



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***SOCIAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN AT  
RISK FOR ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER  
IN KARAJ, IRAN***

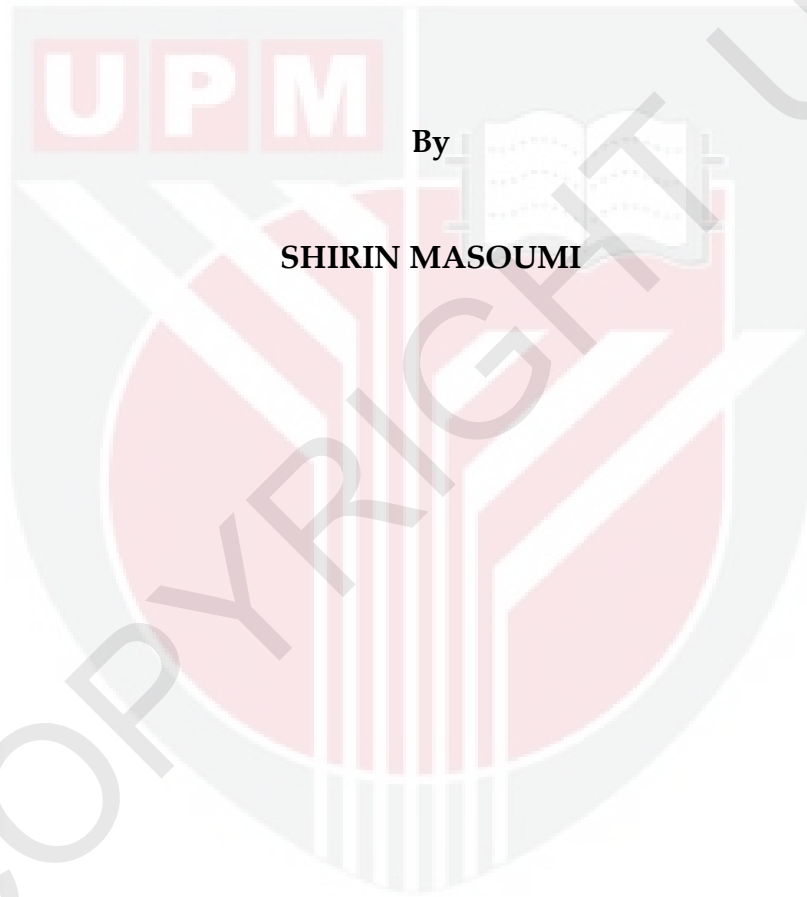
**SHIRIN MASOUMI**

**FEM 2012 13**

**SOCIAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN AT RISK  
FOR ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER  
IN KARAJ, IRAN**

By

**SHIRIN MASOUMI**



© Thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, University Putra  
Malaysia, in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of  
Science

February 2012

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in  
fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

**SOCIAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN AT RISK  
FOR ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER  
IN KARAJ, IRAN**

By

**SHIRIN MASOUMI**

February 2012

**Chairman: Mohamad Ibrani Shahrinin Bin Adam Assim, PhD**

**Faculty: Human Ecology**

The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between demographic variables and social skills among preschool children at risk for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in Karaj, Iran. The study provided research information on the relationships existing between demographic variables toward social skills among preschool children at risk for ADHD. A total of 108 respondents were selected through random sampling method to participate in this study. Respondents completed the Persian version of Teacher/Preschool of SSRS scale (Gresham & Elliott, 1990) to measure children's social skills level. ADHDT by Gilliam (1995) and SWAN by Swanson et al. (2004) Rating Scales were used to screen children at risk for ADHD. The results of this study were analyzed using descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation and multiple linear regressions. The findings in this study showed girls have higher level of social

skills subsets compared to boys. The study also found that social skills have significant and positive correlation with children's age, parents' education levels, family's income level and ADHD symptoms. Results from multiple regression analysis revealed that 59.6% of preschoolers' social skills were explained by two predictor variables, which were age and family's income level. The relationships between demographic variables and at risk for ADHD within the context of preschoolers' social skills were more reasonably based on the model of this study. Finally, the study argued that the early detection of preschool children's social skills may increase the chances of early intervention of social skills among preschool children. Finally, the study suggested the role of teachers in facilitating children's social functioning, as well as training for kindergarten and preschool teachers in Karaj, Iran.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia  
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PENILAIAN KEMAHIRAN SOSIAL KANAK-KANAK PRASEKOLAH  
YANG BERISIKO KECELARUAN ATTENTION DEFICIT  
HYPERACTIVITY DI KARAJ, IRAN**

oleh

**SHIRIN MASOUMI**

**Februari, 2012**

**Pengerusi: Mohamad Ibrani Shahrinin Bin Adam Assim, PhD**

**Fakulti: Ekologi Manusia**

Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji perkaitan antara pembolehubah demografi dan kemahiran sosial dalam kalangan kanak-kanak pra-sekolah berisiko mengalami *attention deficit hyperactivity disorder* di karaj, Iran. Kajian ini menyediakan maklumat mengenai perkaitan yang wujud antara pembolehubah demografi terhadap kemahiran sosial dalam kalangan kanak-kanak pra-sekolah yang berisiko terhadap ADHD. Sejumlah 108 responden telah dipilih menerusi kaedah persampelan rawak di dalam kajian ini. Responden melengkapkan skala Teacher/Preschool of SSRS versi Persian (Gresham & Elliott, 1990) bagi mengukur tahap kemahiran sosial kanak-kanak. Skala penilaian ADHDT oleh Gilliam (1995) dan SWAN oleh Swanson et al. (2004) telah digunakan bagi manapis kanak-kanak berisiko terhadap ADHD. Keputusan daripada kajian ini telah dianalisis menggunakan statistik deskriptif, korelasi Pearson dan regresi

linear pelbagai. Hasil daripada kajian ini menunjukkan perempuan berada di tahap yang lebih tinggi dalam kemahiran sosial berbanding lelaki. Kajian ini juga mendapati bahawa kemahiran sosial mempunyai hubungan signifikan dan positif terhadap umur kanak-kanak, tahap pendidikan ibu bapa, tahap pendapatan keluarga dan simptom ADHD. Hasil daripada analisis regresi pelbagai menunjukkan bahawa 59.6% kemahiran sosial kanak-kanak pra-sekolah dijelaskan oleh dua pemboleh ubah peramal iaitu umur dan tahap pendapatan keluarga. Perkaitan antara pemboleh ubah demografi dan risiko terhadap ADHD dalam konteks kemahiran sosial kanak-kanak pra-sekolah adalah lebih berdasarkan model kajian ini. Akhir sekali, kajian ini berhujah bahawa penekanan awal terhadap kemahiran sosial kanak-kanak pra-sekolah akan meningkatkan peluang untuk intervensi awal terhadap tingkah laku kemahiran sosial dalam kalangan kanak-kanak pra-sekolah. Kajian ini mencadangkan peranan guru dalam memudah cara fungsi sosial kanak-kanak, serta latihan guru untuk tadika dan pra-sekolah di Karaj, Iran.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Dr. Mohamad Ibrani Shahrudin Bin Adam Assim, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mansor AbuTalib, and Dr. Mariani Mansor for their constant support and positive feedback throughout this project. I would also like to thank my examination committee members for their active involvements throughout the process of my schedules. Thanks to all of you.



I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 13 February 2012 to conduct the final examination of Shirin Masoumi on her thesis entitled "Relationship between demographic variables and social skills among preschool children at risk for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in karaj, Iran" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

Members of the Thesis Examination Committee were as follows:

**Ahmad Hariza bin Hashim, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Human Ecology  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Chairman)

**Mariani Bte Mansor, PhD**

Senior Lecturer  
Faculty of Human Ecology  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Internal Examiner)

**Haslinda Abdullah, PhD**

Senior Lecturer  
Faculty of Human Ecology  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Internal Examiner)

**Khaidzir Hj Ismail, PhD**

Associate Professor  
School of Psychology and Human Development  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia  
(External Examiner)

---

**SEOW HENG FONG, PhD**

Professor and Deputy Dean  
School of Graduate Studies  
University Putra Malaysia

Date:



This thesis was submitted to the Senate of University Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science. The members of the supervisory Committee were as follows:

**Mohamad Ibrani Shahrinin Bin Adam Assim, PhD**

Senior Lecturer  
Faculty of Human Ecology  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Chairman)

**Mansor Abu Talib, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Human Ecology  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Member)

---

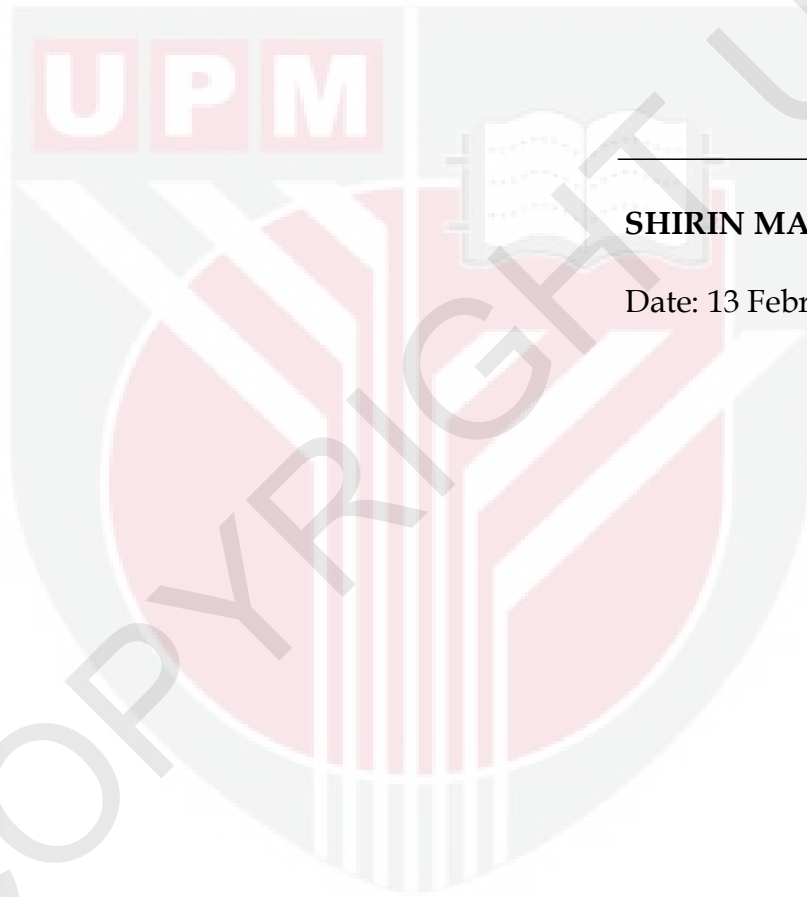
**BUJANG BIN KIM HUAT, PhD**

Professor and Dean  
School of Graduate Studies  
University Putra Malaysia

Date:

## DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations, which have been suitably 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 institution.



---

**SHIRIN MASOUMI**

Date: 13 February 2012



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	ii
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	iv
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	vi
<b>APPROVAL</b>	vii
<b>DECLARATION</b>	ix
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xii
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xiii
<b>LIST OF APPENDICES</b>	Xiv
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xv
<b>CHAPTER</b>	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background of the study	1
1.2 Problem Statement	5
1.3 Significance of the study	11
1.4 Research Objectives	14
1.5 Hypothesis	15
1.6 Definition of Terms	16
1.7 Theoretical Framework	18
1.8 Conceptual Framework	25
1.9 Scope of the Study	28
1.10 Conclusion	29
<b>2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>30</b>
2.1 Social Skills among Pre-school children	30
2.1.1 ADHD and Social Skills	34
2.1.2 Gender Differences and Social Skills	39
2.2 Demographic Characteristics and social Skills	43
2.2.1 Parents' education level and Social skills in preschool children with at risk for ADHD	46
2.2.2 Family income level and social skills in preschool children with at risk for ADHD	48
2.2.3 Parents' marital status and Social skills in preschool	51
2.3 Relationship between social skills and demographic variables	52
2.4 Conclusion	54
<b>3 METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>56</b>
3.1 Research Design	56
3.2 Study Location	57

3.3	Participants	57
3.4	Sampling	59
3.4.1	Population	59
3.4.2	Sampling Method	60
3.4.3	Sample size determination	60
3.4.4	Sampling Frame	61
3.5	Data collection	63
3.5.1	Data collection procedure	63
3.6	Instruments	64
3.6.1	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Test(ADHDT)	65
3.6.2	The SWAN Rating Scale for ADHD	70
3.6.3	Social Skills Rating System(SSRS)	73
3.7	Pilot test	76
3.8	Data Analysis	78
3.9	Conclusion	79
<b>4</b>	<b>RESULT AND DISCUSSION</b>	<b>80</b>
4.1	Profile of Respondents	80
4.2	Scores of Social Skills level by Demographic variables	83
4.3	Hypothesis Testing	93
4.3.1	Comparisons of social skills between boys and girls	93
4.3.2	Examination of the relationship between demographic variables (age of child and ADHD-symptoms, parent's education level, family's income with social skills	97
4.4	Determining unique predictors for social skills level of children at risk for ADHD	108
4.5	Conclusion	113
<b>5</b>	<b>SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>114</b>
5.1	Summary of the findings	114
5.2	Conclusion	118
5.3	Implication of Findings	120
5.4	Limitation of the study	123
5.5	Recommendation	124
5.5.1	Recommendation for teachers, parents and other agencies	124
5.5.2	Recommendation for future researchers	125
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>127</b>
	<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>141</b>
	<b>BIODATA OF THE STUDENT</b>	<b>153</b>