

**THE PERFORMANCE OF UiTM SARAWAK MDAB
PRE-SCIENCE GRADUATES AT DIPLOMA LEVEL:
A TRACER STUDY**



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3. Bagi pihak Universiti kami mengucapkan tahniah kepada Dato/Prof/Dr/Tuan/Puan kerana kejayaan ini dan seterusnya diharapkan berjaya menyiapkan projek ini dengan cemerlang.
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5. Pihak YBhg Dato/Prof/Dr/Tuan/Puan adalah diminta untuk mengisi borang setuju terima projek penyelidikan dan mendaftarkan Penyelidikan ini ke dalam Sistem PuTras. Sila lihat lampiran bagi tatacara untuk pengurusan projek.

Sekian, harap maklum.

"SELAMAT MENJALANKAN PENYELIDIKAN DENGAN JAYANYA"

Yang benar

PRO. DATO DR JAMIL HJ HAMALI
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ENHANCED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (ABSTRACT)

The MDAB Pre-Science program is a remedial course introduced by Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in June 2011. The main objective of the program is to give an opportunity to Bumiputera students having under qualified entry results and coming from low income family to further their tertiary studies in UiTM. Through this program, some students who did not perform well in their SPM managed to embark to university and excel in their Pre-Science program and later in their Diploma studies. The research was embarked to trace the performance of the Pre-Science graduates in their respective Diploma studies at UiTM Sarawak. Specifically, this research aims to share some analysis gathered on the overall performance of MDAB students for the past 9 semesters of intakes for the whole UiTM system, to study the performance of Pre-Science students in the first 6 semesters of MDAB intakes particularly at UiTM Sarawak, to investigate the performance of MDAB Pre-Science graduates in their Diploma studies at UiTM Sarawak, and finally, to obtain meaningful information regarding the MDAB Pre-Science initiatives through students' responses obtained from the online survey and interviews. Overall, from semester December 2011 to March 2012 until semester December 2011 to March 2015, UiTM managed to help out 83.43% Bumiputera students to successfully complete the MDAB Pre-Commerce and Pre-Science programs. The high percentage proved that MDAB program has indeed met its main objective in helping the Bumiputera students who are having under qualified entry results and coming from low income family to further their studies in UiTM. 70.94% of MDAB students in UiTM Sarawak completed their Pre-Science courses and were promoted to the diploma programs at UiTM branches nationwide. The analysis shows that more than 98.40% of these students entered the science based diploma programs, which implies that the students who had enrolled in the MDAB Pre-Science program would increase the number of students doing science and technology courses, which in turn could help meet the demand for technical human resource in the state. AS120 (44.72%) and EC110 (26.71%) were the most taken Diploma courses by the Pre-Science graduates at UiTM Sarawak. The results show that Pre-Science graduates performed better in AS120 as compared to EC110. One student had completed AS120 with Vice Chancellor's Award (ANC) and six completed AS120 with Dean's List Award (TS) whereas none from EC110 had received any of the awards. The online survey results as well as the data gathered from interviews show very positive feedback regarding the Pre-Science initiatives. More than 80% of the respondents were satisfied with the MDAB initiatives and fully supported the MDAB program to be continued in the years to come without any changes. The MDAB Pre-Science program has provided the opportunities and hopes for the low Bumiputera achievers in SPM to better them academically and this program has indeed succeeded in helping the students to further their studies at a higher level.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background of the Research

MDAB, an acronym for *Mengubah Destini Anak Bangsa* is the brainchild of Y.Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Prof. Ir. Dr. Sahol Hamid Abu Bakar, former Vice Chancellor of UiTM, which was based on the idea sparked by YAB Dato' Sri Haji Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia. The main purpose of this program is to help the students who are willing to further their studies but unable to do so due to their poor performance in Malaysian public examination namely Malaysian Certificate of Examination (SPM) which is an entry requirement to Malaysian universities. In addition, apart from education limitation, the students mainly selected to this program are all having financial restriction especially those from the rural areas. As the policy of UiTM, the program is only offered to Bumiputera students, which consists of students from Malay, Orang Asli and indigenous natives of Sabah and Sarawak. This program enables the qualified students to study in UiTM without having to pay any fees and with free accommodation provided. The students also received monthly allowances that could support their cost of living in the university.

The MDAB program is indeed a strong testimonial to UiTM's significant role in reshaping a better future for less fortunate Bumiputera students. It is aligned with UiTM philosophy, which believe that "every individual has the ability to attain excellence through the transfer of knowledge and assimilation of moral values so as to become professional graduates capable of developing knowledge, self, society and nation" if they are to be given a chance (UiTM Sarawak Official Website, n.d.).

UiTM offers two MDAB preparatory programs namely Pre-Commerce (with the program code PD002) and Pre-Science (with the program code PD007). These two courses can be considered as remedial programs but rather with two slightly different focuses. The Pre-Commerce program helps the students to enhance their Mathematic and English language while the Pre-Science, on top of focusing on these two subjects, also focus on enhancing the understanding in science subjects such as Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Through these programs, the students are given a second chance to improve themselves academically. Those who passed the program would be offered the opportunity to further their studies at the diploma level in UiTM.