

CHARACTERISTICS OF BUMIPUTERA SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SME) IN THE MALAYSIAN WOODEN FURNITURE INDUSTRY

MOHAMAD NURAMIN BIN JAMAL

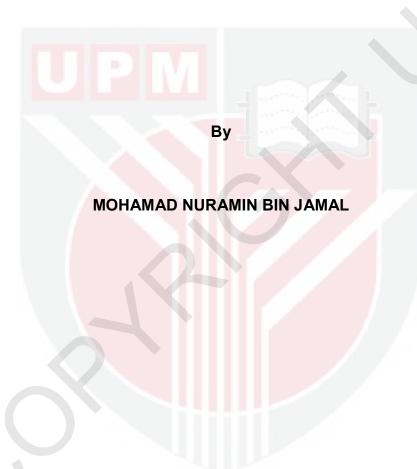
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FACULTY OF FORESTRY UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

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A Project Report Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of WoodScience and Technology in the Faculty of Forestry
Universiti Putra Malaysia

DEDICATION

Specially dedicated to my:

Mum and Dad

Brothers and sisters

Prof. Dr. Jegatheswaran Ratnasingam

and my comrades

ABSTRACT

Bumiputera SMEs in furniture industry has their own characteristics, but there is little information about how Bumiputera manage their business especially in furniture industry. The objectives of this study were to identify the problems faced, key characteristics and most important business aspects in Bumiputera furniture SMEs. This study would be useful for Bumiputera entrepreneurs to improve their weaknesses and be aware of their potential as well as useful to government agencies involved in helping Bumiputera entrepreneurs in furniture industry. The method used was a questionnaire survey of 30 Bumiputera furniture SMEs listed by PEKA, which analyzed using frequency and score analysis. The result from this study showed that Bumiputera furniture SMEs has 17 listed characteristics from five main business aspects which were raw material, financial, market, technology and human resource. Market was their biggest weakness, where they faced difficulty to penetrate export market and hence rely on government tender projects. But, they have their own strength, which is their technology. The technology used were mostly advanced machinery, such as CNC machines in Bumiputera furniture SMEs. It is an advantage for Bumiputera furniture SMEs to get government assistance. But the advantages are not equivalent to their weaknesses where they have to improve their market so that Bumiputera furniture SMEs are in line with the development of other industries.

ABSTRAK

PKS Bumiputera dalam industri perabot mempunyai ciri-ciri mereka sendiri, tetapi hanya terdapat sedikit maklumat tentang bagaimana Bumiputera menguruskan perniagaan mereka terutama dalam industri perabot. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk mengenal pasti masalah yang dihadapi, ciri-ciri utama dan aspek perniagaan yang paling penting dalam PKS perabot Bumiputera. Kajian ini berguna bagi usahawan Bumiputera untuk memperbaiki kelemahan mereka dan menyedari potensi mereka serta berguna kepada agensi kerajaan yang terlibat dalam membantu usahawan Bumiputera dalam industri perabot. Kaedah yang digunakan adalah tinjauan soal selidik 30 PKS perabot Bumiputera yang disenaraikan oleh PEKA, dimana dianalisis menggunakan analisis frekuensi dan skor. Hasil daripada kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa PKS perabot Bumiputera mempunyai 17 ciri tersenarai dari lima aspek perniagaan utama yang merupakan bahan mentah, kewangan, pasaran, teknologi dan sumber manusia. Pasaran merupakan kelemahan terbesar mereka, di mana sukar untuk mereka menembusi pasaran eksport dan dengan itu mereka bergantung kepada projek-projek tender kerajaan. Tetapi, mereka mempunyai kekuatan sendiri, iaitu teknologi mereka. Teknologi yang digunakan adalah kebanyakan mesin canggih, seperti mesin CNC dalam PKS perabot Bumiputera. Ia adalah satu kelebihan bagi PKS perabot Bumiputera apabila mendapatkan bantuan kerajaan. Tetapi kelebihan tersebut tidak setara dengan kelemahan mereka dimana mereka harus memperbaiki pasaran mereka agar PKS perabot Bumiputera seiring dengan kemajuan industri lain.A

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APPROVAL SHEET

I certify that this research project report entitled "Characteristics of Bumiputera Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the Malaysian Wooden Furniture Industry" by Mohamad Nuramin bin Jamal has been examined and approved as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Forestry Science in the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Approved by:

Prof. Dr. Jegatheswaran Ratnasingam Faculty of Forestry

Universiti Putra Malaysia (Supervisor)

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Zakaria Bin Hussin Dean Faculty of Forestry Universiti Putra Malaysia

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BJC Builders joinery and carpentry

CFS Critical Success Factor

FITEC Furniture Industry Technology Centre

GDP Gross Domestic Product

ILP Institut Latihan Perindustrian

KLCC Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

KSF Key Success Factor

MARA Majlis Amanah Rakyat

MPIC Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities

MTIB Malaysian Timber Industry Board

PEKA Persatuan Pengusaha Kayu-Kayan dan Perabot Bumiputera

PWTC Putra World Trade Centre

RMK Rancangan Malaysia Ke

SMEs Small and Medium Enterprises

SMIDEC Small and Medium Industries Development

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

The start of the timber industry in Malaysia can be traced back to the colonial period in the country, as completely reported by Ratnasingam and Loras (2003). During that period, the backbone of the timber industry was logging, sawmilling and plywood, and veneer industries, and the outputs were predominantly for domestic consumption (Norini and Woon, 2002). The growth of timber industry was further boosted as the country developed rapidly after independence in 1957. With comprehensive land broadening schemes carried out by various government agencies after 1960s, a significantly volume of primary processed timber products were directed to exports (Lin *et al.*, 2016).

According to Ratnasingam *et al.* (2013), the resurrection of the timber industry as a primary socioeconomic sector was due to the transformation from an agricultural-based economy to a manufacturing-based economy acquired momentum in 1970s. Through a series of Industrial Master Plans (IMPs) implemented from the mid-1980s, the industrial transformation was carried out, aimed at improving and enhancing the product-mix as well as the productivity of the manufacturing sector. The focus was geared towards a shift from primary processed timber products to value-added timber products (Ziaie *et al.*, 2012).

The incarnation and reformation of the timber industry was a success as total exports of value-added products, especially furniture, molding and builders' joinery and carpentry (BJC) start to leap. According to Ratnasingam (2000), the production of reconstituted panel products, such as particleboard and medium density fiberboard (MDF), was also rising to accommodate the demands of the furniture and BJC industries. The Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) (2016) stated that the timber industry has grown as an important engine of economic growth and accounts for 2% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). In 2015, timber and timber products contributed RM 22.14 billion out of Malaysia's total merchandise exports of RM 637 billion.

Manufacturing sector including furniture and wood-based product industry has their role and much effect on Malaysia's economy, and this industry has made this country as tenth biggest furniture export country in the world, and third in Asia (Malaysia Furniture Industry Council (MFPC), 2009). In 2010, the contribution of the furniture industry was RM33 billion, which was RM20 billion from export, and the remaining RM13 billion from domestic use (MTIB, 2011). The target for export of this industry is RM53 billion at year 2020. The government has taken various initiatives to accelerate the business activity growth because it is has given big contribution to this country through export activity and also raising in labor use (RMK 10).

1.2 Problem Statement

The country's achievement in the sector of wood-based product export activity especially furniture export however has been poorly participated by Malay furniture entrepreneurs, where is most of them are way behind other races whereas Bumiputera is the majority race (60%) in Malaysia. To prove this statement, the percentage of Bumiputera exporter declined from 4.5% at year 1990 to only 0.3% in 2015 (MTIB, 2016). Malay entrepreneurs also do not dominate the domestic market, which is predominated by non-Malay entrepreneurs. Half of them known have difficulty to proceed their business until it is forced to shut down (Rosli *et at.*, 2011). That situation is something that cannot be proud of (Aman, 2004) and it is a loss because this sector is one of the country's economic goals.

1.3 Justification

To find a firm's competitive advantage in existing industries, the most important element which is the Critical Success Factors (CSF) must be identified. CFS shows the firm's performance whether it is successful or not to achieve its goals, mission and vision that has been formed before the organization is established. The organization that successfully identify and use CFSs will form uniqueness to make them achieve competitive advantage. It must be supported by activities that relate to the firm's existing activities (Mohd Hassan, 2007). By understanding and identifying their key characteristics, this study will provide useful information to the real problem faced by Bumiputera entrepreneurship in wooden furniture industry in Malaysia.

1.4 Objectives

Therefore, the general objective of this study is to identify what drives the main challenges faced by Bumiputera Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the Malaysian wooden furniture industry. The specific objectives of this study are:

- To identify the key characteristics of Bumiputera SMEs in the Malaysian wooden furniture industry.
- ii. To identify the most important business aspects (management, financial, market, technology and human resource) that leads to key success factor to Bumiputera SMEs in sustaining their business in the wooden furniture industry.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

Chapter Two of this thesis highlight the literature review related to this study. The methods used in the study is described in Chapter Three. Chapter Four presents the results and discussion of the study. Conclusion and recommendation are discussed in Chapter Five.

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