A STUDY ON STUDENTS' BACKGROUND AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS COMPUTER SKILLS IN THE SELECTED SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SEGAMAT

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ABSTRACT

This study is carried out to identify whether students of different backgrounds differ in their computer skills level and at the same time to identify whether there is a correlation between students' attitudes and their computer skills. The final objective of this study is to investigate which variable (background or attitudes) has a greater influence on the students' computer skills. All the Form Five students from the three different types of schools in the Segamat district were chosen as samples. T-test, ANOVA, Pearson correlation and regression analyses were used to analyze the data. The study showed that there was significant difference between the types of schools the students were in, students' computer ownership and the students' computer club membership with their c omputer skills. In a ddition, the findings also revealed that there was a significant correlation between the computer attitude subscales with the students' computer skills. The multiple regression analysis showed that there was a relationship between the students' computer confidence, computer ownership, computer anxiety, school computer club membership and types of school towards the students' computer skills. However, we found that students' confidence in using the computer had a greater influence than computer ownership and other characteristics.

CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

This chapter will discuss the development of information and communication technology (ICT) in Malaysia as well as the development of ICT in Malaysian schools. Explanations regarding primary and secondary schools in Malaysia specifically in the district of Segamat will also be presented. The chapter will further discuss the problem statement, research questions, and objectives of the study. Finally, the significance and scope of the study will also be elaborated.

1.1.1 The Development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Malaysia

Malaysia implemented the first computer system in 1966. Since then, the Government has introduced various initiatives to facilitate the greater adoption and diffusion of ICT to improve capacities in every field of business, industry, education, and life in general (Chan, 2002). These measures include the enhancement of education and training programmes, provision of incentives for computerization and automation, as well as a creation of venture capital funds. Currently, Malaysia is in full gear to steer the economy towards a knowledge-based when the Deputy Prime Minister announced that Malaysia's K-Economy Master Plan was in the final stages of formulation (Chen, 2002). Other significant initiatives include the establishment of a new industry policy maker and regulator in 1998 to oversee all communication sectors-broadcasting, telecommunications and information technology. A number of projects were launched to stimulate supply and demand on the IT market, the most