

JOB SATISFACTION AND SERVICE QUALITY GAP
IN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN THE EAST
COAST OF MALAYSIA

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**JOB SATISFACTION AND SERVICE QUALITY GAP IN PUBLIC
UNIVERSITIES IN THE EAST COAST OF MALAYSIA**

By

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Job satisfaction

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JULY 2002

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The increasing number of public and private university indicates that the competition in the higher education industry in Malaysia is becoming volatile. In order to compete effectively in the marketplace, an educational institution needs to differentiate itself from their competitors. Similar to other firms in service sector, perhaps, the only way the higher education institutions can differentiate themselves from their competitors is through delivering high quality service. However, the success of the service delivery is subjected to the performance of the "front-line employees" (lecturers), who interact directly with students. Therefore to ensure high quality service in higher education industry, it is important to start studying the lecturers' job satisfaction level before embarking on making promises to the students. The main aim of this study is to identify the type of relationship that exists between lecturers' job satisfaction and the size of service quality gap

(the difference between students' evaluation and lecturers' evaluation on the service delivered at the university).

The self-administered questionnaire was distributed to 320 students and 80 lecturers in two public universities in the East Coast of Malaysia : Kolej Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi MARA . The modified version of the most widely used service quality survey instrument, SERVQUAL, was used to measure lecturers' and students' service quality perceptions. The Job Satisfaction Survey instrument was used to gauge the lecturers satisfaction level. The data was analyzed using ANOVA (one-way analysis of variance), t-test, Pearson correlation coefficient analysis and simple linear regression.

The findings of this study show that the lecturers were moderately satisfied with their job. Although they were most satisfied with their co-workers, they were least satisfied with their salary, the practice of granting benefit and rewards by the management and the chance for their promotion. The size of the service quality perception gap between lecturers and students is small. The result of simple regression analysis indicates that lecturers' job satisfaction level has no significant effect on the size of service quality gap.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Kolej Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Master Sains

KEPUASAN KERJA DAN JURANG KUALITI PERKHIDMATAN DI UNIVERSITI AWAM DI PANTAI TIMUR MALAYSIA

Oleh

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Peningkatan jumlah universiti awam dan swasta memberikan gambaran bahawa persaingan di dalam industri pendidikan tinggi di Malaysia menjadi semakin sengit. Untuk bersaing dengan berkesan di dalam pasaran, sesebuah institusi pendidikan perlu menunjukkan yang ianya adalah berbeza berbanding dengan pesaing-pesaing yang lain. Seperti juga firma-firma lain di dalam sektor perkhidmatan, mungkin salah satu cara sesebuah institusi pendidikan tinggi dapat menunjukkan perbezaan daripada para pesaing ialah dengan memberikan kualiti perkhidmatan yang tinggi. Walau bagaimanapun, kejayaan di dalam pemberian perkhidmatan bergantung kepada prestasi "pekerja barisan hadapan" (pensyarah), iaitu mereka yang berinteraksi secara langsung dengan para pelajar. Oleh kerana itu untuk mempastikan tahap kualiti perkhidmatan yang tinggi, adalah penting kajian terhadap kepuasan kerja di kalangan para pensyarah dilakukan sebelum bertindak memberikan janji kepada para pelajar. Objektif utama kajian ini ialah untuk mengenalpasti jenis hubungan

yang wujud di antara tahap kepuasan kerja para pensyarah dan saiz jurang kualiti perkhimatian (perbezaan di antara penilaian pelajar dengan penilaian pensyarah terhadap kualiti perkhidmatan di universiti).

Soal selidik yang ditadbir sendiri diedarkan kepada 320 orang pelajar dan 80 orang pensyarah di dua buah universiti awam di Pantai Timur Semenanjung Malaysia iaitu Kolej Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia dan Universiti Teknologi MARA. Untuk mengukur persepsi pelajar dan pensyarah terhadap kualiti perkhidmatan di universiti, versi "SERVQUAL" yang telah diubahsuai digunakan. "SERVQUAL" adalah instrumen untuk mengukur kualiti perhidmatan yang amat popular. Kepuasan kerja para pensyarah pula diukur menggunakan instrumen "Job Satisfaction Survey". Data yang dikumpulkan dianalisis menggunakan "ANOVA"(analisis satu hala varians), ujian t, ujian korelasi Pearson dan analisis regresi ringkas.

Penemuan kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa tahap kepuasan pensyarah terhadap kerja mereka adalah sederhana. Walaupun begitu, mereka sangat berpuashati dengan rakan sekerja mereka, mereka kurang berpuashati dengan gaji yang diterima, kaedah pemberian faedah dan ganjaran dan peluang kenaikan pengkat. Saiz jurang kualiti perkhidmatan diantara pensyarah dan pelajar adalah kecil. Hasil analisis regresi ringkas menunjukkan bahawa tahap kepuasan kerja

pensyarah tidak memberikan kesan yang signifikan terhadap saiz jurang kualiti perkhidmatan.

Akhir sekali tesis ini membincangkan berkenaan limitasi kajian, cadangan-cadangan untuk kajian di masa hadapan dan juga implikasi kajian kepada pihak pengurusan universiti, pensyarah dan juga pelajar.

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