Malaysian Women Institutes as Collaborative Regional E Learning Center for Village Womenfolk’s Quest of Lifelong Learning

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This research attempts to examine the feasibility of Women Institutes (WI) throughout Malaysia as e-learning education center in upgrading knowledge, livelihood and social justice for the village womenfolk’s quest for lifelong learning. Women institutes were set up in every district in Malaysia; it functions as a center for the women to gather and carry out social activities such as skills in baking, culinary, sewing, entrepreneurship, childcare education etc. Some are equipped with computers and connected with internet by the state government or the Ministry of Women Affairs. The digital technologies could be utilized as e-learning platforms. The local women community leaders could put forth their initiative to contribute organizational effort to create an innovative and creative educational environment and effective high quality sharing system among the village womenfolk to upgrade their livelihood and build human capital and bridge the digital divide. Approaches used in this study are digital facilities, demographic factors of village women, leadership quality and communication, learning culture and working experience. In general, there are significant differences among factors listed above with women institutes as collaborative regional e-learning centers. The management skills of the center are closely related. In addition, the willingness to learn, share and participate in the usage of digital technology are another two essential factors found to be the strong fundamentals of e-learning through women institutes in Malaysia.

Keywords: Collaborative and E Learning, Women Institute, Village Womenfolk, lifelong learning.

Introduction

Accessibility of information through World Wide Web and Local Area Network in Malaysia is as easy as one touch away. The usage of digital technologies such as laptop, desktop as well as mobile gadgets in the learning process has enabled the present development of distance, collaborative and e-learning for working adult learners in Malaysia. It is a useful tool that has contributed to the development of human capital for the country’s advancement and development since the early 1980s.

The advanced technological innovation in the Malaysian educational system, namely the introduction and the use of Internet, networking and electronic learning system enabled the successful implementation and accessibility of distance, collaborative and e-learning throughout the country. The usage of Internet and local area network, wide area network and wifi-enabled facilities, has created e-learning portal and platforms that

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