

E-BULETIN
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UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

Cawangan Negeri Sembilan
Kampus Rembau



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FAKULTI
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UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA
CAWANGAN NEGERI SEMBILAN
KAMPUS REMBAU



UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG FEMALE GRADUATES

Across the years, the problem of unemployment among female graduates has drawn attention from all across the world. According to statistics on university enrollment, the percentage of females enrolled in tertiary education (certificate, diploma, and degree programmes) increased by almost 20% between 2000 and 2009, and by 2010, there were 60.1% of female students enrolled in public tertiary institutions (MWFCD, 2014). Recent data from Statista's Research Department (2022) reveals that more female students than male students were enrolled in higher education in the year 2020. In comparison to 234.08 thousand male students, 358.6 thousand female students were enrolled in public higher education institutions, according to statistics. Since 2016, there has been a decline in the number of male students enrolled in higher education, which is in line with the global trend of more women than males enrolling in such institutions.

In higher education, women were more likely to enrol than men, as shown by the data above. However, when it came to employment, women graduates who were unemployed made up 54.2% of the total, or 106.9 thousand people, compared to male graduates who made up 45.8%, or 90.5 thousand people. The age distributions of unemployed graduates were comparable for men and women; around half of them were between the ages of 25 and 34, followed by nearly one-third of them between the ages of 24 and under, which are thought to represent new entrants to the labour force. Department of Statistics Malaysia (DoSM,2021) reports that the majority of female graduates, 52.9%, were not employed because of housework or family obligations. 30.9 percent of respondents who were enrolled in training or education came next.

Since female enrollment in higher education was higher than male enrollment but female employment participation was lower than male participation, this is the critical issue that should be addressed by relevant government agencies such as the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, university top management and any NGOs. This is because women naturally abandon their jobs after marriage in order to raise and take good care of their children and families. It was more comfortable for them to operate certain little businesses from home, such as accepting orders for pastries and bakeries, making clothes, and doing other things that could bring in money to support their spouse.

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With regards to universities, curriculum reviews should consider this issue in order to foster a business mindset among female students, and university administration should promote a business culture in all students as soon as they enrol. Finally, the university should work with any pertinent organisation to introduce students to a variety of ways to make money from home using digital platforms like eRezeki by MDEC, social networking platforms, and so on.