

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**PARENT'S VIEW ON
EMPLOYMENT ISSUES FACED BY
MALAYSIAN YOUNG ADULT WITH
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER
(ASD)**

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AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.


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ABSTRACT

Unemployment among Young Adults (YAs) with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has become an alarming trend internationally and even more prevalent in Malaysia. Based on the Ministry of Health (MOH) report on the use of Modified Checklist of ASD (M-CHAT) in 2014, the prevalence of ASD was reported at approximately 1.6 in 1000 children. However, the reported cases are assumed to be lower than the actual number due to the absence of ASD sub categories in the National Registry of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). Nevertheless, parents of this sub-category have been facing with financial struggles and emotional challenges due to their children's employability issues. Unfortunately, to date their real experiences have not been made known and remained uncomprehend. Hence, there is a dire need to undertake this study. The primary aim of this study is therefore to explore the employment issues faced by Malaysian YAs with ASD from parent's viewpoint. A qualitative phenomenological design was employed via semi-structured interviews where 8 participants were recruited through the Purposive Sampling method of collecting data. Each interview lasted between 30 minutes to an hour where their opinions were digitally recorded and then transcribed into verbatim. Data were analysed using the Thematic Analysis and three themes emerged (i) ASD symptomatology (ii) Contextual Challenges and (iii) Parenting Behaviour. Consequently, this study suggests that employment requirements should take into account the YAs with ASD abilities, their life and employable skills, parents' expectations, employers' awareness and acceptance, and the socio-ecology factors. Indeed, these are vital in formulating inclusive governmental policy and practice as regards YAs with ASD. Hence, results from this study may be utilised in assisting policy makers in planning relevant facilities and training to raise employability among YAs with ASD and finally equip them to be ready to enter the Malaysian job market.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page
CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS	ii
AUTHOR’S DECLARATION	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
TABLE OF CONTENT	vvi
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Research Background	1
1.3 Problem Statement	4
1.4 Research Questions	9
1.5 Research Objectives	9
1.6 Significance of the Study	9
1.7 Scope of the Study	10
1.8 Definition of Terms	11
1.9 Introduction to the Conceptual Framework	13
1.10 Summary of Chapter One	15
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Introduction	17
2.2 The PEO model: Supporting YAs with ASD in Employment	17
2.3 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): Definition and Symptomatology.	20
2.4 Employment of PWD in Malaysia	22
2.5 Employment Challenges Faced by PWDs in Malaysia	25
2.5.1 Transition Planning Issues	25
2.5.2 Lack of Accessibility and Inclusivity	26