

**VIEWS AND PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS TEACHING SCIENCE
AND MATHEMATICS IN ENGLISH AMONG LOWER
SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN KUCHING, SARAWAK**



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ABSTRACT

This study is to examine public views and perceptions of teaching Science and Mathematics subjects in English Language generally, and among secondary school teachers specifically. The focus was on identifying, describing, and analyzing teachers' readiness in teaching the subjects in English Language, the possible factors or conditions constraint the teachers in performing their teaching of Mathematics and Science more effectively and appropriate steps or actions that can be taken to improve their teaching of subjects effectively.

Self-administered questionnaires were used to gather data for the study. The researcher through four coursemates distributed the questionnaires personally. Thirty (30) secondary school teachers, selected using random sampling technique, participated in the study. The Likert Scale was used to indicate respondents' responses to every item in Section B (Attitudes Towards English), Section C (Perceptions Towards Teaching of English in Science and Mathematics), Section D (Perceptions Towards ETeMS Courses (by teachers who have undergone the courses) and Section E (Problems/Constraints Faced By Teachers and Suggestions). The data gathered were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The findings of this study revealed that 70% out of 30 respondents were fully prepared to teach the subjects in English and another 30% were not. Their readiness was shown to be affected by their experiences in teaching field and in the subjects concerned, the medium of instruction used during their school years, their positive attitudes towards English as well as their perceptions towards the teaching of English in the subjects. The findings also showed that respondents' readiness did affect the effectiveness of their teaching as those who

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

*".....THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION to stress on English is to increase students' marketability, and is part and parcel of the globalization process.....,"
Entrepreneur Development Minister, Datuk Seri Mohd Nazri Aziz (News Straits Times, 2002 June 20, p. 8)*

.....AND WHEREAS the purpose of education is to enable the Malaysian society to have a command of knowledge, skills and values necessary in a world that is highly competitive and globalized, arising from the impact of rapid development in science, technology and information..... (Education Act, 1996)

1.0 Introduction

This chapter outlines the background of study, the statement of the problem, the purposes of the study, as well as the research questions the study sought to address. The significance and implications of the study within the context of education in Malaysia generally, and secondary schools in Kuching specifically, are also discussed. This chapter is divided into seven sections. Section 1.1 outlines the background of study. Section 1.2 discusses the statement of the problem. Section 1.3 discusses the purposes of the study. Section 1.4 outlines the significance of the study in terms of the move and implementation of English Language for teaching Science and Mathematics subjects, as well as recommendations for future research. Section 1.5 outlines the guiding research questions. Section 1.6 clarifies the limitations and delimitations of the study. Finally, Section 1.7 provides the definitions of the terms used in the study.