# THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GENERATION Y'S CHARACTERISTICS AND ACCEPTANCE OF SOCIAL NETWORK AS JOB SEARCH ENGINE

# LOGESWRAN RAMASAMY

MASTER DEGREE OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (MHRM) UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA July 2013

# THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GENERATION Y'S CHARACTERISTICS AND ACCEPTANCE OF SOCIAL NETWORK AS JOB SEARCH ENGINE

By

# **LOGESWRAN RAMASAMY**

Dissertation Submitted to
Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business, Universiti Utara Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the
Master Degree of Human Resource Management (MHRM)

# PERMISSION TO USE

In presenting this dissertation in partial fulfilment of the requirements for a Post Graduate degree from the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), I agree that the Library of this university may make it freely available for inspection. I further agree that permission for copying this dissertation in any manner, in whole or in part, for scholarly purposes may be granted by my supervisor(s) or in their absence, by the Dean of Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business where I did my dissertation. It is understood that any copying or publication or use of this dissertation parts of it for financial gain shall not be allowed without my written permission. It is also understood that due recognition shall be given to me and to the UUM in any scholarly use which may be made of any material in my dissertation.

Request for permission to copy or to make other use of materials in this dissertation in whole or in part should be addressed to:

Dean of Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business Universiti Utara Malaysia 06010 UUM Sintok Kedah Darul Aman

# **ABSTRACT**

Acceptance of social network as job search engine is based on the determinations of Generation Y's characteristics. The aim of this study is to determine the relationship between Generation Y's characteristics of technology savvy, diverse, impatient and ambitious and acceptance of social network as job search engine. This cross-sectional study was conducted among 344 final year undergraduates from University of Malaya (UM). Random sampling technique was the sampling technique used in this study. Four adapted questionnaires were used to measure the Generation Y's characteristics of technology savvy, diverse, impatient and ambitious and acceptance level of social network as job search engine. Regression analysis was applied to test the hypotheses. The result showed that technology savvy, diverse and impatient are the influencing characteristics of the respondents to accept social network as their job search engine. Technology savvy has been found as the strongest characteristic in influencing the acceptance level of social network as job search engine. Finally, discussion, limitation of the study, suggestion and conclusion also were discussed in order to create platform for future researcher to enhance this study.

Keywords: Generation Y's Characteristics, Social Network and Job Search Engine.

### **ABSTRAK**

Penerimaan rangkaian sosial sebagai enjin carian pekerjaan adalah berdasarkan kepada penentuan ciri-ciri Generasi Y. Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji hubungan antara ciri-ciri Generation Y iaitu celik teknologi, kepelbagaian, tidak sabar dan bercita-cita tinggi dan tahap penerimaan rangkaian sosial sebagai enjin carian pekerjaan. Kajian keratan rentas telah dijalankan di kalangan 344 pelajar tahun akhir dari Universiti Malaya (UM). Teknik persampelan rawak adalah teknik persampelan yang digunakan dalam kajian ini. Instrumen yang digunakan untuk mengumpul data dalam kajian ini adalah borang soal selidik dan terdapat empat borang soal selidik yang telah disesuaikan dan digunakan untuk mengukur ciri-ciri Generasi Y iaitu celik teknologi, kepelbagaian, tidak sabar dan bercita-cita tinggi dan tahap penerimaan rangkaian sosial sebagai enjin carian pekerjaan. Analisis regresi telah digunakan untuk menguji hipotesis. Secara keseluruhannya, dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa ciriciri Generasi Y iaitu celik teknologi, kepelbagaian dan tidak sabar adalah ciri-ciri yang mempengaruhi responden untuk menerima rangkaian sosial sebagai enjin carian pekerjaan mereka. Malah, celik teknologi merupakan ciri-ciri yang paling signifikan dalam mempengaruhi tahap penerimaan rangkaian sosial sebagai enjin carian pekerjaan. Didalam kajian ini juga, perbincangan, batasan kajian, cadangan dan kesimpulan juga telah dibincangkan dengan bertujuan untuk mewujudkan satu platform kepada para penyelidik masa depan untuk meningkatkan kajian ini.

Kata kunci: Ciri-ciri Generasi Y, Rangkaian Sosial dan Enjin Carian Pekerjaan.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** 

First and foremost, I would like to thank my respectable supervisor Dr. Tan Fee Yean,

Senior Lecturer for her endless guidance throughout my journey to complete this

dissertation. Without her invaluable guidance and patience, I would not have

completed this study smoothly.

Besides that, my deepest thanks and appreciation to my beloved parents Mr

Ramasamy Karuppiah and Mrs Santhakumary Ramasamy and my siblings for their

blessings, prayers, encouragement, supports and sacrifices in the success of my study.

They were travelling with me throughout my journey by sharing my happiness and

also the tough time.

Furthermore, I would like to express my gratitude to my friends and colleagues for

their endless support, patience and for keeping me motivated. This paper was a great

experience, with some challenging and many fascinating aspects. Last but not least, I

would like to thank each and everyone who have helped me either directly and

indirectly to complete my research paper. Thank you.

Logeswran Ramasamy

Master of Human Resource Management,

Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business,

Universiti Utara Malaysia.

V

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

PERMISSION TO USE	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	V
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURE	ix
1.0 CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of Study	1
1.2 Problem Statement	12
1.3 Research Question	18
1.4 Research Objectives	19
1.5 Significance of the Study	20
1.6 Scope of the Study	21
1.7 Definition of Key Terms	21
1.8 Conclusion	22
2.0 CHAPTER 2:LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Introduction	23
2.2 Definition & Conceptualization of Variables	23
2.2.1 Social Network	23
2.2.2 Characteristics of Generation Y	30
2.2.2.1 Technology Savvy	31
2.2.2.2 Diverse	32
2.2.2.3 Impatient	33
2.2.2.4 Ambitious	35
2.3 Gaps in the Literature Review	36
2.4 Research Framework	39
2.5 Relationship between Variables	39
2.6 Conclusion	42
3.0 CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY	
3.1 Introduction	43
3.2 Research Design	43
3.3 Population and Sampling	44
3.4 Measurement	46
3.5 Questionnaire Design	49
3.6 Pilot Test	50
3.7 Data Collection	52
3.8 Analysis Technique	53
3.9 Conclusion	54

4.0 CHAPTER 4: FINDINGS	
4.1 Introduction	55
4.2 Respondents' Demographic Characteristics	55
4.3 Respondents' Preference and Usage of Social Networking Sites	57
4.4 Reliability Analysis	59
4.5 Descriptive Analysis	61
4.6 Correlation Analysis	62
4.7 Regression Analysis	63
4.8 Summary Result of Hypotheses Testing	65
4.9 Conclusion	65
5.0 CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	
5.1 Introduction	66
5.2 Discussion	66
5.3 Implication of Study	68
5.4 Limitations of the Study	69
5.5 Conclusion	70
REFERENCES	72
APPENDIX A	
APPENDIX B	

# LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1	Attitudes of Generation X and Y in professional work	10
Table 1.3	Social Networking Sites' Usage (by age)	14
Table 3.1	Operational Definition and Sample Item	48
Table 3.2	Layout of the Questionnaires	50
Table 3.3	Pilot test outcome	51
Table 3.4	Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Test	52
Table 4.1	Respondents' Demographic Characteristics	56
Table 4.2	Social Networking Sites Usage	57
Table 4.3	Reliability Analysis	60
Table 4.4	Descriptive Statistics	61
Table 4.5	Correlation Analysis	62
Table 4.6	Regression Analysis	64
Table 4.7	Summary Result of Hypotheses Testing	65

# LIST OF FIGURE

Figure 1.1	Traditional Recruitment Process	2
Figure 1.2	Highest Number of Users among the Employees who are age between 26 and 45	5
Figure 2.1	Employer Recruitment Strategies for year 2012	26
Figure 2.2	Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)	37
Figure 2.3	Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology	37
Figure 2.4	Proposed Conceptual Framework	39

# **CHAPTER 1**

# INTRODUCTION

# 1.1 Background of Study

In this twenty-first century, the usage of social network has geared up where most of people are being connected with social networks sites in their daily routine. Nevertheless, social network also has drawn attention in human resource management practices and become employers' inclination tool in the recruitment process. Most of the companies have started to exercise social network such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter as their recruitment tool. According to Colao (2012) as reported in Forbes Magazine, Hard Rock Café was intended to open its new outlet in Florence in year 2011. In regards with this expansion, the company was needed to hire 120 servers up to managers just in four weeks to start up the operation. Hard Rock Cafe made the hiring process possible through Facebook. Hard Rock Café fans were invited to the join their Facebook page and allow them to share the jobs opportunities at Hard Rock Café among their friends. As the result, they could drove viral fan growth, where it shoots up from 0 to 1,000 fans in less than 24 hours and even pull off about 6,100 fans in four days. They received about 4,000 applications in four weeks and about 1,000 applicants were invited for interview session. Finally, the outlet was successfully hired 120 staff in four weeks and started the operation without further due (Boorman, 2011). In short, social network plays important role and act as an important tool in the recruitment process.

# The contents of the thesis is for internal user only

# REFERENCES

- Abel, S. (2011). The role of social networking sites in recruitment. Results of a quantitative study among German companies.
- Arsenault, P. (2004). Validating generational differences. *Leadership and Organizational Development Journal*, 25(2), 124-141.
- Ashling, J. (2008, March). We're all members of the Google generation. Information Today, 22.
- Banerjee, P. (2012). Social networking sites: A fad or a breakthrough in new age Recruitment. *Global Journal of Management and Business Research*, 12 (3).
- Barad, K. (2003). Toward an understanding of how matter comes to matter. *Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 2003, 28(3), 801-831.
- Barber, L. (2006). E-recruitment developments. Retrieved March 15, 2012 from http://www.employment-studies.co.uk/pdflibrary/mp63.pdf.
- BBC (2010). Facebook hits 500m user milestone, BBC news website. Retrieved January 20, 2013 from http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-10713199
- Bican, H. (2013). Social network sites usage habits of undergraduates students. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 13(1), 210-230.
- Bingham, B., Ilg, S., & Davidson, N. (2002). Great candidates fast: On-line job application and electronic processing: Washington State's new internet application system. *Public Personnel Management*, 31(1), 53-64.
- Boorman, B. (2011, August 28). Facebook hiring part 2: How Hard Rock Firenze hired 120 people in 4 weeks. Retrieved March 20, 2013 from http://www.recruitingblogs.com/profiles/blogs/facebook-hiring-part-2-how-hard-rock-firenze-hired-120-people-in.
- Borngraber-Berthelsen, M. A. (2008). Recruiting and retaining Generation Y: A new workforce.
- Boyd, D. M., & Ellison, N.B. (2007). Social network sites: Definition, history, and scholarship. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 13(1), 210-230.
- Broughton, A., Higgins, T., Hicks, B., & Cox, A. (2010). Workplaces and social networking the implications for employment relations. The Institute for employment studies.

- Burgess, J. (2008). Managing the new workforce, Generation Y (Millennials).

  Retrieved March 18, 2013 from http://www.redfusionmedia.com/arc\_managing\_generation\_Y\_millennials.ht
- Buss, J. (2010). 25 most influential recruiters on Twitter, The Talent Buzz. Retrieved from http:// thetalentbuzz.com/2010/01/25-most-influential-recruiters-on-twitter/
- Colao, J. J. (2012). With Facebook, your recruitment pool is one billion people. *Forbes Magazine*, Retrieved from http://www.forbes.com/sites/jjcolao/2012/09/12/with-facebook-your-recruitment-pool-is-one-billion-people/
- Corporate Recruiters Survey. (2012). Survey Report. Graduate Management Admission Council.
- Cox, T. (2001). Creating the multicultural organization: A strategy for capturing the power of diversity. San Francisco, Jossey Bass.
- Davis, F. D. (1989). Perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use and user acceptance of information technology. *MIS Quarterly*, 13(3), 319-340.
- Doherty, R. (2010). Getting social with recruitment. *Strategic HR Review*, 9(6), 11-15.
- Dudley, K. C. (2003). Empirical Development of a Scale of Patience, Morgantown, West Virginia.
- Dutta, S. (2010). What's your personal social media strategy? *Harvard Business Review*, 88(11), 127-130.
- ECAR Research Study 8. (2008). Social networking sites, students and information technology 8, EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research.
- Eisele, S. (2006). Online-recruiting: strategien, instrumente, perspektiven. saarbrücken: VDM Verlag Dr. Müller.
- El-Gohary, H. (*n.d.*). E-Marketing and the marketing performance of Small Business Enterprises, Bradford University School of Management Marketing Group. Retrieved January 10, 2013 from http://my3q.com/survey/197/helmasry73/64940.phtml
- Ethics Resource Center. (2010). Supplemental Research Brief. 2009 National Business Ethics Survey.
- Fallows, D. (2005). Search engine users. Pew Internet and American Life Project, Retrieved from http://www.pewinternet.org/~/media//Files/Reports/2005/PIP\_Searchengine\_users.pdf.pdf.

- Findlay, I. M., & Kowbel, J. (2013). Engaging an age-diverse workplace, Revisiting a business opportunity and challenge. Business & Financial Affairs, 2 (2).
- Garone, E. (2010). Promoting your job search when you're employed. *Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved from http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703571704575340624253781034.html
- Hair, J. F., Black, W. C., Babin, B. J., Anderson, R. E., & Tatham, R. L. (2006). Multivariate Data Analysis (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Pearson Prentice-Hall.
- Hong, C. W., Lam, K, G., Kin, L. C., Ming, S. H., & Zhao, T. Y. (2012). Factors affecting undergraduates' involvement in entrepreneurial activities through online social networks.
- Jarden, A. (2011). Positive psychological assessment. A practical introduction to empirically validated research tools for measuring wellbeing.
- JobsDB.com. (2012). Managing Generation Y in the workplace. Retrieved February 10, 2013 from http://my.jobsdb.com/MY/EN/Resources/EmployerArticle/managing-generation-y?ID=662
- Johnson, J. & Lopes, J. (2008). The intergenerational workforce. *Organization Development Journal*.
- Joined-up Thinking; Social Networking Websites (2007, July 4). The Economist (US), 383 (8523), 63. Retrieved from http://find.galegroup.com/itx/start.do?prodId=ITOF.
- Jones, S. & Fox, S. (2009). Pew internet project data memo. Retrieved from http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP Generations 2009.pdf
- Koco, L. (2006). Use generational marketing to reach boomers, younger clients. National Underwriter Life & Health, 110(20), 26-27.
- Krejcie, R. V., & Morgan, D. W. (1970). Determining sample size for research Activities. Educational and psychological measurement, 30, 607-610.
- Kumar, A., & Lim, H. (2008). Age differences in mobile service perceptions: Comparison of Generation Y and baby boomers. *Journal of Services Marketing*, 22(7), 568-577.
- Kumar, N., & Garg, P. (2010). Impact of online recruitment on recruitment Performance. *Asian Journal of Management Research*, ISSN 2229-3795, 327-336.

- Lievens, F., & Harris, M. M. (2003). Research on internet recruiting and testing. Current status and future directions. In C.L. Cooper & I.T. Robertson (Eds.).
- Luszcz, M. A., & Kleiner, B. H. (2000). How to hire employees effectively. *Management Research News*, 23(1),19-26.
- Madia, S. A. (2011). Best practices for using social media as a recruitment strategy. *Strategic HR Review*, 10(6), 19-24.
- Marklein, M.B. (2009, April 29). College recruiters are Twittering, too. *USA Today*, 6D.
- Martin, C.A. (2005). From high maintenance to high productivity: What managers need to know about Generation Y. *Emerald Group Publishing Limited*, 37(1), 39-44.
- Meier, J., Austin, S. F., Crocker, M., & Austin S. F. (2010, June). Generation Y in the Workforce, Managerial Challenges. *The Journal of Human Resource and Adult Learning*, 6(1), 68-78.
- Ming, M. K. P. (2009). A Study on employed job seekers' acceptance of social networking sites as a job search tool.
- Monsuwe, T. P., Dellaert, B. G. C., & de Ruyter, K. R. (2004). What drives consumers to shop online? *International Journal of Services industry Management*, 15(1), 102-121.
- Morgan, M. (2012, September 27). Social media as job recruitment tool: *Deseret News*. Retrieved March 12, 2013 from http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865563277/Social-media-as-job-recruitment-tool-up-in-2012.html?pg=all
- Pradiptarini, C. (2011). Social media marketing: Measuring its effectiveness and identifying the target market. *UW-L Journal of Undergraduate Research XIV*.
- Pramuditha, C. A. (2012). A study on factors of attitude towards using electronic human resource management: A case study of PT Pusri Palembang, Indonesia.
- Prensky, M. (2001). Digital natives, digital immigrants. On the Horizon, 9(5), 1-6.
- Proserpio, L., & Gioia, D.A. (2007). Teaching the virtual generation. Academy of Management Learning & Education, 6(1), 69-80.
- Rahman., & Abdull, R. H. (2012). Malaysian firms' role in retaining engineers.

  Retrieved January 08, 2013 from http://www.questia.com/read/1G1-315070486/malaysian-firms-role-in-retaining-engineers.

- Reilly, P. (2012). Understanding and teaching Generation Y, English teaching forum, 1, Mexico.
- Sekaran, U. (2003). Research methods for business: A skill building approaches (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons.
- Skeels, M., & Grudin J. (2009). When social networks cross boundaries: A case study of workplace use of Facebook and LinkedIn. Proceedings of the ACM 2009 International Conference on supporting group work, 95-103.
- Smola, K.W. & Sutton, C.D. (2002). Generational differences: Revisiting generational work values for the new millennium. *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, 23, 363-82.
- Sounders, M., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2007). Research methods for business students. (5th ed.). England: Prentice Hall. Chapter 5.
- Spon, M. (2010). Is your impression costing you the job? Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology Media. Retrieved from http://www.siop.org/:Media/News/e.impression.aspx
- Suki, N. H., Ramayah, T., Ming, M. K. P., & Suki, N. M. (2011). Job Searchers via social networking sites, Employed Job Seekers Intention. *Jurnal Pengurusan*, 33, 77-86.
- Suvankulov, F. (2010). Job search on the internet, e-recruitment, and labor market outcomes, RAND Corporation.
- Sweeney. R. T. (2006, December 22). Millennial behaviors & demographics.
- Tabassum, A. (2011). The process of recruitment and selection in a developing country: Case study of a bank in Bangladesh. *ABAC Journal*, 31 (1), 55-67.
- Tapscott, D. (2008). Grown up digital: How the net generation is changing your world, Mcgraw-Hill.
- Tabscott, J. (2009). Grown up digital: How the net generation is changing your world. New York, McGraw-Hill Professional.
- Taylor, R. (1990). Interpretation of the correlation coefficient. *Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography*, 6, 33-39.
- Taylor, S. (2006). People resourcing. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, CIPD Publishing, London.
- Tsui, B. (2001). Generation next. Advertising Age, 14-15.

- Tushman, M. L. & Anderson, P. (1986). Technological discontinuities and organizational environments. *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 31, 439-465.
- Twitter.com. (2013). About Twitter. Retrieved March 03, 2013 from https://twitter.com/about.
- Tyler, K. (2008, January). Generation gaps: Millenials may be out of touch with workplace behavior. *HR Magazine*.
- Venkatesh, V., Morris, M., Davis, G., & Davis, F. (2003). User Acceptance of Information Technology: Toward A Unified View. *MIS Quarterly*, 27(3), 425-478.
- Verhoeven, H., Mashood, N., & Chansarkar, B. (2009). Recruitment and Generation Y: Web 2.0 the way to go.
- Weiler, A. (2004). Information-seeking behavior in Generation Y students. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 31(1), 46-53.
- Zikmund, W.G. (2003). Business Research Methods (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Kentucky: Thomson Southwestern.