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BOOK OF EXTENDED ABSTRACTS

iVCPPTS 2021

1ST INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

iVCPPTS 2021:

**REGIONAL ISSUES IN PUBLIC POLICY
AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC**

CO-ORGANIZED BY:

**FACULTY OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCE
AND POLICY STUDIES, UTM KEDAH
& FAKULTAS ILMU SOSIAL DAN ILMU POLITIK
UNIVERSITI OF AIRLANGGA (UNAIR)**

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GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY POST-COVID 19: THE CHALLENGE FOR MALAYSIAN PUBLIC UNIVERSITY

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food systems and the world of work. The pandemic has decimated jobs and placed millions of livelihoods at risk. As breadwinners lose jobs, fall ill and die, the food security and nutrition of millions of women and men are under threat, with those in low-income countries, particularly the most marginalized populations, which include small-scale farmers and indigenous peoples, being hardest hit.

Employability refers to someone's ability to gain initial employment, maintain employment, and obtain new employment if required. "Employability is having a set of skills, knowledge, understanding and personal attributes that make a person more likely to choose and secure occupations in which they can be satisfied and successful (Dacre Pool & Sewell 2007).

Graduate employability means the ability of the graduate to get and stay in the job to be able to adapt to the needs of the industry. Furthermore, the job market increasingly demanding graduates to compete, and they need to possess a variety of skills to market their capabilities and academic qualifications. Employability among Malaysian graduates has always been the subject of great societal interest and concern. Malaysia introduced several phases of movement control order due to pandemic COVID-19 since March. Due to this restriction, it is not just affecting the economic activities of the existing employer and employees but it also affecting the work of interns.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

The purpose for this paper is to identify the impact of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) towards graduate employability of UiTM Kedah for final year student. It examines the readiness of UiTM Kedah's final year students to the internship during the lockdown period. This is because, during lockdown period student may need to do their internship from home.

So, the internship organization play a main role in helping internship's student to prepares themselves to work from home.

Furthermore, due to lockdown order, readiness for Malaysian employees including interns to apply WFH approach is becoming another issue. Although several well-established and well-known organization such as Permodalan Malaysia Berhad (PNB) has already started to continue WFH approach even after pandemic (Bernama, 2020), many other companies are yet to adapt with this approach.

Based on the issue and challenges which is organization need to help internship student to WFH, the organization preparation for internships via WFH are becoming more important and crucial. Therefore, internship organization are supposed to become more relevant and need to be implemented in order to help internship student well-prepared to WFH during their internship.

METHODOLOGY

This study is an exploratory study. This study was conducted on UiTM final year students. In total, 78 UiTM final year students answered the survey. The method used in this study is online questionnaire. This questionnaire is done to identify more clearly about the readiness of UiTM Kedah's final year students to the internship during the lockdown period.

RESULTS

Table 1. Socio-demographic data

Socio-demographic	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<u>Gender</u>		
Male	23	29.5
Female	55	70.5
<u>Semester</u>		
5	33	42.3
6	25	32.1
7	17	21.8
8	3	3.8
<u>Internship Sector</u>		
Public	56	71.8
Private	19	24.4
Other	3	3.9
<u>Internship Area</u>		
Capital city	10	12.8
City	61	78.2
Rural	7	9
<u>Internship Allowance</u>		
None	30	38.5
Below RM500	25	32.1
More than RM500	23	29.5

Based on **table 1**, the gap between male and female is quite different (41%), where 23 males responded compared to 55 female respondents.

In terms of internship sector, more than half of the students for this survey are doing their internship in public sectors (71.8%), followed by private (24.4%) and other (3.9%) sectors. In this case, other sectors are including government linked companies, statutory bodies and nonprofit organizations. Meanwhile, for internship area, majority of the students have their

internship in the city (78.2%), followed by capital city (12.8%) and the least is rural area (9%). It means that students conducting their internship are scattered across Malaysia regardless of the location of their employers.

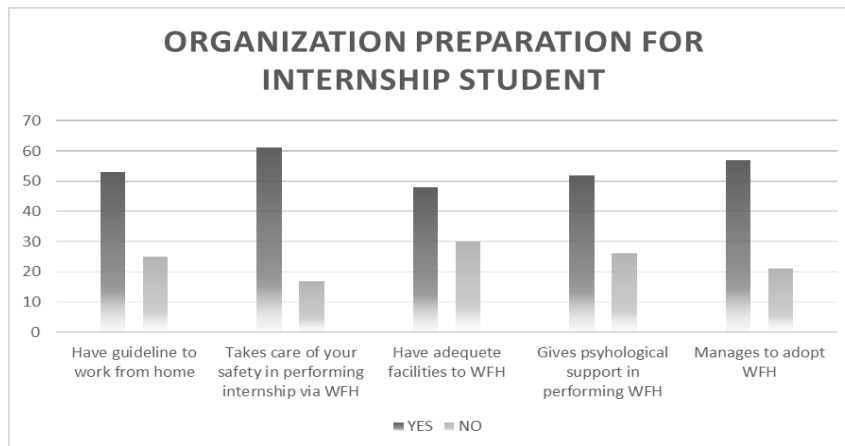


Figure 1. Organization preparation for internship student

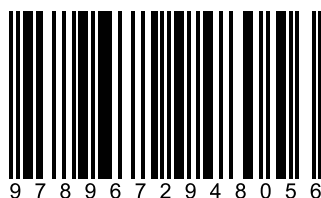
For comparison between organization preparation for internship, mostly student have agree that their internship organization have help their readiness for internship via WFH approach.

Overall, our results suggested that UiTM Kedah final year students are ready for their internship during lockdown period. The figure above shown that mostly their internship organization have prepare well for internship student. In particular, mostly student express their higher level of agreement to such readiness to internship via WFH approach. This findings on the readiness to internship during lockdown period also supported previous study by Pillai et al. (2012), where they found that most of the students were prepared to face the world of working including in this challenging times of COVID-19.

CONCLUSIONS

This survey calibrates the impact of COVID-19 on the internship of UiTM Kedah final year students. Such an impact on the readiness to internship during MCO period are thoroughly studied and discussed. In short, UiTM Kedah final year students are ready to do their internship even during MCO period. From the result, many internship organization have prepared well for internship student to WFH. Besides that, the result of the current study revealed that final year students in UiTM Kedah has positive perception on their internship organization. In this case, by acknowledging the challenges to get the job in the near future, especially after COVID-19 will make these students more active to participate in internship and graduate employability program even during lockdown period. Therefore, the internship organization should implement a good preparation for internship student to make them can learn new skill although need to WFH. In this case, any obstacles that affect the normal internship in the future can be overcome by having adequate facilities and infrastructures especially on IT.

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