DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTUAL MODEL AS PRACTICED IN MALAYSIA

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FPP 2012 51
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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

2012
DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
CONCEPTUAL MODEL AS PRACTICED IN MALAYSIA

By

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Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in fulfilment of the Requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

November 2012
DEDICATION

To

my father K.N. Devadas

my mother N. Sarojani Devi

my wife A. Priyanthi Silva

and

my brothers and sisters

for all their sacrifices
Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTUAL MODEL AS PRACTICED IN MALAYSIA

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UDAYA MOHAN DEVADAS

November 2012

Chairman : Professor Abu Dausd Bin Silong, PhD

Faculty : Educational Studies

National Human Resource Development (NHRD) is an important national policy agenda in many countries and has been an emerging research agenda. In contributing to it, this study described and articulated the nature of NHRD practices within Malaysia eventually aggregating this understanding into a conceptual model.

The literature review of this study demarcated traditional HRD and modern HRD while placing NHRD as a modern and macro HRD showing its plausibility to resolve contemporary HRD challenges in the face of achieving national development.

A qualitative approach, designed as a case study method using Straussian grounded theory was adopted. The overarching research question of this study was ‘which conceptual model will facilitate, as common knowledge, to describe and understand the nature of NHRD within Malaysia?’ This was assisted by three sub research questions to study separately the pressures and imperatives of NHRD; NHRD initiatives, their outcomes, and the characteristics; and the facilitating and resisting
forces of NHRD’s implementation. Data were gathered from the Ninth and the Tenth Malaysia Plans and from 19 interviews held at 11 relevant ministries. In resolving the overarching research question, the study constructed a conceptual model depicting the pressures and imperatives that pull NHRD at its planning level, the enabling and hindering forces that influence in and the challenges that are confronted with NHRD plan implementation, as well as the NHRD outcomes resulted in the achievement of national goals in resolving Malaysia’s national challenges.

It was found that Human Capital and Talent Development (HCTD) represents NHRD within Malaysia to supply the needed human capital in order to cater to the economic development needs aiming at achieving the country’s long term goal—vision 2020. This HCTD is highly influenced by the global environment conditions through Malaysia’s economic conditions. However, the government plays a key role cushioning the Malaysia’s domestic economy against the global environment pressures to fortify the economic activities and country’s socio-cultural conditions through its strong leadership and proactive national planning. At its implementation, NHRD has been facilitated, hindered and challenged by the factors from the areas pertaining to government, resources, cooperation, and socio-cultural context.

The understanding obtained regarding Malaysia’s NHRD is useful to the practitioners in their national policy decisions and determining the needed interventions in implementing them. Importantly, this study contributes to the development of NHRD theory in terms of new knowledge generated on Malaysia’s NHRD and the methodological insights employed in deriving such knowledge.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

PEMBENTUKAN MODEL PEMBANGUNAN SUMBER MANUSIA
NEGARA YANG DIAMALKAN DI MALAYSIA

Oleh
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November 2012

Pengerusi : Professor Abu Daud Bin Silong, PhD
Fakulti : Pengajian Pendidikan


Pendekatan kualitatif, dibentuk berdasarkan kaedah kajian kes menggunakan ‘grounded theory’ Straussian, telah dipilih untuk kajian ini. Soalan utama kajian ialah ‘Apakah model konseptual yang boleh membimbing ke arah pemahaman amalan pembangunan sumber manusia kebangsaan di Malaysia? Ini dibantu oleh tiga soalan tambahan kajian yang mengkaji secara berasingan cabaran dan kepentingan

v
pembangunan sumber manusia kebangsaan; inisiatif NHRD, hasil dan ciri; serta kuasa membantu dan mengekang pelaksanaan NHRD. Data dikutip dari dokumen Rancangan Malaysia ke Sembilan dan Sepuluh serta daripada 19 temubual yang dilakukan di 11 kementerian berkaitan. Dalam menjawab soalan kajian, penyelidikan membentuk model konsep yang dinamakan yang menggambarkan tekanan dan imperatif yang mengikat NHRD di peringkat perancangan, kuasa penggalak dan pengekang dan cabaran yang dihadapi dalam pelaksanaan NHRD, serta hasil NHRD daripada pencapaian matlamat Negara dalam menangani cabaran nasional Malaysia.

Didapati bahawa Pembangunan Modal Insan dan Bakat (HCTD) NHRD di Malaysia adalah terhad kepada penyediaan modal insan yang diperlukan bagi membantu memenuhi tuntutan pembangunan ekonomi bagi mencapai matlamat jangka panjang Negara iaitu Wawasan 2020. HCTD ini banyak dipengaruhi oleh keadaan persekitaran global. Walaubagaimanapun, kerajaan memainkan peranan utama menyokong ekonomi tempatan dalam mendepani tekanan persekitaran global dengan meningkatkan aktiviti ekonomi dan keadaan sosiobudaya melalui kepemimpinan yang mantap dan perancangan negara yang proaktif. Dari segi pelaksanaan, NHRD membimbing, mempertahan dan mencabar faktor bidang berkaitan kerajaan, sumber, kerjasama dan konteks sosio-budaya. Dapatan yang dihasilkan daripada kajian ini sangat berguna untuk pengamal yang terlibat dalam NHRD di Malaysia bagi memahami keadaan semasa NHRD Malaysia, penambahbaikan dan perubahan yang perlu diusahakan, dan intervensi yang diperlukan untuk menanganinya. Kajian juga menyumbang kepada pembinaan teori NHRD dari segi pengetahuan baharu mengenai NHRD Malaysia dan kaedah metodologi yang sesuai bagi mendapatkan maklumat berkenaan.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to the God for giving me this life and helping me to exist in this world in this height.

I owe my deepest gratitude to my supervisor Professor Dr. Abu Daud Silong, Faculty of Educational Studies for his invaluable guidance, supervision, advices, directions, and intellectual association that I received throughout my Ph D journey.

It is an honour for me to be grateful to Associate professor Dr. Ismi Arif Ismail, lecturer and a Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Educational Studies, and a member of my supervisory committee, for his invaluable contribution made in guiding, directing and helping me to complete this study in an outstanding manner.

This thesis would not have been possible unless I did not receive the cooperation of people like Dr. Abdul Lateef Abdullha as a member in my supervisory committee whose guidance and directions immensely contributed to this achievement.

It is a pleasure to thank to my University in Sri Lanka and to all the staff and the friends in the faculty of Educational Studies in the UPM for all the encouragements given to me.

I express my gratitude to all the officers in the Ministries in Malaysia who gave me a tremendous support as the key respondents in my study.

It's unforgettable the love and care I received from my wife in all the times with my parents, brothers and sisters, and my friends.
I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 20\textsuperscript{th} November 2012 to conduct the final examination of Udaya Mohan Devadas on his thesis entitled “Development of a National Human Resource Development Conceptual Model as Practiced in Malaysia” 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 awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

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DECLARATION

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

UDAYA MOHAN DEVADAS
Date: 20 November 2012
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