EDUCATION AND UNEMPLOYEMNT IN MALAYSIA TODAY

What Can You Do to Help Yourself Break into The Job Market?

According to a recent study published by Malaysian Rating Corporation Berhad, the unemployment rate in Malaysia has been steadily rising for the past few years by 12% per annum. The number of unemployed men and women above the working age now sits at around 3.4%. This means that only 14,276,700 people are working out of a total labour force of 14,788,900 people – that leaves 512,200 people out of work.

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It is certainly a troubling state of affairs to discover – that over half a million people in our country aren’t working a steady job. However, what can be even more troubling is discovering that a disproportionate percentage of those unemployed are in fact youths aged between 18 and 25. The unemployment rate for this demographic sits at about three times higher than the national average – illustrating that many able workers and fresh graduates are unable to find work in the current job market.

This, according to Bank Negara in its 2016 annual report, is due to a slower-than-expected growth in hiring. As the next generation of workers leave higher education and join the job market, they aren’t being met by a proportional amount of jobs. Vacant positions aren’t being generated as fast as newly-graduated, work-hungry young people – which is leaving this demographic open to taking the brunt of Malaysia’s unemployment. Bank Negara noted that young people are most vulnerable to these trends of unemployability as they lack hands-on, relevant experience. This can mean that fresh graduates and other young people are often the last to get hired and the first to be made redundant when a company needs to streamline its workforce.

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It seems ridiculous, however, that students can be fresh out of as much as 16 to 18 years of education and not be ready to enter the job market. All logic would tell you that these newly-educated, university-specialised, up-to-date graduates should be some of the most employable people in the job market – however this just isn’t the case. These figures have made others unsettled as well, and several key policy questions in other emerging economies have been raised because of it. Many of these potential policy changes centre around enhancing the quality and relevance of education systems in order to prepare for rapidly evolving countries and quickly developing job markets.

However, these future policy changes won’t help the next batch of university undergraduates to be prepared to enter the Malaysian work force – they will have to prepare themselves. But how?

The most important thing for Malaysian students now is to get a vocational degree that has good career prospects upon graduation. Such degrees include Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science and Business Administration and Management. Graduating from a decent university with any of these degrees would give a graduate a great start on their future and would likely cause them to get snapped up by an employer within a few weeks.

However, not everyone wants to be in engineering, computing or administration and management. For those out there who don’t want to study these courses, but would rather research the career prospects related to different courses, there is an app just for you.

Seeka - a revolutionary university search engine app brimming with user-friendly features – enables users to search through over a million courses from over 200,000 institutions. For each of these courses, potential students or their parents can discover scholarship opportunities, faculty information and the career prospects related to that course. Seeka is an unbiased, third-party app, so you can be sure that the information it presents about a course and the potential future it could lead to is totally reliable.

With Seeka, a greater amount of information is available to students than ever before. Now students can match their university courses not only to their ability, but also their career dreams. Doing this will help the next generation of Malaysian students to enter the job market with degrees that give them an edge over the competition, helping to drive down the disproportionately high unemployment rate for the youth demographic. If you are a budding, soon-to-be undergraduate, don’t fall victim to Malaysia’s dog-eat-dog job market – download Seeka and get a head start on your future today.

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