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Embracing Innovation and Discourse: A Message from the Rector



Esteemed colleagues, students, and friends of UiTM Kedah Branch,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the second edition of the **RMU4U E-Bulletin**. This publication showcases the intellectual energy and a wide range of expertise that have bloomed within our esteemed university.

The 38 articles presented in this issue exemplify a remarkable spectrum of scholarly inquiry. From insightful legal studies to captivating cultural reflections, from thought-provoking discussions on business and finance to explorations of the ever-evolving technological landscape, the **RMU4U E-Bulletin** offers a glimpse into the minds that are shaping the future. This e-bulletin is more than just a collection of articles; it is a platform for discourse, a springboard for critical thinking, and a catalyst for innovation. By engaging with the diverse perspectives presented here, we can cultivate a deeper understanding of the complex issues facing our world today.

I am particularly heartened by the focus on the transformative power of technology. Discussions on Industrial Revolution 5.0 and the integration of AI serve as crucial reminders of the need to embrace innovation and equip ourselves with the skills to navigate the rapidly changing landscape. The articles on learning methodologies, from self-directed learning to mobile-assisted language acquisition, further underscore UiTM Kedah's commitment to providing our students with the tools and resources they need to thrive in the 21st century.

To our esteemed contributors, I extend my sincere gratitude for sharing your valuable insights and expertise. Your dedication is what fuels the intellectual engine of our university.

To our readers, I encourage you to delve into the articles, engage with the ideas presented, and later share your perspectives. Let this e-bulletin be the spark that ignites lively dialogues and fosters a culture of continuous learning within our university community.

Together, let us leverage the power of knowledge and innovation to shape a brighter future.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Rohima Sa'id

Rector, UiTM Kedah



A Message from the Chief Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second issue of the RMU4U E-Bulletin from UiTM Kedah. I am excited to present 38 insightful articles that showcase the diverse academic interests and expertise within our university. Each article brings a unique perspective, contributing to a rich array of knowledge and ideas.

In this issue, our contributors have explored a wide range of subjects. We have compelling legal studies on topics such as home-schooling and child marriage, alongside cultural reflections that delve into the Semai heritage and contemporary Malaysian art. These pieces highlight the importance of preserving and understanding our cultural and societal norms.

Our business and finance section offers fresh insights into the gig economy, the integration of AI in accounting, and the nuances of tax compliance. These articles provide a closer look at the evolving economic landscape and the challenges and opportunities it presents.



Technological innovation is another prominent theme, with discussions on Industrial Revolution 5.0, the critical role of information professionals, and the integration of AI in education. These articles underscore the rapid pace of technological change and its impact on various sectors.

We also feature thought-provoking pieces on self-directed learning, mobile-assisted English learning, and the transformative power of social media in libraries. These articles explore the intersections of technology, education, and communication, offering valuable insights into modern learning environments. Our goal with this e-bulletin is to foster a deeper understanding and spark meaningful conversations among our readers. We hope that the knowledge and ideas shared here will inspire and engage you.

A heartfelt thank you to all our contributors for their hard work and dedication. And to our readers, thank you for your continued support and interest in the RMU4U E-Bulletin.

Happy reading!
Warm regards,

Dr Azyyati Anuar
Chief Editor, RMU4U E-Bulletin





EXPLORING THE SHIFTING LANDSCAPE OF THE GIG ECONOMY: DISCOVERING THE CHALLENGES AND TRENDS FOR DIFFERENT GENERATIONS

Image Source : Canva

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The advancement of technology has transformed the work environment, altering the conventional office structure. Although traditional office jobs remain relevant, the rise of gig work is undeniable, fueled by the emergence of online platforms such as Grab, Foodpanda, Lalamove, LinkedIn, and others. This change showcases the growing impact of digital platforms in redefining how individuals engage with work, resulting in a diverse and dynamic employment ecosystem. In his speech, Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi highlighted that the Malaysian gig economy is estimated to be worth RM1.61 billion, with local platforms expected to grow from RM371.4 million in 2021 to RM650 million in 2025 (The Star, 17 July 2023). He emphasized the need to create a supportive environment for gig workers to thrive and contribute to the economy.

The gig economy, which features short-term, flexible work arrangements, has primarily been linked to younger individuals such as students and recent graduates (Yusof et al., 2022). However, there is an increasing focus on the impact of gig work on older individuals. Research has revealed that gig work is not confined to any particular age group, with a significant number of self-employed independent contractors being older workers (Jeon et al., 2021). This suggests that gig work is also applicable to older individuals, including those aged 65 and above, who may engage in gig work for their former employers or in other capacities.



Gig work offers flexibility and autonomy, which may be appealing to older individuals seeking to continue working but with reduced hours or a more flexible schedule (Abraham et al., 2020). This flexibility can be attractive to those who want to balance work with other responsibilities, such as caregiving or pursuing personal interests. However, it is essential to consider the potential challenges and vulnerabilities associated with gig work for older workers. While gig work can provide increased income and flexibility, it also symbolizes deteriorating working conditions and labor standards, particularly for individuals already constrained in their local labor markets (Anwar & Graham, 2020). Due to limited job opportunities, gig work may offer less favorable conditions for workers including factors such as long working hours, lack of job security, limited access to benefits, and challenges in ensuring workplace safety. Additionally, older workers in the gig economy may face barriers to entry, including limited social interaction and erratic work hours (Behl et al., 2022). They may encounter difficulties when trying to join the gig economy since the works are performed independently or remotely and involve irregular or unpredictable working schedules.

In addition, the gig economy raises concerns about retirement planning and financial security for older workers. Since gig workers are typically not eligible for the same benefits as traditional employees, such as retirement plans, health insurance, and minimum wage guarantees, it is important to consider the financial planning and retirement prospects of individuals engaged in gig work, including those over the age of 50 (Anuar et al., 2023). Policymakers and employers must explore new means of promoting retirement savings, advocate for better access to benefits, and develop policies that ensure the financial stability of older gig workers.

In conclusion, while gig work has been predominantly associated with the younger generation, there is a growing need to understand the dynamics of gig work among older individuals. The gig economy presents both opportunities and challenges for older workers, and further research is necessary to address the unique implications of gig work for retirement planning, financial security, and overall well-being among older individuals.

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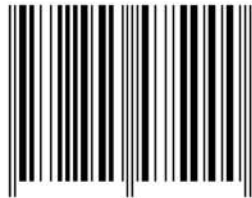
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