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Leadership Styles of Technology-Based SMES in Malaysia: The Comparative Analysis of Company Size and Sector

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to compare the leadership styles of technology-based SMEs in Malaysia based on company size and company sector. Leadership style can be described as the means of how leaders interact with employees. However, there is limited understanding on how these technology-based SMEs practices their leadership styles. In addition, there is dearth attention to investigate the leadership styles in developing country especially in Malaysia. Full range leadership theory was employed in this quantitative study where data was collected from 138 technology-based SMEs using survey questionnaire in which only 86 is usable for analysis. An independent sample t-test is conducted to test the differences between company size and company sector with leadership styles. The results indicate there were no statistical differences in the mean scores for leadership styles based on the size of the company as well as the company sector. Implications and direction for further research are presented for future research.

Keywords: Leadership styles, technology-based SMEs and independent sample t-test