



***PERCEPTION OF PAINTBALL PLAYERS TOWARDS LEADERSHIP
CHARACTERISTICS***

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**PERCEPTION OF PAINTBALL PLAYERS TOWARDS LEADERSHIP
CHARACTERISTICS**

By
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**A Project Report Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Bachelor of Science Park and Recreation in the
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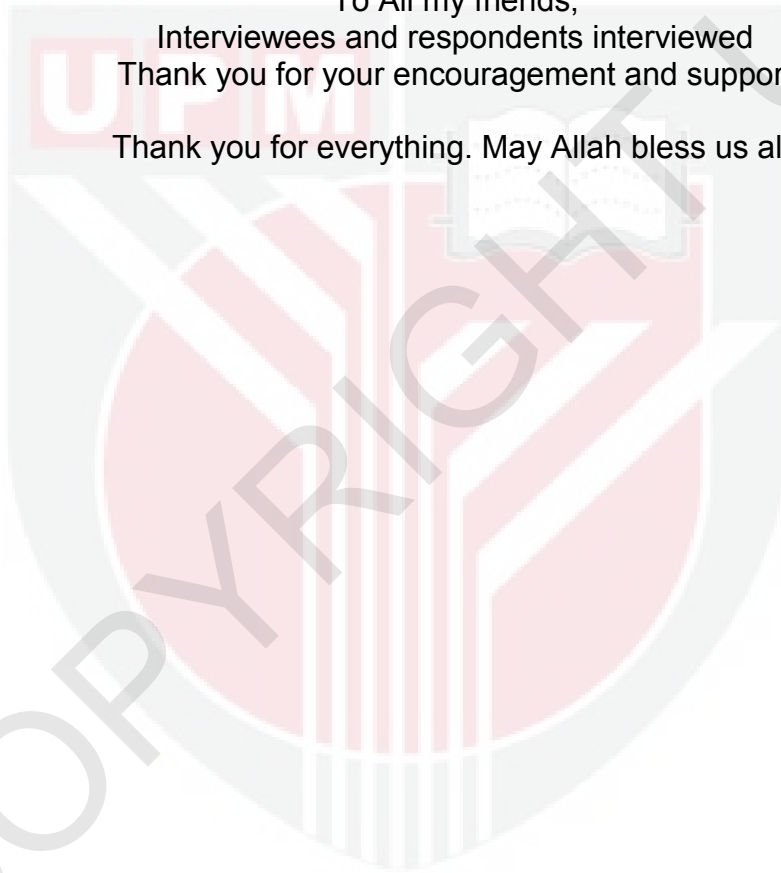
DEDICATION

For my beloved family:

Jaafar bin Hashim
Normah binti Mohammed

Also my siblings;
Nashrul Aqim, Farah Atiqah

To All my friends,
Interviewees and respondents interviewed
Thank you for your encouragement and support
Thank you for everything. May Allah bless us all.



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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to study the perceptions of paintball players towards leadership characteristics. The instrument used in the study was a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire consists three sections; (i) demographic profiles, (ii) the involvement in paintball activity and (iii) the leadership in paintball activity. This study was considered on several impacts on the leadership characteristics by the doing paintball activity. From the findings, the percentage of positive impacts of paintball activity towards leadership characteristics is higher than negative. In addition, the results of this study may be used by the government, authorities, paintball communities and paintball parks to develop more paintball activities and parks to develop leadership characteristics.



ABSTRAK

Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji kesan aktiviti paintball terhadap ciri kepimpinan. Instrumen yang digunakan dalam kajian ini adalah soal selidik berstruktur. Kuesioner terdiri daripada tiga bahagian; (i) profil demografi, (ii) penglibatan dalam aktiviti paintball dan (iii) kepimpinan dalam aktiviti paintball. Kajian ini dipertimbangkan beberapa kesan ke atas ciri kepimpinan oleh aktiviti paintball. Dari penemuan, peratusan kesan positif aktiviti paintball terhadap ciri kepimpinan lebih tinggi daripada negatif. Di samping itu, hasil kajian ini boleh digunakan oleh kerajaan, pihak berkuasa, komuniti paintball dan taman paintball untuk mengembangkan lebih banyak aktiviti paintball dan taman untuk membangunkan ciri kepimpinan.



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APPROVAL SHEET

I certify that this research project report entitled “**Perception of Paintball Players Towards Leadership Characteristics**” by Iqwan Alif bin Jaafar has been examined and approved as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Park and Recreational Science in the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Recreation is an activity that we done during our free time or leisure time that brings enjoyment, amusement or something that consider bring happiness and fun. Hurd (2011) states that recreational defined by an activity that people participate during their free time and enjoy it so that people can recognize as having socially redeeming value. There are a lot of examples of recreation activities, such as music, hiking, sports, reading, arts and crafts, games, travel and dance. Besides giving happiness and fun, recreation also consist some of the leadership traits. Therefore, recreation activity is accepted and essential activity to enhance understanding about leadership.

In 1980s, Paintball was developed for recreation purpose only, but today the trend has changed, it been play as a formal sport. Paintball technology has been used in the military forces, law enforcement, paramilitary and others training. Variety of rules and variations but the basic rules are to accomplish the mission without being shot or marked with a paintball. According to Jessica (2012) paintball is recognized as one of the world's most exciting outdoor participation sports. It's been played over 104 countries by millions of men and women of all ages and lifestyles. Whether homemakers or

high-school students, professionals or retirees, all paintball players share in common a love for adventure and a strong competitive spirit.

In Malaysia, paintball is not something new. There are many recreation-based company in Malaysia offering paintball activity as one of the team building activity. Paintball activity brings people together and promote teamwork. The other proves that shows that paintball is not something new in Malaysia was that, The Paintball Asia League Series is headquartered in Petaling Jaya, the Paintball World Cup Asia is also held annually in Langkawi, Malaysia and there are many paintball fields that are operating across Malaysia. The legality of paintball varies among countries and regions. In most areas where regulated play is offered, players are required to wear protective masks, use barrel blocking safety equipment, and safe game rules are strictly enforced. In 2013, paintball activity in Malaysia became slowly unpopular because of the Royal Malaysian Police declared that all paintball marker or gun must be owned with a license. But nowadays, there are still have a demand for paintball tournament. More than 12 paintball event per year in Malaysia.

Paintball activity has been claimed consist some of the leadership traits but how far this activity can give an impact in developing character of leader in a person? There is still little study that show the perception of this paintball players. This study was done to analyze and clarify the perception of paintball players towards leadership characteristics.

1.2 Problem Statements

Leadership is an important function of management which helps to maximize efficiency and to achieve organizational goals. Levine, (2000) state that “leadership has been studied as an essential component for success in business, government, and military environments.” There are so many issues that related to leadership that lead some of the organisations fail to achieve their goals or target. The Malaysian Reserve (2017) claims that leadership has been singled out as the most critical talent issue in South-East Asia. According to a global survey in 2016 26% of Asia’s rising leaders believed their successor are ready to take the executive roles, compare to 43% in the rest of the world.

Leadership is not only just about communication skill, decision making and problem solving, critical thinking and motivating, there are many others leadership traits but these traits seems to be crucial problem and lacking in our country. There was a case reported where the female boss screamed and humiliated two workers, and one of the workers was pregnantt. Following to the incident, the female boss was suspended from his work. Based on what has happened, the main problem is communication. Communication is a two-way interaction, and the ability for the leader to listen is critical. The female boss should ask properly what was the problem from the workers. She cannot just come, screamed and humiliated those workers. Generally, it not a good example to become a leader. To manage an organisation its need skill,

not emotionally. Constructive communications are essential in facilitating healthy relationship. Great communication skills are by far some of the most important traits for a leader to have. It doesn't matter how effective a plan a leader is able to draw up. If they are not able to communicate that plan to their employees in a way that is easy to understand and motivating, then little progress is going to be made. If a leader is demonstrating an inability to communicate to others, they are not likely to be a very effective leader.

Decision making and problem solving is the most challenging not only in small or medium organization but also it is play vital role for every large multinational organization. Decision making is a process that chooses a desired option from among a set of alternates on basis of given criteria or strategies (Wang, Wang, Patel, & Patel, 2004; Wilson & Keil, 2001). According to Abdul Razak and Ainin (2000) someone will make decision when problem occurred. This opinion is supported by Chek Mat (2010) stating that the employer will facing a problem when employee does not show good performance as expected. Hence, the leaders cannot achieve what they want. At this point leaders need to make a decision to handle and solve problems that arise. If they make a wrong decision, it will affect the organization and ruined everything. So decision making is not something small, it can effect almost everything.

Leadership skill is something that we need to implement in a person, because it's important in developing a country especially in our country, Malaysia, which is developing and fast growing economy country. Lack of leadership skill will lead to many consequences. Among the highlights, the lack of leadership skills was found to limit or even reduce the abilities of small and medium industries to improve their productivity and performance. So that is why, every manager at small and medium enterprise need to be implement with management and leadership skills to improve their business or organizations and mitigate setbacks and failures. Besides that, Malaysia also multi-racial and multi-religious country, so the strategic challenges that Malaysian leaders face are how to maintain organizational growth and renewal; how to pursue excellence; and how to better prepare for the next millennium within the context of our multiracial and multi-religious society (Yeoh, 1998). In other words, everything must be discussed and taking into account other races and religions. If leaders in Malaysia lack of leadership skill, they will miss it and this will cause some problems.

Hence, it is important to develop a mechanism to enhance the leadership skills in a person. One of the mechanism is through social activity that should give positive impact to the leadership skill is paintball activity. Paintball activities initially was developed for recreation purpose only, but today the trend has changed, it's been played as a formal sport. Paintball technology has been used in the military forces, law enforcement, paramilitary and others training.

Since the problem lack of leadership traits in person seems to be one of the crucial problems, there are many recreation activity offering the paintball activity to enhance the understanding about leadership. In order to implement leadership skills in a person, by theoretical is not enough, its need practical too. We take example, if someone want to learn about teamwork, is it enough we just tell them how to work in a team or how to become a great team-player? For me, it's not enough, but If we try to implement it by adding some hands-on activity or practical such as by doing paintball activity, they will understand more, why teamwork is so important in order to achieve something or to achieve the goals. Some claimed that paintball activity can improves leadership, promoting teamwork, develops problem-solving skills, increases communication, and promotes positive relationships. Based on personal communication with one of the paintball players, stated that paintball leadership style is top-down leadership. Harper (2015), top-down management style can be seen as bossy or dictatorial as easily. Employees can become resentful and challenge unilateral decisions with a weak leader.

The effectiveness of paintball activity towards leadership still unclear and need to be assess. The assessment has to done to know the effect of the activity, either it gives and positive or negative impact to the leadership skill.

1.3 Objectives

General Objectives:

The general objective of this study is to identify the perception of paintball players towards leadership characteristics.

Therefore, in order to meet the overall objectives above, two specific objectives were outlined as below:

- a) To identify the existence of element of leadership traits among paintball players.
- b) To assess the perception of paintball players in developing leadership traits.

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