

**TOWARDS AN ISLAMIC SPIRITUAL MODEL IN INCREASING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
OF ACCOUNTING STUDENTS**



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Ameen

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5. Report

5.1 Proposed Executive Summary

The purpose for commencing this study was a shared belief among the researchers that Islamic spirituality is fundamental to students' personal development; assist them to reach the maximum potential in academic achievement, social interaction, physical development and emotional well-being. In Malaysian perspective, education in Malaysia is on-going efforts towards further developing the potential of individuals in a holistic and integrated manner, so as to produce individuals who are intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and physically balanced. However, there was a gap between the current practice in the education and the Malaysia's education philosophy especially in the spiritual development. Ironically, spirituality is said to have a positive effect on academic performance by researchers in many literatures. As such, the researchers are in the view that the academic performance of students is influenced also by their spirituality. For instance, students who performed poorly normally showed lack of interest in study, absenteeism, lack of self-worth, lack of self-interest and involve in negative activities. It is believe that these problems are due to the lack of spirituality inside them. Therefore, the objective of this study is to propose a teaching and learning model which incorporates Islamic spirituality into the faculty's programs and activities that could produce well-balanced students and determine the impact of the model to the academic performance of students. The methodology applied in this study is quantitative method by using questionnaires distributed to 90 students from Diploma in Accountancy, UiTM Terengganu who will undergo a few 'Tarbiyah' programs conducted by the Faculty of Accountancy with the name of "Sharing is Caring (SIC)", "First Year Experience (FYE)" program, Motivational Talk, and Islamic Ritual program such as "Solat Sempurna" program. The researchers look forward to contribute to a quality education by creating a more holistic and transformative educational process with the intention of producing a well-balanced students inspired by the Malaysian education philosophy.

5.2 Enhanced Executive Summary

The purpose of commencing this study has been a shared belief among the researchers that the element of spirituality is fundamental in developing the potentials of students in a holistic and integrated manner so as to produce students who are intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, and physically balanced. Spirituality has been said to have a positive effect on students' academic performances in many literature where many studies have proven that there is a positive association between spirituality and academic achievement due to high learning motivation and self-esteem among the students. This is due to the view that lacking of spiritual values could lead to the absence of a holistic objective in studies and create unfavourable attitude problems among the students, which results in poor academic performance. Thus, this paper aims at proposing a model of Islamic spirituality to be implemented at higher-education institutions and determining the impact of the model to the academic performance of the students. As such, this model has suggested an Islamic spirituality programme to be incorporated into students' activities known as the Sharing-is-Caring (SIC) programme. Regularly attending the SIC programme, also known as the *Usratt* or *Halaqatt* programme, is expected to provide positive impacts on the students' academic performances because it emphasises on Islamic spiritual values, such as Islamic beliefs (*'Aqidatt*), duties and obligations (*'Ibādatt*), and manners and etiquette (*Akhlāq*), which are crucial to the students' successes as these values could increase their learning motivation and assist them in facing all sorts of challenges faced while studying. The methodology applied by this study is the quantitative method by using a questionnaire. 67 copies of questionnaire have been distributed to the final-semester students of Diploma in Accountancy, Faculty of Accountancy, UiTM Cawangan Terengganu, who have attended the SIC programme for five consecutive semesters. The analyses have been conducted by using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 23. The findings of the study have revealed that the SIC programme could improve Accounting students' Islamic spiritual values, namely their Islamic beliefs and Islamic practices. However, the results of the study have failed to actualise the expected positive relationship between the SIC programme and the academic performances of the students under study.

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