

FPP BizNewz

December 2020 – May 2021

MANAGEMENT • INVESTMENT • ECONOMICS • ENTREPRENEURSHIP • TECHNOLOGY

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**BERSELAWATLAH,
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RASULULLAH S.A.W.**

E-DOMPET
DI MALAYSIA:
SATU TINJAUAN

ONE JOURNEY
COMES TO AN END
AND ANOTHER **BEGINS**



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mentorship programme in



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INTRODUCTION

Conducting research that requires involvement in fieldwork is not an easy task for all graduate students as well as for novice researchers. They will face difficulties conducting the practical aspects of their research in fieldwork efficiently and effectively. These would be mainly due to their lacking of experiences. In order to support the need in tackling problems relating to fieldwork data collection, a PhD Power Fellowship (PPF) project has been set up to lend practical hands.

POWER FELLOWSHIP

BACKGROUND OF PHD POWER FELLOWSHIP

The main activity of this project is the "PPF Sharing Session", which runs once a month on Thursdays between 10 am and 12 pm. During the session there are two slots, the main slot is the "PhD Talk" presented by well experienced PhD holders while the other slot of "PhD Log" is delivered by PhD students or newly graduated PhD students. The main slot in the session intends to assist the graduate students as a group by inviting researchers with ample knowledge and experiences to share their professional expertise. Some vital points that have been highlighted in those sessions are pertaining to issues of overcoming fieldwork challenges in language research which are presented in this chapter. Some salient points regarding the issue include the preparation before, at the beginning, during the process and after the data collection. The sessions that are conducted in the

PPF projects have given the opportunity to the graduate students to get firsthand information from the experts in the relevant areas. It certainly can be helpful and insightful to share the knowledge and experiences to support all graduate students as well as novice researchers by facilitating them so that the field work data collection process in the preparation of their PhD thesis is smoother and runs more successfully. Announcements of the activity will be disseminated through email to call for participation of interested PhD candidates and young researchers (see figures below). Normally the activities of PPF will be located at PPS lounge, block 8A, which is a center for graduate studies. These activities will be carried out in accordance to the needs. Generally, there will be at least one meeting per semester.

PPF GOALS

Three PhD candidates suggested the name PPF in year 2014. It was formed to support the directives of Deputy Rector of Academic Affairs, initially to resolve the issue of increased numbers of PhD study drop outs among academic staff. The main goal is to help them graduate as soon as they can by providing some facilities and resources in the campus even though their PhD study leave has ended. They can then pursue their studies more passionately whilst at the same able to conduct their day to day teaching activities and other related tasks.

Specifically, the objectives of the initial establishment of the PPF were first, to provide ongoing moral support and motivation to PPF members and secondly, to guide PPF members with the techniques and skills needed for a speedy completion of PhD thesis. A special attention was also given to fieldwork data collection process as it involves a major part of any Ph.D study. A PPF committee members was formed headed by the Project Leader to coordinate the implementation of PPF monthly sessions. A yearly schedule was planned to include not only research processes but also motivational and inspired personal PhD study sharing experiences. Thus, positive thinking and attitude are continuously instilled among the members. Over the years, PPF membership has been extended to include not only Ph.D candidates but also potential Ph.D students. Recently, PPF has improved its implementation workforce by establishing a mentor-mentee program as an initiative to escalate the number of PhD holders.

PPF FUNCTIONS AND BACKGROUND

The first activity held by PPF was a lecture session entitled "PhD Survival Tips" on June 9, 2015 at the Dewan Anggerik, UiTMCT. The session was presented by Dr. Othman Talib, a notable

speaker in Malaysia in the field of PhD thesis writing. He is a lecturer from Department of Science and Technical Education, Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia. This lecture focused on the preparation of the students on how to get started in writing a thesis. Another aspect shared by Dr. Othman Talib was his own PhD thesis at a glance. Some tips through his personal experience to speed up writing a thesis was highlighted. The lecture was attended by many PhD students and potential PhD students. Dr. Othman Talib in his lecture said, "This PhD is like our own home; it is ours and no one can take our home". Accordingly, students should always focus on completing their PhD. If any PhD related problems occur, they should be addressed immediately and one should avoid procrastination. Also, any issues relevant to a PhD thesis writing, students should closely consult an expert in the related area. Students ought to continue their struggle in completing their PhD journey, to never give up and to have courage to keep going.

At the beginning of the establishment of PPF, the project is done monthly on Thursdays, for two hours starting from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, at PPS Student Lounge, UiTMCT. In terms of content shared, there are two slots during PPF session, namely "PhD Talk" delivered by PhD-graduate senior lecturers and "My PhD Log" delivered by PhD students or newly graduated PhD students. Until 2020, almost every PPF session is held with the participation of internal lecturers as speakers. About 20 lecturers are involved as speakers each year. The subject matter of the PPF session "PhD Talk" covers all the processes involved in preparing for a PhD study as well as the exposure to the skills, software and applications that are significant for PhD students. Meanwhile, the second slot, "My PhD Log" is a sharing of personal experiences during the PhD study. It



Figure 1. The first activity in 2015

is a motivation and encouragement for all PhD students to stay optimistic in completing their studies within a defined period.

PPF activities have been shared on Facebook media beginning July 9, 2015 under the name of "PhD Power Fellowship UiTM Terengganu" group. The Facebook membership is limited to the registered UiTMCT staff. Any information concerning each session is shared here. Information shared includes slides along with videos and images throughout the PPF session. Members also shared personal views and opinions in this social media platform.

A WhatsApp group was also created on April 20, 2015 under the name of "PhD Power Fellowship UiTM". On this platform the sharing is not only limited to Master and PhD related matters but also on opportunities in research, innovation and publication. This WhatsApp group is very active in discussing the current issues related to research, innovation and publication. There will be almost daily sharing of the latest information from lecturers which also benefits PPF members.

Over the years PPF membership consists of three major groups of lecturers. The first group comprises of lecturers who had completed their PhD study leave but had not yet graduated. They are required to be PPF members. The second group comes from current



Figure 2. The latest activity in 2021

UiTMCT lecturers who are on a PhD study leave and they are encouraged to become a member. The third group, UiTMCT lecturers who are planning to apply for a PhD study leave and they are given the option to become a member. The last but not least, UiTMCT students who are planning to apply for a Master and FastTrack PhD study can benefit from the mentorship programme.

CONCLUSION

Lessons learned from the successful and unsuccessful experiences of the Master and PhD candidates may guide faculty in research mentoring and structuring research seminars for postgraduate students. Successful experiences shared provide great opportunities to the Master and PhD Candidates in finding the secrets to overcome obstacles in collecting data in a PhD journey. This is one of the solutions we can provide through PPF, that is to provide a platform for sharing and supporting each other through intelligent discourses. Sometimes when a Phd candidate has obstacles in the middle of the fieldwork data-collection process, he or she may be able to obtain insights or inspiration that open doors for his or her study.

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