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## THE RELATIONSHIP OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURIAL BEHAVIOUR, ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN MALAYSIA



### DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA FEBRUARY 2016

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

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### **ABSTRACT**

Small and medium enterprises (SME) play a huge role towards the economic performance of countries all over the world. In Malaysia, the SMEs play a major role as well in steering the development of the country. However, the organizational performance of Malaysian SME is still considered weak and has not been realized to its full potential. To improve the organizational performance, SMEs have to adopt and adapt best industry business practices that could assist them in becoming more competitive. Previous studies have examine the predictors of organizational performance, however little has been done in examining the relationship of social entrepreneurial behaviour and entrepreneurial leadership towards organizational performance as a cohesive framework. Therefore, this study examines the mediating effect of entrepreneurial leadership between social entrepreneurial behaviour and organizational performance of SMEs in Malaysia. Respondents were chosen by systematic random sampling and 401 respondents participated in this study. This study uses structural equation modelling for analysis and the findings show that entrepreneurial leadership mediates the relationship between social entrepreneurial behaviour and organizational performance. Based on the result, the best path to achieve organizational performance is by following the mediating path. Both entrepreneurial leadership and social entrepreneurial behaviour are considered new and in their infancy stage. As a result, this study fills the literature gap in the particular fields. In addition, this study provides empirical evidence on the relationship between the constructs, it is able to contribute practically towards the leaders of the organizations as they will understand better the role of social entrepreneurial behaviour and entrepreneurial leadership towards its organizational performance. Future research could venture into studying the effect of social entrepreneurship activities towards SME's performance. There is a huge literature gap in assessing the effect of social entrepreneurship activities within organization as there is a dearth of reliable and valid instrument.

Keywords: Social entrepreneurial behaviour, entrepreneurial leadership, organizational performance, SME, Malaysia.

### ABSTRAK

Perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) memainkan peranan yang besar terhadap prestasi ekonomi negara-negara di seluruh dunia. Di Malaysia, PKS memainkan peranan utama dalam memacu pembangunan negara. Walau bagaimanapun, prestasi organisasi PKS Malaysia masih dianggap lemah dan tidak mencapai potensi sepenuhnya. Untuk meningkatkan prestasi organisasi, PKS di Malaysia perlu mengguna pakai serta menyesuai amalan perniagaan terbaik yang boleh membantu mereka untuk meningkatkan daya saing. Banyak kajian lepas memeriksa peramal prestasi organisasi, namun tidak banyak yang dilakukan dalam mengkaji hubungan ciri-ciri keusahawanan sosial dan kepimpinan keusahawanan terhadap prestasi organisasi di dalam satu rangka kerja. Oleh itu, kajian ini mengkaji kesan mediasi kepimpinan keusahawanan antara tingkah laku keusahawanan sosial dan prestasi organisasi PKS di Malaysia. Responden adalah pemilik PKS di Malaysia. 401 borang kajiselidik yang boleh digunakan diperolehi melalui kaedah persampelan rawak sistematik. Model Persamaan Struktural (SEM) telah digunakan untuk analisis. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa terdapat hubungan mediasi oleh kepimpinan keusahawanan antara tingkah laku keusahawanan sosial dan prestasi organisasi. Berdasarkan keputusan, cara yang terbaik untuk mencapai prestasi organisasi adalah dengan melalui mediasi kepimpinan keusahawanan dari tingkah laku keusahawanan sosial. Kedua-dua kepimpinan keusahawanan dan tingkah laku keusahawanan sosial dianggap topik baru dan di peringkat awal di bidang masing-masing. Oleh itu, kajian ini mengisi jurang kesusasteraan dalam bidang tersebut. Di samping itu, kajian ini memberikan bukti empirikal mengenai hubungan antara konstruk dan ia mampu menyumbang secara praktikal ke arah pemimpin-pemimpin organisasi kerana mereka akan lebih memahami peranan tingkah laku keusahawanan sosial dan kepimpinan keusahawanan ke arah prestasi organisasinya. Kajian masa depan boleh mencuba untuk mengkaji kesan aktiviti keusahawanan sosial terhadap prestasi PKS. Terdapat jurang sastera yang besar dalam menilai kesan aktiviti keusahawanan sosial dalam organisasi kerana terdapat kekurangan instrumen dinercayai dan sah. instrumen dipercayai dan sah.

Kata kunci: Ciri-ciri keusahawanan sosial, kepimpinan keusahawanan, prestasi organisasi, PKS, Malaysia.

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### LIST OF ABBREVIATION/GLOSSARY TERMS

CSR Corporate Social Responsibility

DNA The set of non-genetic traits, qualities, or features that characterize a

person or thing

EL Entrepreneurial Leadership

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GLOBE Global Leadership and Organizational Behaviour Effectiveness

GST Goods and Service Tax

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

NSDC National SME Development Council

OP Organizational Performance

SE Social Entrepreneurship

SEB Social Entrepreneurial Behaviour Malaysia

SME Small and Medium Enterprises

SMECorp SME Corporation Malaysia

SPSS Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

### **CHAPTER 1**

### INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction

The first chapter of this thesis offers an overview of the study. This chapter is divided into nine sections. Firstly it discusses on the background of the study and followed by problem statement. These two sections discuss on the scenario as well as problems and how those aspects lead to this study. Next, the research questions and research objectives are listed. Subsequently, the scope of the study and significance of the study are discussed. These sections focus on scope of the study as well as the implication and contribution it may provide in the academic along with practical world. Then, the definition of variables is discussed, followed by the assumption of the study and lastly organization of the study.

### Universiti Utara Malaysia 1.1 Background of the Study

It is a well-known fact that the small and medium enterprises (SME) play a huge role towards the economic performance of countries all over the world (Aziz & Mahmood, 2011) and they wield a powerful influence in on the world economy (Ghobadian & Gallear, 1996; Ladzani & Van, 2002). SMEs are important in a nation's economy as they have been the source of employment creation (Ghobadian & Gallear, 1996; Ladzani & Van, 2002), sustaining technological lead in the market place (Bovee et al., 2007), creating new ideas as well as providing dynamism to the market place (Griffin & Ebert, 2006). Habaradas (2008) argued that SMEs contribute to the development of nations by (i) addressing poverty by creating jobs and

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