

ANALYSING YOUTHS' PERCEPTIONS ON GREEN TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND AWARENESS ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION USING A TWO-STEP LEAST SQUARES METHOD

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Abstract: This study analysing the model of youths' perceptions on green technology policy and their awareness level on environment protection. This study aims to address potential endogeneity in the model by introducing a few instruments in the two-step least squares model. A total of 300 Sabahan youths respondents had participated in this study. The finding of this study shows that there is an endogeneity issue in the baseline model with statistically significant post-estimation tests. After addressing the potential bias in the baseline model, this study finds that the positive effects between high youths' perceptions on green technology policy efficacy and high awareness on environment protection become five times higher. It suggests for the government and policymakers to embark on youths involvement in spreading positive attitudes towards environmental protection as they are the future catalyst of Sabah particularly and Malaysia in general.

Keywords: endogeneity bias; environmental protection; green technology policy; two-step least squares method; youths perceptions.

1. INTRODUCTION

Empowering youth in several aspects such as education, health, and economic is very important. This is because youth will become state and national leaders for the present and the future. They will become the agents of change in the community including agents for change towards sustainable development. Recently, Sabah encounters several unpredictable climate changes that cause the sea levels to decrease dramatically [1], [2]. According to the World Economic Forum, increasing phenomenon such as natural disasters and severe weather was a sign of failure of climate-change mitigation and adaption [3]. Hence, in this study, we would like to investigate the impacts of the environmental policy, in particular green technology policy towards environmental protection awareness in youth perspectives. We expect that, with the introduction of a few government policies on green policy or sustainability, youths awareness of environmental protection could be enhanced.

To investigate comprehensively the impact of the green policy on youths' perception of environmental protection, we employ the two-step least squares model. In the model, we will address potential endogeneity bias that may source from unobserved factors such as youth's attitudes towards the government green policy. Differ from [4] study, we will fill their study and other green technology studies (for instance, [5]) by including potential unobserved factors in the baseline model and focusing on youths perspectives.