A SURVEY ON THE NEEDS OF RESEARCH ON DEVELOPING EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS MODEL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES IN VOCATIONAL STREAM TOWARDS MEETING THE INDUSTRY NEEDS

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ABSTRACT

The unemployment issue among Special Education Needs Students with Learning Disabilities (SENSwLD) is getting worse in Malaysia. This study was conducted to identify the level of marketability SENSwLD who are Sekolah Menengah Pendidikan Khas Vokasional (SMPKV) leaver throughout Malaysia and to survey on a needs of developing the employability skills model of (SENSwLD) in vocational stream towards meeting the needs of the industry. The result show that the marketability of SENSwLD of SMPKV leaver is at a low level and they need the development of employability skills model for SENSwLD in vocational stream towards meeting the needs of industry.

Keywords: Special Education Needs Students, Learning Disabilities, Vocational Stream, Unemployment, Employability Skills, Marketability, Industry Needs

Research Objectives

The objectives of this study are:

1. Identify the level of marketability of Special Education Needs Students with Learning Disabilities (SENSwLD) in Sekolah Menengah Pendidikan Khas Vokasional (SMPKV)
2. To survey on a needs of developing the employability skills model of Special Education Needs Students with Learning Disabilities (SENSwLD) in vocational stream towards meeting the needs of the industry.

Methodology

This study is a quantitative study in the form of a survey. The analysis technique used is descriptive data analysis technique using Rasch Model through winstep software version 3.69.111. The population for this study is Special Education Needs Students with Learning Disabilities who have completed school sessions at SMPKV throughout Malaysia. Researchers use voluntary sampling techniques. A total of 44 respondents were involved in this study. A set of questionnaires was used as an instrument for this study. The questionnaire used consists of sections A, B and C. Section A contains questionnaires related to the demographics of the respondents. Part B contains a questionnaire to assess the marketability level of SENSwLD of SMPKV leaver. Part C contains an assessment questionnaire on the development needs of the model of employability skills of SENSwLD vocational stream towards meeting the needs of the industry. The Cronbach alpha value of the SENSwLD of SMPKV leaver for marketability assessment instrument IS 0.71 and the cronbach alpha value for assessment of the development needs of the workability skills model of Students with Special Education Needs with Learning Vocational streams towards meeting the needs of the industry is 1.00.

Results

To identify the level of marketability level of SENSwLD of SMPKV leaver, winstep software version 3.69.111 was used. Descriptive analysis was used in this study to determine the mean value. Based on the analysis, the mean value of the score for the marketability level of
MBPKBP graduates of SMPKV is 61.3 / 44 = 1.39. Based on Landell’s (1997) mean interpretation table, the value of 1.39 is at a mean score of 1.00 to 2.33 which indicates a low tendency level.

As a result of the survey on a needs of developing the employability skills model of Special Education Needs Students with Learning Disabilities (SENSwLD) in vocational stream towards meeting the needs of the industry, it was found that 48% of respondents felt that the welfare of SENSwLD in terms of job opportunities is not taken care of. 80% of respondents or 35 respondents felt that the solution to the problem of mismatch the employability skills required by employers with the employability skills owned by SENSwLD of SMPKV leaver needs to be identified. 82% of respondents or 36 respondents agreed with the development of SENSwLD employability skills model towards meeting the needs of the industry.

Findings

Based on the result of the study, it shows that the level of marketability of SENSwLD SMPKV leaver is low. This corresponds to a study conducted by Ju et al. (2011) where the findings show that the main factor that causes people with disabilities to be barred from getting a place in the open job market is because they do not master of employability skills. 59% of respondents or 26 respondents work full time. This shows that 7 respondents who are working are only part-time worker. This shows that SENSwLD SMPKV leaver face difficulties in getting a permanent job and employed by employers. Based on the result of survey on a needs of developing the employability skills model of SENSwLD in vocational stream towards meeting the needs of the industry, it shows that SENSwLD need a development of SENSwLD employability skills model towards meeting the needs of the industry.

References


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