

THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS CONFERENCE 2019

Towards Greater Transparency, Accountability & Sustainability in Financial Governance

Organized by:



Cawangan Johor Kampus Segamat Kampus Pasir Gudang

In Cooperation with:



21 - 22 AUGUST, 2019 Indonesia Banking School

THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS CONFERENCE

SECRETARIAT OF IABC 2019

MALAYSIA . INDONESIA . 2019

Published by © UiTM Cawangan Johor, 2019 Jalan Universiti Off KM 12 Jalan Muar, 85000 Segamat, Johor. Email: iabc@uitm.edu.my

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IABC2019-052

THE EFFECT OF KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING IN MALAYSIAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

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Abstract

This paper aims to propose that knowledge management (KM) practices could be a means to enhance employee well-being at work and examine how KM can develop a positive sense of employee well-being. Although employee well-being is the most researched topic in the field of organizational behavior and psychology, it was rarely approached from a knowledge management perspective. Hence, this pilot study aimed to examine the effect of KM practices on employee well-being. A theoretical model concerning the connections between four KM practices (knowledge acquisition, knowledge sharing, knowledge creation and knowledge retention) and employee well-being was proposed. A survey data set of 50 responses was collected from academic staff in selected Malaysian private universities. The result was then empirically tested with structural equation modelling by using partial least squares analysis. Findings revealed that knowledge management practices were significantly linked with employee well-being. In particular, knowledge acquisition has a strong effect on employee well-being among the academic staff, followed by the knowledge retention practices. Interestingly, knowledge sharing as the key KM practice and knowledge creation seems to have the least impact on employee well-being. The key findings of this pilot study expanded the scope of the importance of KM for managers to enhance employee wellbeing as a priority in the organizations.

Keywords: Knowledge Management, Employee Well-being