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**QUOTA SYSTEM IN THE HIGHER LEVEL OF EDUCATION
IN MALAYSIA**

**A STUDY OF STUDENTS PERCEPTION TOWARDS THE
QUOTA SYSTEM IN THE HIGHER LEVEL OF EDUCATION
IN MALAYSIA**

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Chapter 1.1: INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY

The concept of Quota System in education has been discussed, debated and elaborated by various parties. During the month of August 2001 the issue of Quota System was the talk of the town as there was a free and wide discussion in the press. Since it has been 49 years since our country achieved independence on 31 August 1957, Quota System was included in the national education in the country and now we believed that it is timely to re-evaluate the national education. Usually we will heard that people has always been describe Quota System as an action that had been taken to uplifting the social, economic and cultural standards of the Malays. For some people they may think that it is not fair to be implemented in our country as it will only give advantages to the Bumiputera only.

However, the society will have to think on the bright side where one of the goals of this policy is to help the country ethnic majority to move forward as it has also helps to create a flourishing private market for higher education. Previously Quota System have been only implemented to public universities only but it is now may be extended from public universities to private universities. In 2001 by official estimates, Malay students or the Bumiputera's make up not more than 15% of the entire intake into private colleges. That is why the Quota System needs to be extended to private universities as well.

The Federal Constitution was also amended in order to introduce the Quota System in institution of higher learning. A major change took place under the amendment introduced by Article 153(8A) in 1987 where the Yang di-Pertua Agong is to give directions to any universities or colleges to reserve a certain proportion of places for Malays and natives of the Borneo State for any course of study. However Article 153(8A) seems has been given extremely narrow and restrictive interpretation, thereby it is leading to the erosion of the rights of other communities in the education field, especially in the tertiary institution. By having this article in the Federal Constitutions, the non-Bumiputera's will hardly be given the

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1: Introduction

Quota system has been a huge topic of discussion, all around the world, may it be in the education line, economy, or other relevant fields. With this, some researchers, writers, and also critiques had come up with all kinds of assumption towards this issue. Among the heated issue in the quota system is the education. Everyone agrees that education is a way to improve life and also to have more skills and knowledge of any fields they are interested or expertise. According to a post in the famous center of information, the World Wide Web (www) or known as the internet, the quota system has been discussed all over the world, by looking through the bloggings in the net. He, Brimelow, in his website www.vdare.com, had mention that that issue is a never ending story as till now there is no one who actually dares to speak up for the rights of those who were discriminated under this issue of quota system in education. As he quoted one of the famous man in the world; *"I have a dream."* Martin Luther King Jr. said *"that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."*

If we see through the quotation of Martin Luther King Jr., we can see that the world is not what he had dream, years back. We can see all kinds of perceptions of people to one another, which sometimes lead to disputes, or worse, war. Same goes to what is going on in Malaysia. The quota system of education in the higher level learning in Malaysia was a heated issue ever since the May 13th 1969 crisis. The issue is still a big topic among the people of Malaysians. We can see the evidence from the newspapers, books, internet posts, and one of the famous ways to see or view the minds of Malaysians towards this issue is through the internet blogging and also on-line discussions. But, there are a few reasons why this quota system exists. But then how is the system, depends on how we Malaysians look at it.

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

Research design is the plan by which the information is gathered. The research design will often specify on three the technique that will be used, who will be involved and how data will be analyzed. The technique that used by our group to gather information is cluster sampling. We choose not only student of Public Administration from Part 1 to Part 6 to answer the questionnaire but also the student of UNIMAS as well as few other private institutions. The respondent that involved in our research study not only focused on the UiTMCS students. In this research design, there are include research question, hypothesis, theoretical framework, sample, data collection and data analysis.

3.1.1 Research Questions

- I. In your opinion, what are the benefit(s) of quota system?
- II. Do you think of the quota system that has been implemented in UiTM? Why?
- III. Do you think that UiTM could achieve its objective to be a world class university with the implementation of quota system for non Bumiputera student?
- IV. In your opinion, what other privileges that the government could provide for the Bumiputera students in order to balance the social in order to balance the social, economy and education?