

Optimizing Innovation in Knowledge, Education and Design

## EXTENDED ABSTRACT





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Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to the organizing committee of i-Spike 2023 for their tremendous efforts in bringing this online competition a reality . I must extend my congratulations to the committee for successfully delivering on their promise to make i-Spike 2023 a meaningful event for academics worldwide.

The theme for this event, 'Optimizing Innovation in Knowledge, Education, and Design,' is both timely and highly relevant in today's world, especially at the tertiary level. Innovation plays a central role in our daily lives, offering new solutions for products, processes, and services By adopting a strategic approach to 'Optimizing Innovation in Knowledge, Education, and Design,' we have the potential to enhance support for learners and educators, while also expanding opportunities for learner engagement, interactivity, and access to education.

I am awed by the magnitude and multitude of participants in this competition. I am also confident that all the innovations presented have provided valuable insights into the significance of innovative and advanced teaching materials in promoting sustainable development for the betterment of teaching and learning. Hopefully, this will mark the beginning of a long series of i-Spike events in the future.

It is also my hope that you find i-Spike 2023 to be an excellent platform for learning, sharing, and collaboration. Once again, I want to thank all the committee members of i-Spike 2023 for their hard work in making this event a reality I would also like to extend my congratulations to all the winners, and I hope that each of you will successfully achieve your intended goals through your participation in this competition.

Professor Dr. Roshima Haji Said

RECTOR

**UITM KEDAH BRANCH** 



### **WELCOME MESSAGE (i-SPIKE 2023 CHAIR)**

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Exhibition & Symposium on Productivity, Innovation, Knowledge, and Education 2023 (i-SPiKE 2023). Your presence here is a clear, crystal-clear testimony to the importance you place on the research and innovation arena. The theme of this year's Innovation is "Optimizing Innovation in Knowledge, Education, & Design". We believe that the presentations by the distinguished innovators will contribute immensely to a deeper understanding of the current issues in relation to the theme.

i-SPiKE 2023 offers a platform for nurturing the next generation of innovators and fostering cutting-edge innovations at the crossroads of collaboration, creativity, and enthusiasm. We enthusiastically welcome junior and young inventors from schools and universities, as well as local and foreign academicians and industry professionals, to showcase their innovative products and engage in knowledge sharing. All submissions have been rigorously evaluated by expert juries comprising professionals from both industry and academia.

On behalf of the conference organisers, I would like to extend our sincere thanks for your participation, and we hope you enjoy the event. A special note of appreciation goes out to all the committee members of i-SPiKE 2023; your dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated.

Dr. Junaida Ismail

Chair

3<sup>rd</sup>International Exhibition & Symposium Productivity, Innovation, Knowledge, and Education 2023 (i-SPiKE 2023)







# EVALUATION OF CO-PRODUCTION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES (CO-PRO)

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Local government is often restricted by monetary and human capital resources in providing services. As a result, co-production becomes an important cost-effective method to deliver services to the public. In Sarawak, Padawan Municipal Council implements various initiatives and programs to improve the local economy and community empowerment through co-production, based on the theory of comparative advantage. To evaluate the effectiveness of the co-production method in delivering services, an innovative application called CO-PRO has been created to evaluate the co-production of local government services. The application is very useful and effective for all the stakeholders, who are involved in the co-production of local government services so that more services that match the needs and well-being of local community could be delivered and improved from time to time. In the CO-PRO, six aspects of co-production are evaluated namely: public innovation, individual well-being, citizen empowerment, efficiency and effectiveness, mobilization of resources and lastly democracy. The stakeholders could channel their talent, knowledge, skills, time, ideas, and feedbackin order to stimulate greater participation and support from the various community groups in local government co-production initiatives and programs.

Keywords: co-production, service deliveries, CO-PRO, comparative advantage, local government

#### INTRODUCTION

Co-production is defined as the any active behaviour by anyone outside the government agency (Alford, 2009). Each stakeholder contributes talents, skills, knowledge, time availability, and feedback based on the theory of comparative advantage. Local government has various comparative institutional merits such as democratic legitimacy, annual budget, and talented personnel. However, local government also is limited by several drawbacks such as bureaucratic administration, and lack of flexibility. On the other hand, local community





groups have several advantages in terms of talent, skills and time flexibility. Thus, local government and local community groups can co-produce products and services together, based on their comparative advantages to fulfil the needs and well-being of local community.

In Malaysia, many co-production initiatives and programs are implemented by the local authorities. However, the registration of talent, knowledge, skills, time and opinions/feedback of various stakeholders is limited. The respondents are generally given hardcopy or online questionnaire by the local authorities after the completion of the events or functions. The respondents are given limited time to answer questions. This causes inconvenience, loss of information, delays and even discontinuity of services for both local authorities and stakeholders. Thus, an innovative application is required to manage and evaluate the co-production programs.

In this study, we create CO-PRO application to evaluate the co-production programs. The objectives of the CO-PRO application are to provide an effective and cost savings channel to all stakeholders to register their talent, knowledge, skills, time, opinions and feedback; to evaluate the effectiveness of co-production initiatives and programs, and lastly to stimulate greater participation from local community. This CO-PRO is very user friendly, zero registration fee, effective, sharing of information, and can be monitored 24/7 via online.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

Local co-production mechanisms are widely used in both developed and developing countries in public service deliveries. Co-production occurs at the various stages of programs such as brainstorming, planning, formulating, implementation and review. Stakeholders contribute unique talents, skills, knowledge, ideas and feedback in every stage of co-production, based on the theory of comparative advantages. Various positive feedbacks are reported by international empirical studies of co-production in public services.

In this study, we narrow our focus to some notable recent empirical studies of co-production after the COVID-19 pandemic. Co-production approach is widely used in various sectors for improving the local community's engagement, well-being and satisfaction. Among others, these include municipal risk governance (Haustein and Lorson, 2023), well-being services (Diba et al., 2023), urban shrinkage (Matyushkina et al., 2023), public transportation on the Jewish Sabbath (Golan and Christensen, 2023), informal settlements (Brown-Luthango and Arendse, 2023), digital transformation of public services (Scupola and Mergel, 2022), ecosystem services (Barraclough et al., 2022), local networks (Uster et al., 2022), community empowerment (Steiner et al., 2022), urban governance (Siame and Watson, 2022). Although co-production has limitations, the results of co-production of these empirical studies are mostly reported positive.

In recent decades, Internet of Things (IoT) has been innovated to improve various aspects of our daily living. The empirical findings on the use of e-local government services are mixed. Among others, various features of IoT are examined by researchers. Among others, these include issues of technical, political and organizational origin (Sarikas and Weerakkody, 2007), alignment of services and tools of social media (Gao and Lee, 2017), demand and satisfaction of mobile apps (Reddick and Zheng, 2017), artificial intelligence (Yigitcanlar et al., 2023) and urban planning governance (Devlin and Coaffee, 2023). These empiricalfindings reveal the application, challenges, impacts, usefulness, and way forward of the use of IoT in public





service delivery. Thus, it is worth of empirical investigation to create an application that can monitor and improve co-production services in Malaysia.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The CO-PRO application consists of three parts which include: (a) shareholder background, (b) co-production in local government services, and (c) evaluation of co-production services. Under the evaluation of co-production services, a further six aspects of co-production programs are evaluated namely: public innovation, individual well-being, citizen empowerment, efficiency and effectiveness, mobilization of resources and lastly democracy by using Likert scale.

The stakeholders place value 0 to 5 (none to excellent) to evaluate the co-production services. The CO-PRO will generate the point-counted result of effectiveness of co-production programs automatically. There are four types of results which include excellent (135-150), good (120-134), average (75-119) and weak (<75). The local authority will know the level of achievement based on the results and further improve the co-production programs.

Table 1. Evaluation of co-production programs using CO-PRO application

No	Marks	Achievements	Explanation
1	135 – 150 points	Excellent	You are excellent in co-production in local government services. We need your continuous support.
2	120 – 134 points	Good	You are good in co-production in local government services. We need your continuous support.
3	75 – 119 points	Average	You are average in co-production in local government services. We need your continuous support.
4	< 75	Weak	You are weak in co-production in local government services. Don't give up. We need your services.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The CO-PRO application is a platform for users to self-evaluate the effectiveness of coproduction services. There are three main types of questions in the application: (a) dropdown questions, (b) checkbox questions and (c) Likert scale questions. The whole evaluation process takes three (3) simple steps. Firstly, users are requested to fill in some brief background information. Secondly, users shall choose the participation frequency, types of co-production services, and availability of resources. Thirdly, users evaluate the co- production programs based on various aspects. The final score and the level of achievement will be displayed automatically after all the questions are answered. A table of evaluation is also disclosed as a reference for the users.

















Figure 1: The contexts of CO-PRO Application

The CO-PRO application is a user-friendly app where it can be accessed anywhere and anytime. It avoids direct contact with users, time-saving and promote good governance. Both users and the local authorities can determine the level of achievement of co-production programs immediately through the CO-PRO fast results. In addition, the CO-PRO can provide feedback and ideas for further improvement of programs. The creation of this innovative and practical CO-PRO application is timely and effective, especially the reopening local co-production programs after the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The CO-PRO is user-friendly, convenient, cost and time-saving to monitor co-production programs by local authorities. The use of CO-PRO could benefit all the stakeholders who involve in the formulation, planning, implementation and review of co-production programs. The CO-PRO has three sections and could register the talent, knowledge, skills, time availability and reviews by all the stakeholders. These stakeholders include public, private, non-profit and voluntary organisations.

The CO-PRO is timely, given that the economy has been opened after the COVID-19pandemic was over. The use of CO-PRO enables local authorities to deliver services more effectively to match the needs and well-being of local communities in Malaysia. Nonetheless, the current CO-PRO has several limitations. Future researchers could further develop the CO-PRO App to thoroughly evaluate different dimensions of co-production programs by local authorities and other higher tiers of government.





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