

Foreword

Welcome to the Fourth Issue for 2018 of the Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (JSSH)!

JSSH is an open-access journal for studies in Social Sciences and Humanities that is published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university and run on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the world-wide science community.

This issue contains 46 articles, out of which one is a review articles and 45 are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries, namely, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Oman, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Syria and Thailand.

Articles submitted in this issue cover wide range of social sciences and humanities scope including accounting, architecture and habitat, consumer and family economics, economics, education, finance, geography, language and linguistics, law, management studies, media and communication studies, philosophy, political sciences and public policy, psychology, religious study, sociology, sports and tourism. The most favoured scope in this issue is education.

Selected from the education scope is an article entitled “Validity and Reliability of the Mathematics Self-Efficacy Questionnaire (MSEQ) on Primary School Students” by *Chan Huan Zhi* and *Melissa Ng Lee Yen Abdullah* from School of Educational Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia. The study was conducted with the objective of determining the construct validity of MSEQ on primary school students and the internal consistency reliability of MSEQ on primary school students. To achieve the objectives of the study, quantitative data were collected from a sample of 100 primary school students. Findings from the Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) suggested that mathematics self-efficacy was a unidimensional construct. It is highly reliable and can be used to gauge primary school students’ mathematics self-efficacy in a Malaysian school setting. The details of this study is available on page 2161.

Selected from tourism scope is an article entitled “Efficiency of Cruise Port Management: A Comparison of Phuket and Singapore” by *Phaiton Monpanthong* from National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), Thailand. This study investigated and

compared cruise port management systems between Phuket and Singapore by employing quantitative research methods. From the study, the empirical findings showed that the top five biggest gaps regarding two cruise port management were port infrastructure, port facility, political stability, cruise tourism policy and cleanliness in rank. Hence, the results revealed that port management in Singapore was more efficient than in Phuket in most variables. However, tourism attractions, tourism activity, service providers, value for money, climate/sea conditions, and immigration formalities of Phuket were slightly better than that in Singapore. The detail of this study is available on page 2787.

Selected from the scope of language and linguistics is an article entitled “Incorporating Critical Thinking: Teaching Strategies in an English Language Programme” by *Muhammad Harriz Zaini, Norzie Diana Baharum and Ahmad Firdaos Shauqi Ahmad Sidiki*, fellow researchers from Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia. The study focused on application of critical thinking by English lecturers as well as students in the classroom for the English Language programme in the Academy of Language Studies (ALS) UiTM Shah Alam – English for Professional Communication (LG240). The study was carried out by adapting a framework and concluded that both lecturers and students in the ALS shared the same perception of the application of critical thinking in their classroom. Details of the study is available on page 2379.

Selected from the scope of psychology is an article entitled “Psychological Risk Factors for Postnatal Depression: A Prospective Study of Iranian Low Income Primigravidae at Health Care Centres” by *Matinnia, N., Ghaleiha, A., Jahangard, L., Ghaleiha, A. and Farahmand, E.*, fellow researchers from three different countries (Iran, New Zealand and Malaysia). The study aimed to identify the prevalence of postpartum depression and its association with risk factors in low socioeconomic populations. Questionnaires were distributed among 451 low income pregnant women referred to health care centres and they were assessed using Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) for depression. The study found out that the prevalence of depression in pregnancy was higher in low socio-economic primigravidea from Iran. The details of the study is available on page 2555.

We anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought-provoking and useful in reaching new milestones in your own research. Please recommend the journal to your colleagues and students to make this endeavour meaningful.

All the papers published in this edition underwent Pertanika's stringent peer-review process involving a minimum of two reviewers comprising internal as well as external referees. This was to ensure that the quality of the papers justified the high ranking of the journal, which is renowned as a heavily-cited journal not only by authors and researchers in Malaysia but by those in other countries around the world as well.

In the last 12 months, of all the manuscripts passed editorial review, 53.7% were accepted. This seems to be the trend in Pertanika Journals for JSSH.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, namely the authors, reviewers and editors, who have made this issue possible.

JSSH is currently accepting manuscripts for upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation.

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