

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA
FACULTY OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCE AND POLICY
STUDIES**



**CHALLENGES FACED BY PART-TIME STUDENTS IN DISTANCE
EDUCATION:
A CASE STUDY IN UiTM CAMPUS SAMARAHAN 2**

CATHERINE ANAK SELINGGAU

2014108087

SUZAN JUSIPIN

2014372911

MARCH 2017 – JANUARY 2018

ABSTRACT

This study attempts to study the perceptions of part-time students towards the challenges in distance education. Due to the rapid growth of technology, distance education is getting more popular especially to the adult learners who choose distance learning program to enhance their knowledge and skills without quitting their job. Our study focus on the challenges in distance education since the students may have difficulty to balancing their time between work, study and other responsibilities. We want to find out the motivation level between genders of the part-time students and look at the perceptions towards the financial burden and individual's situational barriers in distance education. We conducted this research at University Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Sarawak Samarahan 2, and selected the part-time students which are from the Bachelor of Administrative Science (Honors) to become our respondents in this study. Results show that gender has no significant different in motivation level. Our analysis also shown that part-time students have moderate perception towards the financial burden in distance education and positive perception on the individual's situational barriers in distance education. Based on the findings, this study hope to provide insight to the institutions to concern on the challenges faced by part-time students in distance education.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

Chapter 1 of this study consists of seven sections. This chapter focuses on the background of the study which is on distance education. Section 1.1 discusses the background of the study, Section 1.2 explains the problem statement and Section 1.3 states the research questions. Section 1.4 states the research objectives; Section 1.5 indicates the information regarding the scope of study. In addition Section 1.6 explains the significant of study and lastly section 1.7 is all about definition of terms and concept.

1.1 Background of the study

Education in Malaysia is governed under the Education Act 1996 and it is administers under the Ministry of Education. To coordinate educational matters, each state and federal territory has their own Education Department. Education system in Malaysia is divided into preschool education, primary education, secondary education, post-secondary education and tertiary education. The aim of our education system is to develop a world-class quality education system (Nuffic, 2015).

By 2020, Malaysia wants to become a fully industrialized country and due to this, government face challenges in provision of education. In order to achieve the vision, many universities in Malaysia change the curriculum content and program as well as the delivery system. Developing off-campus program - that is open and

1.2 Problem Statement

The problem concern is the part-time student commonly faced many challenges compare to full time student (Siti, Munira & Hana, 2013). There are limited studies conducted regarding part time students in Sarawak. Supposedly, there should be more studies conducted in Malaysia, especially in Sarawak, since there are a lot of local and foreign higher education institutions and universities that offered distance learning to part-time students. This is the reason on why we conducted a research about the challenges faced by part-time student in UiTM Campus Samarahan 2 Sarawak.

There are several problems related to the challenges of studying part-time while working for the adult learners. Most of the part-time student faced low level of motivation due to the lack of support from the family members, organization, institution and peer colleagues (Adam, 2010).

Apart from this, the other challenge in distance education is financial burden. Financial burden can be in term of fees, cost of transportation and cost of study materials. As we know, distance education program is quite expensive and burdened the part-time student because they also have other financial responsibilities such as payment for loan, expenses for household and money for their children (Macrothink Institute, 2014).

Furthermore, situational barriers also one of the challenges among the part-time student. Individual's situational barriers existed because they cannot manage their time properly. Individual's situational barriers happened when they have to give