

AWARENESS OF SEAFARING CAREER AMONG SECONDARY STUDENTS IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Malaysia facing a shortage of local seafarer and depending on foreign seafarer. While the young generation is the future of the country and principal source of the seafarer. Therefore, this paper aims to study the awareness of seafaring career among secondary students in Peninsular Malaysia. Descriptive test and dichotomous multiple response tests are used to analysis result and the respondents are Form 5 and Form 6 students. The initial results show that the awareness of seafaring between male and female are almost dissimilarity, but the awareness of seafarer career between Form 5 and Form 6 students are almost similarity. However, all parties are not aware of the working condition of the seafarer. Thus, students need more information from industry to rise up interesting and awareness from students. At the same time, it tries to increase the amount of local seafarer.

KEYWORDS: *Shortage, Local Seafarer, Career, Awareness, Secondary School*

Article History

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INTRODUCTION

Ninety percent of international trade is carried by sea. Malaysia is located at a strategic location where it acts as a transshipment hub. Thus, the maritime industry playing a vital role in Malaysia economics. Unfortunately, Malaysia facing a shortage of seafarer from time to time. According to Saripulazan (2018), Malaysia is the lack of local seafarers and dependence on foreign seafarers. Figure 1 shows that Malaysia is issuing 6,000 certificates of recognition to foreign seafarers annually and loss of RM30 million outflow per month. Seafarer is someone who works on the ship and on the sea. They navigate vessels and assist as a crewmember in the operation. So that, seafarers are very important in the global maritime industry, to ensure a success ship voyage.

Malaysia lack of labor in the maritime industry especially in seafarer and young people are the main source for seafarer new entrance. Therefore, this paper would like to analysis the awareness of secondary school students towards the seafaring career. It aims to study the awareness of seafaring career among male and female and to study the awareness of seafaring career among Form 5 and Form 6 students. Form 5 and Form 6 students have been selected and there is the most suitable group for the study because it's the time for them to determine the future direction.

Reliance on Foreign Seafarers

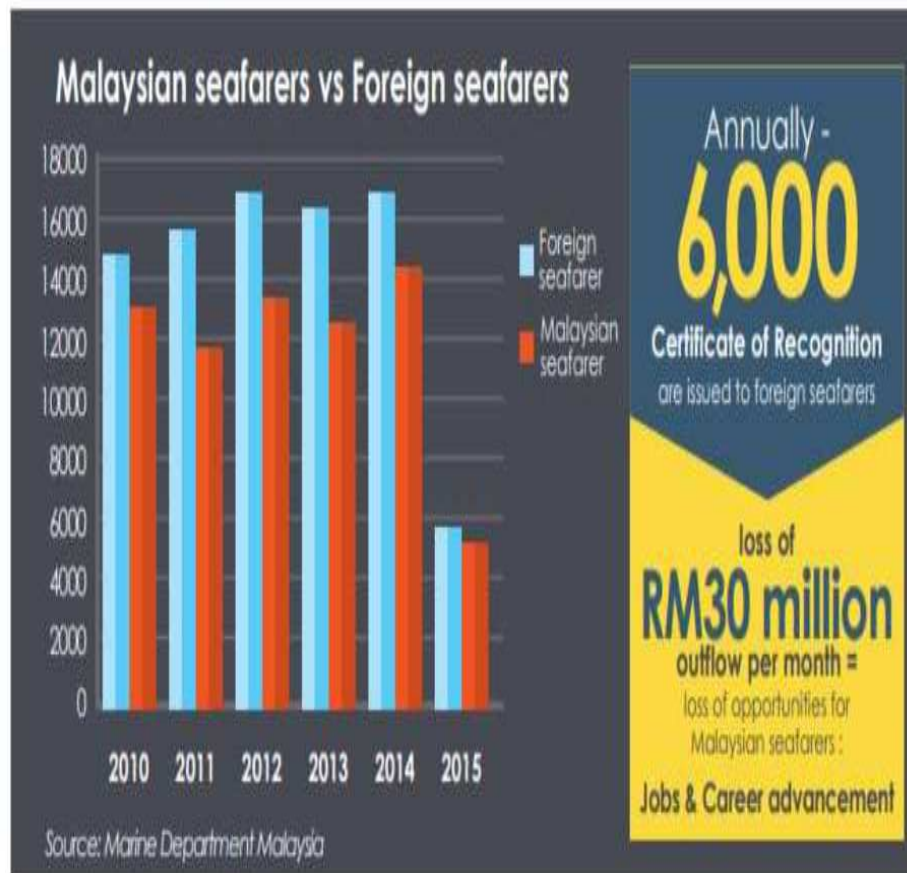


Figure 1: Malaysia Reliance on Foreign Seafarers

Source: Implementing IMO conventions by the administration and maritime industry to promote safe, secure, environmentally sound, efficient and sustainable shipping (Saripulazan, 2018)

OVERVIEW

Malaysia commercial shipping involves two types of activities; there are ocean shipping and coastal/domestic shipping. Ocean shipping mostly serves by Malaysia International Shipping Corporation Limited (MISC) and other local companies. However, coastal shipping is under the jurisdiction of the Domestic Shipping Licensing Board (DSLMB), an authority responsible for issuing shipping licenses for domestic shipment. Cabotage policy is introduced in 1980. This policy restricts the transportation of cargo and passengers carried by the sea in the domestic area. It restricts the domestic shipping serve by locally owned and registered ships only (Nazery Khalid, 2005).

Malaysia is fundamentally a maritime country. Thus, the Maritime industry offers a variety of maritime job onboard, e.g. tanker, passenger, container, general cargo, and other specialized vessels. Consequently, it creates a lot of employment opportunity and choices in the maritime industry. Then, the needs of properly qualified and efficient seafaring career are increased. However, Malaysia facing a shortage of seafarer from time to time. Kniveton (2001) highlighted that the shortage of seafarer is caused by the inability to attract talented youth to sea career. While parents and teachers are the main motivating factors that will influence students in career choice. Borchert (2002) also highlighted that parents' education background may influence student decision whether to continues to study or working. Meanwhile, some study

also shows that the parents' education level play an important role in students' career choice (Grissmer, 2003; Ogunlade, 1973). Besides, Kazi and Akhlaq (2017) also highlighted that parents influence as most significant, followed by influence from peers, gender, print media, financial reasons, interest, and others. In addition, Mickelson and Velasco (1998) also highlighted that mother have a stronger influence than father on their child' decision making. So that, there are various environmental factors that would affect students decision making.

Youth who enter the industry are trained and equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge they need to become a successful maritime seafarer. The 'Day of Seafarer' was instituted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), it provides a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness about life at sea, and engage and grow support base for seafarers' welfare. Moreover, skills development and education training were the keys to ensure young people interest in the maritime industry, to experience a smooth transition from school to the maritime industry. In short, career at sea would become more attractive than career ashore. Therefore, industry should provide more information and details of further education to young people especially secondary school students. At the same time, this will be a great opportunity for secondary school students to make their choice for a future career.

Thus, this paper aims to study the awareness of seafaring career among secondary school students. Thereby, public, government and industry knowing the need of the students, and make necessary action to stimulate students' interest to become a seafarer.

METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire has generated based on literature review and pilot study. It's modified from 'The Status of Career Awareness among Selected Kenyan Public Secondary School Students' by Ibrahim et.al. (2014). The variables selected are career interest, opportunity to see the world, career opportunity within the maritime, lead to an interesting career ashore, training requirement, wellpaid job, danger associated with seafaring career and working condition. Thereafter, the questions have been modified to fulfill the research objectives, like the seafarer is the interesting career; career at sea gives the opportunity to see their world; there are several career opportunities within the maritime sector; apart from people working at sea, logistics and economics department; an education and a career at sea can lead to an interesting career ashore; the convention that related to the requirement be a seafarer; seafaring carer is a well-paid job; the danger associated with seafaring career; and the working condition of the seafarer.

Total 149 students are selected from Form 5 and 137 students are selected from Form 6 to conduct the research. In this survey, simple probability sampling has been used to select the respondents. Both of Form 5 and Form 6 students have been interviewed to give the proper concept of this survey. After that, the Statistical Package For Social Sciences (SPSS) method and Microsoft Excel have used to analyze the data. Descriptive analysis is used to summarize data and dichotomous multiple response tests is used to analyze data by percentage. A dichotomous mode is a set of questions with only two response categories such as yes and not as a block by treating them as multiple response questions (Chua, 2011).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Descriptive Test

Table 1 shows about the analysis of the level of education of the respondents. The table has showed that 52.10% (149 persons) was belonged to Form 5 students and 47.90% (137 persons) was belong to Form 6 students. Whilst, table 2 shows about the gender of respondents. The table has shown 37.41% (107 persons) is a male while for the female is

62.59% (179 persons).

Table 3 shows all the result is same between male and female students. The first question is measured the family member who works at the shipping sector, and the mode is 2. It means that most of the respondents have not had a family member working in this shipping sector. For students and parents intention after graduation, the mode is 2 because most of the respondents intend to further their study in the higher level education. However, there is a positive side to shows that the majority students may choose their career as a seafarer in the future since the mode is 4, which means there are agreed the seafarer career is one of the admired career. For who the most influences you to choose seafarer career, the mode is 6, there are nobody influence respondents to choose seafarer as their future work. Based on the initial results, it shows that shortage of seafarer may due to they do not have any relative working at the shipping sector and nobody influence they become a seafarer. Kniveton (2004) highlighted that parents and teachers are the main motivating factors that influence students in choosing a career.

Table 4 shows the result of awareness of seafaring career between the Form 5 and Form 6 students, majority results are same between both parties. The results show that most of the respondents have not had a family member working in the shipping sector, most of the respondents intend to further their study in the higher level education, they agree seafarer career is the one of the admire career, and nobody influence respondents to choose seafarer as their future career.

Table 1: Analysis of the Education Level

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Form 5	149	52.1	51.1	52.1
Form 6	137	47.9	47.9	100.0
Total	286	100.0	100.0	

Table 2: Analysis of the gender

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	107	37.4	37.4	37.4
Female	179	62.6	62.6	100.0
Total	286	100.0	100.0	

Table 3: Central Tendency Analysis among Male and Female

	Male			Female		
	Mode	Mean	Median	Mode	Mean	Median
Do you have family members that work on board of ships?	2	1.91	2	2	1.94	2
What is your intention after graduation?	2	3.3	2	2	3.11	2
What is your parent's willing to you after graduation?	2	3.24	2	2	2.96	2
Seafarer career is the one admire career in my life	4	3.12	3	4	3.17	3
Who the most influences you to choose seafarer?	6	4.31	5	6	5.01	6

Table 4: Central Tendency Analysis among form 5 and form 6

	Form 5			Form 6		
	Mode	Mean	Median	Mode	Mean	Median
Do you have family members that work on board of ships?	2	1.92	2	2	1.93	2
What is your intention after graduation?	2	3.39	2	2	2.96	2
What is your parent's willing to you after graduation?	2	3.36	2	2	2.74	2

Table 4: Contd.,

Seafarer career is the one admire career in my life	4	3.28	3	4	3.01	3
Who the most influences you to choose seafarer?	6	4.97	6	6	4.5	6

Dichotomous Multiple Response Test

Table 5 shows the awareness of seafaring career between male and female are different. Male respondents have the highest percentage in the question ‘In your understanding, the seafaring career is a well-paid job?’ The percentage is 78.5%. However, female respondents have the highest percentage in the question ‘Are you aware of the danger associated with a seafaring career?’ The percentage is 88.8. However, they both score the lowest percentage for the question ‘Do you know the working condition of the seafarer?’ Both male and female do not aware of the working condition of the seafarer. The male respondents are more aware than female respondents which are 40.2% is male and 33.5% is female.

Table 6 shows the awareness of seafaring career between Form 5 and Form 6 students. The highest percentage for the awareness of seafaring career between Form 5 and Form 6 students are ‘Are you aware of the danger associated with a seafaring career?’. The percentage for Form 5 students are 89.3% and Form 6 students are 78.8%. Both of them also score the lowest percentage of awareness for the question ‘Do you know the working condition of seafarer?’ The percentage for Form 5 students are 45.6% and Form 6 student is 25.5%.

Table 5: Awareness of Seafaring Career among Male and Female

	Male	Female
	Percent of Cases (%)	Percent of Cases (%)
In your understanding, the seafaring career is a well-paid job?	78.5	76.5
Are you aware of the danger associated with a seafaring career?	76.6	88.8
Do you know career at sea gives the opportunity to see the world?	76.6	86.0
Do you know that there are several career opportunities within the maritime sector?	69.2	67.6
Apart from people working at sea, logistics and economics department?	65.4	62.0
Do you know that an education and a career at sea can lead to an interesting career ashore?	64.5	56.4
Do you know the seafarer is the interesting career?	57.9	60.9
What is the convention that related to the requirement be a seafarer?	56.1	52.5
Do you know the working condition of the seafarer?	40.2	33.5

Table 6: Awareness of Seafaring Career among Form 5 and Form 6

	Form 5	Form 6
	Percent of Cases (%)	Percent of Cases (%)
In your understanding, the seafaring career is a well-paid job?	85.9	67.9
Are you aware of the danger associated with a seafaring career?	89.3	78.8
Do you know career at sea gives the opportunity to see the world?	85.9	78.8
Do you know that there are several career opportunities within the maritime sector?	72.5	63.5
Apart from people working at sea, logistics and economics department?	73.2	52.6

Do you know that an education and a career at sea can lead to an interesting career ashore?	58.4	60.6
Do you know the seafarer is the interesting career?	65.1	54.0
What is the convention that related to the requirement be a seafarer?	45.6	62.8
Do you know the working condition of the seafarer?	45.6	25.5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The initial results show that the awareness of seafaring career between male and female are different. The result shows that male is aware the seafaring career is a well-paid job but female more aware of the danger associated with seafaring career. At the same time, male and female are not aware of the working condition of the seafarer. But, the result shows that male is more aware than female in working condition. Besides, the awareness of seafaring career between Form 5 and Form 6 students are same. Form 5 and Form 6 students are aware of the danger associated with a seafaring career but not aware of the working condition of the seafarer. Thus, both gender and education level is no aware of the working condition of the seafarer.

The shortage of seafarer occur due to the respondent aware of working at sea is a dangerous career and no aware about the working condition of the seafaring career. At the same time, the respondents are lack of information about the working condition as a seafarer so the students need more accurate information especially directly from the industry. By visiting the shipping companies can let the students come to understand the working condition at sea more clearly and avoid the students by making the erroneous assumption to seafarer career. On the other hand, the shipping industry can organize some talk to increase the interest of youth and increase their level of awareness of seafaring career. Moreover, many studies show that parent, peers, gender, print media, financial reasons, and interest would affect the choice of the student. So that, they also act as an intermediary to influence student joining into the shipping industry. Consequently, the shortage of seafarer in Malaysia can be overcome.

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