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Skill acquisition (TVET) and employment in Sarawak

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Abstract

This paper examines the role of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as a booster of employment opportunities in Sarawak, highlighting the importance of TVET as a catalyst that promotes individuals' chances to gain employment, with the ultimate goal of improving their socioeconomic living conditions and overall development. As a case study focusing on Tabung Ekonomi Gagasan Sarawak (TEGAS) TVET programmes and applying the qualitative research methodological approach, this paper gathered and analysed raw data from research participants and concluded that (1) TVET plays significant roles in facilitating individuals' or groups' employment chances, especially within tech-based industries, and (2) employments are rewarded with remunerations and thus facilitate individuals' socio-economic developments.

KEYWORDS

employment, skill acquisition, Tabung Ekonomi Gagasan Sarawak (TEGAS), technical and vocational education and training (TVET)

1 | INTRODUCTION

This paper examines the roles played by technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in the employment of the youth of Sarawak. In particular, this study focuses on the role of Tabung Ekonomi Gagasan Sarawak (TEGAS) TVET programmes established by the state government as an initiative that promotes technical and vocational education among young Sarawakians (Mahmud, 2012). Mahmud stressed that TEGAS through its programmes seeks to encourage the youth of Sarawak to participate and equip themselves with TVET skills that will boost their employment opportunities, mainly in technical industries [i.e. Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE)] [Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA), 2018].

As mentioned above, TEGAS is a TVET initiative by the Sarawak government with the goal of becoming "the catalyst of human capital" through its different programmes that promote digital innovations and technological entrepreneurship amongst the Sarawakian youth (TEGAS, 2012). Below are some TEGAS TVET outreach programmes: