

**A STEP TOWARDS THE RECOGNITION OF
HOMESCHOOLING IN THE LIGHT OF MALAYSIAN
EDUCATION ACT 1996: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
THE POSITION IN AUSTRALIA & UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA**

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ABSTRACT

The study is aimed to show the importance of recognizing homeschooling, which is an alternative education system now on the rise.

The research will be based on qualitative type of research by focusing on data gathered from various written sources as well as interviews conducted with legal experts. The research will focus on the consequence of the absence of recognizing this education system as the effect of absence of recognition, this system lacks regulations and cause predicaments to children and parents who are trying to adopt this system. Special reference to the positions of homeschooling in the United States and Australia are also taken to provide some basis of regulation for the future researchers.

The research concludes that the Act has not recognized this form of education and thus, some recommendations have been proposed at the end of this research in view of improving the Act and thereby encouraging the Ministry to consider recognizing homeschooling.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH

1.0 Research Background

Concerns regarding matters relating to an alternative education system which occurs outside the traditional school system in Malaysia pertaining to its recognition and overview of its regulations have been on the rise. The alternative the families now opt for is called homeschooling. Currently, the number of people taking this mode of education is rapidly increasing and a larger number is expected to be achieved in the future. According to The Nut Graph, it is estimated that 500 to 1,000 families or more are practicing homeschooling which began about 20 years ago in Malaysia.¹ Their reason to home school was collected in a survey taken by 100 participants, whom are parents of homeschooling students.² The results of the survey done in 2009 shows inculcation of values as the participants' as their first reason for homeschooling their children.³ Secondly, the parents intend to educate their children with their religion principles.⁴ Thirdly the parents are in view that the system of the public schools is declining due to plenty reason.⁵

Furthermore, a list for homeschooling that started from 2007/2008 in a site by David BC Tan shows that the reason for homeschooling is to provide a real life experience to their children and not merely studying for tests and exams.⁶ It is contended that the public school does not allow them to develop creativity as well as development skills for their child.⁷

¹ Deborah Loh, "The Homeschooling Option," <<http://www.thenutgraph.com/the-home-schooling-option/>>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ David B.C Tan, "Reasons to homeschool," <http://homeschoolhomefrontier.com/2009/reasons-to-homeschool>.