

Editorial

The JIRSEA-UPM Special Issue April 2024 Vol. 22, Issue 1, is a special collaboration between SEAAIR (South East Asia Association for Institutional Research and UPM (*Universiti Putra Malaysia*, Selangor, Malaysia). Regardless of this special issue collaboration, JIRSEA has maintained its stringent two-step review process of the Preliminary Review and the Double-Blind Review. This has consistently resulted in 26% of papers withdrawals due to relevance to JIRSEA's focus on Higher Education issues or Institutional Research and those that do not meet the "sound scientifically grounded" research requirements of JIRSEA, though these papers are based on the UPM's Faculty of Educational Studies, some of the more current topics like cyberbullying, moral education, social use applications, counseling in addition to the normal educational or Institutional research issues were covered.

The first three papers looked at the more attitudinal aspects of moral education, the relationship between life satisfaction, self-esteem, Fear of Missing Out, and social media addiction among university students, and the grit effects on the Higher education student's academic performance. The fourth paper covered the skills areas of students as the flipped classroom deployment affects students' calculus performance and Mathematical Creative Thinking Skills, with the fifth paper focusing on people with disability (PWD) through employers' feedback from a survey to obtain their insights on employability skills traits necessary for today's job market. The sixth and seventh papers focused more on the curriculum developmental aspects of integrating scenarios and resources for designing an online scenario-based learning module named the e-SBL FOIM-ATG for front-office courses in a Community College utilizing the Fuzzy Delphi technique, STEM-based modeling instruments revealed great item-content validity and scale validity for assessing sub-competency in pre-service teachers. The eighth to tenth papers that focused more on the students' perceptions, training, and mental health explore postgraduate students' perceptions of the role and influence of assessment rubrics in their learning experience, discovering the experiences of young university student-athletes towards psycho-physical training, physical training and psychological training throughout their athlete career and the relationship between mental health and career planning—career optimism, career adaptability, career knowledge, college and career readiness self-efficacy and self-efficacy planning—among current Malaysian pre-university student-athletes. The eleventh to thirteenth papers are more on the social media and technology applications that investigate the influence of social media, counseling attitudes, and cyberbullying engagement among young adults in Selangor by exploring how social media platforms influence the prevalence and impact of cyberbullying incidents in the local community, influence of technology and data use on a teacher's self-efficacy in relation to their profession, influence of technology and data use on a teacher's self-efficacy in relation to their profession, and influence of technology and data use on a teacher's self-efficacy in relation to their profession. The whole Issue closed with the fourteenth paper looking at the connection between upper secondary students' self-efficacy and career exploration.

The key synopses of these nine papers are as follows:

- **Article 1 – Noor Zulina S De Asildo** of *Ministry of Education, Putrajaya, Selangor, Malaysia*, **Maizura Yasin, Marzni Mohamed Mokhtar, and Mohd Mursyid Arshad**,

all from the *Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia*, explores the learning experiences of former Moral Education (ME) students in one of Sabah's districts on the East Coast. This study employed a qualitative research design with a phenomenological approach to understand the experiences of former ME students in learning the subject at school. The study revealed three main themes, which are (i) Relating values to situations, (ii) Memorizing, and (iii) Conforming to syllabus and policy that have influenced the success or failure of ME's goal, which is to produce virtuous human beings rather than academic achievement.

- **Article 2 – Muhammad Asyraf Che Amat, Nurhanisah Tugiman, and Alia Sarah Asri**, all from the *Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Selangor, Malaysia*, conducted a study to identify the relationship between life satisfaction, self-esteem, Fear of Missing Out, and social media addiction among university students in Malaysia. This quantitative study used four instruments: the Satisfaction with Life, Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, Fear of Missing Out Scale, and Social Media Addiction Scale-Student Form. The study found a significant relationship between all the independent variables in this study with social media addiction that can be used as a guide for authorities at the university or interested parties.
- **Article 3 – Liu Yanling** of *ChuXiong Normal University, China*, **Rose Manisah Sulong, Nor Aniza Ahmad, and Li Ruihua**, all from the *Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Selangor, Malaysia*, explore how grit affects the student's academic performance in the context of higher education. The paper presents a comprehensive, systematic review of 13 studies between 2018 and 2023 from two databases, Scopus and Web of Science. It finds that grit has a great influence on academic success, and the two main grit aspects of perseverance of effort (POE) and consistency of interest (COI), which are two aspects of grit, seem to have different effects on academic performance.
- **Article 4 – Mohd Shahridwan Ramli and Ahmad Fauzi Mohd Ayub** of the *Institute for Mathematical Research*, together with **Fazilah Razali and Norliza Ghazali**, all from the Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia, investigate how flipped classroom deployment affects students' calculus performance and mathematical creative thinking skills. The analysis revealed a significant difference in the post-test and delayed post-test regarding the calculus performance of the students. Additionally, the results demonstrated that students who utilized flipped classrooms had significantly better scores in mathematical creative thinking skills in the post-test and delayed post-test. This study also showed that, performance and creative thinking skills, using a flipped classroom to teach mathematics to students in higher education was more effective than the conventional approach. However, the fluency domain in creative thinking skills indicated no significant difference between the groups in the post-test and delayed post-test.

- **Articles 5 – Muhd Khaizer Omar, Mohd Hazwan Mohd Puad, Mohamad Yaakub, Gui Qing** attached to the *Faculty of Educational Studies*, and **Marlinah Muslim** from *Student Affairs Division*, all from *Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Malaysia*, conducted a study of people with disability (PWD) through employers' feedback from a survey to obtain their insights on employability skills traits necessary for today's job market. A skill intervention program was designed and conducted by employing a reskilling and upskilling module that was aligned to employers' job requirements among selected PWDs using a single case study semi-structured interview session was then conducted with the PWDs after the program to gather their personal experiences. A focus group discussion (FGD) found that PWDs do well in employment, highlighting the importance of reviewing the plethora of skeptical beliefs given the fact that employability skills are intrinsic values that involve non-technical and less physical functions.
- **Article 6 – Quah Wei Boon, Tajularipin Sulaiman, and Fazilah Razali** from the *Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 UPM Serdang, Malaysia*, aims to identify the essential elements necessary to integrate scenarios and resources for designing an online scenario-based learning module named the e-SBL FOIM-ATG for front-office courses in a Community College utilizing the Fuzzy Delphi technique. The study consensus confirms the importance of identified elements in developing the Front Office Instructional Module – Advise the Guest at the Community College in promoting the adoption of scenario-based active learning as a transformative educational approach.
- **Article 7 – Riyan Hidayat** of the *Faculty of Educational Studies and Institute for Mathematical Research, Universiti Putra Malaysia*, aims to develop the instrument consisting of sub-competency, simplifying, mathematizing, computing, interpreting, and validating through a cross-sectional survey research design. The development of STEM-based modeling instruments revealed great item-content validity and scale validity for assessing sub-competency in pre-service teachers. At the same time, EFA revealed that STEM-based modeling instruments had five sub-components: simplifying, mathematizing, computing, interpreting, and validating. The results showed that the STEM-based modeling instrument's reliability was good. Creating and verifying the STEM-focused modeling tool designed for pre-service teachers is essential in mathematics education and research. It offers a valuable means to evaluate and improve the essential skillset related to mathematical modeling, benefiting educators and STEM students alike.
- **Article 8 – Liang Jing Teh, Su Luan Wong, Mas Nida Md. Khambari** of the *Faculty of Educational Studies, Rahmita Wirza O.K Rahmat* of the *Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology*, and *Sai Hong Tang* of the *Faculty of Engineering*, all from *Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia*, explore postgraduate students' perceptions towards the role and influence of assessment rubrics in their learning experience. The findings revealed that the explicit criteria in rubrics provided postgraduate students with clarity on

the instructor's expectations, enabling them to set specific academic goals and approach their tasks purposefully, which eventually reduced their anxiety and increased their motivation and confidence in completing the assignments. The study also found that students perceived rubrics to have a positive influence on their learning strategies and knowledge gained. The students used rubrics as a tool to facilitate academic goal setting and self-assess their learning progress. Consequently, their knowledge retention and academic achievement improved. The findings imply that tertiary-level educational stakeholders should contemplate rubric-reference assessments.

- **Article 9 – Kai Yan Wong, Tajularipin Sulaiman** of *Sports Academy* and **Wan Marzuki Wan Jaafar** all from the *Faculty of Educational Studies*, **Muhammad Nazrul Hakim Abdullah** of the *Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences* are from *Universiti Putra Malaysia*, and **Saeid Motevalli** of the *Faculty of Social Sciences & Liberal Arts, UCSI University, Malaysia*, explore the experiences of young university student-athletes towards the psycho-physical training, physical training and psychological training throughout their athlete's career. The idea, factors, and components of each training should not be overlooked, especially in the populations of young university athletes, as they are exposed to more psychological risks associated with the nature of their career, such as stressful and tense competitive circumstances, monotonous training, academic work, and interpersonal conflict factors. Three (3) themes were concluded from each training in exploring the ideas, components they found, and factors in improving for each training.
- **Article 10 – Kai Yan Wong, Tajularipin Sulaiman** of *Sports Academy* and **Wan Marzuki Wan Jaafar, Asmah Ismail, Roxana Dev Omar Dev** all attached to the *Faculty of Educational Studies*, and **Muhammad Nazrul Hakim Abdullah** of *Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences*, are from *Universiti Putra Malaysia*, investigate the relationship between mental health and career planning—career optimism, career adaptability, career knowledge, college and career readiness self-efficacy and self-efficacy planning—among current Malaysian pre-university student-athletes. This study utilized the Mental Health Continuum-Short Form (MHC-SF) and Career and Tertiary Education Readiness Inventory (CaTERI). Results revealed that student-athletes' mental health positively correlated with career planning.
- **Article 11 – Teh Jayee and Muhammad Asyraf Che Amat** of the *Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Selangor, Malaysia*, investigate the influence of social media, counseling attitudes, and cyberbullying engagement among young adults in Selangor by exploring how social media platforms influence the prevalence and impact of cyberbullying incidents in the local community. It also investigates the role of counseling help-seeking attitudes in mitigating the adverse effects resulting from cyberbullying. The result revealed that there is no significant direct effect of social media usage on cyberbullying perpetration. However, there are statistically negative relationships between social media usage and counseling attitudes on

cyberbullying victimization. Counseling attitude is significantly and negatively associated with cyberbullying perpetration, reflecting its role in potentially minimizing the risks of young adults being exposed to cyberbullying.

- **Article 12 – Samsu Hilmy Abdullah, Mohd Hazwan Mohd Puad, Masrah Azrifah Azmi Murad, and Erzam Marlisah** of the *Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Selangor, Malaysia*, explores the influence of technology and data use on a teacher's self-efficacy in relation to their profession. The results indicated that teacher professional self-efficacy, technology use, and data use are at a moderate level and have a favorable correlation among the constructs. However, the connections are not influenced by factors such as age, gender, or school location.
- **Article 13 – Alia Sarah Asri, Zaida Nor Zainudin, Siti Aishah Hassan, Nor Aniza Ahmad, and Yusni Mohamad Yusop** of the *Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 UPM Serdang, Malaysia*, identify the influence of e-counseling skills, ethics, and limitations on counseling self-efficacy among e-counselors in Malaysia. The correlational study design reported a positive correlation between e-counseling skills and counseling self-efficacy, as well as between e-counseling ethics and counseling self-efficacy. E-counseling limitations reported a negative correlation with counseling self-efficacy. A multiple regression analysis was also conducted, and e-counseling skills were found to be the best predictor of counseling self-efficacy, followed by e-counseling limitations.
- **Lee Wei Rong** of *Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Perak, Malaysia*; **Zaida Nor Zainudin, Engku Mardiah Engku Kamarudin, and Alia Sarah Asri** all from the *Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Selangor, Malaysia*, investigate the connection between upper secondary students' self-efficacy and career exploration. The difference between school grades and career exploration was also examined. The quantitative-correlational research showed a positive correlation between self-efficacy and career exploration. Meanwhile, linear regression analysis reported that self-efficacy significantly predicted career exploration. Lastly, the ANOVA result showed a significant difference in the career exploration behaviors among all school grades. Among the respondents, Form 4 students had higher career exploration behaviors than Form 3 and Form 5 students. The results of this study indicated that self-efficacy plays a significant role in predicting career exploration.

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