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**Regenerating Youth Development through
Entrepreneurship**

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Abstract

In Malaysia, there are 13.3 million, of youth who are between ages of 15-40, and they represent 46% of the total Malaysian population. Of this, 4.5 millions of youth populations are between these ages of 15-25 categories and regardless either they live in urban and rural communities; there appears to be approximately 25% who are vulnerable and they are potential to be at-risk youth. Build on past empirical studies, these at-risk youths may be those that come from families who are not emotionally supportive, lacking parental supervision on activities that they are involved in, deficient in social skills, low aspiration, emotional control and self esteem, from low-waged family, unsatisfactory living condition, peer influence and devoid of suitable role model. This paper is aimed to review global trends and practices from past research on regenerating youth development through entrepreneurship. The focused is merely to help to resolve Malaysian youth issues that could enhance their quality of life and participate fully in the development of society and the nation on a whole. Youth living in the marginalized communities are also facing a pervasive unemployment. In this paper, intervention empowerment programs were proposed for youth living in the marginalized communities towards positive youth development. It also highlights the importance of strengthening the mechanisms for sustainability and, eventually, to recommend effective mechanism in enhancing youth living in the marginalized communities to be mainstreamed appropriately.

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1. Introduction

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to positive youth development. Various intervention programs such as youth empowerment programs, be in the perspectives of economy and social well-being; such an innovative entrepreneurship programs may provide avenue to create and support towards regenerating youth development. Young people also have specific needs and particular potential; however, their critical contributions to economic and social progress are underestimated. In response to this phenomena; the Prime Minister, in the recent 2013 nation's youth agenda for growth affirmed that the Government will play its part in helping youths to fulfil their aspirations and will enforce a bottom-up approach. This may allow for the youth to act on their own. The bottom-up approach also clearly associated with youth empowerment where the Government has announced its support for such program. However, to what extent do such empowerment program has able to create and support the conditions where youth are allowed to act on their own may remain debatable. In addressing this issue, youth empowerment issues relating to young people living in the marginalized communities will be examined and related intervention program will be proposed.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Global Outlook

Youth empowerment, unemployment, social and life skills, substance abuse, violence and crime, HIV/AIDs, sexual issues, education and training and youth participation are a range of youth associated issues being addressed in fighting youth agenda worldwide (Mohid, 2012; Carvalho, 2013; UNESCO, 2004; Raja Suzana, Azham, Zulazli, Wan Nursafiah & Sophie, 2013; Council of the European Union, 2013). In the global perspectives, for example, the United Nation World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, the program for youth has identified ten important priorities; education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure time activities, girls and young women and full effective participation in society and decision-making (International Council on National Youth Policy, 2001).

In 2003, the United Nation World Youth Report has added five more youth intervention which includes globalization, information and communication technologies, HIV/AIDs, youth and conflict prevention and intergenerational relations (UNESCO, 2004). The recent June European Council held from 27 – 28 June, 2013 resolved issues on youth and set out guidelines for the implementation of youth guarantee schemes. In this scheme the national governments working along with public and private employment services, employers, social partners, and youth representatives for outreach empowerment strategies for youth, support for the integration of young people into the labor market (Council of the European Union, 2013). At least 8 billion euro will be budgeted for 2014 to promote cross-border mobility, including to modernize vocational and education systems, addressing skills mismatches and promote apprenticeships and traineeships in key economic sectors as well as entrepreneurship training and start-ups (Rompuy, 2013).

2.2 Malaysian Youth Perspectives

In Malaysia, the Malaysian Youth Index (2011) addressed self development, social relationship, identity, self potential, leisure time, health, media penetration, deviant behavior and economic well-being as important indicators in improving quality of life and well-being of Malaysian youths. As suggested by the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy, the MYI (2011) appears to provide a strong indication on the overall of youth health and in what areas more programmatic efforts are needed (Samsudin, Iran, Mastura, Sharifah, et al, 2008). Despites the overall quality of life and well-being of Malaysian Youth

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