THE PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ADJUSTMENT IN UNIVERSITY UTARA MALAYSIA

By

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ABSTRACT

The globalization of the economy and society has had its impact on Malaysian higher education institutions, particularly universities. The Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education aims at intensifying globalization through increasing the number of international students. However, many international students struggle with adjusting to a new culture. The increasing numbers of international students from different countries in Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) have inspired the researcher to explore their psychosocial adjustment in this university. Building on this argument, this study aims to investigate the international student psychosocial adjustment by modifying and testing a model derived from Tseng (2002). This research aims to investigate the influence of personality, social support, language fluency, and cultural differences on the psychosocial adjustment of international students in University Utara Malaysia. The four factors that have been examined in the study were adopted from previous research by Cigularova, D. K. (2005), and Yusliza Mohd (2010). A total of 338 students have been selected as respondents and self-administered survey questionnaire has been developed. The findings indicate that there is a positive correlation coefficient have been shown and remarkably significantly between each one of the four independent variables and the dependent variable. The findings offer few suggestions on how improvement could be made in order to support international students' psychosocial well-being. The research contributes to the fields of intercultural adjustment and also key implications for policy makers.

Keywords: psychological well-being, sociocultural adjustment, international students, UUM.

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ABSTRAK

Globalisasi ekonomi dan masyarakat mempunyai kesan ke atas institusi-institusi pengajian tinggi di Malaysia, terutamanya universiti. Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi Malaysia bertujuan meningkatkan globalisasi melalui peningkatan jumlah pelajar antarabangsa. Walau bagaimanapun, ramai pelajar antarabangsa berjuang dengan menyesuaikan diri dengan budaya baru. Nombor peningkatan pelajar antarabangsa dari pelbagai negara di Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) telah memberikan inspirasi kepada penyelidik untuk meneroka pelarasan psikososial mereka di universiti ini. Membina hujah-hujah ini, kajian ini bertujuan untuk menyiasat pelarasan psikososial pelajar antarabangsa dengan mengubahsuai dan menguji model berasal dari Tseng (2002). Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji pengaruh personaliti, sokongan sosial, bahasa kefasihan, dan perbezaan budaya pada pelarasan psikososial pelajar antarabangsa di Universiti Utara Malaysia. Empat faktor yang dikaji dalam kajian ini telah diambil daripada kajian sebelumnya oleh Cigularova, DK (2005), dan Yusliza Mohd (2010). Seramai 338 orang pelajar telah dipilih sebagai responden dan diri yang ditadbir soal selidik kajian telah dibangunkan. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa terdapat satu pekali korelasi positif telah ditunjukkan dan yang amat ketara antara setiap satu daripada empat pembolehubah bebas dan pembolehubah bersandar. Penemuan menawarkan beberapa cadangan bagaimana penambahbaikan boleh dibuat bagi menyokong psikososial kesejahteraan pelajar antarabangsa. Kajian ini menyumbang kepada bidang penyesuaian antara budaya dan juga implikasi utama bagi pembuat dasar.

Kata kunci: psikologi kesejahteraan, pelarasan sosiobudaya, pelajar antarabangsa, UUM.

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Tamma Elhachemi

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter introduces the outline of the study. The chapter will begin with the background of the study and problem statement, which will describe the concerning issues of the study. The next step will touch on the research objective and this objective is to determine what the researcher wants to achieve in the study. Follow by research questions, the scope and significance of the study will be highlighted. On the final stage of the chapter conclude with the organization of the study.

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1.2 Background

Globalization of business and education has opened incalculable doors for culturally diverse contacts. Progress in innovation and exchange has made the world a global commercial center. A growing piece of this internationalization is universal learning. In the setting of today's internationalization in advanced education, the students' structure is progressive worldwide, where more students are encouraging their studies far from their nations of origin. As indicated by Tochkov et al. (2010), there was a million or more global students mulling over around the world, many of them are concentrating on in the Malaysia. Ye (2006) described "global students as an issue experiencing significant change that live in a foreign nation to seek after their educational objectives".

The contents of the thesis is for internal user only

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