



Youth Awareness on Youth Development Law

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ABSTRACT

Lack of awareness and understanding of youth development law amongst youth and policy makers is quite significant. Among the reasons that have been identified to be the root cause of this weakness is due to the failure or less priority given by the youth societies and related organization which are responsible in providing quality programmes for youth. In light of the above gap, the paper examines youth awareness on youth development law from the perspective of policy makers and youth themselves. This is a social-legal study, which involves two types of data collection; first, interviews with 53 policy makers/management from ministries, youth departments, youth agencies and societies; and result from a survey amongst Malaysian youth amounting to 4703. This study found that a majority of the respondents (the policy makers from ministries, state youth departments, youth societies and agencies) agreed that youth in Malaysia have a very low awareness or knowledge of the law relating to the youth. The lack of awareness also may be subjected from the absence of the legal awareness programme conducted by the related governmental agencies and organizations. However, the result of youth view is in contrast where the level of awareness of youth concerning policies of youth in law is quite high at the average of 77.8%. Nevertheless, the result shows more than 20% of youth in Malaysia do not aware about the existence of youth policy in law.

Keywords: Youth Law, Youth Policy, Youth Awareness

JEL Classifications: K1, K12, K120

1. INTRODUCTION

The letdown of the enforcement of law regarding youth could have been snowballed from the lack of awareness and understanding on law by youth themselves. Abdul et al. (2012) stated that awareness comes before understanding and understanding comes with knowledge, whether or not the youth knows about certain issues. As to the awareness of youth on the law relevant to them, Asmah et al. (2016) found that youth knowledge of law relevant to the youth development was largely influenced by the factor of their involvement in the activities organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports or youth societies. Accordingly, Zulkhlimi et al. (2015) in his study among computer science students on Malaysian law related to computers and digital contents had found that lack of understanding and unable to grasp most of the law terminologies had led them to become low awareness related

to the law in their area. In that light, it can be noted that youth awareness on law relevant to them are influenced by their direct involvement in the particular matters, however, it is not a guarantee of full understanding of the substances of the provisions due to the legal terms used. Therefore, this paper intended to examine youth awareness on youth development law.

In Malaysia, the principle law governing activities and development of youth is the Youth Societies and Youth Development Act, 2007 (YSYDA, 2007). The act defined youth as a person not <15 years and not more than 40-year-old. The objective of the act is to register youth societies, promote and facilitate the development of youth in Malaysia from the aspect of education, research and human resource, to establish a National Youth Consultative Council, to establish the Malaysian Institute for Research in Youth Development and to provide for related