

PRIVATE RETURNS NON-CONVENTIONAL EDUCATION: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM MALAYSIA

Nanthakumar Loganathan*, Zaleha Mohd Noor** and
Suhaila Abdul Jalil***

Education in Malaysia is an on-going effort towards further developing the potential of individuals in a holistic and integrated manner. It is widely believed that education plays an important role in economics growth, private and social returns. However, little evidence exists on the private returns on non-conventional education which indicates the part-time and distance learning graduates. Therefore, this study contributes to fulfill the gaps. This study presents estimates of the private returns to non-conventional education in Malaysia based on cost and benefits techniques by applying both short-cut and elaborate methods. The data we used in this study are drawn from a comprehensive survey conducted to non-conventional graduates in Malaysia's labor market. The results of this study show clearly that the non-conventional education is a profitable investment with an average of 9-11 percents of private returns. Therefore non-conventional education seems to be a profitable investment for adult's workers to pursue their informal lifelong learning education in Malaysia.

Field of Research: Labor economics, Contemporary issues in economics

* Nanthakumar Loganathan, Department of Economics, Faculty of Management and Economics, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu, Malaysia.

Email: kumar@umt.edu.my

** Dr. Zaleha Mohd Noor, Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Management, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400, UPM Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

Email: lehnoor@econ.upm.edu.my

*** Dr. Suhaila Abdul Jalil, Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Management, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400, UPM Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

Email: suhaila@econ.upm.edu.my