

## Graduates of Living Skills Program of a Malaysian Public University: A Tracer Study

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this tracer study was to determine the competence and the satisfaction of the graduates of a living skills program at one of the public universities in Malaysia. The study was also intended to determine the relationship between competency and job satisfaction of the respondents and to prepare a profile of living skills teachers. A set of questionnaires consisting of two major constructs — competency and job satisfaction were adapted from *Standard Guru Malaysia* (Malaysian Teachers Standard) and Minnesota Satisfaction Questionnaire. A sample of 185 living skills teachers was selected from a population of 370 teachers using systematic random sampling. Ninety-seven teachers responded, giving a response rate of 52.4 percent. The teachers reported that they are competent in various aspects of teaching living skills namely, content knowledge, teaching practical skills, professional knowledge and teaching profession. However, they lack knowledge and skills in certain topics such as automotive maintenance, nursery management, animal care, fashion design and dress making. The findings also show that the mean scores in intrinsic factors were much higher than extrinsic factors for job satisfaction. Also, this study indicated a moderate relationship ( $r=0.485$ ) between teacher's competency and job satisfaction. The finding implies that some necessary measures should be taken to improve the present pre- and in-service training with particular emphasis toward curriculum implementation, professional development and job enrichment.

**Keywords:** Living skills, tracer study, job satisfaction, competency, Malaysian public university