

Chapter 4

**PERCEPTIONS OF SELECTED TEACHERS ON
THEIR FUTURE ROLES WITHIN THE
SMART SCHOOL CONCEPT
IN MALAYSIA**

A project paper submitted to the Graduate School in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
Master of Science (Management),
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By

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ABSTRAK

Menjelang Januari 1999, sebilangan Sekolah Bestari akan muncul di seluruh Malaysia. Dalam usaha menyediakan tapak **qsqs** untuk revolusi pendidikan ini, kajian ini bertujuan mengenalpasti pandangan guru-guru terpilih terhadap peranan-peranan, tanggungjawab serta pengetahuan, kemahiran dan sikap mereka dalam lingkungan suasana Sekolah Bestari. Maklumat-maklumat penting berasaskan data-data yang tersebut ini telah diperolehi dalam usaha untuk menentukan latihan yang sewajarnya untuk guru-guru bestari.

Ulasan *literatur* telah menunjukkan bahawa pendekatan berpusat-pelajar dalam suatu bilik darjah elektronik yang menyokong suatu kurikulum bersepadu dan berorientasi penyelesaian-masalah akan menambah-tokok kualiti keseluruhan proses pembelajaran-pengajaran. Juga dilaporkan bahawa pelajar-pelajar yang dididik dalam corak revolusi ini memang menunjukkan kebolehan kognitif yang lebih tinggi, kebolehan dalam penyelesaian masalah secara kreatif dan inovatif, dan adalah lebih bersedia untuk bekerja di dalam masyarakat yang berinformatif dan berteknologi tinggi dalam abad ke-21.

Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa responden-responden secara amnya bersikap optimistik dan menyokong perubahan-perubahan yang akan berlaku terhadap peranan mereka sebagai guru-guru bestari. Walaubagaimana pun guru-guru ini merasa ragu terhadap kebolehan mereka dalam teknologi maklumat dan kebolehan untuk menerima cabaran-cabaran yang baru ini. Ramai juga tidak mengetahui sepenuhnya tentang loncatan yang penting ini. Maka adalah jelasnya bahawa latihan yang paling utama ialah dalam membangunkan literasi teknologi maklumat mereka secukup-cukupnya supaya setanding dengan suasana Sekolah Bestari. Syor-syor yang sewajarnya telah dicadangkan kepada pihak-pihak yang terlibat dalam projek ini pada akhir laporan ini.

ABSTRACT

In just a matter of 14 months more (in January, 1999), Malaysians shall soon see the emergence of a number of Smart School pilot sites nationwide. In an effort to help prepare the groundwork for this educational revolution, this pioneering descriptive study ventured to identify and establish how selected teachers perceived their potential roles, responsibilities as well as the attendant knowledge, skills, and attitudes within the smart school environment. Vital pieces of information on the basis of such data were sought in an attempt to determine crucial and immediate training needs for the 'smart teachers'.

The literature perused pointed out that the pupil-centered approach in tandem with a fully wired (electronic) classroom that supports an integrated, problem-solving-oriented curriculum has enhanced the overall quality of the teaching-learning process. It was reported that pupils educated in this revolutionary fashion do develop higher cognitive abilities, creative and innovative problem-solving abilities, and are prepared to work in the highly-informatized, knowledge-based society of the 21st century.

Results showed that the subjects generally perceived the impending changes in their roles as Smart School teachers favorably. Despite the positive and optimistic outlook, the respondents strongly doubt their Information Technology literacy and/or capabilities to take on the new challenge. Many also expressed that they are 'in the dark' as far as this very important leapfrogging step is concerned. It becomes readily apparent then that the major training required should build their IT-competencies adequately vis-a-vis the smart classroom environment. Pertinent recommendations to the major parties in this project are then offered at the concluding part of this study.

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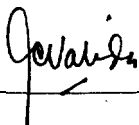
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Malaysia's quest to find its rightful place in the community of developed nations by the early part of the 21st century is best summed up in Vision 2020. This Vision calls for the establishment of a resilient and robust economy founded on sustained, productivity-driven growth, and which can only be realized with an adequate pool of technologically literate, critical thinking work force prepared to participate fully in the global economy of the next millennium. A major strategy for this massive transformation will be the Information Technology-driven Smart Schools. This is one of the seven flagship applications that will evolve as part of Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project.

Effective implementation of Smart Schools will require funding for the building of new schools with all its multimedia infrastructure, upgrading

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