



Developing a Framework for Effective Postgraduate Supervision

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Abstract

The twin forces of globalization and internationalization brought about the democratization of learning at all levels including postgraduate study. Likewise in Malaysia, various initiatives such as MyBrain15 have been put into place to build a critical mass of highly knowledgeable human capital for the country in its quest to be a developed nation by 2020. The MyBrain15, is a Critical Agenda Project under the National Higher Education Strategic Plan which aims to produce 60,000 postgraduate doctoral students by 2023. Despite the significant increase in the number of postgraduate students, the success rate leaves much to be desired. Among the many reasons cited for the high attrition and low completion rates, have been poor postgraduate supervision and students' lack of competencies to handle postgraduate study. Therefore, this study explored the factors that could lead to effective postgraduate supervision. The descriptive study involved approximately 200 postgraduate students and 120 supervisors from two local universities in Malaysia. The data were collected involving two questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. Based on results obtained from the study, this paper will put forward a framework for effective postgraduate supervision. Among the aspects included are roles and responsibilities of parties, best supervisory practices, institutional support, students' competency in critical literacies and empowering learners through learner autonomy.

(209 words)

Keywords: postgraduate study, supervision, postgraduate students, supervisors

Sub-theme 3 – Curriculum Enhancement and Pedagogical Models

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