

A COMPARISON OF THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PRE-DIPLOMA SCIENCE (MDAB) STUDENTS OF 2014, 2015, AND 2016 AS WELL AS ITS RELATION TO THE SECOND QUALITY OBJECTIVE OF UiTM CAWANGAN NEGERI SEMBILAN

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Abstract

The MDAB programme was founded by UiTM to assist students who come from the low-income group but are interested in continuing their studies and meet the requirements set by the University for them to further their studies in the Pre-Diploma level. Since it was set up in 2010, no specific studies were done to see how far the programme had succeeded in helping these students to further their studies to a higher level. Hence, an analysis was done on the students' achievements and compared from the year 2014, 2015, and 2016 to identify whether they meet the Second Quality Objective of UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan. Based on the analysis done on the academic performance by the Pre-Diploma Science (MDAB) students in UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan, it can be concluded that the commitment by the management especially the Academic Affairs Division UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan, Director of MDAB, Head of Academic MDAB, as well as the Management Office of MDAB, UiTM Shah Alam, played an essential role in maintaining the quality and academic performance of the students.

Keywords: MDAB, Pre-Diploma Science, UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan

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1. Introduction

The 'Jelajah Pendidikan Bumiputera' which was launched in 21 March 2016 by the Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Najib Tun Razak, was aimed to provide assistance to 150,000 children from the low-income group to further their studies. UiTM is a strategic partner involved in this programme and the MDAB Programme, which was initiated by the former Vice Chancellor of UiTM, is a programme aimed to help the Malay and bumiputera students who are unable to get admission in a local university due to lack of merit, high cost of education, and failure in competing to get a place in a local university. UiTM offers two programmes under MDAB which are the Pre Commerce and Pre Science programme and the students are offered either of the programmes based on the students' eligibility. A comparison of the Pre Science (MDAB) of UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan students' academic achievements after the programme for

four semesters (2014, 2015, 2016) was done and analyzed and the number of students who furthered their studies in various diploma or degree level were also identified. In the case of students' achievement, proactive steps taken by the campus concerning the academic attainments of MDAB students have helped in meeting the Second Quality Objective of the campus. The findings of this study are hoped to be able to provide more information regarding the MDAB programme for improvement purposes generally by UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan as the Main Manager of the programme.

2. Background

Poverty, whether it is a culture or a way of life, is an issue that relates closely to the cost of living in Malaysia. The number of Malaysians who live in poverty and receive low level of education are increasing day by day. Poverty also shows how far an individual lacks resources such as financial, emotional, mental, spiritual, physical, as well as support. Having lack of these resources affect directly to the academic achievement of the students. Other factors that also influence a student's academic achievement include the family's income, source of income, as well as the mother's level of [1,2]. Although a lot of students from the low-income group are not high achievers, proactive steps such as identifying the type of assessment, teaching technique, and strategies in the classroom level, school level, district level, to the higher level (the government) can help in closing the gap of achievements of the students by providing adequate assistance to the students in order to help them improve in their academic performance [1]. Data with a state of the art system about students' achievements and the effectiveness of the teachers should be used as a tool to gauge the quality of the teacher and the preparation of the program. Research has shown that when it comes to the distribution of the best teachers, poor students and the minority are most of the time left out [2,3,4]. Therefore, in order to overcome this alarming situation, students who are financially challenged and left out after SPM can be supported academically with the commitment from the lecturers and some financial support from the government. They are also worth of giving a second chance to further their studies to improve their standard of living.

3. Methodology

The collection of data for the analysis was obtained from the former Coordinator as well as the Coordinator of MDAB UiTM Negeri Sembilan, Programme Meeting, State Academic Committee Meeting, as well as the Academic Affairs Division UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan, Kampus Kuala Pilah. The analysis was done on the final examination results of students from the September 2014, March 2015, September 2015, and March 2016 semesters. A comparison of all the results was done, taking into account whether the students belong to Part 1 (MDAB), Part 2 (MDAB) or they were students sponsored by 'Jabatan Kemajuan Orang Asli' (JAKOA). As for whether their results meet the Second Quality Objective, only the results of Part 1 (MDAB) students were looked into.

4. Results and Discussions

The Pre-Diploma Science Programme (Code: PD007/008) was offered in UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan operating in Kuala Pilah campus (1 Jun 2009) and has been initiated since the establishment of UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan in Melang. UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan was appointed as the Main Manager for this programme beginning 1st March 2016. There are six other UiTM branches offering this programme (Perlis, Terengganu, Pulau Pinang, Pahang, Sabah, Sarawak) and acting as the Implementing Manager. There are also other associate campuses cooperating with UiTM that offer this programme. UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan has also set a target in the Second Quality Objective: Thirty per cent of the total students of Part 1 Pre-Diploma are to be able to further studies in the Diploma level.

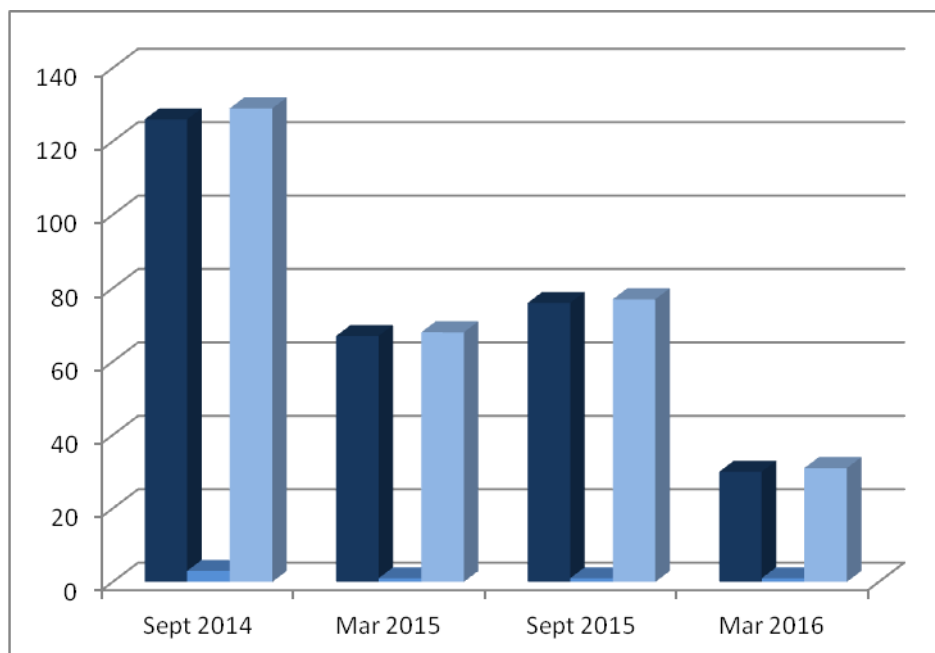


Figure 1: Overall Statistics of Pre Diploma Science PD007/008 students from semester September 2014, March 2015, September 2015, and March 2016 (State Academic Committee Meeting).

Figure 1 indicates the statistics of the Pre-Diploma Science (PD007/007) students in UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan from semester September 2014, March 2015, September 2015, and March 2016. Based on the figure, the decreasing number of students can be seen when the March 2015 (68 students) graph is compared with the number of students from September 2014 (129 students). A drastic decrease is also seen in the March 2016 semester. Student enrolment in the September 2014 semester included students from MDAB (sponsored) as well as self-sponsored students. According to the Office of MDAB Management, UiTM Shah Alam, the declining in number of students enrolled in the programme was due to the reducing number of application as well as the opening of private colleges offering the programme in cooperation with UiTM. Based on the MoU between UiTM and the associate colleges, only MDAB students are enrolled in UiTM. Moreover, to be eligible for the programme, the minimum requirement is the household income of a student should not be more than RM3000.00 which hindered students from the middle-income families from enrolling in the programme although they met the requirements of the programme. The lack of interest in pursuing in the Science field also contributed to above matter. Other than that, the management had to be more stringent in approving the applications since there were cases involving forging of the income of the applicants' parents. Hence, promotions about the programme should be done more frequently focusing on rural areas or districts with less access to internet.

	SEPT 2014		MAR 2015		SEPT 2015		MAR 2016	
	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%
PASS	53	41.08	5	7.35	11	14.29	3	9.68
LNT	62	48.06	62	91.18	64	83.12	27	87.10
FAIL	14	11.00	1	1.47	2	2.60	1	3.22
NO OF STUDENTS	129	100	68	100	77	100	31	100

Table 1: A comparison on the overall academic performances by students in four consecutive semesters which are in September 2014, March 2015, September 2015, and March 2016 (State Academic Committee Meeting).

Table 1 shows the comparison on the overall academic performances by students in four consecutive semesters which are in September 2014, March 2015, September 2015, and March 2016. Based on the table, it can be seen that the best results obtained by MDAB students were in the March 2015 semester, where 62 (91.18%) out of 68 were eligible to pursue their studies in Diploma (Pass and Promoted to Diploma Programme, LNT) with one failure and the remaining eligible to continue to Part 2 of the programme. The percentages of students who obtained LNT for semesters September 2014, September 2015, and March 2016 were 48.06%, 83.12%, and 87.10% respectively.

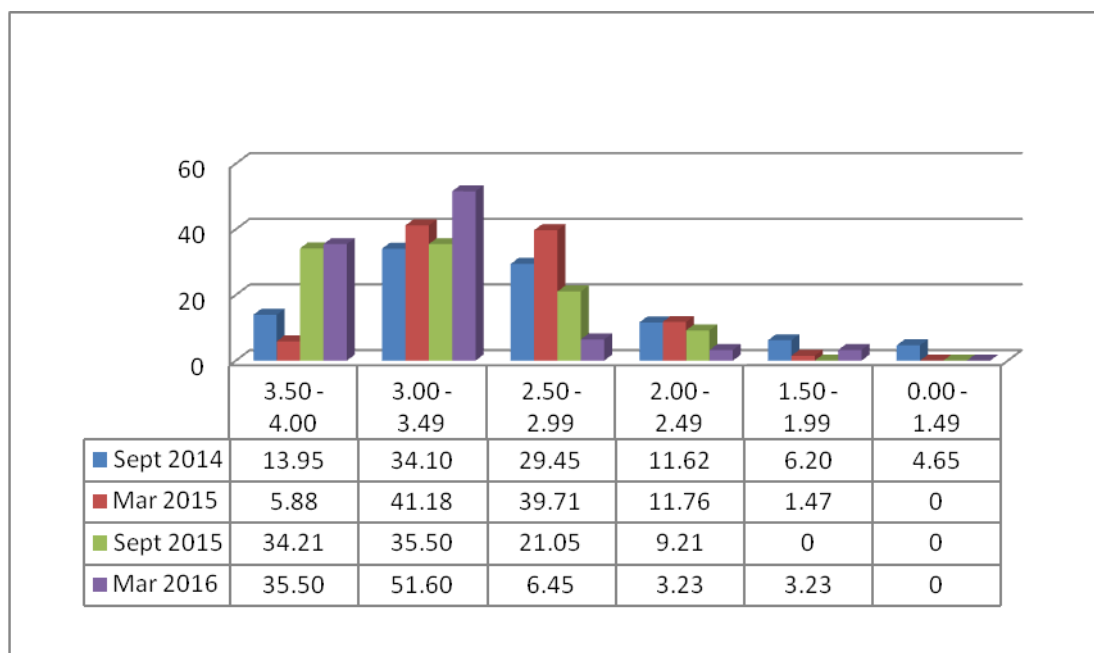


Figure 2: Students' overall CGPA achievements (State Academic Committee Meeting).

Figure 2 indicates the Pre-Diploma Science students' overall CGPA achievements for all the four consecutive semesters. It was found that there is an increase in the pattern where the CGPA for 3.50-4.00 increased from 13.95% (during the Sept 2014 semester) to 51.6% (during the Mar 2016 semester). There was also a decline in the percentage of CGPA 0.00-1.49 from 4.65% (during the Sept 2014 semester) to 0.00% (during the Mar 2016 semester). The percentage for CGPA above or equivalent to 3.00 for all the

four semesters showed that UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan has met the Second Quality Objective where more than 30% of the students were eligible to proceed to Diploma after spending one semester in the programme.

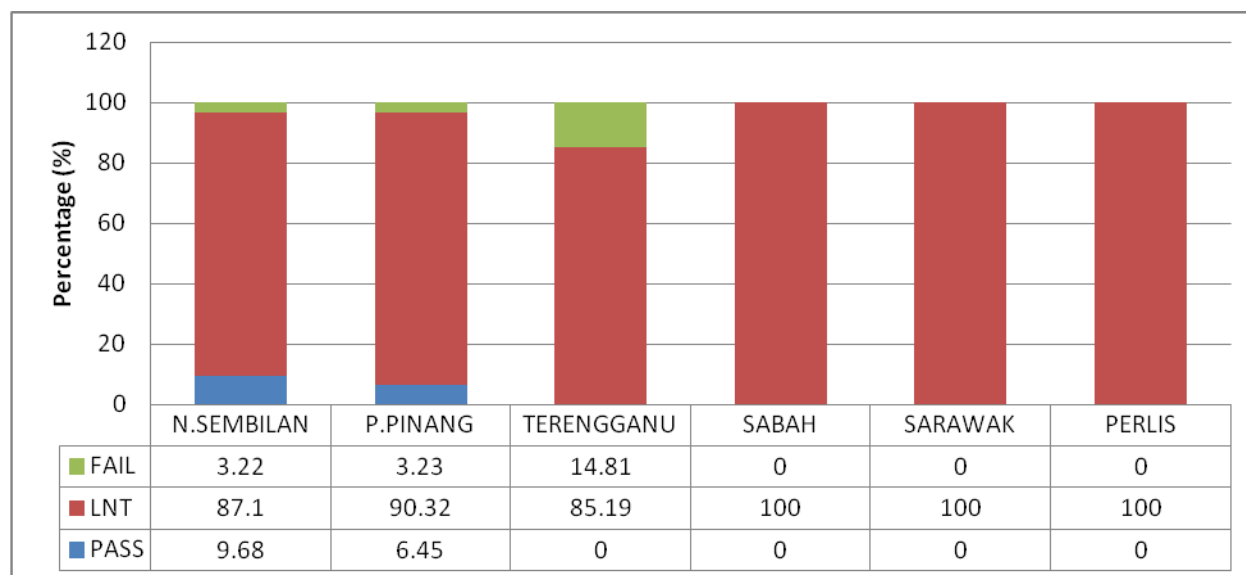


Figure 3: A comparison on the results obtained by all campuses offering the Pre-Diploma Science (MDAB) programme in semester March 2016 (State Academic Committee Meeting).

To maintain their performances and quality, an analysis on the academic performance should be done from time to time including the Implementing Manager (PP) campuses. Based on Figure 3, the comparison among the performances can be seen; Fail, Pass and LNT (Pass and Promoted to Diploma Programme) for all the campuses that offer the Part 1 Pre-Diploma Science programme. The analysis that was done for the latest semester (Mar 2016) found that the results from UiTM Cawangan Sabah, Sarawak, and Perlis were outstanding with all 100% of the candidates successfully completing their Part 1 Pre-Diploma semester which qualified them to pursue their studies at the Diploma level.

Based on the analysis done on the survey obtained from the feedback for the Alumni Category reported in the Curriculum Review for PD007/008, it was found that out of 35 respondents, 15% of them successfully pursued their studies in Master's Degree, 33% in Bachelor's Degree, 46% in Diploma, and 6% at other levels. The analysis was done to provide input for UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan in an effort to make the curriculum review (which was implemented in June 2016) a success.

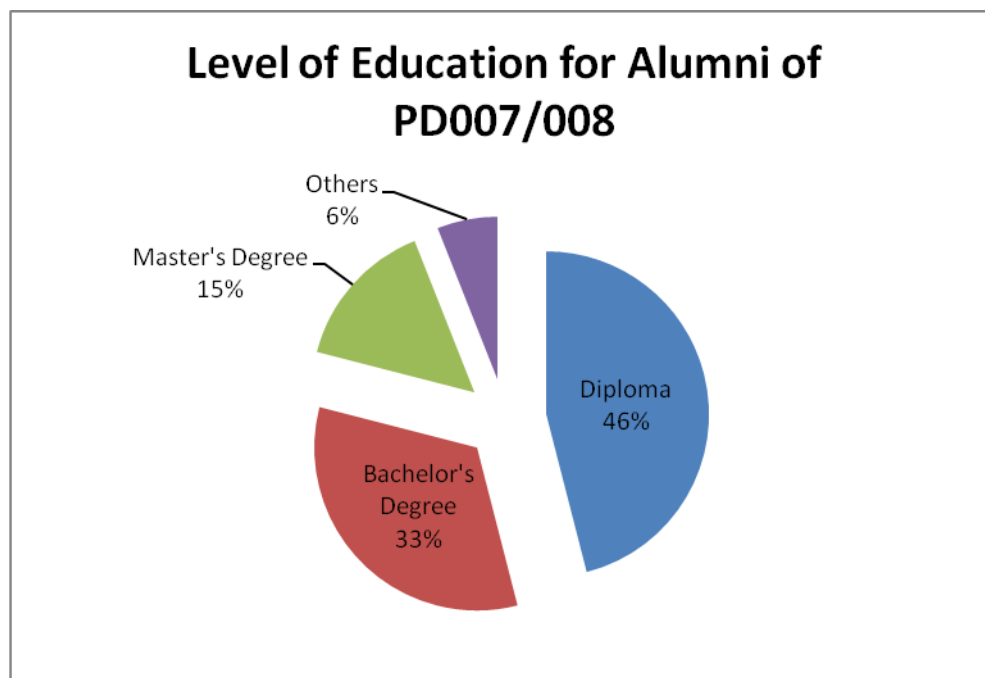


Figure 4: Level of Education for Alumni of Pre Diploma Science (Based on a Survey in the Curriculum Review of PD007/008 session)

5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis done on the academic performance by the Pre-Diploma Science (MDAB) students in UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan and other branch campuses as well as the campus' achievement in meeting the target of the Second Qualitative Objective of UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan, it can be concluded that the commitment by the management especially the Academic Affairs Division played an essential role in maintaining the quality and academic performance of the students. Financial support obtained from the Academic Affairs Division for all the academic programmes organized for the MDAB students; Excel in Mathematics/Statistics Workshop, Workshop on the Technique of Answering the Final Examination Questions, Excel in Physics and Mathematics Workshop, Module in Psychology (by the Student Affairs Division) as well as visits, contributed extensively to the overall academic performance of the students. Besides, continuous effort by the Director of MDAB, Head of Academic MDAB, as well as the Management Office of MDAB, UiTM Shah Alam, in planning the promotion of the programme, motivational programme for the students, periodical talks on PENERAPAN, as well as annual audit is important in making this programme a continuous project which is aimed to assist students who are less fortunate to pursue their studies in a higher level.

6. Acknowledgment

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