Higher Educational Attainment Among Female Than Male Students
The Intervention To Increase Enrolment Of Male Students In
Malaysian Tertiary Institution

Latifah Ismail dan Ghazali Darusalam
Faculty of Education, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur

ABSTRACT: This study aims to identify why academic performance differs between male and female students; to investigate why more females than males are at tertiary institution; and to assess current initiatives taken to increase male students’ enrolment in Malaysian tertiary institution. The qualitative and quantitative method of research utilizes data analysis from respondents from matriculation centre of University Malaya students. The design of the study is cross-sectional and comparative in nature, and the instruments used are self-administered questionnaire and semi-structured interviews. The analysed data utilizes frequency and percentage. The results revealed that male students’ level of maturity is slower than that of female students and thus it affects their academic performance; male students should be monitored, be motivated and given better educational opportunities in order to perform better in their studies. Female students have different characteristics that influence their educational attainment such as having better inspiration in their studies; females are more determined, dedicated, patient, ambitious and highly aspired than males in achieving education. In light of these results, several suggestions were proposed for the solution and implication to increase the number of male students in tertiary institutions.

Key words: gender inequalities, gender characteristics, educational attainment, enrollment

1. INTRODUCTION

This study examines different factors that contribute to different educational attainment among male and female of pre university students. The good performance at matriculation level then qualifies them to enroll into universities. Previous study have indicated the major constraints for gender’s unequal achievement in education as follows:

- Secrets of successful behaviors between male and female students
- Different characteristics and positive values between male and female students towards success in education
- Time management, self management and attitudes towards their studies
- Motivation, vision, inspiration, aspiration and accomplishing them
- Different level of maturity between male and female students.

Due to gender differences in their factors affect their Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination, and their matriculation examination results and hence their entry qualification and requirements to enter tertiary institutions.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous studies have analyzed on gender inequalities of enrollment in tertiary institutions in different countries including in Africa by Bunyi (2003), entitled “The Interventions that Increase Enrolment of Women in African Tertiary Institutions”.

According to Dweck, and Liben (1980), gender characteristics determine how well boys and girls adapt to their academic tasks. They suggest that certain academic tasks and academic areas in general may possess characteristics that are compatible with girls’ achievement orientation and that is likely to facilitate their performance. Similarly, boys’ achievement orientation may make them...