

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to contribute to a better understanding of the current status of males and females of Royal Signal Regiment (RSR) personnel in Malaysian Army, their attitudes and beliefs toward Information Technology (IT). The development of IT application in MAF particularly Malaysian Army has undergone a major transformation since the early 1990s. IT has provided the platform to enable all Army personnel to handle, manage and maintain information and the sophisticated modern communication and weapon systems in order to safeguard the nation. However, despite these significant technological advances and increases of military investments in promoting technology adoption at individual and organizational levels, it is still unclear, the extent of IT adoption among Malaysian, particularly among the Malaysia Armed Forces (MAF) personnel in the determinants of usage, awareness, the attitudes and beliefs of the system.

This study was referred to largely studies by Sormunen, Ray, & Thomas (1999) and Havelka (2003). The authors had developed the instrument to measure attitudes related to the three research questions adopted from Sormunen, Ray & Thomas (1999) inventory to compare the attitudes of men and women about (1) the value of technology making users more productive, (2) the impact of technology on people and their working environment, and (3) the relative comfort of men and women when using computer. The study used an attitude inventory

constructed to identify attitudes associated with gender issues reflected in the literature and another thirteen potential items statement which were adopted from Christensen & Knezek (1998) and Wong Su Lan (2002) previous studies. To broaden the study, the author had included other demographic factors and personality background to compare in order to answer the research questions.

The finding of this study has implications for both academic and military, as well as for further research. The present environment and changing of attitudes by females toward IT today has reminded educators that females, as well as males are suited for a full range of technological programs. Since females have higher regard that IT can contribute toward productivity and are more comfortable with IT than males, the author suggested that females be allow to pursue technology related courses. In employment situations, the MAF should increase the employment of females in the future particularly for IT related assignments.

Since this survey was confined to Malaysian Army RSR personnel only, it may limit the generalisability of the findings to MAF organization as a whole. The author suggests that further research showed extend the finding of this study to soldiers in different organization in MAF. Future research also should look into evaluating the level of IT knowledge among MAF personnel and the effectiveness MAF organization in implementing IT courses or program.