

**FACTORS AFFECTING THE MATHEMATICS PERFORMANCE OF
MDAB STUDENTS**



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MAY 2012

Contents

1. Letter of Report Submission.....	ivv
2. Letter of Offer (Research Grant)	v
3. Acknowledgements.....	vi
4. Enhanced Research Title and Objectives	7
5. Report.....	1
5.1 Proposed Executive Summary.....	1
5.2 Enhanced Executive Summary	2
5.3 Introduction.....	3
5.4 Brief Literature Review.....	5
5.5 Methodology	11
5.6 Results and Discussion.....	14
5.7 Conclusion and Recommendation	23
5.8 References/Bibliography.....	27
6. Research Outcomes	29
7. Appendix.....	30

3. Acknowledgements

Alhamdulillah. Thanks to Allah SWT, who with His willingness has given us the opportunity to complete this research. This research could never been complete without each other's help. We really like to thank and convey our appreciation to Research Management Institute (RMI) in approving our proposal and giving us the grant to support the ongoing progress of this research.

Also thanks to Academic Department (HEA), for allowing us to use the mathematics results for MDAB students as the secondary data towards completing this research. We really appreciate it.

Last but not least, we would like to extend our appreciation to our family, friends and all those who have contribute part of their time and effort to make this research complete. Thanks for all the time shared, comments, contributions, guidance and encouragement along the process of this research.

Thank you.

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5.2 Enhanced Executive Summary

MDAB is a program with the objective of helping Bumiputra youths, who aspire to become a Diploma holder at least but are less fortunate in terms of academic qualifications and thus are not qualified to apply for a Diploma Program. For the MDAB program, all students must complete a 4 month course successfully before they can proceed to the next level which is the diploma level. Besides offering them a place in UiTM branch campuses, they are also given a monthly allowance of RM400. However, for the first batch of students, 52% of the students have failed to further their studies to the diploma level and Mathematics has been identified as the subject where most students failed. From the financial point of view, this high percentage of failure indicated that thousands of ringgit has been wasted on the students that failed their final examination. For that reason, the objective of this research is to identify the underlying factors that are associated with the performance of the students in Mathematics and to identify the level of influences of these factors towards their performance in this subject.

The study is a cross sectional study and the population consist of all students in UiTM Segamat from the December 2010 to March 2011 intake only. This is to ensure the maximum response rate from the respondents. Questionnaires were distributed to the students during the final weeks before examination week started. The data were analyzed using tabular analysis techniques. Besides that, Chi-square Test and Factor Analysis were used in determining the most influential factor that affect Mathematics performance and also the level of influences of these factors.

From the findings, it can be concluded that various types of academic motivation are related to individual differences in that pre diploma students have different reasons for pursuing this program. Knowing that students require different incentives for getting through university, it is possible for lecturers, parents and the students themselves to come up with teaching, planning and learning strategies that are suitable to each student's needs. Results for Mathematics during the SPM examination have a significant effect on the performance of MDAB students when they sat for their final exams in UiTM. It has thus been proven that students who did well in Mathematics during their SPM will achieve similar results for their pre diploma examinations.

Keywords : Mathematics performance, motivating factors, interest, MDAB students.

5.3 Introduction

5.3.1 Background

Mengubah Destini Anak Bangsa (MDAB) program was launched by Y. Bhg. Prof Dato' Ir. Dr Sahol Hamid Abu Bakar, Vice Chancellor of UiTM in July 2010. MDAB is a program with the primary objective of helping Bumiputra youths of Malaysia, who aspire to become a Diploma holder at least but are less fortunate in terms of academic qualifications and thus do not meet the basic requirement to enroll in the university at a diploma level. In this program, all potential candidates must complete a 4 month course successfully before they can proceed to the next level which is the diploma level. They have to study four subjects during this program. The four subjects are English, Mathematics, Motivation and Religious Studies. For English and Mathematics, they are graded according to their ongoing assessments and their final examinations. Meanwhile, for Motivation and Religious Studies, they are graded totally on their ongoing assessments. However, after their final examination results' evaluation has been carried out, only 142 (48%) students made it through to the diploma level. 154 (52%) students failed to further their studies because they either failed in two subjects (Mathematics and English) or in either subject and their Grade Point Average is less than 2.00. If they failed in one subject and their CGPA is at least 2.00 or more, they may sit for a supplementary examination after they got their results. If they passed the supplementary examination, they can proceed to further their studies at the diploma level.

Mathematics has been identified as the subject where most students failed (121). For that reason, the objective of this research is to identify the underlying factors that are associated with the performance of MDAB candidates in Mathematics.

In a study carried out in five East Asian countries, impact of family background, schooling resources and other educational policies contribute to the high performance of students there (Wobmann, 2009). In South Korea and Singapore, family background is a strong predictor of student performance while Hong Kong and Thailand achieve more equalized outcome.

Various factors have been concluded for poor performance of students in Mathematics. The interest of students in Mathematics have been related to the volume of work completed, students task orientation and skill