No degree? No problem, say employers
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Malaysian Employers Federation chief Shamsuddin Bardan says experience is still the most critical issue for employers when they choose who to hire.

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) has rejected the notion that one needs a degree in order to do well in life or get a job.

This comes following a report that Abdul Raman Jaafar, 44, is now the owner of 10 textile, business and accessories business companies although he ended his education at Primary 6.

Speaking to FMT, MEF executive director Shamsuddin Bardan said there were many such cases of successful employers who never pursued a formal education, let alone higher education.

Based on that, Shamsuddin surmised that paper qualifications weren’t the most important thing when it came to being successful or even hiring potential employees.

“Having paper qualifications is not a must except, of course, for professional positions such as accountancy, law, medicine and things like that.

“But normally, if it is not a licensed profession, experience is still the most critical issue for employers when they choose who to hire,” he said.

He said, in fact, employers in the private sector today were more keen on hiring those with street smarts as opposed to those who could show they furthered their studies.

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“On the other hand, those who aren’t as street smart may not be able to hope for much beyond the company they are currently working in.”

When asked to comment about the paradox that one needs a job first in order to gain experience, Shamsuddin disagreed.

“There are always freelance projects that you can try your hand at. People need to learn how to think outside the box when it comes to gaining experience,” he said.