

Resources Distribution In Malaysian Education System

*Elmie, Jhanaki d/o Selvarajoo, Zainudin Hassan, Mahani Mokhtar
Faculty of Education University of Malaysia 81310, Skudai, Johor*

Abstract

Malaysia invests a large share of national income in education because the Government wants to graduate to be K-workers order to fulfill the requirements of a globalized world in 2020. The Government is committed to expedite the academic achievement, competence, skills and intends to strengthen public higher education institutions and the private sector in order to produce quality human capital to meet demands the employment market. Towards achieving this goal the government to improve and enhance the status of Research University by increasing the number of research articles produced University. The Government create efforts to improve the quality through training to produce skilled labor force by providing the 19 types of additional assistance to avail students, training institutions, as well as giving more priorities to education to create a pool K-workers and produce skills employee to change the industrialized countries

Key Word: Education System, Enhancing Educational Excellence and Budget 2014

1. Introduction

Malaysia invest a large share of its national income in education. Our government investment in education sector increase every year and almost 30% from the national budget of the year are allocate for education. This is because to ensure all the Malaysian people will get proper education and also can produce well educated graduate for the working sectors. The Malaysian government wants their graduate to be K-Worker to fulfil the needs of globalization world in the year 2020.

Why this scenario is happens in Malaysia? As a developing country we have to enhance our education system to be equal with the needs of the global world. For that we need to invest a large number of money to build a very strong foundation for our young generation in education. When our younger generation have a very strong foundation in education we can provide skilful employee to the working sectors worldwide. It is very important for our country to give a very good education for the younger generation. It is because knowledgeable younger generation can develop the country and can lead the people in proper mannerism.

Developing a nation not only depend on its economic strength, but also how they develop their future generation also. Future generations are important because they will lead the country in future and they also have to face the challenging world. So it is very important to provide younger generation with very strong education. The education system in Malaysia classified into 4 stages. There are pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

Pre-primary education in Malaysia offered in nursery and preschools. According to Malaysian system the starting age for a child to go to nursery is 3 years old. Whereas for preschool is 5 years old. Pre-school education is for provide a secure and stimulating environment before the children enter to real world of education at primary school at the age 7. Pre-schools in Malaysia has been set up by both the government and also private sectors under the proper guidelines set by the Ministry of Education.

After the kids raise to 7 years old they have to go to the primary school. Primary education is to provide the children with the firm foundation in the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic, as well as emphasising

thinking skills and values across the curriculum. Since Malaysia is a multi-races country the Ministry of education have to think of the sensitive of its multi-ethnic nature. So, Malaysia has set up two categories of schools which are the National and the National-type schools. The national school use Malay language as their medium of instruction whereby the National type schools use Mandarin or Tamil as the medium of instruction. But Malay and English language are the compulsory subjects in all schools in Malaysia.

After the children spend their 6 years in primary education they will enter the secondary education that is divided into two levels. There are lower and upper secondary. The student have to study for three years in lower secondary level and will lead to the lower secondary assessment. Once the students complete their lower secondary and pass the assessment they will automatically promoted to the upper secondary education which provides more specialised fields such as Science, Arts and Vocational or Technical programmes. After two years in upper secondary they have to sit for another assessment. After that the students are awarded with Malaysian Certificate of Education upon passing the national examination. The certificate is a requirement for students to pursue further their studies.

The journey of a bright student won't stop at this level. They can further their studies in post-secondary non-tertiary education level. Here in Malaysian we call it Form Sixth which will lead to the award of Higher School Certificate and matriculation programmes that result in the award of a matriculation certificate. Besides that, this also include with Skill Training Programmes conducted by different agencies and private colleges. The duration for these programmes are approximately one to two years and the award of the certificate allows entry into tertiary education and for employment.

When the student enter their tertiary education they have to choose their field of interest spend three to four years in bachelor's degree. Sometimes some students need to do post graduate diploma for one year, master degree for two to three years and doctoral programmes for another 3 years. At the doctorate level programmes offered include Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Programmes. Tertiary education in Malaysia also includes programmes pertaining to vocational and technical education at certificate, diploma, degree, levels at Polytechnics, Teacher Training Institutions, Community Colleges, College Universities and public and private Institutions. So it is important for the government distribute the investment money through proper channels so that the younger generations will get good benefits. The Ministry of Education, the State level Education officers and also the district level education officers are playing very important role in distributing the resources equally for the education need.

2. The Trend of Malaysian Education System

Here in Malaysia all the fund for the schools are from the central government. The central government is responsible for the allocation of funds for each and every schools in Malaysia. Each and every year our government increasing the total budget for education. This we can see very clearly from our budget in every year. The allocation of fund for education are been using for management and also for development.

Allocation for management refer to the expenses for water and electric bill and also for the small scale of repairs which occur in schools. This expenses are daily basis expenses and will be continue till the school is providing its service. Besides that, there are a lot of other expenses which need by the schools, such as to buy teaching aids, to buy co-curricular activity things, to create a conducive learning environment and a lot more. All this need money and we have to distribute the money allocated for proper use without any wastage. All the planning for development in Malaysia are according to 5 years of development plan which planed by the Economic Planning Unit in Prime Minister Department.

According to Ministry of Education, Economic Unit in 1981 the total expenses for education are RM 2,574.7 Million or 12.67% to compare with total expenses on our country RM 20,324 Million. In the year 1985 this

amount increase to RM 3,926.9 Million. In the year 1993, our allocation for education raise up to RM 8,525 Million compare to previous year. This is about 5.4 % from our country total expenses which is RM 44,144 Million. Even though during 1985 till 1988 there was economic recession but the expenses for education cannot be reduce because education playing an important role for the future of the country.

According to the Ministry of Education they have to pre-plan their investment in education. It is because education need more fund and a lot of things involve under education system. When we look at the budget released by the secretary of Ministry of Education the total expenses for education in the year 2012 are RM 32,698,787,200 Million. From total of this sum they divided for each sectors in education such as development purpose, text books printing, school assets, psychology and counselling, advertisement, curricular development, matriculation, national exam purpose and a lot more. Besides that the central government also need to know the need of each and every school under them because not every schools need fund for the same purpose every year.

3. Budget 2014: Enhancing Educational Excellent

According to our Prime Minister Dato Seri Najib Bin Tun Razak 2013, since ancient time a civilisation will not last if not imbued with knowledge and wisdom. Indeed, every budget has provided the largest allocation for education sectors because education is the root for the strong and knowledgeable future generation. The Government is committed to accelerating academic achievement, competencies and skills. Towards this, the Government will allocate a sum of RM54.6 Billion or 21% of the total allocation in 2014. In addition, the Government will ensure that the implementation of the Malaysia Education Blueprint achieves the objective of ranking Malaysia in the top one third category of the world's best education, within a span of 15 years.

Our Malaysian government also realised the important of early childhood education for our younger generation. It is because early childhood education play an important role for developing the basic of mental and physical of a child. For that our government allocated RM 530 Million for pre-school programmes. This money also will be used to build 93 new pre-schools for our younger generations. These large amount of fund is important to build a strong foundation in children early education level before they enter the real world of education at the age 7 in primary school. To set up a pre-school is not easy. We need well trained teachers who can manage small kids with very high curiosity thinking level. This is the time these kids start to explore and learn new things which they cannot get from their home.

The new syllabus of KSSR (Standard Curriculum Primary Schools) which started at 2011 gave a new look for our education system. Before implement this new syllabus in school teachers who are going to be the agent of teaching and learning process need to give training. This is because the teachers need to enhance their teaching methods to be more creative so that the children can easy grab the knowledge. Old methods which the teachers using all this while need to change because now a day's children are more advance. So to complete the need of the global world the method that teacher use to teach the students also need to give a new look. Our government allocated RM 209 Million for implementing programmes to enhance the teaching profession with emphasis on teaching, improving teaching methods and proficiency in Malay language and English. Now teachers need to add fun elements in teaching methods such as singing, dancing, drawing, colouring, storytelling and many more. There's no more chalk and talk method in schools. The learning and teaching process more involve students then teachers. Teachers only as a facilitators and guide the children to the proper way of learning. For this the teachers need training before they can use different methods in their teaching process.

In this global or borderless world, information sharing become a great method in education. Teachers from different countries can share their teaching methods, new approaches in teaching certain subject, collecting information both by the teacher and student become a very common way of exchanging ideas. For these

facilities our schools in Malaysia need to provide with internet access. Besides that, there are some private companies like 'FROGASIA' who are providing new software like 'Frog VLE' which teachers can use for their teaching methods. Under 1BestariNet, schools will be equipped with integrated solution allowing teaching, learning, collaboration and administrative functions to take place through the Frog VLE, which can be accessed in school and from anywhere else with an internet connection. This Frog Asia YTL company create learning environment beyond classroom.

So, our government helping with allocating RM168 Million for expand internet access in schools especially rural area. Our government also know the important of using computer and internet to enhance our learning and teaching process. In some rural area it's very difficult to get internet connection because the demographic of certain area. So, our government taking initiative to bring the internet connection the rural area because for the benefits of the students at that place too. The students or teachers at rural area also can connect with internet and exchange idea and knowledge with the friends worldwide. Some students can also learn new thing from using computer and internet.

In the year 2014, our government plan to build 33 new schools and upgrade the existing one. For this plan, our prime minister promised RM 831 Million during his last budget 2014. The government understand the new schools with the new technology and equipment for our younger generation. There are a lot of new housing project are carried out around the nation. To meet with the demand of quality education at this elite group of parents the government need to build more schools for greater education experience for the younger generation.

During the year 2012 and 2013 budget, our prime minister announced RM1 Billion for special fund for building, upgrade and maintenance of schools. This fund also can be used to urgent repairs and maintenance of school buildings, purchase of new equipment and also for the constructions of new blocks in schools. But in the year 2014, budget and to follow up with the government commitment towards the schools in Malaysia our prime minister announced an additional of RM450 Million for this purpose. For this, our national schools will receive RM 100 Million, where by national-type Chinese school and national-type Tamil school will receive RM 50 Million each. Besides that mission schools; Government-assisted religious schools; boarding schools; and Junior Science College MARA as well as People's Religious Schools (SAR) also will receive their allocations.

4. Fund for Tertiary Education

Government also plan to strengthen public and private higher education institutions in order they can produce quality human capital to meet the demand of job market now a days. In order to achieve this needs our government want to upgrade and improve the status of research universities by increasing the numbers of research and article that the university released for publications in international journals. For this purpose the government giving RM 600 Million in research grant for public institutions of higher learning. This fund can be used by the lecture or the student to conduct a research and find new product for the benefits of the world.

Publishing articles in international academic journals is an important aspect in promoting the works of local academicians to the world. Recognising the importance of establishing a world-class scholarly centre, the Government will establish a Malaysian Citation Centre to increase publication of local scholarly works and assist researchers publish articles in renowned international journals. So the local academicians can publish their journals here and can get world recognition from different country academicians.

As a developing country our human capital is very important. We need to produce not only quality but also skilful human capital to meet the need of the working world. For that, our government making continuous efforts to improve the quality of training in order to produce a highly skilled workforce. The government implement the following measures for this.

1. Implement a single tier for the Malaysian Skills Certificate course Levels 1 to Level 3 for 6 months in all Industrial Training Institutes under the purview of Manpower Department (JTM).
2. Upgrade and replace equipment at JTM training institutes with the latest technology involving of RM178 Million.
3. Allocate a sum of RM330 Million to Skills Development Fund under the Ministry of Human Resource. The fund will provide loans for SPM leavers to enrol in skills training courses.
4. RM200 Million is allocated to upgrade and implement a two-shift approach at the National Youth Skills (IKBN). Among the areas that have been identified include automotive, marine maintenance, welding and electrical wiring which will benefit more than 15,000 IKBN trainees nationwide.
5. Human Resource Development Fund of RM400 Million for registered companies to give opportunities to employees to enrol in up skilling and re skilling programmes. The allocation can also be used by these companies to train apprentices and future workers.

Besides that, our government also giving funds to all primary and secondary school students RM 100 as schooling assistance. This is to reduce the burden of schooling expenses. Since our living style changing according to the nation development out cost of living also increasing every year. Some parents find its difficulties to provide all the need of their children during school reopening period. So our kind and generous government came up with this schooling assistance idea to less the parent burden and also the kids will enjoy going to school and learn new things. RM500 Million our government spending for the benefits of about 5.4 million students.

To encourage our young generation to be friendly with books and to enhance their reading habits our government is giving RM 325 Million. To ease the burden of students in pre-university and institutions of higher learning in purchasing books and reference materials, the Government giving RM 250 to each student under 1Malaysia Book Voucher Programme. All the public higher learning institution students gain benefits from this programme. Actually reading at tertiary level not only to pass examination but also to improve our knowledge and gain more information. K-workers are important to meet the challenges and to act smart in any situation in this globalization world. So, we as a developing country need to produce more K-worker in order our human capitals are managed to work well with the global companies worldwide.

5. Additional Fund for School Students

Ministry of Education is providing 19 types of additional help to the benefits of the school students. Our government understand the important of education for our younger generations in order to they can lead the government in proper way in future. There are a lot of facilities that our government are arranging for our younger generations benefits in order that they can get good and quality education like other kids around the world too. Our government never ever neglected any kids from getting all these benefits in schools. Ministry of Education in Malaysia taking care of their customers very well. This is because they understand they need these younger generations with high thinking skill, good communication skill and strong manpower in workforce in future to develop the country to the next level.

The 19 types of help are as follows:

1. Poor Students Trust Fund (KWAPM)
2. Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP)
3. Tuition Assistance Scheme (PBS)
4. The School Milk Program (PSS)
5. Help Uniforms Uniformed
6. Minor Scholarship Federation (BOT)

7. Preparation Class Scholarship University (KPU)
8. Sports Scholarship Scheme (SBS)
9. Student Program Special Projects Residential School
10. Pupils with Special Needs Allowance (disabled)
11. Women Help Security
12. The hostel food (BMA)
13. Food Assistance Preschool (BMP)
14. Grants Per Capita (PCG)
15. Special School Fees (YKS)
16. Assistance to School Kokurikulum (BKK)
17. Adult Class Parents Aboriginal and Penan (RESISTANCE)
18. Text Book Loan Scheme (PBT)
19. Public Examination Fees

6. Teachers Training Institution

Teachers training institution playing very important role in providing well train teachers to be send to the schools in Malaysia. According to the data from Ministry of Education, there are 27 Institute of Teacher Education in Malaysia. Other than this institute there are some public universities are also producing are large numbers of teachers.

Institute of Teacher Education	Enrolment			Academic Personnel		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1 IPGM Kampus Perlis	575	1,142	1,717	81	48	129
2 IPGM Kampus Darul Aman	641	1,604	2,245	114	80	194
3 IPGM Kampus Sultan Abdul Halim	553	2,019	2,572	111	75	186
4 IPGM Kampus Pulau Pinang	495	1,279	1,774	77	94	171
5 IPGM Kampus Tuanku Bainun	517	1,546	2,063	110	61	171
6 IPGM Kampus Ipoh	708	1,912	2,620	120	78	198
7 IPGM Kampus Bahasa Melayu	403	1,191	1,594	40	63	103
8 IPGM Kampus Bahasa Antarabangsa	344	904	1,248	32	64	96
9 IPGM Kampus Ilmu Khas	437	1,235	1,672	76	126	202
10 IPGM Kampus Pendidikan Teknik	383	891	1,274	68	104	172
11 IPGM Kampus Pendidikan Islam	574	1,455	2,029	63	91	154
12 IPGM Kampus Raja Melewar	613	1,876	2,489	90	104	194
13 IPGM Kampus Perempuan Melayu	173	1,255	1,428	71	81	152
14 IPGM Kampus Tun Hussein Onn	609	1,711	2,320	97	77	174
15 IPGM Kampus Temenggong Ibrahim	637	1,779	2,416	85	88	173
16 IPGM Kampus Tengku Ampuan Afzan	572	1,682	2,254	98	40	138
17 IPGM Kampus Dato' Razali Ismail	584	1,484	2,068	83	49	132
18 IPGM Kampus Sultan Mizan	441	857	1,298	97	16	113
19 IPGM Kampus Kota Baharu	794	1,646	2,440	113	54	167
20 IPGM Kampus Gaya	380	856	1,236	48	44	92
21 IPGM Kampus Kent	300	703	1,003	49	37	86
22 IPGM Kampus Tawau	317	533	850	51	24	75
23 IPGM Kampus Keningau	334	560	894	39	16	55
24 IPGM Kampus Batu Lintang	455	1,143	1,598	54	56	110
25 IPGM Kampus Sarawak	408	781	1,189	32	25	57
26 IPGM Kampus Rajang	323	556	879	28	17	45
27 IPGM Kampus Tun Abdul Razak	467	854	1,321	53	24	77
TOTAL	13,037	33,454	46,491	1,980	1,636	3,616

Note : IPGM - Institut Pendidikan Guru Malaysia (Institute of Teacher Education Malaysia)
Source : Institute of Teacher Education, MOE (Data as of 28 February 2013)

In 1999, the starting statutory salary of public school primary teachers with minimum training in Malaysia was USD6158 per year. Now the basic salary of a degree holder teacher in primary school is RM 2500 a month. Besides basic salary government also giving allowances to teachers according to their working place and housing allowance. Other than that teachers also getting their yearly increment every year. The longer years a teacher work the higher the salary will be. Our government also giving bonus to all government employee and this include teachers in government sectors.

These shows that our government are spending a large amount of money to pay the salary of teachers is our country. Compare to the World Education Indication benchmark countries, Malaysia's primary school teachers

starting salaries were higher than the starting salaries of their counterparts in Thailand (USD5756) and Indonesia (USD1357). But lower than the starting salaries in Chile (USD10716).

7. Produce K-workers

Malaysian government giving important in 7th and 8th economic plans to give more priority for education in order to produce more K-workers. This is because to ensure we can manage our economic in world level and we also will be able to produce skill workers when we transform to industrial country. Globalization and technology enhancement making a lot of changes in working sectors. Blue collar workers replace by information expertise who are well known as knowledgeable workers (Kelly, 1998). Knowledgeable workers also well known as workers who can think and act fast with new idea and they also able to make decision quickly (Shea, 1998).

International Labour Organization (1997) mention five special characteristic of K-workers:

1. The very first characteristic is they have very formal education. They master the theory and work together with their creativity because knowledge won't be proactive if we didn't use it in proper way.
2. Their job description and also their job are very specific.
3. K-workers gone through life long education process because most of their knowledge will be outdated.
4. They are very mobile and always seek for good opportunity locally or in overseas. It is because their modal are not physical strength.
5. Very hard to manage them under traditional Human Resource Development policy.

Human capital become the most important factor to enhance the economics of a nation based on knowledge. Malaysia as a developing country giving more priority to education development because it know that only education can help to produce K-workers which becoming demand in working sectors. That's the reason why our government spending or giving a large number of allocation to education sectors. To achieve vision 2020 and to produce more K-worker our government need to make some changes in or education system in order to our education system can help to achieve or aim in the year 2020. The biggest challenge that we are facing is to produce K-workers, IT expert and employee who can work locally and also globally.

8. Conclusion

Education is not only for gain knowledge. But education also important to improve a nation economic level in worldwide. Education playing very important role for a nation to develop and to become a develop nation. Education also help the community to gain benefits also. The only way to destroy poverty is by education. Education help the community to gain knowledge and new information which they can use in their daily life. That is the reason why our Malaysia government are giving more important to the education system.

Since our independent day in 1957 our government are giving important for education till this moment. During those days government spend to build schools, colleges, universities, teachers training institute. All this are for long term benefits. Our Education Ministry try to bring changes in our curriculum to be the best curriculum which can help the children to gain benefits, knowledge and use that to pay back the nation in term of giving professional services and semi-professional services. Those days government do spend a lot for the facilities but now a days government spending also for facilities but more to technology services and equipment like computer, internet connection and more.

With the new syllabus which our Education Ministry introduce (KSSR) we are more emphasizing the Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) in our students. We want our students to think creatively and able to give idea which is out of the box. So teachers are giving training on this and they also putting a lot of energy to

produce well educated child who can think smart and able to give brilliant idea. It is because the demand in working sectors no matter public or private they need critical thinker to make decision quickly and able to manage a critical situation in a very smooth manner. In this global world there no spoon feeding anymore. Teacher's role as a facilitator and children have to move around, read a lot, find new information to improve their knowledge.

Our Malaysian government are giving their best to give the good education to their younger generation. So parents have to make use all these facilities that the government providing to get a better education for their children. Parents also must emphasise moral values in their children mind so that in future the children will contribute something for their beloved nation Malaysia. Is it important to every child in the world to be thankful for the nation and be proud of it. Without the proper guideline from the government there will be no professionals in working sectors. So be thankful and grateful for our government for providing good education for us to be successful in our life and also to live a happy and prospers lifestyle.

Reference

- [1] Ministry of Education. (2000). *Financial Management and Accounting Procedures* School, Kuala Lumpur, Finance Division, Ministry of Education
- [2] Ministry of Education. (2001). *Education Development 2001-2010*. Kuala Lumpur in 2001.
- [3] Government of Malaysia (1997), *the Seventh Malaysia Plan, 1996-2000*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia printing.
- [4] Government of Malaysia (2001), *the Eighth Malaysia Plan* , Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia printing.
- [5] Najib Bin Abdul Razak. *Budget Speech of 2014, the Supply Bill (2014)* in the House of Representatives.
- [6] Shahril @ Chairil Marzuki (2001) *Investment in Education and Human Resource Development Policy in Malaysia, the Progressive Education Association, Macro and Micro Perspectives*, Utusan Melayu, Kuala Lumpur.
- [7] Shahril @ Chairil Marzuki (2005) *Managing and Financing Education in Malaysia*, Bentong, PTS Professional Publication.