UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

INFLUENCE OF PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLES ON STUDENTS’ CAREER MATURITY

CHRISTINE CHAN

FPP 2014 10
INFLUENCE OF PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLES ON STUDENTS’ CAREER MATURITY

By

CHRISTINE CHAN

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

February 2014
COPYRIGHT

All material contained within the thesis, including without limitation text, logos, icons, photographs, and all other artwork, is copyright material of Universiti Putra Malaysia unless otherwise stated. Use may be made of any material contained within the thesis for non-commercial purposes from the copyright holder. Commercial use of material may only be made with the express, prior, written permission of Universiti Putra Malaysia.

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

INFLUENCE OF PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLES ON STUDENTS’ CAREER MATURITY

By

CHRISTINE CHAN

February 2014

Chairman: Associate Prof. Sidek Mohd Noah, PhD.

Faculty: Educational Studies

In Malaysia, along with the academic performance, career decision making is one of the most crucial decisions an adolescent must make especially when they need to make a choice to which stream of studies they are going to enroll. Many research have confirmed that adolescents with low level of career maturity will not be ready to make career decision as they will be easily affected by their significant others such as parents who are still the primary influence in affecting adolescents’ decision making. Little is known about the influence of parenting styles towards children career maturity in the perspective of Malaysian communities that comprise multi ethnicities such as Malay, Chinese and Indian that are staying in collectivist culture. Therefore, this study is conducted to bridge a gap in the current literature by exploring the influence of perceived parenting styles on career maturity of students.

This study adopted correlation research design involving 228 Form Four students in Hulu Langat, Selangor who had been selected through proportionate random sampling. Career Maturity Inventory-Attitude Scale Screening Form A-2 (CMI-AS) was used to measure the level of career maturity while Parental Authority Questionnaire (PAQ) was used to measure the parenting style of parents as perceived by the Form Four students. This study reveals that ethnicity would not determine the types of parenting styles as one ethnicity practices different types of parenting styles. Besides, this study also found that the levels of career maturity were at the medium and high levels where respondents were ready to cope with the career developmental task. The results of T-Test indicated that there were no significant difference of career maturity between male and female students. Moreover, results from the Two-Way ANOVA analysis suggested that there were a significant interaction between the effects of ethnicity and parents’ parenting styles on students’ career maturity \[ F (2, 219) = 3.286, p = .012 \]. Results from the Pearson
Correlation analysis showed that only authoritative parenting style and permissive parenting style were significantly correlated with career maturity.

Results of this study have highlighted the importance of including parents and ethnicity variables when exploring career maturity of students. It is recommended that counselors should involve parents in helping students to make career decisions, besides understanding the values hold by different cultures and religions. Other relevant variables and related samples are suggested to be included in future studies of students’ career maturity.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

PENGARUH PERSEPSI GAYA KEIBUBAPAAAN TERHADAP KEMATANGAN KERJAYA DI KALANGAN PELAJAR

Oleh

CHRISTINE CHAN

Februari 2014

Pengerusi: Prof. Madya Sidek Mohd Noah, PhD
Fakulti: Pengajian Pendidikan

Di Malaysia, selain daripada prestasi akademik, membuat keputusan kerjaya merupakan salah satu daripada keputusan yang paling penting harus dibuat oleh remaja terutamanya ketika mereka perlu memilih aliran pelajaran. Kajian telah mengesahkan bahawa remaja yang mempunyai tahap kematangan kerjaya yang rendah tidak bersedia untuk membuat keputusan kerjaya kerana mereka dengan mudahnya dipengaruhi terutamanya oleh ibu bapa kerana ibu bapa dianggap sebagai individu yang penting dalam mempengaruhi keputusan yang dibuat oleh remaja. Kajian yang berkaitan dengan pengaruh gaya keibubapaaan terhadap remaja di Malaysia yang merangkumi pelbagai etnik seperti Melayu, Cina dan India yang hidup dalam budaya kolektivisme masih lagi tidak mencukupi. Oleh itu, kajian ini penting dalam memberikan lebih banyak pengetahuan dan maklumat berkaitan dengan pengaruh gaya keibubapaaan terhadap kematangan kerjaya pelajar.

Kajian ini telah menggunakan reka bentuk korelasi yang melibatkan 228 orang pelajar Tingkatan Empat di Hulu Langat, Selangor yang telah dipilih melalui persampelan rawak berkadar. Inventori Kematangan Kerjaya- Ujian Skala Sikap Borang A-2 (CMI-AS) telah digunakan untuk mengukur tahap kematangan kerjaya manakala borang sola-selidik Gaya Keibubapaaan (PAQ) telah digunakan untuk mengukur gaya keibubapaaan daripada perspektif pelajar Tingkatan Empat. Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa etnik tidak akan menentukan jenis gaya keibubapaaan kerana setiap etnik mengamalkan gaya keibubapaaan yang berbeza-beza. Selain itu, kajian ini juga mendapati bahawa tahap kematangan kerjaya pelajar berada pada tahap sederhana dan tinggi di mana responden telah bersedia ke arah perkembangan kerjaya mereka. Keputusan analisis Ujian-T menunjukkan bahawa tidak terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan dari segi kematangan
kerjaya antara pelajar lelaki dan pelajar perempuan. Selain itu, analisis ANOVA Dua Hala menunjukkan terdapat interaksi yang signifikan antara etnik dan gaya keibubapaan terdapat kematangan kerjaya [F (2, 219) = 3.286, p = .012]. Manakala, analisis Korelasi Pearson menunjukkan hanya gaya keibubapaan autoritatif dan gaya keibubapaan permisif mempunyai hubungan yang signifikan dengan kematangan kerjaya pelajar.

Hasil kajian ini telah menunjukkan kepentingan ibu bapa dalam mempengaruhi kematangan kerjaya pelajar. Kajian ini mencadangkan supaya kaunselor melibatkan ibu bapa dalam membantu pelajar membuat keputusan kerjaya selain daripada memahami nilai-nilai yang dipegang oleh budaya dan agama yang berlainan. Pemboleh ubah yang relevan dan sampel yang berkaitan dengan kematangan kerjaya pelajar adalah dicadangkan untuk dimasukkan dalam kajian lanjutan.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all who have contributed towards the completion of my research thesis. First and foremost, I would like to thank God. You have given me the power to believe in myself and pursue my dreams. I could never have done this without the faith I have in You. I offer my profound gratitude to my supervisory committee comprising Prof. Madya Dr. Sidek Mohd Noah and Dr. Wan Marzuki Wan Jaafar who extended their scholarly counsel, great support and advice throughout my master program. I also would like to express my deepest gratitude to Prof. Emeritus Dr. Rahim Md. Sail for his guidance, encouragement and constructive ideas in the preparation and completion of this research thesis. A special note of appreciation is also extended to all of academic staff of Faculty of Educational Studies for their indispensable academic contribution to this study. My special thanks are also due to all the teachers who have put their effort to arrange the schedule for me to do my data collection and not forgetting the students who had taken time and effort to be the respondents of this study. Finally, on a personal vote, it is a fitting tribute to my beloved parents, family and friends for their unfailing support, encouragement, patience throughout my graduate program.

Thank You.
I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 4 February 2014 to conduct the final examination of Christine Chan on her thesis entitled "Influence of Perceived Parenting Styles on Students' Career Maturity" 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:

**Siti Aishah binti Hassan, PhD**  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Educational Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Chairman)

**Maznah binti Baba, PhD**  
Senior Lecturer  
Faculty of Educational Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Internal Examiner)

**Hajjah Rusnani binti Abdul Kadir, PhD**  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Educational Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Internal Examiner)

**Zuria Mahmud, PhD**  
Professor  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia  
Malaysia  
(External Examiner)

NORITAH OMAR, PhD  
Associate Professor and Deputy Dean  
School of Graduate Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date: 19 May 2014
This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti 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:

**Sidek Mohd Noah, PhD**  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Educational Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Chairman)

**Wan Warzuki Wan Jaafar, PhD**  
Senior Lecturer  
Faculty of Educational Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Member)

---

**BUJANG BIN KIM HUAT, PhD**  
Professor and Dean,  
School of Graduate Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:
DECLARATION

Declaration by graduate student

I hereby confirm that:

- this thesis is my original work;
- quotations, illustrations and citations have been duly referenced;
- this thesis has not been submitted previously or concurrently for any other degree at any other institutions;
- intellectual property from the thesis and copyright of thesis are fully-owned by Universiti Putra Malaysia, as according to the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Research) Rules 2012;
- written permission must be obtained from supervisor and the office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) before thesis is published (in the form of written, printed or in electronic form) including books, journals, modules, proceedings, popular writings, seminar papers, manuscripts, posters, reports, lecture notes, learning modules or any other materials as stated in the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Research) Rules 2012;
- there is no plagiarism or data falsification/fabrication in the thesis, and scholarly integrity is upheld as according to the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Graduate Studies) Rules 2003 (Revision 2012-2013) and the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Research) Rules 2012. The thesis has undergone plagiarism detection software.

Signature: _______________________ Date: _________________
Name and Matric No.: ____________________________________________
Declaration by Members of Supervisory Committee

This is to confirm that:

- the research conducted and the writing of this thesis was under our supervision;
- supervision responsibilities as stated in the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Graduate Studies) Rules 2003 (Revision 2012-2013) are adhered to.

Name of Chairman of Supervisory Committee: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sidek Mohd Noah
Department of Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology
Faculty of Educational Studies
University Putra Malaysia
43400 Serdang, Selangor

Name of Member of Supervisory Committee: ____________________
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRAK</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROVAL</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECLARATION</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>xiv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>xv</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER

### 1 INTRODUCTION

- Background of the Study .................................................. 1
- Problem Statement ............................................................. 4
- Research Questions ............................................................ 6
- Research Hypotheses ........................................................... 7
- Significance of Study .......................................................... 7
- Limitation of the Study ......................................................... 9
- Summary .............................................................................. 11

### 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

- Chapter Overview ............................................................... 12
- The History of Career .......................................................... 12
- Super’s Career Development Theory ....................................... 14
- Career Maturity ................................................................... 14
- Career Maturity and Life Stages ............................................ 15
- The Baumrind Theory of Parenting Styles ............................... 18
- Career Maturity and Parenting Styles ..................................... 20
- Career Maturity and Gender .................................................. 20
- Social Construction Theory .................................................... 21
- Parenting Styles by Malay Parents ......................................... 21
- Parenting Styles by Chinese Parents ....................................... 22
- Parenting Styles by Indian Parents ......................................... 23
- Career Maturity and Parenting Styles ..................................... 24
- Theoretical and Research Framework ...................................... 25
- Summary .............................................................................. 27
3 METHODOLOGY
Chapter Overview 29
Research Design 29
Location of Study 30
Population and Sampling 30
Sample Size and Power Analysis 31
Sampling Technique 33
Measurement and Instrumentation 34
Pre-Testing of Measurement 37
Data Collection 39
Analysis Procedure 40
Exploratory Data Analysis 44
Summary 47

4 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
Introduction 48
Demographic Profile of the Respondents 49
Research Objective 1: To describe the parenting styles of Malay, Chinese and Indian parents as perceived by students 53
Research Objective 2: To Describe The Level of Career Maturity Among Students 54
Research Objective 3: To Determine The Difference Between The Level of Career Maturity of Male and Female Students 55
Research Objective 4: To Investigate The Interaction Between Ethnicity and Parenting Styles on Students’ Career Maturity 57
Research Objective 5: To Investigate The Relationship Between Parenting Styles and Students’ Career Maturity 60

5 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Introduction 66
Summary of the Study 66
Conclusions of the Study 68
Implications of the Study 69
Theoretical Implications 69
Practical Implications 71
Recommendation for Future Research 72
Summary 73
REFERENCES 74
APPENDICES 89
BIODATA OF STUDENT 111
LIST OF PUBLICATION 112