

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**SUPERVISORS' PERCEPTIONS OF  
POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION IN A MALAYSIAN  
PUBLIC UNIVERSITY**

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## ABSTRACT

The high attrition rate coupled with the low completion rate of postgraduates in research programmes has become a global issue of concern. Among the reasons cited for this scenario has been low quality supervision. Even though postgraduate supervision is a much explored area of research in the West and it is just beginning to become an area of exploration in the East and in Asian countries like Malaysia. Therefore the main purpose of this study was to investigate supervisors' different perceptions in postgraduate supervision. To be specific, this study aimed to investigate supervisors' perceptions on their roles and responsibilities, supervisory practices and level of supervisory support provided at various stages of supervision based on variables such as gender, academic qualifications and experience in supervising. Besides that, this study also examined the level of satisfaction of supervisors towards their institutional support and the challenges faced in postgraduate supervision. This study was conducted in one of public universities located in the Klang valley, in Malaysia. Data were collected using a questionnaire which involved 40 postgraduate supervisors and semi-structured interviews with three supervisors specifically. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings revealed that respondents were clear with regards to their roles and responsibilities as a supervisor, they demonstrated good supervisory practices and had provided good support to their students during the supervision process. There were significant differences on supervisors' perceptions towards their roles and responsibilities and supervisory practices based on gender and academic qualifications. Besides that, this study also found that there was a significant difference on supervisors' perceptions towards their level of support based on academic qualifications. However, there were no significant differences on supervisors' perceptions towards their roles and responsibilities, supervisory practices and level of support based on supervision experience. Nevertheless the supervisors felt that institutional support left much to be desired with regards to postgraduate guidelines, procedures and dissemination of information. Likewise, a majority of the supervisors highlighted that institution should provide more support with regards to facilities such as postgraduate rooms, printers and computers for postgraduate students. Additionally, this study found that supervisors faced a number of challenges such as having to cope with students who were ill-prepared for postgraduate study due to their limited reading, writing and research skills. They also felt that students lacked self-discipline and had poor time management skills. Overall, these findings have far-reaching implications as they put forward a critical call for the relevant authorities such as the Ministry of Education, the Graduate Schools as well postgraduate supervisors at institutions of higher learning to relook at the postgraduate supervision and the support provided for postgraduate students at institutional level.

## ABSTRAK

Kadar keciciran yang tinggi serta kadar penyiapan penyelidikan pasca siswazah yang rendah dalam program penyelidikan telah menjadi satu isu global yang hangat diperkatakan. Penyeliaan berkualiti rendah merupakan antara faktor penyebab berlakunya senario ini. Walau bagaimanapun, penyelidikan mengenai penyeliaan pasca siswazah telah lebih diterokai di negara Barat dan hanya mula menjadi isu yang baru dalam penyelidikan di negara Timur seperti di Malaysia. Oleh itu, tujuan utama kajian ini adalah untuk menyiasat persepsi penyelia dalam penyeliaan pasca siswazah. Secara khususnya, kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji persepsi penyelia mengenai peranan dan tanggungjawab, amalan penyeliaan dan tahap sokongan yang diberikan sepanjang penyeliaan berdasarkan pembolehubah seperti jantina, kelayakan akademik dan pengalaman dalam menyelia. Selain itu, kajian ini juga mengkaji tahap kepuasan penyelia terhadap sokongan institusi dan cabaran yang dihadapi dalam penyeliaan pasca siswazah. Kajian ini telah dijalankan di salah sebuah universiti awam yang terletak di Lembah Klang, di Malaysia. Data dikumpul melalui kaedah soal selidik yang melibatkan 40 penyelia pasca siswazah dan temu bual separa berstruktur dengan tiga penyelia. Data juga telah dianalisis secara deskriptif dan statistik inferensi. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa responden sangat jelas mengenai peranan dan tanggungjawab mereka sebagai seorang penyelia, menunjukkan amalan penyeliaan yang baik dan memberikan sokongan yang baik kepada pelajar sepanjang proses penyeliaan. Terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan pada persepsi penyelia terhadap peranan dan tanggungjawab mereka dan amalan penyeliaan berdasarkan jantina dan kelayakan akademik. Selain itu, kajian ini juga mendapati bahawa terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan pada persepsi penyelia terhadap tahap sokongan berdasarkan kelayakan akademik. Walau bagaimanapun, tidak terdapat sebarang perbezaan yang signifikan pada persepsi penyelia terhadap peranan dan tanggungjawab mereka, amalan penyeliaan dan tahap sokongan penyeliaan berdasarkan pengalaman dalam menyelia. Hasil kajian juga mendapati bahawa penyelia kurang berpuas hati dengan sokongan yang disediakan oleh institusi terutama dari segi penyediaan garis panduan untuk pelajar pasca siswazah, prosedur dan penyebaran maklumat. Malah, majoriti penyelia menekankan bahawa institusi harus menyediakan lebih banyak sokongan dari segi fasiliti seperti bilik siswazah, pencetak dan makmal komputer. Selain itu, penyelia juga didapati menghadapi beberapa cabaran seperti pelajar yang kurang bersedia untuk mengikuti pengajian pasca siswazah kerana mempunyai kemahiran penyelidikan dan penulisan yang terhad serta kurang membaca. Penyelia juga merasakan bahawa pelajar mempunyai disiplin diri yang rendah dan mempunyai kemahiran pengurusan masa yang lemah. Secara keseluruhannya, dapatan kajian ini memberi implikasi bagi pihak berkuasa yang berkaitan seperti Kementerian Pelajaran, Pusat Pengajian Pasca Siswazah dan penyelia pasca siswazah di institusi-institusi pengajian tinggi untuk memperbaiki penyeliaan pasca siswazah dan mempertingkatkan sokongan di peringkat institusi.

## AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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