THE NEED TO REVIEW THE MALAYSIA'S EDUCATION POLICY: A COMPARATIVE STUDY WITH THE USA

By

Muhsin b. Izhar Hisham (2009866124) Nurhidayah bt. Kamsani (2009666838) Nursyazwani bt. Bahzin (2009851854)

Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements

For the Bachelor in Legal Studies (Hons)

Universiti Teknologi MARA

Faculty of Law

December 2011

The student/authors confirm that submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research project paper has been carried out by a team which has included Muhsin b. Izhar Hisham, Nurhidayah bt. Kamsani and Nursyazwani bt. Bahzin. First and foremost, we would like to thank Allah S.W.T upon bestowing us with His guidance in completing this research. Our sincerest and deepest gratitude goes to our supervisor, Puan Fazlin binti Mohammad Zain, whose had patiently encouraged, guided, supported and sacrificed her time from the initial to the final level in order to enable us to develop an understanding on the subject matter. We also like to express our gratitude to Mr. Azmi Adnan, an education psychology lecturer of the Faculty of Education of UiTM, for giving us in depth view pertaining to the concept of education policy in Malaysia and the USA. Thousand thanks also we bid to Dr. Ihsan Ismail, Special Officer from the Policy Department of Ministry Of Education in supplying us with the required information. Last but not least, we offer our regards and blessings to all of those who supported us in any respect upon completing this project.

ABSTRACT

This research is basically a comparative legal study on education policy between Malaysia and the United States of America. This study sets out to discover the inadequacies of Malaysia's education policy as to the global needs today. Thus study also seeks to discover whether the American education policy is better than ours and the possibility of its application to the Malaysian current standing. There are negative perceptions on students who cannot excel academically and there is also poor mastery of English language as the second language. Evidences obtained through the research showed that it was due to several inadequacies in our education policy. We found that there are several American education policies that may be suitable to be incorporated in our education policy. But still, such incorporation should be slightly amended so it would suit with the uniqueness of Malaysian culture and society.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement Abstract Contents Table of Legislations

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION TO THE RESEARCH

1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Problem Statement	2
1.2	Objectives of the Research	2
1.3	Research Methodology	3
1.4	Scope and Limitations of the Research	3
1.5	Significance of the Research	4

CHAPTER TWO: AN OVERVIEW OF EDUCATION POLICY IN MALAYSIA AND THE USA

2.0	Introduction	
2.1	Education	6
	2.1.1 Definitions and History	6
2.2	Education System in Malaysia	11
2.3	Education System in the USA	
	2.3.1 United State's Examination System	18
2.4	Issues and Challenges	20
	2.4.1 English Language Proficiency among Malaysian Students	20
	2.4.2 Exam-oriented Policy	24
2.5	Conclusion	28

CHAPTER THREE: LEGAL STANDING PERTAINING TO EDUCATION POLICY IN MALAYSIA AND THE USA

3.0	Introd	29	
3.1	Positi	on in Malaysia	30
	3.1.1	Federal Constitution	30
	3.1.2	Education Act 1996	31
	3.1.3	Child Act 2001	32
3.2	Positi	on in the USA	32
	3.2.1	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	33
	3.2.2	No Child Left Behind Act 2001	33
	3.2.3	Elementary and Secondary School Act 1965	35
	3.2.4	Improving America's School Act 1994	36
	3.2.5	Bilingual Education Act 1994	36

•

CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS

Introdu	iction	39
Malays	sia's Education Policy and System	39
4.1.1	The freedom of choices provided for Malaysian students	39
Malays	sia's education policy too exam-oriented	40
4.2.1	Reasons	40
4.2.2	Perception by society on students according to their type of school	40
4.2.3	Sport Scholarship in Malaysia	41
4.2.4	School facilities: In comparison with USA	41
4.2.5	Non-academic achievers	41
Educat	ion and English Language	42
4.3.1	Low proficiency of English among Malaysia's students	42
4.3.2	PPSMI v. MBMMBI	42
4.3.3	Suggested Recommendations to Improve English Language	43
Conclu	ision	43
	Malays 4.1.1 Malays 4.2.1 4.2.2 4.2.3 4.2.4 4.2.5 Educat 4.3.1 4.3.2 4.3.3	 4.2.2 Perception by society on students according to their type of school 4.2.3 Sport Scholarship in Malaysia 4.2.4 School facilities: In comparison with USA 4.2.5 Non-academic achievers Education and English Language 4.3.1 Low proficiency of English among Malaysia's students 4.3.2 PPSMI v. MBMMBI

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0	Introduction	44
5.1	Research Objectives	44
5.2	Discussion	45
5.3	Recommendations	46
5.4	Conclusions	47

Bibliography Appendices