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THE ACCEPTANCE OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR TOWARDS THE EMPLOYMENT
OF EX-CONVICTS

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DECLARATION OF ORIGINAL WORK

“I hereby declare that this project paper is the result of my independent work except the summary and experts that have been specifically acknowledgement”

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DEDICATION

Special thanks to:

My beloved parent: Razani bin Hj. Mat Yusof and Rogayah binti Hj. Borhan,

Siblings,

Friends,

My supervisor:

Dr. Fam Soo Fen

For all the spirituals and moral support that had been given to me all the time.

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture is the most comprehensive word that used to denote the many ways in which crop plants and domestic animals sustain the global human population by providing food and other products. The Oxford English Dictionary (1971) defines which agriculture very broadly as “The science and art of cultivating the soil, including the allied pursuits of gathering in the crops and rearing live stock (sic); tillage, husbandry, farming (in the widest sense). The practice of agriculture is also known as "farming", while scientists, inventors and others involved to improving farming methods and implements are also be engaged in agriculture. We see that Malaysia is one of the exporter of agriculture source in Asia. According to (Quah, 1999), the agriculture sector in Malaysia has experienced a decline since the Government focusing more on the industrial and service sectors in the 1990s. Rate Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to decline from 13.5 per cent for 1995 to 7.2 percent in 2010. Convicts are given a chance and under proper guidance and training during in the prisons, they are equipped with skills that can help them when they return to society after they finish serving their sentences. Some of the main skills that they are taught include cooking, catering, bakery, frozen food, tailoring, doobby, handicraft, and spa and facial services. Some, of them would also be involved in agriculture activities to produce vegetables and fish.

Keywords: Agriculture, ex-convicts, skills

ABSTRAK

Pertanian adalah kata yang paling komprehensif yang digunakan untuk menunjukkan banyak cara di mana tumbuh-tumbuhan tanaman dan haiwan domestik mengekalkan populasi manusia global dengan menyediakan makanan dan produk lain. Oxford English Dictionary (1971) mendefinisikan pertanian yang sangat luas sebagai "sains dan seni menanam tanah, termasuk usaha bersekutu mengumpulkan tanaman dan membiayai stok hidup; pembiakan, penternakan, pertanian (dalam erti kata yang paling luas). Amalan pertanian juga dikenali sebagai "pertanian", manakala para saintis, pencipta dan lain-lain yang terlibat untuk memperbaiki kaedah pertanian dan alat-alat pertanian juga terlibat dalam bidang pertanian. Kami melihat bahawa Malaysia adalah salah satu pengeksport sumber pertanian di Asia. Menurut (Quah, 1999), sektor pertanian di Malaysia telah mengalami penurunan sejak Kerajaan memberi tumpuan lebih kepada sektor perindustrian dan perkhidmatan pada tahun 1990-an. Kadar Keluaran Dalam Negeri Kasar (KDNK) dijangka berkurang daripada 13.5 peratus bagi tahun 1995 kepada 7.2 peratus pada 2010. Para pesalah diberi peluang dan di bawah bimbingan dan latihan yang sewajarnya semasa dalam penjara, mereka dilengkapi dengan kemahiran yang dapat membantu mereka apabila mereka kembali kepada masyarakat selepas mereka selesai menjalani hukuman mereka. Beberapa kemahiran utama yang diajar ialah masakan, catering, roti, makanan beku, jahitan, doobby, kraf tangan, dan perkhidmatan spa dan muka. Ada juga yang terlibat dalam aktiviti pertanian untuk menghasilkan sayuran dan ikan.

Kata Kunci : *Pertanian, bekas banduan, kemahiran*

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THE ACCEPTANCE OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR TOWARDS THE EMPLOYMENT OF EX-CONVICTS

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This report present a case study to the acceptance of Malaysia agriculture sectors towards the employment of ex-convicts. In this chapter will explain the basic idea of this research where this is a general introduction on what is this research. In this, introduction also explain the idea generation step for this research. This research include background of study, problem statement, research question, research objective, scope of study, and the structure of whole thesis.

1.2 Background of the study

The background of this study is for proposal that incorporates a survey of the region being researched, the information flow encompassing the issue, the past studied or examination on the issue, and pertinent history on the issue. Furthermore, it is general overview of this research topic where introduces the turning ideas that will be using for this research. In this section also, discuss about the definition of the independent and dependent variables in this research.

1.2.1 Agriculture

Agriculture is the most comprehensive word that used to denote the many ways in which crop plants and domestic animals sustain the global human population by providing food and other products. The Oxford English Dictionary (1971) defines which agriculture very broadly as “The science and art of cultivating the soil, including the allied pursuits of gathering in the crops and rearing live stock (sic); tillage, husbandry, farming (in the widest sense). The practice of agriculture is also known as "farming", while scientists, inventors and others involved to improving farming methods and implements are also be engaged in agriculture. Subsistence farming, who farms a small area of farmings with limited resource inputs, and produces only enough food to meet the needs of his/her family. At the other end is also commercial intensive agriculture, including industrial agriculture.

1.2.2 Agriculture sector in Malaysia

We see that Malaysia is one of the exporter of agriculture source in Asia. According to (Quah, 1999), the agriculture sector in Malaysia has experienced a decline since the Government focusing more on the industrial and service sectors in the 1990s. Rate Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to decline from 13.5 per cent for 1995 to 7.2 percent in 2010. Prior to that, the previous sector Malaysia became independent until the 1980s had played a significant role in contributing to prolonged economic growth, eradication poverty, and food security of the country. Agriculture in Malaysia has been solidified over the past decade which has become an important source to maintain the agricultural production continuously as well as improving the economy of farmers. Agriculture Malaysia is a professional trade platform dedicated to the local and international industry stakeholders to explore the business opportunities that can enter and to learn the latest happenings. Responding to ‘Rancangan Malaysia ke-11 (RMK-11)’ on the basis of Malaysia's national development strategy focusing on economic development.

1.2.3 Ex-convicts

Convicts are also known as “prisoners” or by the slang term “con”, while a common label for former convicts, especially those recently released from prison will called “exconvicts”. The role of the Malaysian Prisons Department is to act as a professional rehabilitation center in Malaysia. Today, jail plays a bigger role. It's not just holding back offenders and criminals, and even become educational and rehabilitative institutions. At Malaysia now has 28 prisons located in four zones, north, south east and west (Melati, 2006). Convicts are given a chance and under proper guidance and training during in the prisons, they are equipped with skills that can help them when they return to society after

they finish serving their sentences. Some of the main skills that they are taught include cooking, catering, bakery, frozen food, tailoring, doobby, handicraft, and spa and facial services. Some, of them would also be involved in agriculture activities to produce vegetables and fish.

1.2 Problem statement

The community is required to accept the presence of the People's Liberation (ODP) and to provide their full support to their survival after completion of the rehabilitation program in prison. One of the main concerns in prisons systems is the rate of recidivism among released offenders (James, 2015). In newspaper Sinar Harian (2015), Deputy Secretary-General (Control & Enforcement) of the Home Ministry, Datuk Wahab Mohd Yasin, said that the poor perception of former prisoners or ODPs had to be changed and got cooperation from family members and the community. Recidivism is an important measure of how well a prison system is able to reintegrate offenders safely into the community (James, 2015). Various programs support inmates to help them cope not only with their daily activities within the prison but also to help them cope adapt within the community as soon as they are released (Latessa, 2010). In agriculture, the farmer acceptance is a major factor in assisting the ex-prisoners to survive in job life. This reduces the number of prisoners in Malaysia and reduces the cost to cover their needs in prison. To raise economic standards in the agricultural sector in Malaysia, farmers and the community should assist and accept ex-convicts with open hearts so that they can help meet the proportion of workers in Malaysia. Thereby reducing the rate of hiring of foreign workers by meeting the RMK-11 government's inspired policy of reducing dependence on foreign workers by 2020. In addition, the public acceptance of former prisoners as well as the need for their knowledge of the criminal background is also one of their probabilities to employ a former prisoner.

1.4 Research Questions

The research questions act as the guidelines for the study. The following question is the research question of this study:

- What are the background, criminal history, and educational background of ex-convicts that can fulfil farmer requirement to employ them?
- What are the most significant issues of the acceptance employment ex-convicts into agriculture sector?
- What are the conviction on criminal offense that will recommended for agriculture sector?

1.5 Research objectives

Research objectives are the promise which this research will find out the result and answer the research questions. The following are the research objectives for this study:

- To identify the background, criminal history, and vocational training of ex-convicts that can fulfil farmer requirement to employ them.
- To determine the most significant issues of the acceptance employment ex-convicts into agriculture sector?
- To provide the conviction on criminal offense that will recommended for agriculture sector.

1.6 Scope of study

This study was focuses on data which related with agriculture sector in south of peninsular Malaysia. Beside that, this study also focus on information from prison sector in south of peninsular Malaysia such Gemas Prison Department and Penjara Dato' Murad Melaka. This study uses a quantitative methods by collecting data through questionnaire survey where the respondents are collected among farmer and employer in agriculture sector in south of peninsular Malaysia. Data that collected from the respondents will help researcher to identify the acceptance of Malaysia agriculture sectors towards the employment of ex-convicts.

1.7 Limitation of study

Due to the some obstacles that occur, this research cannot provide a widespread of the acceptance of the agriculture sectors towards the employment of ex-convicts. These are few limitation such as financial problem, data collections and period of time in this study. Problem that might occur is financial problem that give limitation to this study. This occurs because researcher needs to go to every part of farmer or employer in agriculture sector around South of Peninsular Malaysia to distribute the questionnaire to them. Next, researcher may face some problem during the data collections, such some respondents are not giving full commitment when answering the questionnaire and at the end it will affect to the results later. Lastly, short period of time is one of the limitation of this study. This study is unable a lot of respondent because the duration of the study is less than one year. So, it is insufficient to getting the feedback from a wider range of respondents and may cause lack of response and data information.

1.8 Significant of this study

This study was given benefit either to the prison department in Malaysia and agriculture sectors in Malaysia when employ the ex-convicts into agriculture sector. So, the number and rate of prisoner in prison can be reduce and for agriculture can reduce the shortage worker problem and at the same time can reduce the foreign worker. So, we must to know their acceptance to the employment of ex-convicts.

This study also able to use in university and helps others academic researcher to use the result from this study and can be a references in conducting a new research.

1.9 Summary

This opening chapter was clearly explains this study that was conducted about the acceptance of agriculture sectors towards the employment of ex-convicts. This chapter also brief about the clear objective of the research and it research question as well as the scope which is the limitation, significant and also the scope itself for future study process.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher will reviews the related literature to the present study. Literature review provide and discuss about the background for understanding current knowledge on the study topic of this study through identifying knowledge gaps existing between the available information on agriculture sector labour problem with the acceptance of ex-convicts that have different criminal background, conviction of criminal offenses and vocational skill of ex-convicts. It also focus on the overview of the formal educational programs in prison, importance of work to reduce recidival, employer acceptance toward ex-convicts and the benefits to agriculture sector and prison and the conceptual framework.

2.1 Malaysia agriculture sector

Malaysia starts with an agricultural country that focuses primarily on commodity crops such as palm oil, rubber and coconut (Utusan Melayu, 2017). The history of the country was clearly dependent on the commodity crop sector which is now known as the agricultural industry run by the Ministry of Plantation and Commodity Industries (MPCI). The agriculture sector is one of the most important economic that increase developed in Malaysia compare than the industrial sector, service sector and others. The country's agricultural sector had through a great transformation from before independence to date involves the use of more modern and high agricultural technology tools in effort to produce of high quality foodstuff, high quantity and most importantly have guaranteed food security. The agriculture sector has once generated significant revenues to the country before the rise of the industrial glory era brought by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed's current government through industrialization. Before the government changed hands, Malaysia worked on a variety of commercial crops like a paddy fields, oil palm, black pepper , pineapple and others. Nevertheless, its importance is not entirely ignored because he has launched the National Agricultural Policy which is in fact a guide to the development of this sector.

Additionally, this agricultural sector is able to provide considerable employment opportunities to many people in our country. Since the time of our ancestors, agriculture is a heritage job that generates a family economy, especially in developing countries like Malaysia, the agriculture sector contributes to high employment opportunities. Keep in mind that the definitions of employment in the agricultural sector not only work on farms, but also include processing and marketing in this sector. The reality is that villagers are relying heavily on this sector as they have wider or bigger land for work and easy to get labor. Furthermore, this job does not require higher qualification than professional or semi professional work. It is unlikely that the sector will be able to generate substantial income to the country and the farmers. As we know, the appropriate climate in our country and soil are capable of generating good returns. Farmers harvested by small farmers can be sold to wholesalers at reasonable prices to be used as sustenance connectors. For commercial crops, the country will increase Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through