

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Using Holland's theory of vocational interests, the aim of this study is to identify the vocational interests of form six students in a government school situated in Klang, Selangor.

3.2 Subjects

The subjects chosen for the study are Lower Six Arts students from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Tinggi Klang (Klang High School). The total number of subjects is 81 both male and female. Gender difference is not viewed as important since Holland's theory does not include any propositions regarding such distinctions. The age range is between 18 and 20 years. These students are studying subjects such as General Paper, Geography, History, Economics, Malay Language, Malay Literature, Mathematics and Accounting.

3.3 Instrument

A set of questionnaire is used which consists of two sections:-

- (i) Section I consists of biodata and questions regarding academic achievement (that is, the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination results), educational and vocational choice of the students.
- (ii) Section II is the revised and translated edition (Amla, 1984) of Self-Directed Search (Form E). Alma reported a high correlation coefficient ($r=0.90$) between the Malay version and the original version. The SDS consists of three subscales namely, Likes,

Competencies and Occupations. They are organised in terms of Holland's six personality types: Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising and Conventional (RIASEC). The scales and items are arranged in the following manner:

Section A – Likes: six scales, 10 items each.

The subjects indicate their preferences for activities listed by placing a tick (✓) in the boxes provided.

Section B – Competencies: six scales, 10 items each.

The subjects indicate their abilities on the skills listed by placing a tick (✓) in the boxes provided.

Section C – Occupations: six scales, 10 items each.

The subjects indicate their preferences for occupations listed by placing a tick (✓) in the boxes provided.

3.4 Procedure

The research questionnaire is administered to the Lower Six students during the orientation week. The students are given a career talk regarding types of career (according to Holland's RIASEC) prior to the study as part of the on-going orientation programme that week. This is an appropriate time to conduct the study as students are enlightened after the career talk and begin discussing about career or vocational interests among each other. For students who are indecisive regarding their choice of stream (Arts or Science), the study will enable them to make the right choice.

Before the students answer the questionnaire, they are informed of the purpose of the study and are also given instructions on how to

answer the questionnaire. The allocated time for answering all sections in the questionnaire is one hour.

3.5 Scoring

Under each vocational interest, students are required to add up all the items they have ticked (✓) in the boxes for all the three subscales that is; Likes, Competencies and Occupations. The total score for each vocational interest is then obtained on each of the six types in the following order: R, I, A, S, E, C. The three highest scores is then ranked by the three letters corresponding to the type of vocational interest according to Holland.

Students write the three-letter code in the space provided in Section I of the questionnaire.

3.6 Data Analysis

Data analysis is carried out using the SPSS for Windows 7.5. To measure the vocational interest of the Lower Six students, frequency and percentage are used. The mean grade is used to compare the academic achievement of the students in Arts subjects (Malay Language and History) and Science subjects (Science and Mathematics).

To see the relationship between educational choice and vocational interests, cross tabulation is used but only the first letter in the three-letter code is used for data analysis.