

**PERFORMANCE OF BATIK SMEs IN KELANTAN AND
TERENGGANU**

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The main objective of this research is to answer the question of why do some firms in the batik industry perform better than the other firms. By adopting measurement theory and a ground theory, this study compared the measures of risk-taking firms and low performing

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June 2009

Chairperson: Mohd Zulkifli bin Mokhtar, Ph.D.

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Faculty : Management and Economics

The main objective of this research is to answer the question of why do some firms in the batik industry perform better than the other firms. By adopting resource-based view (RBV) as a ground theory, this study compared the resources of high performing firms and low performing firms.

The resources of high performing and low performing batik SMEs were examined in term of entrepreneur experiences, hiring worker practices, designing activities, business practices (consultation, customer credit policy and financial management) and marketing strategies which have

been identified from previous studies as among the factors that contributed to the firm performance.

For that purpose, the questionnaires were distributed among 186 batik entrepreneurs in Kelantan and Terengganu (the two states which most of the batik entrepreneurs are in). They were then categorized as the high and low performers by using sales and profit as performance indicators.

The result of Chi-square and Mann-Whitney U test found a few significant differences in their resources between high and low performance of batik SMEs. The findings of the study showed that high sales performers were differed from low performers in term of entrepreneur experiences (business and batik training), hiring workers practices (hiring criteria), design activities, business practices (consultation and financial management) and marketing strategies (out-of-state sales, frequent advertising and media promotional tools). Some significant differences were also found between high and low profit performers in term of entrepreneur experiences (business training and batik training), design activities, business practices (consultation, customer credit policy) and marketing strategies (out-of-state sales). Correlation analysis results however indicated that among the significance resources, variables under entrepreneur experiences,

training in business and batik industry had the highest correlation in sales and profit performance. Therefore, if the low performers would like to be higher or at least at par as their high performance counterparts, they have to give much attention on attending trainings.

Overall, the significance findings in this study will provide some guidance for low performers to identify their weaknesses by comparing the resources possessed by the high performers.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Malaysia Terengganu sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains.

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Tujuan utama kajian ini adalah bagi menjawab persoalan mengapa sebahagian syarikat di dalam industri batik mempunyai pencapaian yang lebih baik daripada sebahagian syarikat lain. Dengan mengambil *resource-based view (RBV)* sebagai asas teori, kajian ini membandingkan sumber/aset yang dimiliki syarikat berprestasi tinggi dan syarikat berprestasi rendah.

Sumber syarikat berprestasi tinggi dan syarikat berprestasi rendah dibandingkan dari segi pengalaman pengusaha, amalan pengambilan pekerja, aktiviti mereka, amalan perniagaan (konsultasi, polisi hutang pelanggan dan pengurusan kewangan) dan strategi pemasaran yang

telah dikenalpasti oleh kajian-kajian yang lepas antara faktor yang menyumbang kepada prestasi syarikat.

Bagi tujuan tersebut, satu senarai soalan telah diedarkan kepada 186 pengusaha batik di Kelantan dan Terengganu (dua negeri di mana sebahagian besar pengusaha batik berada). Mereka kemudiannya dikategorikan sebagai berprestasi tinggi dan berprestasi rendah dengan menggunakan jualan dan untung sebagai penunjuk prestasi.

Keputusan ujian Chi-Square dan Mann-Whitney U mendapati terdapat beberapa perbezaan yang signifikan di antara sumber yang terdapat pada syarikat berprestasi tinggi dan rendah. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan syarikat berprestasi tinggi dalam jualan berbeza daripada syarikat berprestasi rendah dari segi pengalaman pengusaha (latihan perniagaan dan latihan kemahiran batik), amalan pengambilan pekerja (kriteria pengambilan), aktiviti mereka, amalan perniagaan (konsultasi dan pengurusan kewangan) dan strategi pemasaran (jualan luar daripada negeri, kekerapan pengiklanan, dan promosi melalui media). Daripada aspek keuntungan, terdapat beberapa perbezaan yang signifikan di antara syarikat berprestasi tinggi dan syarikat berprestasi rendah dari segi pengalaman pengusaha (latihan perniagaan dan latihan kemahiran batik), aktiviti mereka, amalan perniagaan (konsultasi

dan pengurusan kewangan) dan strategi pemasaran (jualan luar daripada negeri).

Walaubagaimanapun dapatan daripada ujian korelasi menunjukkan antara sumber-sumber yang signifikan, pembolehubah daripada pengalaman-pengalaman pengusaha iaitu latihan perniagaan dan latihan kemahiran batik mempunyai korelasi tertinggi dengan prestasi syarikat. Oleh yang demikian, jika syarikat berprestasi rendah ingin mendapat pencapaian yang lebih tinggi atau sekurang-kurangnya setaraf seperti syarikat berprestasi tinggi, mereka harus memberi perhatian untuk menghadiri siri-siri latihan.

Pada keseluruhannya, keputusan yang signifikan di dalam kajian ini akan menyediakan panduan kepada syarikat berprestasi rendah untuk mengenalpasti kelemahan mereka dengan cara membandingkan sumber yang dipunya oleh syarikat berprestasi tinggi.