BELIEFS AND INTENTION IN CHOOSING AGRICULTURE AS A CAREER AMONG ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS’ STUDENTS

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By

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The study involved 698 form four agricultural students in academic and technical schools in four zones of peninsular Malaysia (North zone, Central zone, South zone, and East zone). The respondents consisted of students from four groups. First were students who enrolled in agriculture science subjects in academic schools. Second were students who enrolled in agriculture vocational subjects in academic schools. Third were students who enrolled in agriculture subjects in technical schools and the fourth group were students who enrolled in agriculture vocational subjects in technical school. The study aims to examine students' beliefs and intention towards choosing agriculture as a career. The variables studied were attitudinal beliefs, normative beliefs, and intentions towards choosing agriculture as a career. The instrument employed in this study was adapted from the instrument used in the studies which also measures people's
belief and intention. Stratified sampling was applied to ensure that a representative sample from the population of agriculture students was obtained in this study. The response rate for this study was 87.3%. The findings indicate that attitudinal belief for construct ‘contribution to other people or organization’ shows the highest mean value of belief among agriculture students. Findings also indicate that mothers and agricultural teachers were among the people who strongly influenced students towards choosing agriculture as a career. Overall, agriculture students showed a high level of intention towards choosing agriculture as a career. However, ANOVA confirms that demographic characteristic namely types of agriculture subjects enrolled were found to have significant difference in students’ beliefs \([F (3,692, P<.05) = 20.88]\) and intentions \([F (3,694, P<.05) = 14.36]\) towards choosing agriculture as a career. In addition, Correlation test indicates that attitudinal belief for construct ‘perception of other people close to students’, demonstrated a very high relationship with students’ intention of choosing agriculture as a career.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Master Sains

KEPERCAYAAN DAN HASRAT TERHADAP PEMILIHAN KERJAYA DALAM BIDANG PERTANIAN DALAM KALANGAN PELAJAR PERTANIAN

Oleh

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Pengerusi : Profesor Madya Ramlah Hamzah, PhD
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Kajian ini melibatkan 698 pelajar pertanian tingkatan empat dari sekolah menengah harian dan sekolah menengah teknik di semenanjung Malaysia (zon utara, zon tengah, zon selatan dan zon pantai timur). Pelajar pertanian yang terlibat dalam kajian adalah pelajar yang mengambil mata pelajaran pertanian iaitu (1) pelajar yang mengambil mata pelajaran sains pertanian di sekolah menengah harian (2) pelajar yang mengambil mata pelajaran vokasional pertanian di sekolah menengah harian (3) pelajar yang mengambil mata pelajaran pertanian dalam aliran teknikal di sekolah teknik dan (4) pelajar yang mengambil mata pelajaran pertanian dalam aliran vokasional di sekolah teknik. Kajian ini bertujuan mengkaji kepercayaan dan hasrat pelajar pertanian terhadap pemilihan kerjaya dalam bidang pertanian. Antara pembolehubah yang dikaji adalah kepercayaan attitudinal, kepercayaan normative, dan hasrat...
terhadap pemilihan kerjaya dalam bidang pertanian. Dalam pengumpulan data, soal selidik yang digunakan adalah direka bentuk berdasarkan soal selidik yang digunakan dalam kajian-kajian yang telah mengkaji kepercayaan dan hasrat seseorang. Kaedah persempelan berlapis digunakan untuk memastikan bahawa setiap persempelan dapat mewakili populasi pelajar pertanian di semenajung Malaysia diperoleh. Kadar respon untuk kajian ini ialah 87.3%. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan konstruk ‘sumbangan kepada orang lain atau organisasi’ memberikan nilai min kepercayaan attitudinal tertinggi pelajar pertanian. Bagi kepercayaan normative pula, ibu dan guru mata pelajaran pertanian dilihat memberi pengaruh yang kuat terhadap kepercayaan pelajar memilih pertanian sebagai kerjaya. Secara keseluruhan, pelajar pertanian menunjukkan hasrat yang tinggi dalam memilih kerjaya dalam bidang pertanian. Namun begitu, ujian ANOVA menunjukan faktor demografi iaitu jenis mata pelajaran yang diambil oleh pelajar menunjukan perbezaan yang signifikan terhadap kepercayaan [F(3,692,P<.05)=20.88] dan hasrat [F(3,692,P<.05)=20.88] pelajar dalam pemilihan kerjaya dalam bidang pertanian. Dari aspek hubungan diantara kepercayaan attitudinal dan hasrat pelajar untuk memilih pertanian sebagai kerjaya, konstruk ‘persepsi dari orang lain’ yang hampir dengan pelajar menujukkan hubungan yang sangat tinggi dengan hasrat pelajar.
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I certify that an Examination Committee met on 26 November 2010 to conduct
the final examination of Nur Husna bt Abd Wahid on her Master of Science
thesis entitled “Beliefs and Intentions in Choosing Agriculture as a Career
Among Academic and Technical Schools’ Students” in accordance with
Universities and University Collages Act 1971 and the Constitution of the
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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotation and citation which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other Institutions.

_____________________________________________________

NUR HUSNA BT ABD WAHID

Date:
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