

Employment Outcomes for Young Adults with Autism in Malaysia: Insights from Families, Educators and Employers

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Abstract:

Young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Malaysia face significant challenges in achieving meaningful employment, despite the existence of vocational training programs and policy initiatives. Families often bear the burden of limited opportunities, navigating financial strain and uncertainty about long-term career prospects. This study explores the lived experiences of families, together with educators, vocational trainers, and employers, to examine how current policies influence employment outcomes and career development for young adults with ASD.

Using a qualitative design, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with 15 participants across stakeholder groups. Thematic analysis will identify recurring barriers, facilitators, and gaps in policy implementation. Findings are expected to reveal both systemic challenges and effective support practices, highlighting the crucial role of families in career pathways. The study will provide evidence-based recommendations to strengthen policies, enhance vocational training, and promote inclusive workplace practices in the Malaysian context.