

Faculty of Cognitive Sciences and Human Development

VALUES OF WOMAN ACADEMICIAN TOWARDS CAREER SUCCESS AND RECOGNITION: A CASE-STUDY IN UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA SARAWAK (UNIMAS)

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This project is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for a Bachelor of Science with Honours (Human Resource Development)

> Faculty of Cognitive Sciences and Human Development UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK 2011

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ABSTRAK

PERSEPSI AHLI AKADEMIK WANITA TERHADAP KEJAYAAN KERJAYA DAN PENGIKTIRAFAN: KAJIAN KES DI UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK (UNIMAS)

STEPHANIE ANAK FOSSILLIAN

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mendapatkan persepsi yang mempengaruhi kerjaya dan pengiktirafan di kalangan para ahli akademik terutamanya wanita. Lokasi kajian adalah di Universiti Malavsia Sarawak (UNIMAS). Kaedah kuantitatif telah disunakan dan borang soalan selidik berskala lima Likert diedarkan kepada responden-responden. Seramai 55 orang telah terlihat sebagai responden sepanjang kajian dijalankan. Kajian ini dijalankan untuk menguji perkaitan di antara faktor-faktor yang terpilih jaitu dari segi ciri-ciri demografi, sikap, dan sumber terhadap kejayaan kerjaya dan pengiktirafan. Ciri-ciri demografi responden yang meliputi umur, taraf perkahwinan dan status akademik dikaji dengan menggunakan One-way ANOVA dan Ujian T-test Sampel Bebas untuk mengenalpasti perkaitannya dengan persepsi mereka terhadap pembangunan keriava dan bagi mendapatkan pengiktirafan. Perkaitan antara faktor sikap dan faktor sumber dengan persepsi ahli akademik wanita terhadap pembangunan kerjaya dan pengiktirafan diuji dengan menggunakan Analisis Korelasi Pearson. Regresi pelbagai digunakan untuk menentukan faktor yang paling dominan. Keputusan analisis menunjukkan terdapat hubungan signifikan antara ciri-ciri demografi, sikap, dan faktor sumber terhadap persepsi ahli akademik wanita dalam menilai kejavaan kerjava dan pengiktirafan. Berdasarkan dapatan kajian ini, beberapa cadangan telah dikemukakan kenada organisasi, mereka vanf terlibat dalam menguruskan sumber manusia, para penekaji pada masa akan datang serta ahli akademik wanita itu sendiri sebagai rujukan. Organisasi harus menitikberatkan keperluan pekerja supaya mereka tidak terhad dalam mendapatkan sumber supaya mereka boleh mencapai kejayaan dalam kerjaya and mendapatkan pengiktirafan. Selain itu, pihak pengurusan sumber manusia haruslah bersifat lebih sensitif dan adil dalam menguruskan keperluan ahli akademik. Bagi para pengkaji di masa hadapan, kajian yang melibatkan lebih banyak institusi pengajian tinggi dicadangkan. Untuk ahli akademik terutamanya wanita, mereka harus mengenal pasti keperluan yang membantu diri mereka sendiri dalam kejayaan kerjaya dan pengiktirafan.

ABSTRACT

VALUES OF WOMEN ACADEMICIAN TOWARDS CAREER SUCCESS AND RECOGNITION: A CASE-STUDY IN UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA SARAWAK (UNIMAS)

STEPHANIE ANAK FOSSILLIAN

This study aims to identify the values towards career success and recognition among women academician. The study was conducted in University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). Quantitative method was used and five Likert-scale questionnaires were distributed to the respondents. 55 respondents were involved in this study. This study was conducted to determine the relationship between factors which consists of demographic factors, attitudinal factors, and resources factors of women academician towards career success and recognition. Demographic characteristics of the respondents which included age group, marital status and academic rank were analyzed to determine the significant relationship and respondents' values towards career success and recognition by using One-way ANOVA and Independent Samples T-test. The relationship between attitudinal factors and resources factors of women academicians towards career success and recognition were tested by using Pearson Correlation Coefficient. Multiple regressions were carried out to determine the most dominant factors. The results showed that there were significant relationship between demographic factors, attitudinal factors, and resources factors of women academicians towards career success and recognition. Based on these findings, several recommendations were presented to the organization, human resource practitioners, future researchers and academicians. Organization should focus on providing the needs especially to women academicians so that there are no limited resources to career success and having recognized. Besides that, human resource practitioners should be more sensitive and fair in managing the people's need. For future researchers, it is suggested to carry out study which involves more than one higher educational institution. For women academicians themselves should identify resources that helps them towards career success and recognition.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the introduction of the research study which consists of ten sections. Introduction of the study is continued by discusses of the background of the study, followed by statement of the problem and research questions. The objective of the study and conceptual framework will be discussed respectively in the third and fourth section. The next other half of this chapter carry on with development of research hypothesis. Section six and section seven explains the definition of terms as well as methodology. Section eight presents the significance of the study followed by section nine on limitation of the study, whereas the last section as a summary.

1.1 Background of Study

Career success and recognition are "dream" of most individuals and how they wish others to see them in the achievement of employment. Nevertheless, the outcome in career success and recognition is differs depending on each individual. The meaning of success is varied for different people (Baruch, 2004). Recognition is one of the most accepted measurements towards career success in the sense of psychological view.

Career success as defined is an accumulated positive work and psychological outcomes which results from one's work experiences (London and Stumpf, 1982; Judge, Cable, Boudreau and Bretz, 1995; Seibert, Crant and Kraimer, 1999). The study on career success has long been an interest to career scholar in the early years such as Hughes (1958) and by newer practitioners as Punnett (2007). Bridging in the gap of past and recent study, few study had been carried on such as to link career success and satisfaction (Punnett, 2007). Apart from that, another study by Ballout (2007) on the effects of human capital, person-environment fit and organizational support towards career success.

As far as career success is concern, the researcher narrows down the scope towards women in Malaysia specifically women as academicians. According to Maimunah and Mariani (2008), women are about half of the population in Malaysia which involves in various sectors of employment for example manufacturing, services and business aside agriculture. By referring to 10th Malaysia Plan (2010), there are 46.4 percent of women in current labor workforce compare to men. This indicates that there are increasing numbers of women in labor workforce in Malaysia compared to previous years but this percentage is still low compared to other countries such as Thailand (70 percent) and Singapore (60.2 percent).

For this particular study, the researcher intention is to discover the values as attitudes of women academicians in Malaysian public institutions of higher learning towards career success and recognition. In Buckley (2000) research of medical school, it mentions that there were differences in values related to career success and recognition which is clearly seen especially among women physician academicians. The differences have important impact on promotion for women. But in Malaysia, less study are conducted on the issues of women (Hamid, 2006) values towards career success and recognition.

Malaysia is one of the developing countries facing gender issues. It covers a range of concerns related to women's status and position in society. In 1989, the Malaysian Government initiated a national policy on women to make sure that women are having equitable sharing in the acquisition of resources and the opportunity for career benefits and development as men. Hence, in an effort to retain women especially the academicians who serve in higher level positions, learning institution needs to know whether these academicians are satisfied with their career.

1.2 Problem Statement

Since Independence in 1957, women in Malaysia have moved forward in advance. Women are no longer underestimated and perceived as non-educated. As years goes by, there are increasing numbers of women entering universities which 246,122 in 2008 to 255,837 in 2009. The increasing numbers of highly educated women shows that there are educational opportunities for women at all level.

Perangkaan Pengajian Tinggi Malaysia Tahun 2009 displays the higher number of women as academicians where there are 13,577 women academics as men only 13,123 in numbers. Since there are increasing numbers of women involved in higher education sector, it comes to researcher's interest to focus on the changing trends of numbers of women who are involved in particular public higher education sector according to academic rank. Based on statistics (Perangkaan Pengajian Tinggi Malaysia Tahun 2009) there are 1,670 women as tutors as men are only 1,168. The significant of the distribution shows that highest numbers of women is on being a lecturer (9,345 than men of 7,988). Women on being associate professors are only 1,349 compare to 2,257 for men. Minority group of women reached the top management as professors, where records a total number of 366 women professors compare to 1,259 men professors in 2009. The difference shows clearly that women tend to be a lecturer.

Statistic indicates that very few women moving upward from being a lecturer to professors. Obviously men seem to dominate on being a professor in most universities. It is believed due to the structure of employment which is pyramidal (Maimunah and Roziah, 2006). The current scenario gives indication to find out whether women academicians prefer to serve longer as lecturers, or are they actually stuck in the middle of their way towards reaching what is considered as a career success.

With the progress of this study, it might provide information which differs from current context development either by western researchers or local researchers. Moreover, most of the studies on career success are focusing mainly on objective career success (Kotter, 1982) yet this study is more related to find out individual's judgement towards own career success. (Gattiker & Larwood, 1989) and particularly relates to attitudes.

Apart from that, this study is driven based on Buckley and Sanders (2000) which the research focuses on the values of women faculty about career success and recognition at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine. In searching for related theories on career success especially for local women, there are very few theories found especially studies done in Malaysia (Hamid, 2006). In addition, Maimunah, Roziah and Nor Wahiza (2004) stated that study on career development of high-flying woman professionals or women as academicians has not yet come to the centre of attention.

This study concerned in understanding the internal factor such as attitudes specifically of these women academicians in one of public university in Malaysia towards career success and recognition. Related research on this internal factor explains on most individuals who feel successful extrinsically but do not consider they achieve success in career (Korman, Witty-Berman and Lang, 1981). Moreover, researcher wants to focus more on women's academician progress towards achieving the highest level profession in academia. This study is considered as efforts to find out what are the resources needed and to know whether women academicians are facing obstacles towards promotion.

The research may answer three major questions which are:

- a) What is women academicians value towards career success and recognition?
- b) What are the attitudes of women academicians toward career success and professional recognition?
- c) What kind of resources do these women academicians need for career development?

1.3 Objective of Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The main objective of this study is to describe values of women academicians in Malaysian public institution of higher education on how they perceived career success and recognition.

1.3.2 Specific Objective

- 1. To identify the relationship between the age group towards women academicians value on career success and recognition.
- 2. To identify the relationship between the marital status towards women academicians value on career success and recognition.
- 3. To identify the relationship between the academic rank towards women academicians value on career success and recognition.
- 4. To identify the relationship between attitudinal factors and women academicians value on career success and recognition.
- 5. To identify the relationship between resources factors and women academicians value on career success and recognition.

6. To identify the dominant factor between demographic factors, attitudinal factors and resources factors towards women academicians value on career success and recognition.

1.4 Conceptual Framework



Source: Altman (1997); Buckley and Sanders (2000); Hewlet (2002); Maimunah, Roziah and Nor Wahiza (2004); Maimunah and Roziah (2006); Powell and Mainiero (1992)

Figure 1: The Conceptual Framework

As illustrated in Figure 1, a conceptual framework for this study was developed based on objective of the study and mainly adapted from (Buckley &

Sanders, 2000) of research paper on "Obstacles to promotion? Values of women faculty about career success and recognition".

The conceptual framework in Figure 1 shows the independent variables that consist of demographic factors, attitudinal and resources factor which can influence women academician's values on career success and recognition.

Demographic factors included age group, marital status and academic rank. In the meantime, attitudinal factors consist of emotional, informational and behavioral attitudes. The third independent variable is resources factor which include family support, promotion guideline, mentoring and resource available.

1.5 Research Hypotheses

Based on the objective of this study, the hypotheses were formulated:

Ha1 : There is a significant relationship between the age group and women academician's value on career success and recognition.

As age is included in demographic factors that affect women academician values on career success recognition, researcher referred to Powell and Mainiero (1992) and Altman (1997) which stated that one's career is greatly influenced by age.

Ha2 : There is a significant relationship between the marital status and women academician's value on career success and recognition.

Marital status is included as one of demographic factors that influenced women academician's values on career success as according to Hewlet (2002). Hewlet (2002) states that married women's career development are affected based on the status and thus it affects their values in achieving success and gain recognition.

Ha3 : There is a significant relationship between academic rank and women academician's value on career success and recognition.

Maimunah and Roziah (2006) stated in the book of "High-Flying Women academics, a question of career mobility", the academic career is clearly seen of flat structure. Thus, there is uniqueness on every individual on how they determine their multi-directional career paths to achieve success. That explains why academic rank is included to identify how different women academicians at different academic rank value career success and recognition.

Ha4 : There is a significant relationship between attitudinal factors and women academician's value on career success and recognition.

Attitude is one of individual factors influencing one's career. According to Maimunah and Roziah (2006), attitude including values, norms and beliefs has direct influence towards career.

Ha5 : There is a significant relationship between resources factors and women academician's value on career success and recognition.

Based on Buckley and Sanders (2000), the survey found out that there is differences in career progress between men and women academics in Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine and Veterans Affairs Medical Center due to women reporting less time to plan for career development. Besides that, women academicians in medical school face obstacles towards career development and promotion based on limited resources. That is why researcher in this study wants to identify whether there is significant relationship between resource factors and values of women academicians in Malaysian Public institution of higher education.

Ha6 : There is a dominant factor between demographic factors, attitudinal factors and resources factors towards women academician's value on career success and recognition.

1.6 Definition of Terms

Mentioned below are the definitions of terms used in this study. There are two types of definitions used which are conceptual and operational definition. Conceptual definitions are the definitions taken from other sources available like journals or scholars. Meanwhile the operational definitions explain the terms in the context of the study.

1.6.1 Values towards career success and recognition

Conceptual Definition

Values are considered as how academicians personally rated different accomplishments as signs of their career success. (Buckley & Sanders, 2000).

Operational Definition

In this particular research, the values that are selected to determine academician's values on what they considered as career success and recognition are: opportunity to handle challenges as a way to enhance expertise, having ideal workplace where can work for a lifetime, in a career that has potential for promotion, place where they can work independently, in a position to do mostly work which they like, getting good performance evaluations, earning as much as the work is worth, pleased with the current promotions, well-designed benefits package, structured (career) progression.

1.6.2 Attitudes

Conceptual Definition

According to Luthans (1989), attitudes are intended for some object about which a person has feelings and beliefs.

Operational Definition

Since attitudes are determinant of behavior as they are linked with perception, personality and motivation, the attitudes in this study consists of three basic components: emotional, informational and behavioral towards career success and recognition.

1.6.3 Resources

Conceptual Definition

Resources for career development are the "factors that should be available for women and should not limited to new lecturers as there are women who take research careers later due to family responsibilities" (Buckley & Sanders, 2000).

Operational Definition

In this study, the resources are considered as one of the organizational factors contributing to women academicians for their career development. The resources such as family support besides emphasize on promotion guidelines, mentoring and differences in resource available (time, workplace and scholarships).

1.7 Methodology

In this study, the researcher used quantitative research design in the form of survey by using questionnaires. As for the population of this study, researcher chose women academicians in University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). The method to select the sample was by using purposive sampling technique. In order to ensure the reliability of the instrument, a pilot test was carried out among lecturers of Centre of Language Study in University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 18.0 for