FACULTY OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCE AND POLICY STUDIES

AM110 – DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

PAD 340: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A STUDY ON STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES IN CONDUCTING
RESEARCH

PREPARED BY:

ALIF AKRAM MOHAMMAD (2007133553)

HARRY AJANG (2007104521)

JERIEMY CHRISTOPHER CHERI (2007104517)

PREPARED FOR:

LT. COL. SAIFUL ANWAR BIN MD. ALI

SUPERVISOR:

ELIZABETH CAROLINE AUGUSTINE

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1.0: Introduction

1.1: Background of Study

Our study was mainly created for students who majority taking Research Methodology as their main subject. Research Methodology as in Diploma in Public Administration is called Research Methodology and its code is PAD340. Meanwhile for Bachelor in Administration Science, the codes for research paper are dividing into two into code. The first one is ADS 501 which is for Proposal and another is ADS 554 which is for the Research paper.

This subject is important as it is a main subject for Diploma in Public Administration and Bachelor in Administration Science students. It is compulsory to do the research in order for the students to graduate.

Students are asked to form into a group which can consist from 2 to 4 in a group. Then, they must select among the lecturer in their own faculty to be their supervisor. The supervisor will give guidance to students and assist them in conducting their research.

Since this subject is not an option for student to choose, they have to deal with many problems in conducting their research. That is why our study is focusing on student's problem in conducting their research. Below here is a list of our problem statement regarding student's problem in conducting their research.

2.0: Literature review

2.1: Definition of Terms

Generally, research can be defined as a detailed study of a subject, especially in order to discover new information or reach a new understanding. (Cambridge University Press, 2003). Research also can be referred as the process of finding solutions to a problem after a thorough study and analysis (Sekaran, 2006). The purpose of research as stated by Shuttleworth (2008):

"The purpose of research is really an ongoing process of correcting and refining hypotheses, which should lead to the acceptance of certain scientific truths."

In his book, *Practical Research: Planning and Design*, Paul Leedy describes research as:

"the systematic process of collecting and analyzing information (data) in order to increase our understanding of the phenomenon with which we are concerned or interested."

He suggests that the word research has so many meanings attached to it in that *"few people have any idea of the real meaning."* The most important characteristics of formal research, as Leedy defines it, is that it involves the interpretation of data to draw conclusions.

The process of formal research as identified by Leedy has eight distinct characteristics:

- Research originates with a question or problem.
- Research requires a clear articulation of a goal.
- Research follows a specific plan of procedure.
- Research usually divides the principal problem into more manageable sub problems.
- Research is guided by the specific research problem, question, or hypothesis.
- Research accepts certain critical assumptions.

3.3: Sampling Method

Population

This study was considered a single case study approach due to the use of only one organization in defining the population. A survey will be used as a method in collecting the data. The population of the study will be the full-time students of 5th and 6th semester from Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies in UiTM Kota Samarahan.

Sample size

In our research we take 100 students out of 212 students in Faculty Administrative Science and Policy Study who currently pursuing their study in Diploma Public Administration and Bachelor Administration Science. These 100 students are currently in 5th semester and 6th semester studying Research Methodology. In 5th semester, the students are taught theoretically about research methodology and they are required to write a research proposal. Later, when they embark to the 6th semester, they are required to write full report of the studies that we had proposed.

Sampling Method

To complete our research, we would use Probability Sampling which is Cluster Sampling Method to distribute our questionnaires. Cluster sampling is commonly used if the population is too large for random sampling. As the name implies, cluster sampling involves using participants who are already in part of a group, or "cluster". We will distribute the questionnaires randomly to 200 students in the targeted group through a representative of each class. Then the representatives will distribute it randomly to their classmates in their respective class.