

CHILD CARE CENTRE SERVICES AND THE LAW IN MALAYSIA

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The students/authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the works of others.

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ABSTRACT

This research looked into the issues of Child Care Centre (CCC) in Malaysia and the law. The method used in this research is qualitative in nature. The aim of this project is to give an overview of the services, standard of care and to highlight the challenges faced by the CCC in Malaysia. The Child Care Centre Act 1984 (Act 308) is intended to ensure quality child care for children below the age of four years at the child care centres. The caretaker of this Act is the Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Woman, Family and Community Development. Part II of the Act 308 stipulated that every CCC must be registered under this Act. Thus, all centres that take in children for a fee are required to register with the Department of Social Welfare. The issuance of a Certificate of Registration, which has to be renewed yearly, is monitored by the Department of Social Welfare to ensure compliance with Act 308 and other regulations that come together with it. Through this research it was discovered that not many CCC are registered and the difficulty arise when they operate illegally. This project paper has thus, highlighted some of the problems raised and made some recommendations for improvement.

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CHAPTER ONE: CHILD CARE CENTRE SERVICES AND THE LAW IN MALAYSIA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This research is carried out to analyse the Child Care Centre Act 1984 (Act 308) and its effectiveness in controlling the child care centre (CCC) services. This is the only Act in Malaysia that regulates the CCC services in Malaysia. This chapter will give an overview of CCC services in Malaysia and also the background of the study.

1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

1.1.1 An Overview

With the increasing education and employment opportunities for women, the proportion of women classified as “employee” shot up from 38.9% in 1970 to 62.91% in 1990.¹ The Ministry of Human Resource, Malaysia reported that the labour force participation has increased from 65.1 % in 2001 to 66.9 % in 2006, and women’s participation in the workforce, though low, has escalated from 44.4 % in 2001 to 46.1 % in 2006.² This change has impacted the role of women in the family, creating an escalating demand for alternative care of young children.³ Formerly, most women stay at home as a housewife looking after their children. But later, due to high cost of living and increase in demand of women to participate in the labour force, women start working to help reduce the burden on the husband in maintaining the family.

When women with young children, participate in the labour force they need to find alternative childcare solutions for their children while they are at work. They need to find someone to mind their children when they are at work. Many working parents tend to send their children to nursery, day care centre or

¹ Liew Sau Pheng, “Child Care Services in Malaysia”, *Exchange* May/June 2007 pp 82-83.

² Ministry of Human Resource.

³ Liew Sau Pheng, “Child Care Services in Malaysia”, *Exchange* May/June 2007 at 83.