

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.

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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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The Malaysian educational reform which is undertaken to cater for the current demand of globalization is evidently seen by the government's bold initiatives in formulating various kinds of innovative strategies such as the implementation of the Malaysian Superhighway Corridor (MSC) and Vision 2020. In order to ensure the success of such innovation, the government specifically "emphasizes the use of ICT as an effective strategy to bring Malaysia into the digital and global 21st century" (Nor Atikah & Mona, 2006). As such, some computer programs as introduced into the Malaysian Education System, especially during the Fifth Malaysian Plan was primarily aimed to lay a strong foundation for a computer-literate society and also to create a new culture that is oriented towards knowledge and information .

In discussing the development of ICT in the Malaysian schools setting, Nor & Mona (2006) pointed out that "since the last twenty years, the Ministry of Education in Malaysia has embarked on many different kinds of project on the use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in schools". Some of these projects included programs like Computer Literacy, Computer in Education and Smart Schools, while the latest is the ETeMS program which is also termed "English Teaching for Mathematics and Science". In other words, English will be used as a medium of instruction to teach the Mathematics and Science subjects in all government schools throughout Malaysia.

The decision to implement the teaching of the two subjects through such medium of instruction in the year 2003 according to the circular which was distributed by