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FACTORS DETERMINING CAREER CHOICE AMONG STUDENTS IN
POLYTECHNIC SULTAN ABDUL HALIM MU'ADZAM SHAH (POLIMAS),
JITRA, KEDAH



By

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ABSTRACT

Career choice is one of the most important decision to be made throughout an individual's life, especially students. The study aims to investigate the factors affecting career choice namely; family influence, personal interests, economic considerations, and career adaptability, among students in Polytechnic Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah (POLIMAS), Jitra, Kedah. A total of number of 286 students responded to the questionnaire and only 278 were usable for analysis. The data has been analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25.0 software. Several statistical tools were used such as Cronbach's Alpha reliability test, descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation, and regression analysis. The result of this study showed that all independent variables namely; family influence, personal interests, economic considerations, and career adaptability have significant and positive relationship to career choice. It is recommended for future studies to extend the sample size to include unemployed graduates, students from both public and private universities, as well as students from various disciplines.

Keywords: career choice, family influence, personal interests, economic considerations, and career adaptability



ABSTRAK

Pilihan kerjaya adalah salah satu keputusan yang paling penting yang perlu dibuat sepanjang hayat individu, terutamanya pelajar. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi pilihan kerjaya iaitu; pengaruh keluarga, minat peribadi, pertimbangan ekonomi, dan kesesuaian kerjaya, di kalangan pelajar Politeknik Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah (POLIMAS), Jitra, Kedah. Seramai 286 orang responden menjawab soal selidik dan hanya 278 soal selidik yang boleh digunakan untuk analisis. Data telah dianalisis dengan menggunakan perisian SPSS versi 25.0. Beberapa alat statistik digunakan seperti ujian kebolehpercayaan Alpha Cronbach, statistik deskriptif, korelasi Pearson, dan analisis regresi. Hasil kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa semua pembolehubah bebas iaitu; pengaruh keluarga, minat peribadi, pertimbangan ekonomi, dan penyesuaian kerjaya mempunyai hubungan yang signifikan dan positif dengan pilihan kerjaya. Adalah disyorkan bagi kajian pada masa akan datang supaya meluaskan saiz sampel merangkumi siswazah yang menganggur, pelajar dari universiti awam dan swasta, serta pelajar daripada pelbagai disiplin.

Keywords: pilihan kerjaya, pengaruh keluarga, minat peribadi, pertimbangan ekonomi, dan kesesuaian kerjaya



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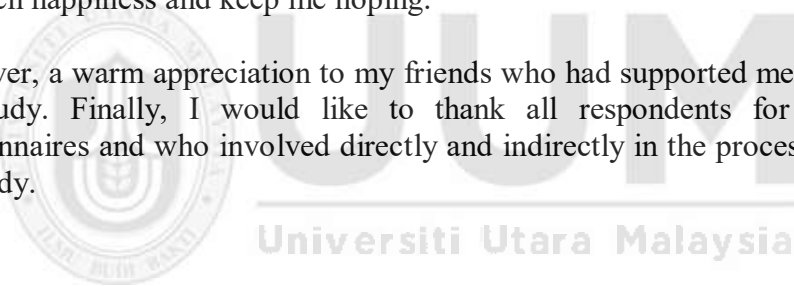


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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATIONS	FULL LIST
CGPA	Cumulative Grade Point Average
COL	Critical Occupation List
CSC	Critical Skills Monitoring Committee
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDI	Human Development Index
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IT	Information Technology
IoT	Internet of Things
MSCS	Malaysian Skills Certificate System
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
POLIMAS	Polytechnic Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah
SCCT	Social Cognitive Career Theory
SDFC	Skills Development Fund Corporation
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TPB	Theory of Planned Behavior
TRA	Theory of Reasoned Action
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
VC	Vocational College

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the background of the study, problem statements, research questions, research objectives, significance, scope and limitations of the study as well as the definition of key terms used.

1.2 Background of the Study

A choice of career made by an individual is a life-changing decision. Selecting a career is one of the most important choices that students need to make which will affect them throughout their lives (Olamide & Olawaiye, 2013). Career choice is not a new subject and we have been questioned about our future career since we were young. Children at school always being ask on questions such as “What would you like to be when you grow up?” (Fayadh, 2017). In Malaysia, the most popular occupations includes medical specialists, information technology (IT) professionals, engineers, teachers, accountants, businessman and architects (Afterschool.my, 2017; Natasha, 2018). The emergence of the Internet of Things (IoT) as well as Industrial Revolution 4.0 has affected the demand in certain career and it is expected that there will be growing in demand for individual with hybrid skills in 2019. There are many factors influencing an individual to start a career (Aamir & Amna, 2013). Some

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UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA

QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear participant,

I am AMALINA NAJAA BINTI SHUIB, Master of Science (Management) student in Universiti Utara Malaysia, currently conducting a study on **“Factors Determining Career Choice Among Students in Politeknik Sultan Abdul Halim Mu’adzam Shah (POLIMAS), Jitra, Kedah”**.

I would appreciate if you could spare approximately 15 minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire.

This questionnaire consists of two (2) sections. Section A questions about your background, while Section B about factors determining career choice.

Your response will be treated with confidentiality and it will be used for research purposes only. Thank you for your willingness to participate in this study.

Yours sincerely,

(AMALINA NAJAA BINTI SHUIB)

Master of Science (Management)

Universiti Utara Malaysia

Contact Number: 016-6683518

SECTION A: RESPONDENT'S BACKGROUND

Please provide basic information about yourself by ticking (✓) the appropriate response.

1) Your gender is:

Male

Female

2) Your race is:

Malay

Chinese

Indian

Other

3) Your age is between:

18 – 21

22 – 24

25 – 30

31 and above

4) Your programme is:

Diploma in Civil Engineering

Diploma in Electrical Engineering

5) Sources of funding for your education:

PTPTN

Parents / Family Members

Scholarship (JPA / MARA / Others)

Others (Please specify)

6) Your current Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA):

1.99 and below

2.00 – 2.49

2.50 – 2.99

3.00 – 3.49

3.50 – 4.00

SECTION B: FACTORS DETERMINING CAREER CHOICE

From the scale 1 to 5, please indicate your perception by ticking (√) after each statement under the column Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Neutral (3), Agree (4) or Strongly Agree (5).

Part 1: Career Choice

No	Items	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Neutral 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
1	I have definitely made a career choice					
2	I did/have done career research on my own					
3	Thinking about career choice now is not a waste of time					
4	I chose my current study programme by myself					

Part 2: Family Influence

No	Items	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Neutral 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
1	My parents had / will have great influence in my career choice					
2	Educational status of my parents can affect my career choice					
3	My parents' occupations determine my choice of career					
4	My parents chose my study programme					

Part 3: Personal Interests

No	Items	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Neutral 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
1	I enjoy learning about my current programme of study					
2	I enjoy sharing experiences of my study with my friends					
3	I always apply the skills/knowledge obtained from my study					
4	I always voluntarily engage in learning activities					

Part 4: Economic Considerations

No	Items	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Neutral 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
1	Money has been an issue in choosing a career					
2	Opportunities and privileges do affect career choice					
3	Living in a low socio-economic environment can affect the choice of career					

Part 5: Career Adaptability

No	Items	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Neutral 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
1	I am thinking about what my future career will be like					
2	I realized that what I decide today will shape my future					
3	I am planning how to achieve my objectives / goals					
4	I can perform my task efficiently					
5	I like to learn new things					
6	I will try to solve any problems and can overcome any obstacles					
7	I can make decisions by myself					
8	I investigate options before I make my decision					
9	I observe different ways to do things					
10	I am responsible for my actions					
11	I am curious about new opportunities					

Thank you for the time you spent to complete this questionnaire.