

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**TEACHERS' ATTITUDE
TOWARDS THE USE OF ICT IN THE RURAL
PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

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Abstract

School teachers are regarded as important 'agent of change' in the present era of Information Revolution and Digitalization. However, it has always been perceived that the level of their attitudinal capabilities and mental readiness in terms of ICT usages especially between teachers of urban and rural setting are presumed to be contrastively wide and distinctively disproportionate. Therefore, in view of such condition, a study is conducted to determine the distinctive divide that exists among such teachers, notably with specific reference to those who hailed from the rural primary school setting. The questionnaires were administered on 111 teachers from 12 primary schools of Bau district in Sarawak. Their proficiency level and attitudinal tendencies towards the use of ICT were measured by the use of Robertson (CAS) Scale which was adopted and adapted to fit into the Malaysian school setting. The analysis of the study has shown that the respondents were very competent in the use of the basic computer software such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Powerpoint, Microsoft Excel, Explorer and Open Office. Besides that it was also found that the respondents generally exhibit positive attitudes towards the use of computers. On the other hand, the result also revealed a diminishing trend of anxieties among the respondents despite the fact that it had always been a prevalent issue of significant magnitude among teachers as shown in the past studies. The level of computer use among the respondents has also shown a remarkable improvement, especially for the purpose of preparing lesson plans, examination questions, analysis of examination results and the management of student's profile records.

Abstrak

Para guru sekolah adalah merupakan golongan “pembawa perubahan” yang penting pada era Revolusi Informasi dan Digital ketika ini. Walaubagaimanapun, tanggapan umum terhadap tahap kemampuan keperibadian dan kesediaan mental dalam penggunaan ICT, lebih-lebih dikalangan guru-guru yang terdapat di bandar dan luar bandar seringkali menunjukkan jurang yang begitu luas dan ketara sekali. Oleh yang demikian, satu kajian telah dijalankan untuk mengkaji akan realiti jurang tersebut, lebih-lebih lagi dengan penekanan yang ditumpukan kepada kalangan guru yang terdapat di kawasan luar bandar. Sehubungan dengan itu, satu set borang kajiselidik yang berkaitan telah diedarkan kepada 111 orang guru yang tersenarai daripada 12 buah sekolah rendah yang terletak di daerah Bau, Sarawak untuk tujuan dilengkapikan. Dalam kajian tersebut, tahap profisiensi dan keberangkalian keperibadian mereka terhadap penggunaan ICT di sekolah-sekolah telah diuji terutamanya dengan menggunakan Skala Robertson (CAS), dimana ianya telah diterimapakai dan diubahsuai bersesuaian dengan situasi persekolahan yang terdapat di Malaysia. Analisis daripada kajian ini telah menunjukkan bahawa tahap kompetensi dikalangan responden adalah baik terutamanya dalam penggunaan asas computer seperti Microsoft Word, Microsoft powerpoint, Microsoft Excel, Explorer dan Open Office. Selain itu, para responden secara keseluruhannya juga telah mempamerkan sikap positif mereka terhadap penggunaan computer. Disamping itu juga, hasil kajian juga telah menunjukkan penurunan pada tahap keresahan para responden, walaupun ianya seringkali merupakan suatu isu yang amat ketara sekali terutamanya dikalangan guru-guru sepertimana yang telah dilaporkan dalam kajian yang lepas. Akhir sekali, kajian ini juga telah menunjukkan kemajuan yang baik terutamanya dalam tahap penggunaan computer dikalangan para responden lebih-lebih lagi dalam applikasi seperti persediaan rancangan mengajar, kertas-kertas ujian, analisis-analisis hasil ujian dan juga dalam pengurusan rekod-rekod profil para pelajar.

Candidate's Declaration

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

In the event that my thesis is found to violate the conditions as mentioned above, I voluntarily waive the right of conferment of my degree and agree to be subjected to the disciplinary rules and regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA.

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