



Graduates' Employability through the University Entrepreneurship Curriculum Implementation: The Malaysian Context

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R e s e a r c h H i g h l i g h t s

Unemployment among Malaysian graduates has become a grievous issue, which attracts serious debates at several intellectual forums, seminars, conferences and other intellectual platforms. The concerned parties are government, academics, non-governmental agencies, academics and others. The issue makes other countries to question the Malaysian educational system and extensively affects the Malaysia's vision of becoming developed country in 2025 (Ekpe, 2017). Thus, Malaysian government has identified three measures that could help to tackle the problem of unemployment among graduates. One, reforming the curricula to ensure quality and training. This was highlighted by the Prime Minister in his Budget speech in 2013. Second, the recent implementation of "1 Malaysia Training Scheme (SLIM) in 2011. Third, reforming the higher education curricula to stimulate the students' mind set towards entrepreneurship (Bin Yusuf, Zainol & Bin Ibrahim, 2015; Bustamam & Abdul Halit, 2016). Nevertheless, the recent statistics (December, 2012-January, 2013), portray high level of unemployment among the graduates at the rate of 2.4 percent; and relatively signifies that



graduates in Malaysia do not participate much in SLIM (Shamsuddin & Mohamed Mahfol, 2013; Statistics Labour Force, 2013).

Graphical Abstract (optional)

Research Objectives

The objectives of this paper are:

To review the practice of entrepreneurship course in Malaysian universities

To find out the extent to which the course helps in promoting skills acquisition

To find out the extent to which the course helps in reducing unemployment rate among graduates

Purpose of the Study

Malaysia as a developing country has been planning and executing various salient program that could help to create job opportunities and reduce rate of graduates' unemployment. However, the phenomenon is becoming so striking among the Malaysian youths. For instance, in 2015, 2016 and 2017, the rate fluctuated to 3.1%, 3.44 and 3.42% respectively (Labour Force in Malaysia, 2017). Hence, this study intends to review the practice of entrepreneurship program in Malaysian universities, including the achievements, through reviewing the available literature

Methodology

This research is a review of the literature on entrepreneurship program practices in Malaysian universities, achievements and challenges. Thus, the study analyzed the previous researches on the implementation of the program, and the yet unresolved issue of the university graduates' unemployment, which is the primary motive behind introducing the program. The paper used secondary data sourced from reputable academic journals such as, SAGE Premier, SpringerLink, Taylor & JSTOR, Scopus and Emerald. Relevant articles related to the study were extracted and analyzed. Again, only papers written in English were used and the period



used to sourced and analyzed the data was between August to November 2018. More so, peer-reviewed academic papers relevant to the study were also used.

Findings

The findings reveal the Malaysian universities, through the Ministry of higher Education have introduced and implemented the entrepreneurship program; established relevant activities centres, workshops and programs; yet, for more than a decade there has been an increase in the rate of unemployment among the University graduates in Malaysia. Again, several employers in Malaysia, over the years, commented negatively about the employed graduates in their industry. They complained that the graduates lack desired skills and creativity to sustain the industrious development. Therefore, this paper recommends for a robust evaluation of the entrepreneurship course implementation at the Universities level in Malaysia. In addition, the policymakers should propose other programs that would help in solving the current issues

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