

## **IDENTIFYING THE CHALLENGES FACED BY WORKING SINGLE MOTHERS IN KUALA LUMPUR: THE REASONS FOR THEIR NON-PARTICIPATION IN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper reports the findings of a research, which studies the challenges faced by working single mothers; and the reasons for their non-participation in financial assistance programmes. Four working single mothers ranged in age from 40 to 67 were interviewed to gather in-depth information on the challenges and reasons. Their challenges include financial and time constraints; lack of knowledge and skills; social stigma; lack of childcare facilities and strict working hours. Despite the availability of assistance programmes, they did not participate, because of their negative experiences; and negative perceptions towards assistance-providing agencies. Interventions are recommended for relevant authorities and agencies to boost the images of the assistance-providing agencies; to increase the awareness and level of trust of the public on the assistance programmes providers.

**KEYWORDS:** Working Single Mothers, Financial Assistance Programmes, Work Skills, Working Hours