



WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE (KANITA)

Prospectus



Transforming
Higher Education
for a Sustainable
Tomorrow

the APEX University *universiti Sains Malaysia*

Background and History

The Women's Development Research Centre (KANITA) is the first centre of its kind in Malaysia, pioneering a field that was little known and marginalised in the country's academe. KANITA is also responsible for charting the earliest history of feminist research and advocacy in Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

of academic culture that is enriched through multi- and interdisciplinary interactions with generic disciplines of social sciences, humanities, management, communication, education, medical sciences, health sciences and pharmaceutical sciences. Through fundamental, applied and policy research, innovations in training, publication and networking both nationally and globally, KANITA has brought new meaning to the process of engendering knowledge, thus, bringing feminist and gender perspectives to the forefront of academic thinking.

Beginning with the establishment of a UNICEF-funded research cluster on women, children and poverty in 1978, through which it gained the acronym KANITA (representing the combined Malay words for women and children) and evolving into what is today a centre of excellence within the university, KANITA reflects more than thirty years of critical thinking in the development of theoretical and methodological tools and policy strategies that aim at equalising and mainstreaming gender in education and nation building. The years of experience have provided KANITA with a solid foundation for women's and gender studies programmes. The experience has also given rise to a new kind

KANITA achieved its current status as an autonomous research centre within the university on 17 April 2001. The endorsement by the University Senate of KANITA's position demonstrates USM's commitment to lead in the exploration of new thinking and knowledge that considers gender as an important analytical framework for theory and research. It also reflects converging efforts and dedication of academic members from various disciplines towards championing gender equality, equity and justice in the society, both theoretically and in practice.





Vision

Transforming society towards gender equality and social justice.

Mission

As a Centre of Excellence, KANITA is committed towards research, transfer of knowledge, advocacy and community engagement, utilising and promoting a gender and social equality framework. It strives to impact on the academe, the state, women and the society at large.



Objectives

The specific objectives of KANITA may be enumerated as follows:

1. To intensify the impact and significance of KANITA as a centre of reference concerning research on women's and gender issues for the academe, state and society in Malaysia and the region.
2. To conduct inter and trans-disciplinary research in critical areas of women's and gender issues and to utilise the findings to advocate for social transformation.
3. To produce publications which stimulate intellectual and public discourse on women's and gender issues.
4. To develop graduate programmes of international standing in the field of women's and gender studies.
5. To initiate and engage in intellectual, advocacy and community related activities through diverse communication strategies.
6. To lead in the development of an accessible women's and gender issues data bank and resource centre.

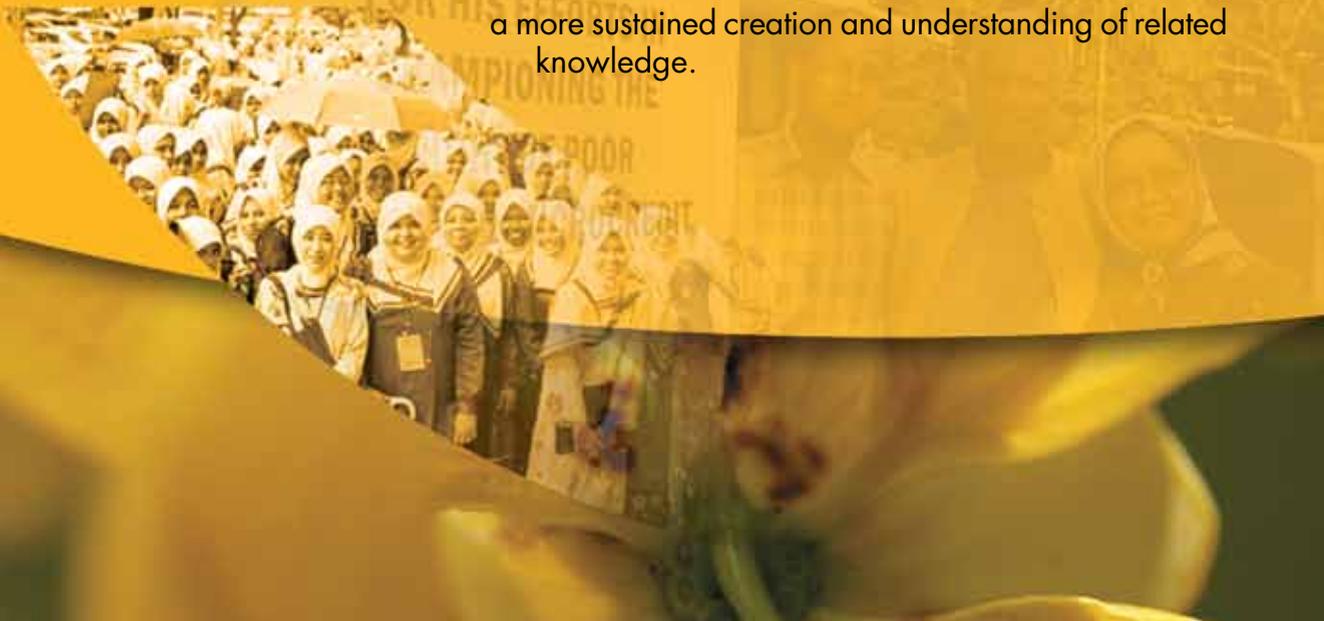


Core Programme Areas

As a centre that aims at influencing policies and programmes, KANITA focuses on four core/ thrust areas:

- Health
- Policy and Law
- Sustainable Development
- Leadership and Governance

These critical areas are identified because of their significant relevance to contemporary and emerging discourses on women and gender. The areas also offer multi-disciplined involvement and interaction of intellectuals that can contribute towards a more sustained creation and understanding of related knowledge.



Postgraduate Programmes

KANITA offers postgraduate studies programmes for those interested in pursuing women's or gender studies by research. Upon completion of the studies, students are awarded with Master of Social Sciences (Gender Studies) or Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Programmes are designed to produce graduates who are gender-sensitive in various work cultures and organisations, equipping those from various basic disciplines with knowledge and analytical skills of looking at the social world through a more comprehensive and inclusive manner.

All candidates of the Master's and Ph.D degrees in KANITA are required to pass two prerequisite courses as listed below:

SGS501 - Gender Theories

SGS502 - Research Methods and Analysis for Gender Studies

Students' research projects may be founded on local, national or global women's and gender issues that focus on theory, policy and/ or advocacy. As a guideline, students may choose to research on issues related to any of the six core thrust areas of KANITA. Students are encouraged, through methodological research, to analyse the lived realities of women in the contexts chosen for their studies and to examine intersections that influence women's lives.

Theoretical and practical research knowledge gained from pursuing postgraduate studies in KANITA is useful for employability in areas such as human resources and employment services, health and social services, government, education, research and policy, media, communications and film, business or law-related fields.

GHANA

INDONESIA



Research Projects

The history of KANITA is marked by its contribution towards research into the issues of women and gender especially in the context of Malaysia. Its earliest research project in 1978 was funded by the UNICEF and involved a group of young, vibrant researchers consisting of both male and female intellectuals who converged to study poverty, leadership, motherhood and culture in Malay societies in Penang and rural Kedah.

In the early 1980s, KANITA received government funding to evaluate the success of government projects in rural Peninsular Malaysia. The study yielded valuable information and analyses on women's peripheralised position in agriculture and the industrial sector.

Subsequently, KANITA focused its research on new and emerging issues of the time such as Islamic law, human rights, culture and employment. The projects were variously funded by international (UNICEF, UNESCO, ESCAP) as well as local (Hal Ehwat Wanita [HAWA], Penang) funding agencies.

The current focus of KANITA's research is based on the six core programme areas mentioned above. Since 2000, KANITA has been entrusted with research funds by various national and international funding agencies to conduct research that covers areas such as family and marriage, health, violence against women, work, micro-credit and leadership and governance.



PROJECTS UNDER INTERNATIONAL/ EXTERNAL GRANTS

No	Research Title	Principal Investigator
1.	The Assessment of Incidences of Child Marriages in Malaysia and Preliminary Study of Their Causes and Consequences (UNICEF & UNDP)	Dr Noraida Endut noraidaendut@usm.my
2.	(Re)Claiming Equality and Justice in the Family Through Shariah (Research Council of Norway)	Dr Noraida Endut noraidaendut@usm.my
3.	A Study of Change and Continuity in Gender Relations in a Malay Village in Malaysia (Research Council of Norway)	Prof. Datin Rashidah Shuib rashidahshuib@usm.my
4.	Revisiting Women in FELDA settlement: A Study of Continuity of Social Change (Research Council of Norway)	Zaireeni Azmi zaireeni_azmi@usm.my
5.	A Study of Women's Participation in the Employment Sector in the State of Penang (Economic Planning Unit of State of Penang, UPEN)	Assoc. Prof. Intan Osman intan@usm.my
6.	Contemporary Chinese Migration to Southeast Asia: Case Studies of Vietnam, Malaysia and Chinese Migration to Japan: Exploring The Bases of Comparison (SEASREP Foundation)	Prof. Diana Wong dwibkl@yahoo.com.sg
7.	<i>Kesaksamaan Gender Dalam Konteks Bajet Responsif Gender (GRB)</i> (Penang Municipal Council, MPPP)	Assoc. Prof. Intan Osman intan@usm.my

PROJECTS UNDER RESEARCH UNIVERSITY GRANT SCHEME (RU GRANTS)

No	Research Title	Principal Investigator
1.	Sexual Harassment in Higher Education: A Case Study of Universiti Sains Malaysia	Dr Noraida Endut noraidaendut@usm.my
2.	A Country Level Study of Women's Well Being and Domestic Violence against Women	Prof. Datin Rashidah Shuib rashidahshuib@usm.my
3.	Empowering Women through Microcredit: A Gender Analysis of Empowerment	Prof. Datin Rashidah Shuib rashidahshuib@usm.my
4.	A Study of Enforcement and Justice Agencies within the Legal Framework of Domestic Violence in Malaysia	Dr Noraida Endut noraidaendut@usm.my
5.	Women's Participation on Sustainable Development: SMEs Entrepreneurship on Ecotourism for value Creation Services	Assoc. Prof. Intan Osman intan@usm.my



PROJECTS UNDER VARIOUS GRANTS/ COMMISSIONS

No	Research Title	Principal Investigator
1.	USM Micro-Pinj: An Action Research Project (Vice –Chancellor’s Office)	Prof. Dato’ Sukor Kasim sukorkasim@gmail.com
2.	Global Financial Crisis and Its Impact on Women’s Gender Roles and Coping Strategies: A Qualitative Research of 20 Retrenched Women, Penang, Malaysia (USM Incentive Grant)	Lai Wan Teng laiwanteng@gmail.com
3.	Democracy, Women and Politics In Malaysia (USM Incentive Grant)	Dr Cecilia Ng Choon Sim cncs77@gmail.com
4.	<i>Gender & Politik Kepimpinan Mahasiswi Dalam Politik Kampus</i> (USM Incentive Grant)	Zaireeni Azmi zaireeni_azmi@usm.my
5.	A study on the impact of polygamy on the quality of life among Muslims in Malaysia (External grant: Sisters In Islam)	Prof Datin Rashidah Shuib (PI for East Coast area) rashidahshuib@usm.my Dr Noraida Endut (PI for Northern area) noraidaendut@usm.my
6.	Developing a Local Based Theoretical Understanding of Domestic Violence against Wives (Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education)	Dr Noraida Endut noraidaendut@usm.my
7.	Provision of Technical Assistance to Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation (NWTF) in Strengthening Banking on the Poorest Women in Visayas Region in the Phillipines (Consultancy-based research funded by Grameen Foundation USA & NWTF)	Prof. Dato’ Sukor Kasim sukorkasim@gmail.com

Networking

KANITA has established academic and advocacy networks with more than 20 institutions and organisations. These are research-based academic institutions and advocacy related women's organisations at both the national and international levels. These links involve academic staff exchanges, joint training courses for academics and graduate students, and research collaborations.

In the past, KANITA has had links with the UNICEF, Women's Affairs Division (HAWA) of the Penang State Government, a Canadian-based research network called the Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia (ChATSEA) and various governmental and non-governmental agencies such as the British Council's Committee for the International Cooperation in Higher Education (CICHE), UNFPA and the Asia-Pacific Research and Resource Centre for Women (ARROW).

More recently, KANITA has entered into collaborative academic, research and advocacy activities with the Economic Planning Unit of the State of Penang (UPEN), Penang Development Corporation (PDC) and various funding agencies from the States of Penang, Selangor and Perak. These are mainly for micro-credit and women and leadership issues. KANITA has also established research links with the Asia Research Institute (ARI), Singapore and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Currently, KANITA is collaborating actively with Universitas Muhammadiyah (UMY) and Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and with University of Lethbridge in Canada. At the same time, KANITA has strategic links with the Southeast Asian Association for Gender Studies, Malaysia Branch (SAMA), Asian Association of Women's Studies (AAWS) and the Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI).

KANITA continues to be a reference organisation for training, advocacy and research for various governmental institutions at local and international levels through its activities and engagement with agencies such as the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development Malaysia, the Ministry of Health Malaysia, the NAM Institute for the Empowerment of Women (NIEW), the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).



Data Bank, Publications and Website



KANITA envisions the development of a comprehensive "Gender Information & Knowledge System (GIKS)", an integrated data bank that stores data, particularly empirically derived data, images of women and publications/resources consisting of articles, reports and proceedings. Currently, a resource room houses a range of publication. Details on the publications can be obtained from the website: <http://kanita.usm.my>

KANITA also reviews manuscripts and theses submitted for national and international publications related to women and gender studies from other universities.

Gender, Development,
and Globalization



GRADUATE
PROGRAMME

ABOUT US

RESEARCH

PEOPLE

ACTIVITIES

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

For more information or to purchase, kindly please contact us at:
Tel: (604) 6533436 or 6533445
Email: kanita@usm.my

by Dr. Noraida Endut

PUSAT PENYELIDIKAN PEMBANGUNAN WANITA (KANITA)
WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE



KANITA

GENDER INFORMATION & KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM (GIKS)



Governance and Staff

KANITA is governed by a Director and Board Members, appointed by the Vice-Chancellor. Members of the Board are academics from multi-disciplined background who are committed towards advancing knowledge on women and gender. Currently, the Board Members are made up of Lecturers, Senior Lecturers, Associate Professors and Professors from the fields of Health Sciences, Medical Sciences, Law, Social Sciences, Communication, Psychology, Management and Humanities. The Board Members are pivotal in shaping the academic and research programmes in KANITA.

In the administration of KANITA, the Director is assisted by a Deputy Director, administrative officers and support staff. At the core of KANITA's team of staff are the academic members and researchers. The academic members of Professors, Associate Professors, Senior Lecturers and Lecturers are from multidisciplinary backgrounds. This strength offers postgraduate candidates varying areas of research to undertake since the latter will be assured of appropriate and dynamic supervision. The variety of academic disciplines of the academic members also facilitate more democratic and inclusive research activities in KANITA, which will translate into social transformative measures that can benefit a wide group of stakeholders in the society.

KANITA also has a Social Research Officer to oversee the administration of research activities. The availability of research grants and university funding enables KANITA to recruit post-doctoral fellows, research fellows, research officers and research assistants. These groups of individuals are the driving force in research projects, facilitating the sharing of experiences through cluster research and seminars, which aim to sharpen methodological and theoretical tools of research and analysis.





KANITA

Women's Development Research Centre (KANITA)

Universiti Sains Malaysia,
11800 USM, Penang,
Malaysia.

Tel : +60 4 653 3436 / 3433 (DL) 653 2678

Fax : +60 4 656 6379

E-mail : kanita@usm.my

Website : <http://kanita.usm.my>

