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**COMPUTER COMPETENCY AMONG
FORM FOUR STUDENTS OF A SECONDARY SCHOOL**

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ABSTRAK

KECEKAPAN KOMPUTER DI KALANGAN PELAJAR TINGKATAN EMPAT SEBUAH SEKOLAH MENENGAH

Kecekapan komputer (KK) sekarang ditakrifkan semula oleh beberapa orang pendidik sebagai paras kepakaran dan kebiasaan dengan komputer. Bidang literasi komputer telah diperluaskan untuk meliputi penggunaan Internet dan program-program multimedia, selain dari penggunaan biasa perisian aplikasi dalam kategori-kategori berikut: kemahiran asas, pemprosesan perkataan, pengurusan data, grafik dan pengaturcaraan.

Apakah tahap-tahap pencapaian pelajar dalam tujuh kategori KK ini? Soalan penyelidikan ini dikaji dengan menjalankan survey melalui soal-selidik untuk mengumpul maklumat daripada satu sampel yang terdiri daripada 186 orang pelajar Tingkatan Empat sebuah Sekolah Menengah dalam satu kawasan bandar. Dalam kajian ini, perhubungan di antara KK dan i) jantina; ii) status sosioekonomi (SES) dan iii) kemilikan komputer juga dikaji dengan menggunakan data survey yang diperolehi.

Pada amnya, didapati bahawa pelajar lelaki telah mempunyai KK yang lebih tinggi daripada pelajar perempuan. Ini dapat ditunjukkan dari ujian-ujian *t* yang menghasilkan perbezaan signifikan ($p < .05$) dalam kemahiran-kemahiran asas, programing dan multimedia. Di samping itu, pelajar-pelajar dari kumpulan SES tinggi didapati mempunyai KK yang lebih daripada pelajar-pelajar kumpulan SES rendah itu. Ujian-Ujian *t* telah menunjukkan perbezaan signifikan ($p > .05$) di antara kedua-dua kumpulan SES ini dalam pemprosesan perkataan, pengurusan data, dan Internet. Pelajar-pelajar yang memiliki komputer juga didapati mempunyai KK lebih tinggi ($p < .05$) dalam kesemua kategori KK daripada mereka yang tidak memiliki komputer.

ABSTRACT

COMPUTER COMPETENCY AMONG FORM IV STUDENTS OF A SECONDARY SCHOOL

Computer competency (CC) is now redefined by several educators as the level of expertise and familiarity with computers. The scope of computer literacy has extended to cover Internet usage and multimedia programs, besides the normal usage of application software in the following categories: basic skill, word processing, data management, graphics, and programming.

What are the students' levels in the seven categories of CC? This question was attempted by conducting a questionnaire survey with a sample of 186 Form IV students of a secondary school in an urban area. In this study, the relationships between CC and i) gender; ii) socioeconomic status (SES); and iii) ownership of computers were also investigated using the survey data.

In general, it was found that boys had higher CC than girls. This was reflected by the significant differences ($p < .05$) in basic skills, programming, and multimedia using the *t*-tests. Furthermore, students from the higher SES group were found to be more computer competent than those from the lower SES group. The *t*-tests showed significant differences ($p < .05$) between these two groups in word processing, data management, and Internet usage. Those who owned computers were found to score significantly higher means ($p < .05$) than those who did not own computers in all categories of CC.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Rationale of the Study	3
1.3 Research Questions	7
1.4 Operational Definitions	7
1.5 Significance of the Study	10
1.6 Limitations of the Study	11
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	13
2.1 Definition of Computer Literacy before the Nineties	13
2.2 New Definition of Computer Literacy	15
2.3 Computer Literacy in Malaysian Context	17
2.4 Development of Computer Literacy in Malaysia	17
2.4.1 Computer Projects in Schools	18
2.4.2 Computer Projects for Preservice Teachers	20
2.4.3 Computer Projects in the Seventh Malaysia Plan	21
2.4.4 MSC Project	22
2.5 Measurement of Computer Competency	23
2.6 Computer Literacy Research	24
2.7 Gender differences	26
2.8 Socioeconomic Status	28

	Page
2.9 Ownership of computers	28
2.10 Summary	29
CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY	31
3.1 Introduction	31
3.2 The Subjects	31
3.2.1 Gender	32
3.2.2 Socioeconomic Status	32
3.2.3 Ownership	33
3.3 Instrumentation	34
3.3.1 Student Background Information	36
3.3.2 Self-rating Computer Literacy Levels	37
3.4 Calculation of Mean Category Scores	38
3.5 Socioeconoimic Status	38
3.6 Pilot Study	39
3.7 Data Collection	39
CHAPTER 4 RESULTS, INTERPRETATIONS, AND DISCUSSIONS	41
4.1 Introduction	41
4.2 Descriptive Statistics	41
4.2.1 Seven Categories of Computer Competency	41
4.2.2 Sub Scales based on Three Independent Variables	43

	Page
4.3 Inferential Statistics Analyses of Relationships	45
4.3.1 Influence of Gender on Computer Competency	45
4.3.2 Influence of Socioeconomic Status on Computer Competency	48
4.3.3 Influence of Ownership on Computer Competency	52
CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS	54
5.1 Introduction	54
5.2 Descriptive Analyses	55
5.3 Inferential Statistics of Significance	56
5.3.1 Influence of Gender on Computer Competency	56
5.3.2 Influence of Socioeconomic Status on Computer Competency	57
5.3.3 Influence of Ownership on Computer Competency	57
5.4 Limitations of the Study	58
5.5 Conclusions	59
5.6 Implications	60
5.7 Recommendations for Further Research	61
APPENDIX A: CRITERIA USED FOR ASSIGNING SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS	62
BIBLIOGRAPHY	64