Learning has no boundaries at AEU

AEU has made it possible for anyone to obtain a degree at their own pace and preferred method of learning.

– DR HO NEE YONG

Nevertheless, the news of my enrolment at AEU caused a little commotion among family members whose sterling support had been the catalyst for my advocacy for lifelong learning for the past 40 years. I promised then that quality family time would always supersede my PhD journey. At AEU, learning was made much easier with access to scores of international online libraries and e-journal databases. At my reference research was almost exclusively done through the e-library, I had the option of not having the static queue up counter service and this meant a much lower time cost.

I have the AEU librarians, who offered their assistance at my point of need in online research, much to thank for.

I attended several doctoral colloquia for research ideas; had one on one sessions with my supervisor, and my thesis proposal passed by the vetting committee during the first year of my study.

Over the next two years, my concerns were raised on the formulation of questionnaires, which needed modifications on the part of wordings; the selection of teacher respondents which had to be equilibrated; and the data analysis and interviews which needed to be simultaneously positioned.

It was a meaningful and an exciting experience.

As the doctoral journey is a shared one between supervisors and candidates, both parties need to make their expectations known to bring thesis writing to fruition. I am glad that AEU has all it takes for this cordial relationship to be in place.

In my data collection through questionnaires, I had to make sure that the relationship between important parameters and variables could be differentiated for analysis; and that there was accessibility to potential respondents.

Indeed I am very appreciative of the cooperation rendered to me by the school heads concerned. The few trips I made to the post office to send parcels of questionnaires through express mail were really worthwhile.

Besides data collection, I also made use of the triangulation approach to find out whether the analysis of data and interviews were mutually reinforcing.

It was during the many interviews conducted that I was able to confirm the reliability and validity of my statistics results.

The many enlightening classroom lectures presented by international guest speakers, helped enlarge my body of knowledge on matters concerning research and current educational issues.

The exposure to these lectures have had a positive impact on my critical thinking skills. What interests should schools and universities serve? What constitute good education? Or is there a justification for society to subsidise the production of doctors?

In the course of my research, I became convinced that for a holistic education to be a worthwhile effort, and to ensure its success, the character-building aspect must take precedence over the pure quest for knowledge and wealth.

My journey at AEU was at its crucial stage when the viva voce was held in January 2013. My external examiner from the University of Oxford, UK, had to be ready at 7:30 a.m. on a weekday morning to be linked up through the tele-video conferencing with other examiners at the AEU meeting room in KL, at 3pm local time.

It was a defining yet exciting moment for me. I have AEU to thank for, not forgetting the confidence my supervisor Prof Dr Siew had in me for his selection of external examiners.

My PhD journey at AEU was not only refreshing and insightful; it was also one that I shall always cherish.

Since its humble beginning in April 2007, AEU has established its reputation as an acclaimed institution of higher education in the region by providing quality education programmes to almost 13,000 students from 54 countries.

AEU was declared as one of the successful projects under ACD in October 2011.

The January 2014 intake is now open. Candidates can apply for studies through a Normal Entry or an Open or Flexible Entry admission, which considers the individual’s working experience.

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For more information, go to www.aeu.edu.my or call 1300 300 238.