

INFLUENCING THE INDIANS ENTREPRENEUR BUSINESS SUCCESS

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CHAPTER 1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of its history, Malaysia has been a meeting place for a diverse range of external cultures and religions. As a result of these external influences, a new unified but distinguished Malay culture has emerged. Contemporary Malaysia represents a unique fusion of Malay, Chinese, and Indian traditions, creating a pluralistic and multicultural nation that has its character strongly rooted in social harmony, religion and pride in its ancestral background. With such a rich cultural heritage, acquiring the relevant skills and cultural knowledge in order to conduct business in Malaysia is crucial to your success.

Sarawak is the largest of the 14 states of multilingual Malaysia, and is located on the island of Borneo. Sarawak has a population of 2,399,839 people consisting of 26 different ethnic groups. The largest group is the Iban with a population of 693,358, and this is followed by the Chinese 560,150, Malays 551,567, Bidayuh 192,960, Melanau 119,897, other *Bumiputeras* (sons of the soil) 152,074, Indians 7,188 and others which comprise of 113,772 non Malaysian citizens (Mukim, 2010)

Kuching is the capital of Sarawak and is located in the Kuching Division, which is also known as the First Division. Kuching has a population of 598,617 (Mukim, 2010). The major religions in Sarawak are Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Taoism. Hinduism and Sikhism are practiced mostly by the Indians and Punjabis. In Sarawak, just as in other states in Malaysia, Malays are Muslims (David, 2003).

People of Indian descent comprise about 7% of the population. South Indian Tamil have been coming to Malaysia since the 11th century. Inflow of Indian migrants began during the establishment of the Straits Settlements. They were brought in as labourers, traders, policeman, and construction workers. Large-scale migration took place in the early 1900s to work in the rubber plantations. The Tamils are concentrated on the West Coast of peninsular Malaysia. The Indian community is made up mostly of Tamils, but also includes Bangalis, Malayalis, Punjabis, Telugus, Gujaratis, and Sindhis. The main religion are Hinduism and Sikhism (Bhasin, 2010).

Moreover, assimilation is the process by which minorities gradually adopt patterns of the dominant culture (Macionis, in Dealwis and David, 2009). This involves changing modes of dress, attitudes and values, religion, language and social networks and even identity. Barry (1979, in Dealwis and David, 2009) elaborates: "assimilation is a process whereby the

CHAPTER 2

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Critical Success Factor of Entrepreneur

Company success is frequently conditional on the knowledge of entrepreneurs which mainly depends on their education and past experience emphasises the importance of knowledge in companies. Knowledge is very importance for the company whereby it represents one of the sources of sustainable competitive advantages and that knowledge is the basic foundation for economic performance. Research has shown that knowledge has become an important tool for strengthening an enterprise's competitive advantage.

The alternatives to reward-equals competence as a reason for entrepreneurial success and offers a pragmatic programme for those who seeks to start or acquire their own company, a programme that shifts the focus from the personality of the entrepreneur to the firm's underlying business concept and capacity to accumulate capital. On the other hand, the successful entrepreneurs started or acquired companies whose economic fundamentals were superior to the firms that failed to achieve significant success.

2.2 Entrepreneurs

When an entrepreneur starts a business using his financial assets, he must need some time to share his work load. For this purpose, he hires people to work with him. As the time passes, the entrepreneur gets satisfied that he is investing his money in the right place. So he starts a huge business, hence creating more job opportunities for people. By creating job opportunities for people, an entrepreneur provides wealth to the people. They tend to start a new business with innovation like providing the best quality product within low price so that people can save their money and get the best product. This strengthens the economy of a country. For this purpose Government also welcomes entrepreneurs to start their business.

The successful innovation requires an act of will and patience. It depends, therefore, on leadership, not intelligence. All of the entrepreneurs need to be risk-taking in doing the business that may have a reasonable possibility of failure. Everybody that becomes an entrepreneur needs to be ready and find any opportunities if they involve in any problem that can make them become bankrupt.

Despite of that the concept of knowledge transfer derives from the field of innovation (Major and Cordey-Hayes, 2000). Most of Indian people in Kuching are making knowledge transfer from one place, person, and ownership to another. The concept of the transfer must