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BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN WORKERS IN
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FROM CONTRACTOR FIRMS'
PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

The shortage of workers in Malaysia's construction industry, from the unskilled to the professional level, is caused by population growth and demand from other industries. In this scenario, encouraging more women to work in the construction industry is a good approach. However, women are reported to face many barriers and challenges while trying to venture into the construction industry. The study found that women face significant barriers and challenge whenever involved in the construction industry. Therefore, the objectives of this study are to determine the current participation level of women in the construction industry, to identify barriers and challenges faced by the women workers and propose a way to overcome the barriers and challenges faced by women workers in the construction industry from contractor firms' perspective. In order to accomplish the goals of this study, a literature review on the statistic published by the Department of Statistics, Malaysia, and quantitative research techniques were employed. Data collected from questionnaires will be examined using frequency and mean statistical methods. It found that the participation level of women workers in the construction industry is slightly decreasing. In addition, the findings from the research study emphasize the common barriers and challenges faced by women in the construction industry like family commitment and work-life balance, stress, and many more. The results of this study found that the ways to overcome the barriers and challenges faced by women workers are by enforcing law, early attraction and exposure, getting a good mentor or role model and so on.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

ABSTRACT	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	ii
TABLE OF CONTENT	iii
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	x
CHAPTER 1: RESEARCH PROPOSAL	1
1.1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT	2
1.3 RESEARCH AIM	3
1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES.....	3
1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS.....	3
1.6 METHODOLOGY	4
1.6.1 Primary Data	5
1.6.2 Secondary Data	5
1.6.3 Data Analysis	6
1.7 SCOPE OF RESEARCH	6
1.8 SUMMARY	6
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW.....	7
2.1 INTRODUCTION.....	7
2.2 PARTICIPATION RATE OF WOMEN WORKERS.....	8

CHAPTER 1

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The construction industry is an important industry for any country to develop. It is one of the primary factors that contribute to the growth of other sectors, such as the economy. In developing countries, the construction industry is a significant industry that significantly contributes to economic growth (Lagiman, 2017). The construction sector is a country's backbone since it provides the infrastructure required for economic and industrial progress, as per Anvekar et al. (2015). With the aim of being a well-developed country by 2020 and a calibre nation with an outstanding mindset by 2050, Malaysia's construction industry plays a critical role in supplying the infrastructure needed to achieve these goals (Masidah et al., 2018). The construction industry plays a big role in a country as it supports other industries by continuously providing buildings, infrastructure, and many more. Due to the growth in the population in Malaysia, the demand in the construction sector keeps increasing. Thus, this leads to more manpower needed by the construction industry in order to run the construction project demanded. This is due to the fact that the construction industry employs people of all skill levels, including unskilled workers, skilled workers, and professional organizations such as architects, engineers, quantity surveyors, contractors and others (Whitlock, 2002 as cited in Amaratunga et al, 2006). Every single of them has their own works scope, risks, difficulties and etc.

Due to the population growth and demand from other sectors in Malaysia, the construction industry is having a shortage issue in the workforce, from the unskilled to the professional level. Adogbo et al. (2015) argue that more women should be