviour.

#### ABSTRAK

Kajian ini dijalankan dengan tujuan untuk mengkaji tingkah laku persekitaran khususnya tingkahlaku mengitar semula di kalangan pelajar jurusan perniagaan di tiga buah Institusi Pengajian Tinggi Awam iaitu Universiti Malaya, Universiti Putra Malaysia dan Universiti Utara Malaysia. Secara spesifik, kajian ini mengaplikasikan Theory of Planned Behaviour, iaitu satu pendekatan untuk memahami hubungan sikap terhadap kitar semula, norma subjektif, sifat tanggapan mengawal tingkahlaku, niat untuk bertingkahlaku dan tingkahlaku untuk mengitar semula. Sejumlah 500 set borang soal selidik telah diedarkan namun hanya 370 (74 peratus) borang soal selidik sahaja yang boleh dikumpul untuk pengekodan, analisis dan ujian hipotesis. Data dari pembolehubah kajian ini diperolehi melalui tinjauan pentadbiran kendiri (selfadministered survey) dan dianalisis menggunakan SPSS versi 20.0. Sejumlah lima hipotesis telah diformulasi dan hasil kajian menunjukkan hanya empat hipotesis disokong. Hasil kajian menunjukkan (1) sikap terhadap kitar semula mempunyai hubungan yang signifikan ( $\beta$  = .355) ke atas niat untuk bertingkahlaku, (2) norma subjektif mempunyai hubungan yang signifikan (β = .216) ke atas niat untuk bertingkahlaku, (3) sifat tanggapan mengawal tingkah laku tidak ada hubungan ( $\beta$  = .061) ke atas niat untuk bertingkahlaku, (4) niat untuk bertingkahlaku mempunyai hubungan yang signifikan ( $\beta$  = .569) ke atas tingkahlaku untuk mengitar semula, (5) niat untuk bertingkah laku menjadi pengantara separa (partially mediates) di antara sikap terhadap kitar norma subjektif dan tingkahlaku untuk mengitar semula. Sifat tanggapan semula dan mengawal tingkahlaku telah digugurkan dalam analisis regresi berbilang berhierarki (hierarchical multiple regression) disebabkan hubungan yang tidak signifikan dalam peringkat 1 analisis regresi (regression analysis). Hasil kajian ini juga menunjukkan tingkahlaku untuk mengitar semula di kalangan pelajar jurusan perniagaan daripada Universiti Putra Malaysia adalah lebih baik daripada pelajar dari Universiti Malaya dan Universiti Utara Malaysia. Implikasi teoritikal, praktikal dan polisi serta cadangan untuk kajian masa hadapan juga dibincangkan.

Kata kunci: Sikap terhadap kitar semula, Norma subjektif, Sifat tanggapan mengawal tingkah laku, Niat untuk bertingkahlaku, Tingkahlaku untuk mengitar semula.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of Allah SWT, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful, I thank you for giving me the strength to complete this thesis. This thesis would not have been completed without the support and assistance of many people. Firstly, my deepest gratitude and thanks to my beloved wife Zaharah Abdul Ghafar for being so understanding and caring to me. Without her encouragement, sacrifices and sincere prayers I could never have achieved the completion of my study. I would like to extend my gratitude and affection to my all my children.

Secondly, to my first and second supervisors, Dr Filzah Md Isa and Dr Siti Norezam Othman, who has been so helpful and supportive since I first got acquainted with them personally. I am greatly indebted for their valuable insights, comments, ideas and suggestions. Both of them are indeed dedicated supervisors who embody a lot of wisdom and integrity in the course of improving and completing this thesis. Thirdly, I would like to thank to my fellow DBA students for their companionship, help and support in completing my study and also being wonderful friends. A note of thanks to UiTM Kedah Branch and Mrs Nasib Kaur for being helpful to proof read my thesis. Finally, I would like to thank the participating universities for their valuable help during data collection. Special thanks are also extended to all the respondents who have given their cooperation in completing the survey.

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# CHAPTER ONE

#### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.0 Introduction

Wasteful consumption is the root cause of much of environmental quality degradation through pollution and over-exploitation of resources (Hassan, 1998) and this is the result of the accumulative action of individuals (The National Environment Education and Training Foundation (NEETF)/Roper Report, (1999). One of major environmental problems faced by most municipalities in Malaysia is solid waste (World Bank, 1992) and the amount of waste generated continues to increase in response to rapid increased in population and accelerated urbanisation and industrialisation processes. These activities are increasingly causing more damage and are due to the human actions which cause irreversible harm on the environmental condition (Oskamp, 2002). It has been almost 40 years since the first Earth Day and the birth of the environmental movement, but despite widespread support for the environmental cause and increased awareness of the problems (Schultz, 2001), human behaviour has hardly changed even with the information about the consequences of human actions, such as climate change, pollution, or diminishing natural resources (Gardener & Stern, 1996; Wolfe, 2001). In other words, the root causes of environmental problems are related to human activities (Aini, Fakhru'l-Razi, Laily & Jariah, 2003). Therefore, it requires a fundamental change in human activities, which is a shift from reckless to responsible consumption of resources (Gardener & Stern, 1996).

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