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PRAKATA

Penyelidikan dalam bidang sains sosial merupakan elemen penting dalam membentuk masyarakat yang berketrampilan, holistik dan berdaya maju. Sejalan dengan ini banyak penyelidikan yang berkaitan dengan bidang sains sosial perlu dilaksanakan untuk mencungkil penyelesaian kepada pelbagai masalah yang dihadapi oleh masyarakat sejagat.

Prosiding ini adalah himpunan kertas kerja daripada penyelidikan sains sosial yang telah dilaksanakan oleh para pengkaji di Institut Pengajian Sains Sosial, UPM dan outputnya telah dibentangkan di Seminar Hasil Penyelidikan IPSAS 2011.

Terdapat empat (4) sub tema yang dibincangkan dan ianya merangkumi isu, cabaran dan strategi dalam bidang (i) Pembangunan Belia; (ii) Pembangunan Komuniti; (iii) Konflik Sosial; dan (iv) Kesihatan dan Kualiti Hidup.

Pengumpulan kertas kerja hasil daripada penyelidikan yang telah dijalankan ini diharapkan dapat memberi cetusan idea dan menjadi sumber rujukan kepada penggubal dasar, pelaksana serta pihak-pihak yang bertanggungjawab dalam membentuk polisi negara serta dapat membantu penyelidik-penyelidik muda dalam menjalankan penyelidikan yang seterusnya. Penglibatan aktif dan sokongan penyelidik dapat menghasilkan penyelidikan yang berkualiti dan mendatangkan manfaat kepada agama, bangsa dan negara.

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HUBUNGAN DI ANTARA SIKAP, PENGETAHUAN DAN SOKONGAN TERHADAP PENERIMAAN PERTANIAN MAMPAK DALAM KALANGAN PETANI LADANG KONTRAK DI MALAYSIA

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Abstrak

Praktis pertanian mampan dikenalpasti sebagai satu teknik yang paling berkesan untuk mengusahakan tanaman. Bagi memastikan kelangsungan praktis tersebut, para petani perlu menerima dan mengaplikasikan kaedah ini keatas tanaman mereka. Banyak kajian antarabangsa yang mendapati sikap, pengetahuan, dan sokongan sebagai factor utama yang mempengaruhi penerimaan pertanian mampan dalam kalangan petani, tetapi masih kurang kajian yang sama di Malaysia. Bagi mengurangkan jurang kajian, objektif utama kajian ini adalah untuk menerangkan perhubungan antara sikap, pengetahuan dan sokongan terhadap penerimaan pertanian mampan dalam kalangan petani ladang kontrak di Malaysia. Kajian ini adalah kajian kuantitatif dan jumlah responden yang terlibat adalah seramai 326 orang bagi proses pengumpulan data. Data diperoleh dari borang soal selidik yang telah dibangunkan. Analisis kajian membuktikan bahawa terdapat hubungan yang signifikan di antara sikap petani ladang kontrak dan penerimaan pertanian mampan ($r=0.498$, $p=0.00$). Pengetahuan petani kontrak dan juga penerimaan pertanian mampan juga menunjukkan terdapat perkaitan signifikan antara dua angkubah ini ($r= 0.348$, 0.00). Selain itu, factor sokongan juga mempunyai perkaitan dengan penerimaan pertanian mampan ($r=0.365$, $p=0.00$). Kesimpulannya, petani perlu mempunyai sikap yang positif dan mempunyai pengetahuan yang cukup serta mampu memperoleh sokongan dari semua pihak untuk menggalakkan mereka mengimplementasikan pertanian mampan dalam praktis pertanian mereka.

Kata Kunci: Sikap, Pengetahuan, Sokongan, Penerimaan, Pertanian Mampan, Petani ladang kontrak

Pengenalan

Malaysia sedang berusaha untuk mencapai tahap negara maju. Pelbagai usaha yang telah dijalankan bagi memenuhi impian ini. Salah satu sektor yang diberi perhatian adalah sektor pertanian. Sektor pertanian dilihat sebagai satu sektor yang mampu memacu ekonomi negara. Berdasarkan kepada laporan yang dikeluarkan oleh Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia, Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) dalam sektor pertanian sentiasa menunjukkan peningkatan yang berterusan. Laporan ini menunjukkan bahawa sektor pertanian mampu untuk mencipta lebih banyak peluang pekerjaan kepada 16 % populasi rakyat Malaysia ketika ini. Tambahan pula, Bidang Ekonomi Utama Negara (NKEA) sektor pertanian mensasarkan peningkatan KDNK sektor ini menyumbang sebanyak RM49 billion menjelang tahun 2020, melalui 16 "Entry Points Project" (EPPs) dan 11 peluang perniagaan. NKEA pertanian menjangkakan akan mencipta 74,000 peluang pekerjaan dan mampu untuk meningkatkan pendapatan petani 2-4 kali lebih tinggi. Melalui laporan-laporan yang dikeluarkan oleh pihak kementerian, sektor pertanian mampu untuk memberi peluang dan ruang kepada para petani untuk meningkatkan kualiti hidup mereka. Namun begitu, apabila memperkatakan tentang pertanian sahaja tanpa mengambil kira kelestarian prosesnya bagi mengoptimumkan produk, maka akan terdapat kepincangan kepada kesannya pada masa akan datang. Pertanian mampan dilihat sebagai suatu sistem yang menyeluruh bagi meningkatkan ekonomi, alam sekitar dan sosial. Menurut Shamsuddin dan Awang (2007), pertanian mampan menekankan kepada memastikan kesejahteraan generasi kini tanpa menidakkan kesejahteraan generasi akan datang. Pertanian mampan juga turut menekankan kepada tiga aspek utama kecekapan ekonomi, tanggungjawab sosial dan kualiti alam sekitar (Fairweather dan Campbell, 2003). Oleh itu, petani-petani di Malaysia perlulah diberikan pengetahuan tentang kepentingan pertanian mampan.

Namun begitu terdapat beberapa faktor yang mempengaruhi para petani mengimplementasikan pertanian mampan ini. Merujuk kepada kajian lepas, faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi para petani ladang kontrak untuk mengamalkan pertanian mampan ialah sikap, pengetahuan dan sokongan yang diterima daripada sekeliling mereka (Sadati et al., 2010; Kwadwo et al., 2008; Wheeler, 2008). Menurut Sadati et al. (2010), sikap petani akan memberikan impak kepada penerimaan pertanian mampan sebagai satu teknik baru untuk menyemai tanaman dan memelihara ternakan. Sebelum ini, Allport (1935) menterjemahkan sikap sebagai suatu kesediaan mental, telah melalui suatu pengalaman yang panjang, dan juga dimotivasikan dalam satu arah atau dipengaruhi secara dinamik bergantung pada tindak balas individu terhadap objek-objek yang berkaitan. Ini bermakna sikap para petani ladang kontrak bergantung pada kesediaan mental dan pengalaman mereka dalam bidang pertanian. Sikap juga merujuk kepada a) objek, individu, institusi, atau peristiwa b) mempunyai elemen penilaian positif dan negatif c) berdasarkan kepercayaan kognitif terhadap sikap-objek dan d) memberi penumpuan kepada tingkah laku apabila berhadapan dengan sikap objek (Bergevoet et al., 2004).

Selain daripada sikap, pengetahuan petani adalah elemen yang penting untuk menerima praktis pertanian mampan. Pengetahuan adalah komponen yang penting dalam pembangunan, dan ia umpama senjata dalam era yang penuh mencabar ini. Dalam abad ke 21, pertambahan pengetahuan dan pengaplikasian akan memacu proses pembangunan. Bagaimana pengetahuan boleh membantu petani miskin untuk meningkatkan taraf hidup dalam masa yang sama mengurangkan kemiskinan? Pengetahuan didefinisikan sebagai maklumat atau data yang telah disusun atau disusun, dan ia sangat penting dalam proses inovasi (Kwadwo, 2008). Carreon et al. (2011) memberitahu bahawa pengetahuan sebagai salah satu faktor yang berpotensi untuk menjalankan kelestarian. Faktor sokongan juga diperlukan untuk menggalakan para petani mengaplikasikan pertanian mampan. Sokongan seperti aspek kewangan, sosial dan pendidikan adalah sangat penting bagi para petani ladang kontrak Malaysia. Sokongan yang berterusan bagi pertanian mampan sangat diperlukan oleh petani ladang kontrak untuk kelangsungan hidup. Tidak semua petani terdedah dengan konsep pertanian mampan, oleh itu sokongan yang cukup daripada agensi yang berkaitan adalah sangat diperlukan (D' Silva et al., 2010). Guo et al. (2005) dan Wheeler (2008) menekankan kepada peranan kerajaan untuk menggalakkan petani untuk menerima praktis pertanian mampan. Salah satu peranan kerajaan adalah menyediakan sokongan dari segi kewangan yang mencukupi bagi menjalankan sistem pertanian mampan. Ini disokong oleh kajian lepas oleh Xiaoping dan Xing (2011) yang menerangkan betapa pentingnya sokongan kewangan bagi pertanian dalam memaksimumkan kesan sosio-ekonomi dalam KDNK luar Bandar.

Tiga faktor – sikap, pengetahuan dan sokongan- dikenalpasti sebagai elemen yang menjadi penyumbang kepada penerimaan pertanian mampan. Tambahan pula, kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengenalpasti hubungan antara tiga faktor utama ini dan penerimaan pertanian mampan dalam kalangan petani ladang kontrak di Malaysia.

Metodologi

2.1 Rekabentuk Kajian

Kajian ini merupakan kajian kuantitatif dimana instrument telah dibentuk untuk memperolehi data dan maklumat.

2.2 Pembentukan Instrumen

Memandangkan tiada spesifik instrument telah dibangun untuk mengukur penerimaan, sikap, pengetahuan dan sokongan, penyelidik-penyelidik telah bersetuju untuk membangunkan instrument mereka sendiri berdasarkan kepada kajian-kajian lepas dan melalui sorotan literatur. Sebanyak 14 soalan berkaitan sikap petani kontrak, 14 berkenaan pengetahuan tentang pertanian mampan, dan 14 soalan berkaitan sokongan telah dimasukkan ke dalam borang soal selidik. Setiap soalan yang telah ditanya, responden telah diberi pilihan lima skala-likert dalam lingkungan 1=sangat tidak setuju, 2 = tidak setuju, 3 = sederhana, 4=setuju, 5 = sangat setuju.

2.3 Pra-uji

Setelah Berjaya membina instrument, ia kemudian telah diuji dengan seramai 30 orang petani ladang kontrak di Cameron Highland, Pahang dimana hasil nilai Cronbach Alpha ialah 0.77 melebihi nilai Cronbach Alpha yang telah dicadangkan oleh Nunally (1978). Instrument yang telah diuji dan diperbaiki akhirnya digunakan untuk proses pengumpulan data yang sebenar.

2.4 Pengumpulan Data

Proses pengumpulan data telah dijalankan di Kedah, Terengganu, Selangor dan Sabah. Secara keseluruhan pengumpulan data telah dilaksanakan selama 7 bulan (bermula daripada May 2011 sehingga November 2011) untuk dilengkapkan. Prosedur persampelan rawak mudah telah digunakan untuk memilih responden. Dalam kajian ini, seramai 326 petani ladang kontrak telah dipilih sebagai responden. Bagi melancarkan proses pengumpulan data, bantuan telah diberikan oleh pegawai FAMA. Enemuratur yang terlatih telah diupah untuk membantu para petani memahami borang soal selidik dan sebanyak 20 – 30 minit telah diambil untuk melengkapkan borang soal selidik.

2.5 Analisis

Bagi tujuan analisis, perisian SPSS telah digunakan. Analisis deskriptif seperti frekuensi, peratus, mean, sisihan piawai telah diadaptasi untuk menerangkan data umum kajian. Selain itu, bagi memenuhi objektif untuk mengenalpasti hubungan yang mungkin wujud antara penerimaan pertanian mampan dan angkubah bersandar yang terpilih, analisis inferential (perkaitan Pearson produk- kejadian) telah diaplikasi.

3. Hasil dan Perbincangan

3.1 Data Demografi

Jadual 1 menunjukkan latar belakang demografi responden yang telah dikaji. Ia menunjukkan Malaysia masih lagi kurang dari segi bilangan petani muda iaitu hanya 9.8% responden yang berumur kurang dari 30 tahun. Majoriti responden adalah dalam lingkungan umur 41 – 50 tahun (27.9%) dan 51-60 tahun sebanyak 27.0%. Majoriti responden adalah dalam kalangan kaum Melayu (73.0%) dan kebanyakan mereka adalah lelaki (69.9%). Gidarakou (1997) menyatakan kaum wanita kurang terlibat dengan sektor pertanian kerana halangan seperti komitmen terhadap keluarga dan pekerjaan yang menggunakan tenaga fizikal yang banyak dalam bidang ini. Dari segi tahap pendidikan majoriti mempunyai tahap pendidikan sekolah rendah dan sijil SPM/SPMV (68.1%). Ini bukanlah perkara yang mengejutkan kerana menurut Man (2008) dalam kajiannya menyatakan bahawa sektor pertanian ini dipandang sebagai 'pekerjaan kelas kedua' oleh individu-individu berpendidikan tinggi. Skor mean bagi pendapatan pula ialah M=RM1,521.93 memaparkan kebanyakan responden mempunyai pendapatan yang stabil namun

begitu masih ramai petani (39.6%) yang mempunyai pendapatan kurang daripada RM500 sebulan di mana ia berada di bawah tahap kemiskinan RM720 yang telah ditetapkan oleh Unit Perancang Ekonomi Malaysia (EPU). Majoriti petani masih baru dalam sistem ladang kontrak (43.7%) iaitu mereka hanya mempunyai pengalaman dalam sistem ini selama 1-3 tahun.

Jadual 1 : Data Demografi Responden yang dikaji

Faktor-faktor	Frekuensi	Peratus	Mean
Umur (tahun)			49.5
20-30	32	9.8	
31-40	45	13.8	
41-50	91	27.9	
51-60	88	27.0	
>60	70	21.5	
Jantina			
Lelaki	228	69.9	
Perempuan	98	30.1	
Zon			
Utara	85	26.2	
Timur	80	24.5	
Selatan	81	24.8	
Sabah/Sarawak	80	24.5	
Etnik			
Malay	238	73.0	
Dusun	80	24.5	
Cina	8	2.5	
Tahap Pendidikan			
Tidak pernah ke sekolah	59	18.1	
Sekolah Rendah	140	42.9	
PMR/SRP	30	9.2	
SPM/SPMV	82	25.2	
Sijil Kemahiran/STPM	10	3.1	
Diploma	4	1.2	
Ijazah Sarjana Muda/Master	1	0.3	
Pendapatan Sebulan			1,521.93

<RM500	129	39.6
RM501-RM1000	88	27.0
>RM1001	109	33.4
Pengalaman sebagai petani ladang kontrak (tahun) (n = 324)		8.03
1-3	142	43.7
4-6	63	19.4
7-10	47	14.5
11-15	22	6.8
>16	51	15.7

3.2 Faktor-faktor yang dikaji

Jadual 2 menunjukkan skor mean bagi setiap faktor yang dikaji. Bagi memperoleh skor mean keseluruhan, ringkasan setiap skor mean telah diperolehi (skor mean bagi setiap soalan/jumlah soalan). Hasil mean telah dibahagikan kepada 3 kategori iaitu rendah (1.00 – 2.33), sederhana (2.34 – 3.67) dan tinggi (3.68 – 5.00) . Kategori ini dibahagikan menggunakan formula (maximum skor mean/nombor kategori =5.00/3).

Hasil kajian menunjukkan penerimaan mempunyai skor yang tertinggi iaitu 4.25 berbanding sikap yang merekodkan skor mean yang terendah (M=3.74). tambahan pula, pengetahuan dan sokongan merekodkan mean yang agak tinggi masing-masing 4.09 dan 3.88. Melalui analisis data tiada seorang pun responden berada di bawah tahap skor mean pengetahuan terhadap pertanian mampan. Ini menunjukkan rata-rata petani ladang kontrak mempunyai ilmu berkaitan teknik pertanian mampan. Secara umumnya, majoriti responden mempunyai tahap skor mean yang tinggi dalam penerimaan (88.0%), pengetahuan (78.5%), sokongan (69.6%) dan sikap (58.6%).

Faktor-faktor	Frekuensi	Peratus	Mean	Sisihan Piawai
Penerimaan			4.25	.537
Rendah (1.00 – 2.33)	4	1.3		
Sederhana(2.34 – 3.67)	35	10.7		
Tinggi (3.68 – 5.00)	287	88.0		
Pengetahuan			4.09	.534
Rendah (1.00 – 2.33)	-	-		

Sederhana(2.34 – 3.67)	70	21.5		
Tinggi (3.68 – 5.00)	256	78.5		
Sokongan			3.88	.551
Rendah (1.00 – 2.33)	4	1.2		
Sederhana(2.34 – 3.67)	95	29.1		
Tinggi (3.68 – 5.00)	227	69.6		
Sikap			3.74	.672
Rendah (1.00 – 2.33)	16	4.9		
Sederhana(2.34 – 3.67)	119	36.5		
Tinggi (3.68 – 5.00)	191	58.6		

3.3 Hubungan Antara Penerimaan, Sikap, Pengetahuan Dan Sokongan

Tujuan utama kajian ini adalah melihat hubungan antara sikap petani ladang kontrak dan penerimaan mereka terhadap praktis pertanian mampan. Berdasarkan kepada hasil kajian. Terdapat perkaitan yang signifikan di antara sikap dan penerimaan ($r=0.498$, $p=0.00$). petani yang mempunyai sikap yang positif atau baik terhadap tanaman akan lebih terbuka untuk mengaplikasikan system pertanian mampan kerana mereka telah pun menggunakan teknik yang selamat dan mengelak ancaman keatas tanaman dan hidup mereka. Kajian ini disokong oleh Sadati et al. (2010), yang mengatakan bahawa sikap para petani merupakan elemen penting dalam penerimaan pertanian mampan.

Tambahan pula, terdapat hubungan yang positif antara pengetahuan petani ladang kontrak dan penerimaan praktis pertanian mampan ($r=0.348$, $p=0.00$). Pengetahuan merupakan factor major yang menyumbang kepada pemahaman tentang pertanian mampan; ia juga kunci kepada peningkatan implementasi dan sikap para petani terhadap pertanian mampan (Khoram et al., 2006). Dengan pengetahuan yang cukup, petani ladang kontrak mampu mengaplikasikan praktis pertanian yang baik terhadap tanaman mereka (Azman et al., 2012). Mereka juga boleh meperolehi maklumat tentang pertanian mampan melalui media massa, agen pengembangan, rakan-rakan mereka dan lain-lain.

Selain daripada sikap dan pengetahuan, sokongan juga mempunyai perkaitan yang signifikan dengan penerimaan pertanian mampan ($r=0.365$, $p=0.00$). Petani – petani memerlukan sokongan

daripada kerajaan, institusi kewangan, keluarga dan kawan-kawan untuk menggalakkan mereka untuk mengimplementasikan teknik pertanian mampan bagi tanaman mereka. Kerajaan juga boleh mempromosikan kebaikan pertanian mampan bagi menggalakkan petani menghasilkan lebih banyak produk yang lestari. Keluarga dan rakan juga boleh mempengaruhi petani untuk mengaplikasikan teknik pertanian mampan.

Jadual 3 menunjukkan, terdapat juga perhubungan yang signifikan di antara setiap pemboleh ubah tidak bersandar iaitu antara sikap dan pengetahuan petani ladang kontrak ($r=0.215$, $p=0.00$). dalam masa yang sama juga, sikap dan sokongan mempunyai perkaitan yang positif ($r=0.304$, $p=0.00$), begitu juga pengetahuan dan sokongan ($r=0.391$, $p=0.00$). Bagi membentuk sikap yang positif, para petani perlu mempunyai pengetahuan dan pengalaman yang cukup kerana ia membolehkan mereka memahami konsep lantas mengubah sikap mereka. Sokongan yang diterima akan membuatkan petani lebih terbuka untuk pertanian mampan.

Jadual 3 : Hubungan Antara Penerimaan, Sikap, Pengetahuan Dan Sokongan

Pembolehubah	Penerimaan		Sikap		Pengetahuan		Sokongan	
	r	p	r	p	r	p	r	p
Penerimaan	1	-	0.498	0.000	0.348	0.000	0.365	0.000
Sikap	0.498	0.000	1	-	0.215	0.000	0.304	0.00
Pengetahuan	0.348	0.000	0.215	0.000	1	-	0.391	0.00
Sokongan	0.365	0.000	0.304	0.00	0.391	0.00	1	-

4. Kesimpulan dan cadangan

Berdasarkan hasil kajian yang diperoleh, boleh disimpulkan sikap petani, pengetahuan dan sokongan mempunyai perkaitan dengan penerimaan mereka terhadap praktis pertanian mampan. Sekiranya petani mempunyai sikap yang positif terhadap persekitaran mereka serta lebih prihatin terhadap alam sekitar, mereka akan cuba mengurangkan penggunaan racun serangga, menggunakan baja organik berbanding baja kimia, dan mementingkan kesuburan tanah. Ini bermaksud mereka mahu mengaplikasikan pertanian mampan. Tanpa pengetahuan yang mencukupi, mereka tidak tahu apa yang perlu dilaksanakan. Bagi memastikan para petani mencapai maklumat yang diinginkan, agen-agen pengembangan perlulah memainkan peranan sebagai penyebar info; media massa juga diperlukan untuk menjayakan sistem ini. Badan-badan kerajaan juga boleh mengadakan bengkel untuk memberi maklumat dan mengajar teknik ini pada para petani ladang kontrak. Sokongan dari orang sekeliling seperti keluarga dan rakan akan menggalakkan lagi para petani untuk merealisasikan pertanian yang lestari. Kerajaan juga boleh menggalakkan rakyat supaya menggunakan dan makan makanan yang sihat dan bebas dari bahan kimia. Bagi kajian akan datang, bukan sahaja penekanan terhadap teknik penanaman yang perlu diberi perhatian tetapi impak ekonomi dan sosial juga perlu dijalankan.

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PATTERN OF MOBILE PHONE USAGE AMONG FISHERMEN IN PANGKOR ISLAND

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Abstract

Mobile phone has emerged as one of the important tools in this digital era. It has benefited various groups of community and fishermen are one of them. The main attempt of this paper is to identify the pattern of mobile phone usage among fishermen in Pangkor Island in Malaysia. This study is quantitative in nature where a total of 250 of Pangkor Island fishermen were selected as the respondents. Findings have confirmed that though majority of the fishermen do not spend so much time and money for making and receive calls and SMS/MMS, mobile phone is still a crucial fisheries tool for them particularly on its role in strengthening their safety and ease their communication process with their family while conducting their fishing operation. Albeit mobile phone superior functions in marketing, fishermen in Pangkor Island seem to place less interest on it. A number of discussions have been highlighted whereby it is a hope that it can provide ideas for the concern parties in maximizing mobile phone benefits for the fishermen.

Keywords: Mobile phone, fishermen, fishermen development.

Introduction

In this modern day, it is not surprising to be informed on the launching of mobile phone new models on every month. The swift evolution of this technology is geared by increasing demand on such tool by the community. Demands on mobile phone are driven by the facts that it offers abundance of benefits for the users. Studies done by Salia et al. (2011) and Ifejika et al. (2009) have confirmed that mobile phone has a huge ability in assisting community to produce effective communication which involves less cost, save time and minimum energy. Other studies done by Shaffril et al. (2012) and Jensen (2007) have accentuated on vital mobile phone roles particularly with regard to community socio-economic aspects. In tandem with such facts, a number of studies have been conducted with regard to usage of mobile phone among various groups of community such as entrepreneurs (Komunte et al. 2012; Julsrud et al., 2009), youth (Balakrishnan and Raj, 2012; Balakrishnan et al., 2011) consumers (Faziharudean and Li-ly, 2011), farmers (Shaffril and Hassan, 2012) and students (Zulkefly and Baharudin, 2009; Yan et al., 2009). Albeit a large volume of studies with regard to mobile phone and groups of communities have been conducted, it is uncertain whether there are ample numbers of studies have been done germane to mobile phone and fishermen. Such problem statement has geared this

study to its primary objective which is to explore the pattern of mobile phone usage among fishermen in Pangkor Island.

Fishermen in Malaysia and Pangkor Island

Fishermen in Malaysia are one of the groups that have been admitted their importance to the economic development of the nation. Fishermen in Malaysia are emboldened to register with Department of Fisheries Malaysia. Those who spend at least 120 days annually for fishing operation or at least 60% of their total income contributed by their fishing activities are allowed to register as registered fishermen. Being a registered fisherman shall be beneficial to them as they will be provided with monthly allowance worth RM200 and 65 cents subsidy for each litre petrol/diesel they buy. Registered fishermen in Malaysia are categorized into four main fishing areas namely Zone A (0.1 – 5.0 miles nautical from shore), Zone B (5.1 – 12.0 miles nautical from shore), Zone C0 (12.1 – 30.0 miles nautical from shore) and Zone C2 (more than 30.1 miles nautical from shore). Most of the fishermen in Malaysia are Zone A fishermen with most of them possess small fibre boat and traditional boat known as ‘sampan’. Up to date, a total of 129,622 registered fishermen in Malaysia whereby a huge portion of this number can be found at Sabah, Sarawak, Perak and Selangor. Similar to fishermen, every fishing vessel in Malaysia is obliged for registration and up to date a total of 49,756 vessels are registered.

Pangkor Island is one of the famous tourism attractions in Malaysia. It is an island which has land area of eight square kilometres and home to a total of 25,000 islanders. Pangkor Island is famous with historical places such as Dutch Fort, Fu Lin Kong Temple, Kali Amman Temple, Tortoise Hill, Tiger Rock and agro tourism activities. In addition, Pangkor Island is a famous place with its sea products and foods where- most of the resources are coming from the local fishermen catch. To have adequate resource from local fishermen is not surprising as fisheries industry is actively operated by local fishermen. Fisheries industry does offer a lot of income opportunities for the locals in Pangkor Island. Though tourism has a great strength in providing employment opportunities for locals, it seems that fisheries have its own attraction as one of the money making activities in this island. Pangkor Island is placed under fisheries district of Manjung whereby a total of 3,110 fishermen can be found at this district; the second highest in Perak. Furthermore, there are a total 1,209 registered vessels in Manjung, most of the vessels are operating in Zone A catching areas. (Department of Fisheries Malaysia, 2010).

Mobile phone users and usage in Malaysia

Mobile phone evolution in Malaysia is phenomenon which crosses all groups of communities. More than just communication and entertainment tools, mobile phone has become a vital part in our business and personal lives. Majority of Malaysian are mobile phone users and majority of

the users are located at urban areas. Statistic produced by Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) (2008) have contrasted that a total of 73.7% of mobile phone users in Malaysia were urban people and the remaining were those who stayed in rural areas. In term of gender, majority of mobile phone users in Malaysia were male (58.6%). For subscription types of telecommunication services, majority of mobile phone users in Malaysia prefer to have prepaid services, probably due to its affordable price and less commitment on bill payment. As for the 2nd quarter of 2012, a total of 31,214 prepaid subscribers have been recorded compared to only 7,232 who were the post-paid subscribers (MCMC, 2012). Another further study done by MCMC (2012) which focused on mobile phone penetration rate per 100 habitants, it can be seen that as for 2nd quarter of 2012, Malacca, Negeri Sembilan and Selangor were ranked as the first, second and third respectively. Furthermore, Malaysian can be considered as a heavy user of SMS services as for 2011, a total of 93.12 million SMS were send (SKMM, 2012).

In case of fishermen, a study done by Omar et al. (2012) have confirmed that a huge majority of fishermen in Malaysia do bring mobile phone together in their fishing operation and most of them were the moderate users. Interestingly, the similar study has demonstrated that mobile phone has already substituted the roles played by public phone and fixed line phone which are actively used before. For the non-users, which is the minority, Omar et al. (2012) have accentuated on the problems of price and compatibility. In another study done by Bolong et al. (2011) have confirmed that fishermen is the moderate users of mobile phone and most of the use it as it has significant impacts on their income.

Mobile phone benefits for fishermen

In line with rapid development of technology, inventions of fisheries industry technology particularly with regard to catching tools have swiftly emerged. Nonetheless, albeit the existence of such advanced tools, yet, some of the fishermen refuse to use it due to expensive price, less compatibility and the threats it brought to the environment. However, in the case of technology such as mobile phone, it is considered as both ecologically meaningful and culturally enriching. A number of benefits offered by mobile phone are discussed here such as:

Live saving tools

For each fishing operation they conducted, fishermen are exposed to a number of risks and threats. In this recent day, issue of climate change have posted great challenges to the community particularly for those who are dependent on the environment for their socio-economic activities (Abu Samah et al., 2012; Shaffril et al., 2011). As climate change are proven to cause sudden changes to the sea, waves, wind and the rain which threats the fishermen and their vessels, by having mobile phone shall permit them to make an instant call for seeking help if they are hammered by the bad weather. As most of the fishermen now are relying on mechanical engine for their vessels movement, there are vulnerable to the problems of engine breakdown.

Previously, whenever their engine breakdown, waiting and hoping for their colleagues to come and provide helps are the only things they afford to do, nevertheless, with the existence of mobile phone, it allows fishermen to seek instant help via mobile phone communication (Sreekumar, 2011). Foreign fishermen intrusion is another threat to fishermen. Foreign fishermen commonly conduct illegal fishing operation within the local sea whereby it places threats to local fishermen income and local marine sources. Via mobile phone, by simply calling the numbers of concern agencies, it shall help fishermen to expel them out from the local sea.

A quick update on weather forecast

In the past, traditional fishermen in Malaysia are relying on the star to make their forecasting on the weather. Tika star, *Belatek* star, *Tanggong* star, *Takoh* star and *Kelambu* star are commonly used as a weather reference for traditional fishermen. Tika star for example consists of seven star in row whereby appearance of this star denotes frequent rainfall which accompanied by strong wind which resulted in rough and choppy seas. Comparatively, in this modern day, to refer to such stars is not anymore relevant as via mobile phone, fishermen can easily contact their colleagues who are already at sea for the weather forecast which involves less time and costs (Salia et al., 2011). Furthermore, via such effort, fishermen are no longer relying on the Meteorological Department which in some cases is inaccurate.

To strengthen the marketing aspects

According to Jensen (2007), mobile phone can provide a leapfrog for market performance as it offers a wider access to information. Via mobile phone, it accelerate the marketing process as the fishermen can call their dealer to market their catching even before they arrive at the jetty. In another study by Abraham (2007) has displayed how fishermen use Short Message Services (SMS) to seek the best market price of fish at nearby ports. Mobile phone is found to assist the fishermen to evade the cost of middle man as it enables the customer to directly make a call to the fishermen and place their order while similarly; the fishermen can make a call to the best customer that are willing to offer the greatest value for their catches (De Maagd, 2008).

Giving tips on where to get the best catch

Mobile phone encourages information dissemination and sharing among the fishermen. In the past, fishermen commonly are relying much on their indigenous knowledge such as referring to hill/mountain location and the star. Though such skills have been long practiced by traditional fishermen, it offers less accurate information. Comparatively, in this modern day, via superior functions offered by the mobile phone, it allows fishermen to ask and provide information

germane to the best fishing location for their operation to their colleagues which in turn shall reduce their cost on fuel and human resources as their operation duration is shortened (Ifejika et al., 2009).

To keep in touch

Commonly, fishermen will emigrate and spend long hours on their fishing operation, away from their family members and friends, nevertheless, the existence of mobile phone shall allow them to reinforce both; their familial and social bonds (Salia et al. 2011). It can be either they make a call to their family and friends or it can be the other way around. Such function indeed is important especially when it comes to emergency things involving their family members. It shall reduce their collective fears of the risks concomitant with fishing operation.

Methodology

This is quantitative study in nature and a simple random sampling has been employed to choose the respondents for this study. A total of 250 respondents have been chosen whereby all of them were the registered fishermen in Pangkor Island. To gain the data needed a developed questionnaire have been used and pre-tested earlier at Port Dickson before the data collection process took places. The actual data collection process has been conducted on September 2012 where experienced and trained enumerators were employed to assist in the process. On average, each questionnaire consumed between 20-25 minutes to be completed. For questions regarding pattern of usage (purpose of bringing mobile phone in their fishing operation), each of the respondents were give a likert-scale option which ranged from 1 (highly disagree) to 5 (highly agree). For the purposes of analysis, SPSS was employed where analyses with regard to frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation were run.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 demonstrates demographic data of the respondents studied. A huge majority of the respondents were among male (97.2%) and Malay (92.4%). A scenario where agriculture receives less involvement from female is not surprising as they cannot cope with physical demand of agriculture and tied to their family commitment (Gidarakou, 1999). Fisheries industry remains the main choices of the older and lower education achiever as data gained have shown that a total of 63.2% were aged above 40 years while only 2.8% of them have tertiary level of education. Such scenario are resulted by number of drivers whereby studies done by Man (2008) and Gidarakou (1999) have analogized that negative perceptions and attitude are the main obstacles that hinder young and educated people from joining the fisheries industry. The

mean score recorded for income per month was RM922.16 which exceeded the poverty level set by Economic Planning Unit which is RM720. Financially, things are getting better for fishermen as they are provided with monthly allowance worth RM200 per month. Mean score recorded for experience as fishermen was 22.81 years which reflected that majority of the fishermen surveyed were among 'senior' fishermen. Remarkably, near quarter of the fishermen (24.8%) were found to have more than 31 years' experience as a fisherman. As the main requirement for having status for registered fishermen are to spend at least 120 days a year for their fishing operation or 60% of their total income are coming from their fishing operation, there is no wonder why majority of them (41.2%) were spending between 16-20 days per month in conducting their fishing operation. Majority of the fishermen were skipper (60.8%) and were operating within Zone A fishing area (67.2%).

Table 1: Demographic factors of Pangkor Island fishermen

	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard Deviation
Gender				
Male	243	97.2		
Female	7	2.8		
Races				
Malay	231	92.4		
Chinese	7	2.8		
Indian	12	4.8		
Age (years)			44.11	13.93
<25	33	13.2		
26-40	59	23.6		
41-55	102	40.8		
>56	56	22.4		
Education				
Not having formal school	12	4.8		
Primary school	98	39.2		
PMR/LCE	81	32.4		
SPM/SPMV	52	20.8		
Tertiary	7	2.8		
Income (from fishing activities)			922.16	526.97

<RM700	89	35.6		
RM701-RM1000	118	47.2		
>RM1001	43	17.2		
Experience as a fisherman (years)			22.81	13.84
1-5	36	14.4		
6-10	24	9.6		
11-20	63	25.2		
21-30	65	26.0		
>31	62	24.8		
Total of days spent for fishing activities (days)			19.67	5.19
<15	57	22.8		
16-20	103	41.2		
21-25	60	24.0		
>26	30	12.0		
Fishermen category				
Skipper	152	60.8		
Crew members	98	39.2		
Fishing zone				
Zone A	168	67.2		
Zone B	46	18.4		
Zone C0	32	12.8		
Zone C2	4	1.6		

As for pattern of mobile phone usage, the mean score recorded for duration of mobile phone possession was 8.67 years which reflected that majority of the fishermen have long used the mobile phone. Nokia is the main preference of Pangkor Island fishermen probably due to its affordable price and higher compatibility to the users. A huge majority of them possess only one mobile phone with 71.2% of them have no internet connection in their mobile phone. Such scenario might be resulted from the perception that internet is less relevance to their daily routine as studies done by Uematsu and Mishra (2011) and Hassan and Shaffril (2009) have confirmed that some of agriculture community are expressing their reluctance to accept internet as they are attached to the old ways of doing things. Malay language is the main

language used in their mobile phone, followed by English and others (Cantonese and Tamil). Most of them were using prepaid services, probably due the affordable price of the prepaid services which even can be bought at RM5. Maxis is the main preference for telecommunication line among the fishermen as they claimed that its cover a better coverage. Some of the fishermen claimed that the coverage even can be gained till Sembilan Island which is 5.446 miles nautical from the shore (equal to 10.09 km). The mean score of total spending for prepaid/post-paid was RM65.97 per month, which demonstrated its reasonable prices that allow fishermen to use available telecommunication services. A total of 56.8% of them claimed that they brought mobile phone between 4-5 days in a week with them during their fishing operation which reflected its importance to them in their works. Majority of the fishermen surveyed have clarified that they used to make 3-5 times call out and received between 3-5 calls in. Data gained have confirmed that they received more calls in compared to making calls out as the mean score recorded for received calls was 3.97 compared to calls out made which was 3.69. The mean score recorded for duration of calls made and received were slightly more than four minutes ($M = 4.06$) while the mean score recorded for SMS sent during their fishing operation was 2.62.

Table 2: Pattern of mobile phone usage

How long you have used mobile phone (years)			8.67	5.41
1-5	89	35.6		
6-10	97	38.8		
>11	64	25.6		
Type of mobile phone used				
Nokia	186	74.4		
Samsung	26	10.4		
Sony	25	10.0		
Others				
No of mobile phone owned				
1	225	90.0		
2	24	9.6		
3	1	.4		
Mobile phone with internet connection				
Yes	79	28.4		
No	171	71.6		

Mobile phone language				
BM	223	89.2		
BI	16	6.4		
Others	11	4.4		
Type of subscription				
Prepaid	230	92.0		
Post paid	20	8.0		
Type of telecommunication line used				
Maxis	191	76.4		
Celcom	37	14.8		
Digi	20	8.0		
Others	2	0.8		
Costing for telecommunication via mobile phone per month			65.97	92.86
<RM25	29			
RM26-RM50	145			
RM51-RM100	19.6			
>RM101	10.8			
Number of days of bringing mobile phone together in their fishing operation.			4.73	1.28
1-3	43	17.2		
4-5	142	56.8		
6-7	65	26.0		
Call out made during fishing operation (times)			3.69	2.68
0-2	97	38.8		
3-5	105	42.0		
>6	48	19.2		
Call in received during fishing operation (times)			3.97	2.48
0-2	71	28.4		

3-5	131	52.4		
>6	48	19.2		
Duration of communication for calls made and received during fishing operation (minutes)			4.06	2.57
0-2	86	34.4		
3-5	128	51.2		
>6	36	14.4		
Number of SMS sent during fishing operation			2.62	4.76
0 sms	136	54.4		
1-3 sms	60	24.0		
>4 sms	54	21.6		

For the fishermen in Pangkor Island, the prior art of telecommunication superiority offered by mobile phone in their fishing operation is for their emergency and safety ($M = 4.72$). To have such data is not surprising, as for fishermen, each time they venture out to the sea, they are vulnerable to risks such as engine breakdown and sudden climate changes. To have mobile phone shall allow them to perform dual functions; to make instant communication asking for helps and assistance from their colleague during emergency or to offer their help for the other fishermen who are in emergency. What has been lacking here is the involvement of the concern parties in providing vital fisheries information to the fishermen via mobile phone. The establishment of mobile system known as Fisher Friend in India should be practiced within the local context whereby concern parties in India have already utilized superior function of mobile phone in assisting local fishermen. Within fisher friend, it enables fishing communities to gain information germane to risks and market information just by sending a single-button-click request from a menu-driven client software on the mobile phone. Moreover all of the information is provided in in local language (Tamil at present) that is easy to understand.

Work family relationship is something that cannot be evaded and must be adapted in an individual working life. As mobile phone has eased work-family relationship among the working people (Geser, 2004), it seems that similar tool have been used to strengthen family relationship among the fishermen particularly in making effective family communication while there are conducting their fishing routine and this can be confirmed by the fact that the purpose of family members communication have recorded the second highest mean score ($M = 4.71$). Moreover, in this study, mobile phone is also seen as a tool that strengthen the social bond among the fishermen whereby such tool allow fishermen to communicate regularly with their colleague with regard to fishing location and weather. To have a high mean score on such purposes is not

surprising as Sreekumar (2011) have accentuated on the emergence of new norm of cooperation created by mobile phone which embolden on practices of sharing and disseminating information resources among the local fishermen.

It seems that fishermen in Pangkor Island do not fully utilized the marketing roles of mobile phone as statements measuring 'to communicate with tauke' and 'seeking the best places and persons that offer the best prices for their catching' only recorded the fifth highest mean score ($M = 3.57$) and sixth highest mean score ($M = 3.22$) respectively. Fishermen should be informed on this vital function as it can bring a significant impact on their fishing activity particularly on their income. Jensen (2007) in his study for example has confirmed that the adoption of mobile phones by fishermen and wholesalers was related to significant reduction in price dispersion and the complete elimination of waste. He furthermore added that via mobile phone usage, a significant improvement have been seen in the distribution of goods from one market to the next, which come with a decrease in relevant price variations.

Fishermen also were found to place less interest on advance applications of mobile phone such as internet/3G surfing ($M = 1.30$) probably due to the fact that majority of fishermen within this study do not have internet services in their phone. Shaffril et al. (2009) further added that internet surfing is still lacking among agriculture community due to their inadequate ICT knowledge and skills while Hassan et al. (2011) have supported this finding by accentuating that most of the agriculture community particularly in the rural areas prefer to rely on traditional mass media such as television, radio and newspaper as their main sources of information, knowledge and entertainment. GPS usage recorded the lowest mean score ($M = 1.20$) due to its unavailability in their mobile phone which is added by the fact that regular GPS embedded in mobile phone is less suitable to be used for their fishing operation.

Purposes of bringing mobile phone together during fishing operation

Purposes	Mean	Standard Deviation
For emergency and safety	4.72	.740
Communicate with fishermen colleague	4.71	.668
Communicate with family members	4.50	1.02
To gain information with regard to fish location	4.32	1.21
Communicate with 'tauke'	3.57	1.61
To gain information with regard to the best places and persons that offer the best price for their catching	3.22	1.64
Video watching/music listening	2.49	1.62
SMS/MMS	2.28	1.50
Playing games	1.71	1.36
To gain updated weather information	1.68	1.32

Surfing internet/3G	1.30	.910
Using GPS in mobile phone	1.22	.831

- Maximum mean score Is 5.0

Conclusion

Mobile phone seems to be an important tool in fisheries activities. Its affordable price, mobility, attractiveness and various functions offered have resulted majority of community to buy and use mobile phone in their daily routine which includes the fishermen. Data gained have confirmed that fishermen in Pangkor Island do need mobile phone in assisting their fishing operation. Findings have confirmed that usage of mobile phone has primarily been seen from the perspective of safety and security instrumentality. Though it has superior functions in marketing roles, it can be seen that mobile phone yet to be used as effective marketing tools for fishermen in Pangkor Island.

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ATTITUDES AND KNOWLEDGE OF MALAYSIAN EXTENSION AGENTS REGARDING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

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Abstract

In general, sustainable agriculture instructs farmers to reduce their use of chemicals on the land. Extension agents play a key role in helping farmers in their decision-making processes regarding the environment. The Department of Agriculture has earmarked sustainable agricultural practices (SAP) to transfer unsustainable agriculture into a sustainable manner. The SAP should be transferred by extension agents to the farmers. However little is known about Malaysian extension agents' attitudes and knowledge towards SAP. A total of 400 front line extension agents in the DOA were surveyed to identify their attitudes and knowledge on SAP. A descriptive research design was used to collect data from extension agents. Results revealed that extension agents' attitudes and knowledge on SAP are in favor. It is recommended to find out to what extent extension agents attitudes and knowledge has played significant role to transfer SAP to the farmers.

Keywords: Attitude. Extension agent. Knowledge. Malaysia

1. Introduction

The challenge of producing enough food has embarked Malaysia on an insensitive farming system and consequently environmental damage (Barrow, 2010). Mineral fertilizers account for more than 90 percent of fertilizers used by all types of farming systems in Malaysia. Recently sustainable agriculture practices have implemented in this country to transform the agricultural sector into sustainable manner. According to the USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, sustainable agriculture promotes environmental stewardship, generates an acceptable level of income, and maintains stable farm families and communities (SARE, 2002). Similarly William (2000) defined economically sound, environmentally protective, and socially acceptable as three components of sustainable agriculture. Positive efforts made by the government agencies to minimize chemical fertilizers and use the resource

on a sustainable base. Practices such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Organic Farming (OF) are being promoted by the Department of Agriculture (DOA) in order to reduce fertilizers for crop production (Tiraieyari & Uli, 2011). Although the current Malaysian agricultural policies are compatible with the standard of sustainable agriculture, however agricultural practices in the country differ to some extent from sustainability (Murad et al., 2008). Reaching toward sustainable agriculture is the responsibility of all participants in the system, including extension agents. The success of sustainable agricultural program depends to a large extent on training of farmers by extension agents. Thus agricultural extension agents as a source of information play an important role for achievement of sustainability by influencing farmers' adoption of sustainable agricultural practices (SAP). Agunga (1995) reported extension agents should be convinced of the value of sustainability, otherwise how they can be expected to educate farmers on the concepts. Attitudes are important determinants of human behaviors; they provide direction and purpose to behavior and performance (Liaghati et al, 2008). Extension agents' attitudes towards the concepts of sustainable agriculture are fundamental in building a strong sustainable agriculture program for Malaysia. A better understanding of extension agents' attitude on sustainable agriculture would help managers to understand if extension agents have been oriented themselves to carry out the task. Extension agents need to acquire positive attitude on SAP to influence farmers' adoption. According to Udoto and Flowers (2001) overall positive attitude of the benefits of sustainable agricultural practices to the environment may serve as a major influence for extension agents to transfer sustainable agriculture. Hence the first step to identify major obstacles to adoption of sustainable agricultural practices in Malaysia is to examine extension services to find out to what extent the extension agents acquired positive attitudes on sustainable agriculture? Past researches have been conducted to determine extension agents' attitude towards SAP (chizari et al. 1999; Minarovic, 1995; (Allahyari, 2008; Allahyari, Chizari, & Homae, 2008; Straquadine, 1997; Udoto & Flowers, 2001); Mueller, 2000; and William and Wise, 1997). Scholars argued that generating desirable change in the attitude of extension agents at first step can be used as a foundation for extension agents to transfer SAP to the farmers. However little is known about Malaysian extension agents' attitude towards SAP. Hence this study aims to work with Malaysian extension agents at the DOA whom directly dealing with farmer.

2. Purpose And Objectives

The objectives of the study were to:

- 1) Describe socio demographic character of the respondents.
- 2) Determine extension agents' attitude towards dimension of SAP(including production efficiency, economic viability, environmental sustainability and social responsibility)
- 3) Determine extension agents' knowledge about selected SAP.

3. Theoretical Framework

Extension agents have played a vital part in helping agricultural system. However for them to assist in sustainable agricultural practices, they must understand sustainable agriculture concepts and dimensions (Agunga, 1995). The effectiveness of agricultural extension is dependent on the ability of extension agents who must be qualified as the whole extension process is dependent on them to transfer sustainable practices to the farmers (Tiraieyari & Uli, 2011). They play a central role in assisting farmers to make decision regarding the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. According to Minarvic and Mureller (2000) despite the fact that sustainable agriculture was recognized very important, nonetheless extension agents' knowledge and understanding of the concept is not favorable. Al-Subaiee et al. (2005) contended that the first step in sustainable agriculture plans is to train extension agents to develop their understanding and qualifications. Some of researchers reported that extension agents have problems in understanding the concept of sustainability (Chizari et al., 2006; Allahyari et al., 2008). Agunga (1995) described that extension agents in Ohio did not have a firm understanding of sustainable agriculture. Therefore they were less interested in promoting the program. Conner and Kolodinsky (1997) revealed that extension agents in New England also have doubting attitude toward sustainable agriculture. This finding implies that sometimes, extension agents' uncertainty toward sustainable agriculture may be due to their inadequate knowledge about sustainable agricultural practices. Finding of study indicated that attitude of Iranian agricultural extension professionals including extension agents is not in favorable situation (Allahyari et al., 2008). Results of study conducted by Minarvic and Mureller (2000) indicated extension agents' attitudes reflected that they realized the importance of the sustainable agricultural concept and were knowledgeable about it, but when asked about actions taken to apply a systems thinking philosophy as one concept to define their attitudes towards sustainable agriculture, there was no evidence of strong extension efforts. The challenge extension faces is that of promoting sustainable development. Adoption of sustainable practices by farm producers is the key to transform agriculture into a sustainable system. According to Singh and Osawaru (1990) one of the main barriers to adoption of sustainable agriculture is the lack of accessible information for farm producers and how to disseminate this information to them. Similarly, Barrow et al. (2010) reported that adoption of sustainable practices in Cameron Highlands in Malaysia is apparently less prompted by extension agents' efforts. They concluded that right support could be identified and extended by government organizations to encourage sustainable agricultural practices faster. The extension service plays a crucial role in providing information on sustainable agriculture; hence they must be trained in sustainable agriculture in order to develop their understanding, perception and ability to teach the practice to the farmers (Bonne et al., 2007). Similarly Minarovic and Mueller (2000) stated that extension service plays a critical role in the evolution of sustainable agriculture education, thus it is vital to understand the level of extension agents' knowledge about the concept of sustainability in order to move the program forward. Agunga (1995) reported

extension agents should be convinced of the value of sustainability, otherwise how they can be expected to educate farmers on the concepts.

4. Methods

This study was carried out in peninsular Malaysia. Data was gathered from a survey of agricultural extension agents who work at the Department of Agriculture (DoA) and deal directly with farmers. The total of 400 extension agents was selected randomly from west Malaysia. A descriptive research method was used to collect data from the respondents. Data were collected through questioner from November 2011 till February 2012. The first part of instrument was on social demographic characteristic of extension agents. The second part of the questionnaire was designed to measure extension agents' attitude on dimension of sustainable agriculture practices. Second part of instrument was adopted from previous studies conducted by Connors et al., (2004) and Chen (2003) with some modification. The questionnaire contained 19 statements related to four areas of the sustainable agriculture; production efficiency, economic viability, environmental sustainability and social responsibility. The last part of questionnaire including 7 items was adopted from a study conducted by Muma et al. (2010). The questionnaire was translated into Bahasa Malaysia by an expert. Before the survey, the instrument checked for content and face validity by panel of experts. The questionnaire reliability was estimated by calculating Chronbach's alpha. The instrument was found to be reliable. Respondent were asked to rate items using a semantic differential scale from 1 strongly disagree to 10 strongly agree for the second part of questionnaire and from 1 very unfamiliar to 10 very familiar for the last part of questionnaire. There are several reasons to the usage of this scale. According to Allen and Rao (2000), in an empirical review of several scale types, a 10 –point measurement scale is preferred to the five –point or seven- point likert scale. First the wider distribution of scores around the mean gives more discriminating power. The second reason is that, it is easier to establish covariance between two variables with grater dispersion around their means. They also argued further that the 10 – point scale measurement is well accepted in both the academic and industry research perspective. Pallant (2007) also contended that the 10-piont scale gives respondents a wider range of possible scores and increase the statistical analysis available to respondents by arranging a number from 1 to 10. Collected data were analyzed using the SPSS for Windows (version 20.0). Descriptive statistic including the mean and standard deviation were used to achieve first, second and third objectives of the study.

5. Results And Discussion

The respondents were asked to provide demographic information including gender, age, ethnic, level of education, and tenure in extension services. Table 1 presents demographic profile of the respondents (objective 1). Majority of extension agents were males (59.2%) and (40.8%) of them were females. As noted in table 1, majority of respondents had a Certificate of Agriculture (73.3%), while 7.5% of extension agents had SPM (Malaysian certificate of education), 13.5%

Diploma and 5.8 % Bachelor degree. Most of the respondents were distributed in the age group of 25-34 years (35.3%) compared to (29.8%) for the age group of 45-54 years, (14.8%) for 35 – 44 years, (14.8%) below 25 year and about (5.5%) were above 55 years old. The ethnic components comprised (99.8 %) Malays, (0.3%) Indians and none Chinese. The data also showed that 34.3% of the respondents had above 16 years tenure, 15.8 % between 5 - 10 years, 47.5% below 5 years and 2.5% between 11-16 years.

TABLE 1: Demographic Profile of the Respondents (n=400)

Demographic variable		Frequency	Percent
Gender	Male	237	59.2
	Female	163	40.8
Age group			
Below 25 years		59	14.8
25-34 years		141	35.3
35-44 years		59	14.8
45-54 years		119	29.8
Above 55 years		22	5.5
Ethnic	Malay	399	99.8
	Chinese	0	0
	Indian	1	0.2
Level of education			
SPM		30	7.5
Certificate of agriculture		293	73.3
Diploma		54	13.5
Bachelor degree		23	5.8
Tenure in extension services			
Below 5 years		190	47.5
5-10years		63	15.8
11-16 years		10	2.5
Above 16years		137	34.3

Table 2 lists the Mean and Standard Deviation for the production efficiency statements. Among the statements used for assessment of production efficiency, the statement “Technology should be used as best as possible to increase efficiency of Agricultural production” had the highest mean with 8.63(SD=1.34).

The overall mean of the respondents on production efficiency were divided into three levels for reporting purposes: (1.00 – 3.99 = low, 4.00 – 6.99 moderate, 7.00 –10.00= high). Based on interpret scale, majority of extension agents, 89.8 % (n=359) had high level of attitude on production efficiency. 10% (n=41) of respondents reported moderate level of attitude on production efficiency (Table 3).

TABLE 2: Mean and Standard Deviation for extension agents' attitude towards production efficiency

Production efficiency statements	Mean	SD
Production, processing and marketing of agricultural products is best done at the local level	8.21	1.39
Technology should be used as best as possible to increase efficiency of Agricultural production	8.63	1.34
Meeting food needs with fewer farmers is a positive outcome of technological progress.	8.29	1.56

TABLE 3: level of extension agents' attitude towards Production efficiency

level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
		Cumulative Percent	
Moderate	41	10.3	10.3
High	359	89.8	89.8
Total	400	100.0	100.0

Table 4 includes the data for the economic viability statements. Statement “Farming is first and foremost a business like any other business” had the highest mean 8.95 (SD=1.39) among the statement. The overall mean of the respondents on economic viability were divided into three levels: 1.00 – 3.99 = low, 4.00 – 6.99 moderate, 7.00 –10.00= high. Based on interpret scale, 76.5% (n=306) extension agents had high level of attitude on economic viability. 23.3%

(n=93) of respondents reported moderate level of attitude on economic viability and only one extension agents reported had low attitude on economic viability (Table 5)

TABLE 4: Mean and Standard Deviation for extension agents' attitude towards economic viability

Economic Viability Statements		
Mean	SD	
The primary goal of farmers should be to maximize the productivity, efficiency, and profitability of their farms.	8.46	1.47
The successful farmer is one who earns enough from farming to enjoy a good standard of living	7.85	1.85
Small to medium –size farmers can best serve agriculture needs	6.81	2.01
Farmers should farm only as much land as they can personally care for	7.48	1.97
The amount of farmland owned by an individual/corporation should be limited in order to encourage land ownership by as many people as possible	6.66	2.37
Farming is first and foremost a business like any other business	8.95	1.39

TABLE 5 level of extension agents' attitude towards economic viability

level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Cumulative Percent			
Low	1	.3	.3
Moderate	93	23.3	23.5
High	306	76.5	100.0
Total	400	100.0	

Table 6 shows the Mean and Standard Deviation for the Environmental sustainability of SAP. Among the statements used for assessment of production efficiency, the statement “Soil and water are the sources of all life and should therefore be strictly conserved” had the highest mean with 9.33(SD=1.13). The overall mean of the respondents on Environmental sustainability were divided into three levels for reporting purposes: (1.00 – 3.99 = low, 4.00 – 6.99 moderate, 7.00 –10.00= high). Based on interpret scale, majority of extension agents, 85.8 % (n=343) had high level of attitude on Environmental sustainability. 14.3% (n=57) of respondents reported moderate level of attitude on Environmental sustainability (Table 7)

TABLE 6: Mean and Standard Deviation for extension agents’ attitude towards Environmental sustainability

Environmental Sustainability Statements			
Mean	SD		
Soil and water are the sources of all life and should therefore be strictly conserved	9.33	1.13	
Farms should be specialized in one or at most a few crops	7.44	2.24	
The key to agriculture’s future success lies in learning to imitate natural ecosystems and farm in harmony with nature.	8.53	1.46	
Modern agriculture is a major cause of ecological problems and must be greatly modified to become ecologically sound.	7.82	1.87	
Farmers should use primarily natural fertilizers/production methods such as manure, crop rotations, compost, and biological pest control	8.94	1.10	
Farmland should be farmed so as to protect the long –term productive Capacity of the land, even if this means lower production and profits.	8.17	1.59	
Modern agriculture is a major cause of ecological problems and must Be greatly modified to become ecologically sound.	7.65	1.98	

TABLE 7: level of extension agents' attitude towards environmental sustainability

level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Moderate	57	14.3	14.3	14.3
High	343	85.8	85.8	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Extension worker were asked a series of questions on their attitude toward social responsibility. Table 8 presents mean and standard deviation for extension agents' attitude towards social responsibility (objective 4). Among the statements used for assessment of social responsibility, the statement "Agricultural extension programs should teach farmers about the interrelationships among the environment, agriculture, and people" had the highest mean with 8.77(SD=1.18). The overall mean of the respondents for attitude towards social responsibility were divided into three levels: 1.00 – 3.99 = low, 4.00 – 6.99 moderate, 7.00 –10.00= high. Based on interpret scale, 92.3% (n=369) of extension agents had rated high on attitude towards social responsibility while 7.8% (n=31) of extension agents had rated moderate and non rated low (Table 9).

TABLE 8: Mean and Standard Deviation for extension agents' attitude towards social responsibility

Environmental Sustainability Statements			
Mean	SD		
Agricultural extension programs should teach farmers about the interrelationships among the environment, agriculture, and people		8.77	1.18
An important responsibility of agricultural extension programs is to develop future leaders for the agricultural industry and communities rural in Malaysia.		8.75	1.25
I believe our farmers have a good understanding of the interrelationships among the environment, agriculture and people.		8.16	1.62

TABLE 9 level of extension agents' attitude towards social responsibility

level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	
Cumulative Percent				
Moderate	31	7.8	7.8	7.8
High	369	92.3	92.3	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Extension worker were asked a series of questions on their knowledge of sustainable agriculture practices. Table 10 presents extension agents' perceived-knowledge regarding sustainable agriculture practices (objective 3). Based on the interpretive scale of Mean 1.00 – 3.99 = low (L) 4.00 – 6.99 moderate (M), 7.00 –10.00= high (H). Extension agents had rated high on their knowledge regarding selected SA practices. The top rated knowledge on selected practices were IPM-pesticides management and crop diversification

TABLE 10 Mean and Standard Deviation for extension agents' perceived-knowledge on selected sustainable agriculture practices

Knowledge on SA Practice	Mean	
SD		
IPM-pesticides management	8.46	1.66
Crop diversification	8.46	1.38
Mulching (Keep soil covered)	8.43	1.48
Green manures	8.39	1.53
Crop rotation	8.33	1.68
Cover crops	7.74	1.96
Conservation tillage	7.55	1.84

Note: 1= low 10 =very high

TABLE 11 Frequency And Percent for Extension Workers' Perceived-Knowledge on Selected sustainable Agriculture Practices

Level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Cumulative Percent			

Low	2	.5	.5	.5
Moderate	60	15.0	15.0	15.5
High	338	84.5	84.5	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

6. Conclusions And Recommendations

This study only focused on extension agents at the Department of Agriculture, Malaysia. Based on the finding of the study, the following conclusions were reached:

Although sustainable agriculture is relatively new in Malaysia, extension agents in west Malaysia indicated that they have overall positive attitude on SAP. Moreover most extension agents reported they are familiar with selected sustainable agriculture practices. Future research is needed to determine if this finding hold true for other extension agents in east Malaysia. More research needs to be conducted in other agricultural agencies in Malaysia to investigate extension agents' knowledge on SAP and the extent they transfer their knowledge to the farmers. Research is also need to explore extension agents' effort to transfer the SAP to farmers from farmers' perspectives. Attitude and knowledge are not, however the only factors that encourage extension agents to communicate the practices to the farmers. Factors such as motivation, organizational environment, equipment and facilities also are important for extension worker to get this job done.

In order to gain a fuller understanding of extension agents' knowledge on SAP and the extent they communicate the information to the farmers, it is recommended further data collection could be undertaken. This study only investigates extension agents. Further studies that examine SAP related extension work from the perspective of farmers who have successfully adopted the practices could expand understanding on extension agents' effort.

Research need to be conducted from farmers' perspective on extension services generally and the role of extension agents specifically as an aspect of adopting SA practices. To what extent did extension play a significant role in the adoption of the practices? Additionally it is recommended to survey farmers to find out what are the barriers to adoption of the program? What kind of support and incentives farmers need in order to successfully adopt the program in future? It is recommended future investigation to determine farmers' perceptions of the extension agents regarding what they could be done to promote the adoption of SAP?

The replication of this study with other extension agents in other extension organizations/agencies is needed to evaluate the extent to which the results presented here would be similar. Moreover, studies using qualitative approaches would be able to provide an in-depth

understanding of extension agents' with regards to. In-depth interviews with farmers on extension agents' knowledge and their effort to deliver information to the farmers would be able to help further illuminate the efficacy of extension activities.

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KAJIAN PERBANDINGAN PENGETAHUAN PERTANIAN MAMPAN DALAM KALANGAN PETANI LADANG KONTRAK DI MALAYSIA

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Abstrak

Kaedah pertanian moden seperti ladang kontrak amat menekankan kepada amalan pertanian mampan supaya ia akan membawa ke arah kelestarian sektor pertanian. Sehubungan dengan ini, aspek pengetahuan adalah penting kerana ini akan membolehkan pelaksanaan amalan pertanian yang lebih baik. Apakah tahap semasa pengetahuan petani ladang kontrak berhubung dengan pertanian mampan? Adakah terdapat sebarang perbezaan dalam tahap pengetahuan antara petani dari zon yang berbeza? Oleh itu, kajian ini ingin meninjau tahap pengetahuan berkaitan dengan amalan pertanian mampan antara petani ladang kontrak Malaysia Timur dan Barat. Kajian ini menggunakan kaedah soal selidik untuk mendapatkan data. Seramai 160 orang responden mengambil bahagian dalam kajian ini dan data telah dianalisis dengan menggunakan perisian SPSS. Hasilnya, umumnya para petani ladang kontrak di Malaysia telah dikenal pasti mempunyai tahap pengetahuan yang tinggi berkaitan dengan amalan pertanian mampan. Analisis selanjutnya menunjukkan bahawa terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan dalam pengetahuan berdasarkan zon yang berbeza. Kajian itu mengesyorkan bahawa lebih banyak usaha perlu diambil oleh pihak yang berkepentingan untuk terus meningkatkan pengetahuan para petani khususnya mengenai kawalan terhadap serangga perosak, hakisan tanah dan penggunaan jentera yang betul untuk menjalankan aktiviti pertanian.

Kata kunci: Pertanian mampan, petani ladang kontrak, pengetahuan

Pengenalan

Rakyat di seluruh dunia amat bergantung pada pertanian sebagai salah satu sumber utama untuk memenuhi keperluan asas dan tidak dapat dinafikan kegiatan pertanian adalah penting bagi kehidupan manusia. Di Malaysia, pertanian telah dikenalpasti sebagai satu cara penting untuk mengukuhkan Keluaran Dalam Negeri Kasar (KDNK) dan setakat ini telah mewujudkan peluang pekerjaan untuk 16% daripada penduduk Malaysia. Selain itu, dalam Bidang Ekonomi Utama Negara (NKEA) ia mensasarkan untuk meningkatkan sumbangan dari sektor pertanian kepada Pendapatan Negara Kasar (PNK) sebanyak RM49.1 bilion menjelang 2010, melalui 16 Entry Point Projek (EPP) dan 11 peluang perniagaan. Dalam NKEA juga, sasaran sektor pertanian ialah untuk mewujudkan 74,000 peluang pekerjaan dan meningkatkan pendapatan petani sebanyak 2-4 kali lebih tinggi.

Data di atas melambangkan strategi kerajaan untuk mengukuhkan sektor pertanian di samping meningkatkan kualiti hidup para petani. Dalam usaha untuk mencapai sasaran ekonomi, dua unsur penting lain yang tidak harus diabaikan ialah kesejahteraan sosial dan persekitaran yang baik. Salah satu cara untuk mencapai keseimbangan dalam ketiga-tiga komponen iaitu dari sudut ekonomi, kesejahteraan sosial dan persekitaran yang mesra ialah melalui amalan pertanian mampan di kalangan petani supaya ia akan membantu mereka untuk meningkatkan produktiviti mereka di samping untuk mencapai kestabilan dalam ketiga-tiga dimensi iaitu kesejahteraan sosial, ekonomi dan alam sekitar

Pertanian mampan sering dinyatakan sebagai merangkumi tiga matlamat utama iaitu kecekapan ekonomi, kualiti alam sekitar dan tanggungjawab sosial (D'Silva et al., 2011a). Walaupun terdapat kepelbagaian dalam menghuraikan konsep pertanian mampan, namun terdapat satu definisi yang dianggap sebagai kunci bagi kejayaan pertanian yang mampan iaitu (i) penjagaan kualiti alam sekitar, (ii) pertimbangan ekonomi untuk pengeluaran makanan dan haiwan, dan (iii) kewajaran sosial (Sharghi et al., 2010). Walaupun pertanian mampan mestilah mempunyai keutuhan kedua-dua ekonomi dan alam sekitar namun ia tidak mesti mengabaikan peranan modal sosial (seperti kualiti kehidupan keluarga, kesihatan manusia, hubungan berdasarkan keluarga dan masyarakat) (Asadi et al., 2008). Sebelum ini, usaha untuk membangunkan sektor pertanian bergantung sepenuhnya kepada kaedah konvensional untuk menghasilkan, meningkatkan dan mengekalkan pengeluaran makanan. Penggunaan baja kimia amat diperlukan pada masa itu dalam usaha untuk membekalkan nutrien tumbuhan dan bahan kimia untuk memerangi perosak dan penyakit. Walau bagaimanapun, sejak kebelakangan ini, ekoran meningkatnya kesedaran mengenai isu kesihatan dan alam sekitar, program sistematik telah diperkenalkan untuk mengoptimumkan penggunaan sumber secara berterusan termasuk kitar semula sisa produk untuk pengeluaran makanan dan persekitaran perlindungan, dan komitmen yang semakin meningkat untuk mengurangkan kebergantungan yang berlebihan untuk bahan kimia dalam pertanian (Liaghat dan Balasundram, 2010). Kemampanan adalah cara untuk menyediakan makanan yang lebih sihat pada masa hadapan untuk penduduk yang semakin meningkat dan perkembangan terhadap permintaan produk pertanian (Sharghi et al., 2010). Juga, pertanian mampan dilihat sebagai penyumbang kepada menjana kehidupan yang lebih ekonomik dan berkualiti kepada petani. Dalam usaha untuk menjadikan pertanian mampan sebagai suatu realiti, peranan yang dimainkan oleh para petani adalah amat besar.

Sejak kebelakangan ini, banyak penekanan diberikan untuk menjana petani untuk menceburi dalam kaedah pertanian yang moden dan inovatif dan salah satu daripadanya adalah ladang kontrak (D'Silva et al. 2011b). Ladang kontrak adalah hubungan secara langsung antara penanam produk pertanian dan pembeli atau pemproses produk itu. Perladangan kontrak juga boleh ditakrifkan sebagai keluaran pertanian yang dijalankan mengikut perjanjian yang temeterai terdahulu dalam mana petani komited untuk menghasilkan produk yang dijanjikan

dan pembeli melakukan untuk membeli produk tersebut. Selalunya, pembeli menyediakan petani dengan bantuan teknikal, benih, baja dan input lain secara kredit dan menawarkan harga yang dijamin untuk output yang dihasilkan (Pinstrup- Andersen dan Cheng, 2009). Kontrak yang disediakan boleh merangkumi isu yang berkaitan dengan penyediaan input pengeluaran, kredit dan perlanjutan perkhidmatan kepada para petani dan sebagai pulangan para petani perlu menyediakan kuantiti dan kualiti sebagaimana dalam perjanjian (Amaran dan Hoo, 2000). Laporan oleh Sartorius dan Kirsten (2006) mengenai manfaat potensi perladangan kontrak untuk petani kecil-kecilan di Afrika Selatan sebagai "'menang-menang' yang berpotensi untuk membawa pelbagai faedah kepada kerajaan, perniagaan tani dan pengeluar produk hasil tani keadaan untuk agribisnis, kerajaan, dan pengeluar input pertanian. Malah manfaatnya didapati melangkaui daripada yang disyorkan di atas. Kelebihan utama perjanjian kontrak untuk petani adalah bahawa kebiasaannya para pembeli akan membeli produk sebagaimana kuantiti dan kualiti yang telah dipersetujui. Kontrak juga boleh memberikan petani dengan akses kepada pelbagai perkhidmatan pengurusan, teknikal dan pengembangan yang tidak mungkin dapat dikecapi tanpa adanya kontrak seperti ini (Man dan Noll, 2010). Amat jelas dari di atas, pertanian kontrak sebenarnya memberikan banyak manfaat kepada kedua-dua pihak, yakni petani kontrak dan pembeli produk pertanian.

Memang tidak dapat dinafikan bahawa petani kontrak juga perlu untuk melaksanakan dan mengamalkan pertanian mampan. Untuk memastikan petani melakukan amalan pertanian mampan, satu komponen penting adalah petani harus mempunyai pengetahuan yang mencukupi berhubung dengan pertanian mampan. Pengetahuan dalaman dan luaran adalah kunci komponen dalam meningkatkan kecil-kecilan pertanian pengeluaran dan menghubungkan meningkat pengeluaran untuk pasaran yang menguntungkan, sekali gus membawa kepada kehidupan luar bandar yang lebih baik, meningkatkan kualiti dan hasil, keselamatan makanan dan ekonomi negara (Asaba et al, 2006). Tanpa pengetahuan yang mencukupi, petani kontrak tidak boleh melaksanakan amalan pertanian yang baik dalam menguruskan penanaman mereka.

Dalam konteks Malaysia, sering kali disebut bahawa terdapat perbezaan dalam amalan pertanian (seperti kaedah tradisional berbanding kaedah moden) dan tahap pengetahuan mengenai pertanian antara pelbagai kumpulan masyarakat tani di kedua-dua Malaysia timur dan barat. Walau bagaimanapun, tidak banyak kajian telah dijalankan untuk menentukan tahap pengetahuan khusus mengenai pertanian yang mampan dalam kalangan petani di Malaysia. Oleh itu, kajian ini dibuat untuk meninjau sama ada wujud perbezaan dalam pengetahuan yang berkaitan dengan amalan pertanian yang mampan dalam kalangan petani kontrak Malaysia timur dan barat.

Metodologi

Kajian ini menggunakan kaedah tinjauan untuk mengumpul maklumat yang berkaitan dengan pengetahuan petani kontrak mengenai amalan pertanian mampan. Untuk memperoleh item instrumen, tinjauan literatur telah dibuat untuk memperoleh maklumat yang relevan dan setelah item itu dikenal pasti ia kemudiannya disahkan oleh panel penyelidik untuk memastikan kesahihan kandungan. Akhirnya, sejumlah 14 soalan yang berkaitan dengan pengetahuan pertanian mampan telah disediakan. Bagi setiap soalan, para responden diberikan soalan untuk dijawab dengan menggunakan Skala Likert dan jawapan adalah antara 1 (sangat setuju) hingga 5 (sangat tidak setuju).

Persampelan rawak mudah telah digunakan dalam kajian ini. Senarai petani ladang kontrak telah diperolehi dari dua agensi kerajaan dan mereka ialah Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) dan Koperasi Pembangunan Luar Bandar, Sabah. Seramai 160 responden telah terlibat dalam kajian ini dan responden yang dipilih telah terlibat dalam beberapa aktiviti tanaman aktiviti di timur dan barat Malaysia.

Sebelum kajian sebenar, ujian-pra telah dijalankan dan pada keseluruhannya alpha Cronbach yang diperolehi ialah di atas ambang .7, menunjukkan bahawa item soal selidik mempunyai kebolehpercayaan yang baik.

Untuk memudahkan proses pengumpulan data, bantuan telah dipohon kepada pegawai Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan. Proses pengumpulan data telah dijalankan oleh enumerator terlatih di mana purata masa yang diambil oleh setiap responden untuk melengkapkan borang soal selidik adalah 25 minit. Pengumpulan data telah dijalankan di dua buah negeri iaitu Kedah yang mewakili zon Malaysia barat dan satu lagi di Sabah yang mewakili zon Malaysia timur. SPSS telah digunakan dalam proses analisis data. Kedua-dua statistik deskriptif dan inferensi telah digunakan untuk menggambarkan data dan juga untuk menjelaskan sama ada terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan dalam pengetahuan berasaskan pada dua zon dikaji.

Hasil

Latar belakang responden

Ciri-ciri sosio-demografi responden kajian ini adalah seperti dalam Jadual 1. Dari segi umur, sebanyak 26.9% daripada responden berada dalam kumpulan umur 51-60 tahun dan diikuti oleh kumpulan umur antara 41-50 yang tahun adalah 25.0%. Min umur responden adalah 46.22 tahun. Sebaliknya, dari segi jantina, terdapat lebih ramai lelaki yang bekerja sebagai

petani kontrak berbanding perempuan dan ia tidak menghairankan kerana beberapa kajian sebelumnya telah membuktikan bahawa terdapat lebih ramai pekerja lelaki dalam sektor pertanian berbanding kepada perempuan (Shaffril et al., 2010). Dari segi tahap pendidikan, 31.2% daripada mereka tidak mempunyai sebarang pendidikan formal manakala sebanyak 43.1% petani kontrak memiliki pendidikan di peringkat sekolah rendah. Hanya sebilangan kecil responden (0.6%) memiliki pendidikan di peringkat diploma. Berdasarkan Jadual 1, terdapat pengagihan yang sama dari segi bangsa di mana setiap bangsa, iaitu petani bangsa Melayu dan Dusun diwakili sama rata. Mengenai tahun pengalaman, lebih separuh daripada responden (68.1%) mempunyai kurang daripada 10 tahun pengalaman dalam ladang kontrak. Sementara itu min dari segi tahun pengalaman adalah 9.95. Selain itu, data juga menunjukkan 76.2% daripada responden mempunyai pendapatan yang kurang dari RM1000 sebulan.

Jadual 1: Profil respondents

	n(%)	Min
Umur		46.22
< 30 years	22(13.8)	
31 – 40 years	33(20.6)	
41 – 50 years	40(25.0)	
51 – 60 years	43(26.9)	
61 – 70 years	17(10.6)	
>70 years	5(3.1)	
Jantina		
Lelaki	110(68.8)	
Perempuan	50(31.2)	
Tahap pendidikan		
Tiada pendidikan formal	50(31.2)	
Sekolah rendah	69(43.1)	

PMR/SRP	8(5.0)
SPM/SPMV/MCE	27(16.9)
Skills Certificate/STPM	5(3.1)
Diploma	1(0.6)

Etnik

Melayu	80(50.0)
Dusun	80(50.0)

Pengalaman 9.95

<10 tahun	109(68.1)
11-20 tahun	34(21.2)
>21 tahun	17(10.6)

Pendapatan bulanan

< RM1000	122(76.2)
RM1001-RM 5000	28(17.5)
RM5001-RM 10,000	7(4.4)
>RM10,001	3(1.90)

Tahap pengetahuan ke arah pertanian mampan

Jadual 2 menunjukkan dapatan berkaitan dengan objektif utama kajian ini iaitu untuk mengenal pasti tahap pengetahuan petani ladang kontrak berkenaan pertanian mampan. Dapatan menunjukkan hampir $\frac{3}{4}$ daripada responden mempunyai tahap pengetahuan yang tinggi berhubung dengan pertanian mampan. Tambahan pula, didapati 26.2% mempunyai pengetahuan yang sederhana tentang pertanian mampan dan hanya 2.5% daripada responden mempunyai pengetahuan yang rendah terhadap pertanian mampan.

Jadual 2: Tahap pengetahuan berkaitan dengan pertanian mampan

Tahap	n(%)	Min	SP
		4.072	.775
Rendah (1.00-2.33)	4(2.5)		
Sederhana (2.34-3.67)	42(26.2)		
Tinggi (3.68-5.00)	114 (71.2)		

Skor min pada item pengetahuan pertanian mampan

Terdapat empat belas item telah digunakan dalam instrumen ini untuk mengukur pengetahuan responden mengenai pertanian mampan. Adalah didapati skor min yang tertinggi dicatatkan oleh kenyataan “Kepentingan untuk memelihara air / tanah kerana ia adalah sumber yang terhad” (M=4.58), diikuti oleh “Jumlah benih yang sesuai untuk saiz tanah ditanam”(M=4.54) dan ketiga ialah “Kepentingan menggunakan kompos organik” (M=4.45). Selain daripada ini, skor min terendah adalah direkodkan oleh kenyataan “Tanaman rumpai adalah penting untuk membasmi perosak” (M=3.48). Ini menggambarkan bahawa semua pihak yang berkenaan dalam bidang pertanian seperti pegawai pengembangan/pertanian harus memberi pendedahan yang mencukupi kepada para petani khasnya pengetahuan dan maklumat yang berkaitan dengan tanaman rumpai sebagai sumber untuk membasmi serangga perosak.

Tahap pengetahuan antara petani ladang kontrak di Malaysia Timur dan Barat

Seterusnya, adalah maklumat mengenai tahap pengetahuan mengenai amalan pertanian mampan antara petani kontrak di Malaysia timur dan barat. Seperti dalam Jadual 4, analisis deskriptif menunjukkan bahawa skor min untuk petani ladang kontrak di Malaysia Timur (M=4.14, SP =.775) adalah lebih tinggi berbanding dengan skor min petani kontrak di Malaysia Barat (M=4.01, SP= 0.773) dari segi pengetahuan berkaitan dengan amalan pertanian mampan.

didapati tahap pengetahuan para petani di kedua-dua Malaysia barat dan timur

Jadual 3: Tahap pengetahuan antara petani ladang kontrak Malaysia Timur dan Barat

Zon	Min	SP
Malaysia Timur	4.14	.775
Malaysia Barat	4.01	.773

Perbezaan tahap pengetahuan berdasarkan zon

Selanjutnya, ujian-t telah dijalankan untuk menentukan sama ada wujud sebarang perbezaan yang signifikan pada tahap pengetahuan berdasarkan dua zon. Seperti di Jadual 4, dapatan kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa oleh kerana nilai p ialah bersamaan dengan 0,014 yang kurang daripada nilai alfa 0.05, maka hipotesis nol ditolak dan kesimpulannya adalah terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan dalam tahap pengetahuan antara petani ladang kontrak Malaysia Timur dan Barat.

Jadual 4: Perbandingan tahap pengetahuan antara petani ladang kontrak Malaysia Timur dan Barat

Zon	Min	SP	t	p
Malaysia Timur	4.14	.775	2.494	.014
Malaysia Barat	4.01	.773		

Perbincangan

Dari dapatan di atas, adalah dididapati bahawa terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan dari segi pengetahuan terhadap pertanian yang mampan antara kedua-dua kumpulan yang dikaji. Petani ladang kontrak di Malaysia Timur telah dikenal pasti untuk mempunyai pengetahuan yang lebih baik ke arah pertanian mampan berbanding dengan rakan-rakan mereka di Malaysia Barat. Salah satu sebab yang mungkin menyumbang kepada senario ini adalah bahawa para petani ladang kontrak di Malaysia Timur adalah terkenal dengan kaedah pertanian tradisi, kerana kebanyakan mereka mewarisi kaedah tersebut dari ibu bapa mereka. Oleh itu mereka mengamalkan pertanian secara semula jadi dan organik; bebas dari bahan kimia dan racun perosak. Tidak dapat dinafikan bahawa petani yang lebih serasi dengan alam sekitar akan lebih bersedia untuk menjadi lebih mesra alam, berpengetahuan tentang sumber-sumber yang ada, sedar tentang apa yang perlu dibuat dan apa yang perlu dielakkan, dan dapat menentukan bagaimana satu bahagian akan mempengaruhi bahagian lain dalam ekosistem (Traikova et al., 2007).

Tambahan pula, menurut Traikova et al. (2007), petani boleh menimba banyak ilmu pertanian melalui interaksi dengan ibu bapa, orang tua, datuk nenek mereka, saudara-mara dan rakan-rakan. Dalam senario semasa, ini boleh menjadi sebab yang boleh mempengaruhi petani dari Malaysia Timur untuk memiliki amalan pertanian yang baik. Adalah jelas bahawa petani ladang walaupun di Malaysia Timur terdedah dengan modenisasi dan pelbagai kemudahan pertanian, mereka masih bergantung kepada apa yang telah diamalkan sejak turun temurun dan ini telah menyumbang kepada pelaksanaan amalan pertanian baik.

Kesimpulan

Berdasarkan kajian ini, adalah jelas bahawa walaupun kedua-dua petani Malaysia Timur dan Barat mempunyai pengetahuan yang mencukupi mengenai pertanian mampan, namun masih terdapat banyak yang perlu dilakukan untuk meningkatkan lagi tahap pengetahuan mereka terutama dengan hal pembasmian perosak tanah, hakisan dan penggunaan jentera secara betul. Adalah dipercayai bahawa penyampaian apa jua pengetahuan hanya boleh menjadi kenyataan jika terdapat sokongan yang mencukupi dari setiap pihak berkepentingan. Oleh itu, ia adalah disyorkan bahawa semua pihak yang berkaitan perlu memainkan peranan mereka dengan sewajarnya supaya objektif melaksanakan amalan pertanian yang baik akan menjadi kenyataan dan seterusnya generasi masa depan akan mempunyai sumber yang mencukupi untuk melaksanakan kegiatan pertanian dengan jayanya.

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Patterns and Problems Use of Rural Library Services Among Rural Youth in Malaysia

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Abstract

The use of rural library among the youth in the rural area is crucial in creating a knowledgeable and informative youth. The purposes of this study are to discover the pattern usage of rural library among the rural youth in Malaysia and to determine the problems that are associated with such usage. The study was conducted using a quantitative method and questionnaires were used to collect the data needed. A total of 200 respondents covering four zones in the Peninsular Malaysia, have been selected randomly. Result shows that most of the respondents come to rural library to read reading materials while minority of them come to the rural library for conducting family activities. Though all of the problems recorded a low level of mean score, too many children at the rural library emerged as the main problem faced by the rural library users. A number of recommendations have been highlighted and expectantly it can be used by the concern parties to further improve and enhance the rural library services in Malaysia.

Keywords: Rural library; community development; rural development.

Introduction

With the current scenario development based on information, knowledge is seen as the key to success in this modern world. Admitting this fact, the Malaysian government has come out with a number of initiatives to ensure that the process of knowledge sharing and dissemination is unceasing. Among the popular one, is the telecenters projects such as Rural Internet Center, Medan Infodesa and Community Broadband Center, whereby, one of its main aims is to provide consistent flow of information to the community. Apart from telecenter, the government has also come out with another initiative known as the rural library, whereby, such effort are expected to assist the government in supporting the community particularly, in remote areas to access and gain valuable information and knowledge.

The number of established rural library in Malaysia is consistently increasing whereby current statistics revealed by National Library of Malaysia (NLM) (2011) has shown that there is 1179 rural library across the country. Though, there is great number of rural library,

yet, studies with regard to this type of library in Malaysia is still lacking. In addition, majority of research conducted are placing their interest particularly on the public library, resulted in severe shortage of literature with regards to the rural library usage. Further, research on pattern use and problem faced by the rural library has also been neglected. Realizing these gaps, this study has drawn its objective which is to explore the patterns and problems of rural library usage among rural youth in Malaysia.

Rural library in Malaysia

National Library of Malaysia (NLM) is the main organisation that responsible for rural library administration in Malaysia. Nonetheless, some of the rural libraries in certain states are administered by the government states. Compared to the establishment of the public library and other library; rural library can be considered as the 'youngest', whereby it has only been established in 2000. At that time, a total of 25 rural libraries were established in selected states (National Library of Malaysia, 2011). Sabah and Sarawak has the highest number of rural library in Malaysia, with a total of 405 rural libraries. This is probably due to the fact that of its land size and has larger rural areas. This is followed by southern zone (combination of several states such as Johor, Melaka and Negeri Sembilan) has a total of 222 rural libraries; the northern zone (combination of several states such as Perlis, Kedah and Pulau Pinang) with 212 rural libraries, east coast zone (combination of several states such as Terengganu, Kelantan and Pahang) with 189 rural libraries and central areas (combination of states such as Selangor and Perak) with 148 rural libraries (Please refer to Figure 1).

Rural library are still playing its traditional roles as a place of reading, information and knowledge seeking and discussion. Novels, books, magazines and newspapers are among the main sources available in rural library. The demand for computer and internet services usage among the rural community are increasing, has resulted in most of the rural libraries in Malaysia are equipped with computer and internet services via the Universal Service Provision (USP) and Community Broadband Library projects under the National Broadband Initiative (Siti Zobidah et al., 2012). Availability of reading resources, internet and computers, provide opportunities for the users to search relevant information or completing their assignments. Furthermore, rural library also offers a place for students and professionals to conduct their social activities, group discussion, whereby such discussion can be assisted by the availability of abundance of information sources.

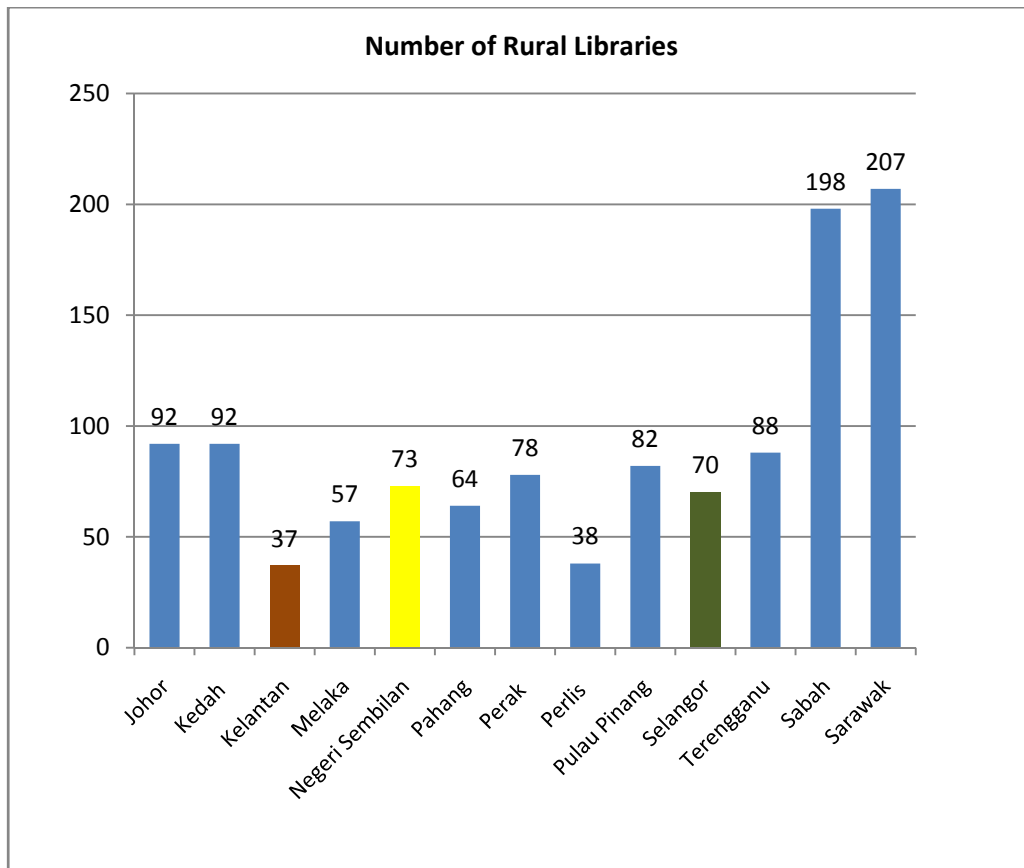


Figure 1: Number of rural library according to state.

Youth in Malaysia

United Nation (UN) has defined youth as those whose age range from 15 to 24 years old. It is estimated that there are almost one billion youth across the globe which most of them can be found in Asia (United Nation, 1998). Doubtlessly, such big number enables them to form a formidable force that would lead to the nation development. Comparatively, within the Malaysian scope, youth are those age between 15-40 years old and they constitutes the largest portion of the total population. In 2010, slightly more than 12 million youth were recorded and it constituted more than 40% of the total population by that time. Majority of youth in Malaysia are employed and in the statistic revealed by Institute for Youth Development and Research (IPPPBM) (2010), shows that, a total of 7.2 million youth in Malaysia are working in various sectors. A big number of them are employed in construction, business and services sectors. Although majority of the Malaysian youth possess secondary school level of education, there is quite good numbers of them who managed to have tertiary level of education. Interestingly, numbers of those who managed to have such level of education are increasing year by year. Figure shows that as in 2010, a total of 1.986 million youth, were recorded to have tertiary level of education compared to just 1.594 million in 2007. Doubtlessly, the increasing trends is the output of efforts placed by government in ensuring equal chances among youth in pursuing knowledge and education in which establishing information center such as rural library is one of the recognized efforts.

In this digital era, to provide consistent flow of information has been placed as the main focus of policy makers. To have this, usage of various media is seen as an effective mode. In addition, to construct high media literacy shall be one of the firm pillars for youth development. Such ability shall offer a great help for youth in polishing their potential while grabbing available opportunities. One of the most preferred media among youth in Malaysia is the internet. Statistic revealed by IPPBM (2010), shows that majority of youth use internet and a total of 37% of them are using it daily. Mobile phone is another popular tool among youth, particularly on its role for sending and receiving SMS services. Such fact is supported by findings in 2010, which revealed that a total of 97 million SMS were sent by youth (IPBBM, 2010). As selection for television and radio channels are escalating, it attracts youth to watch or listen to these technologies. Television in Malaysia nowadays for example has hundreds of channels whereby majority of these channels are aired by ASTRO; paid television channels in Malaysia. Majority of youth watch or listen to television and radio entertainment seeking.

Reading patterns among Malaysian Youth

Though usage of media particularly on with regard to ICT has emerged as the main preference of youth in Malaysia, it seems that the traditional way of knowledge and entertainment seeking such as book and newspaper readings are still used by youth. According to Beers (1996), there are three categories of readers among youth namely dormant readers (regular readers), non-committed and unmotivated readers. Perhaps, some of youth in Malaysia can be included in the first category as based on the statistic revealed by IPPBM (2010) which stated that a total of 13.6% of youth read newspaper daily while 6.8% of them read book daily. It is interesting to reveal that a total of 31% of youth in Malaysia read newspaper 2-3 times a week while 29.7% of them spend 2-3 times in a week to read book. Furthermore, in the same study, IPPBM has managed to prove that local news, entertainment, foreign news and sports are among the main interest of youth whenever they read newspaper while novel, education, religiosity, health and motivation are among types of book read by youth. In a study done by Anwar and Supaat (1998), most of the rural community in Malaysia seek information to answer their query, provide solution for their problems, self-development, establish healthy family and accomplishing their work assignments.

Similar to other information centers projects, rural library users are expected to face several problems. Norshila et al. (2011) has accentuated on the problems with regard to lacking of time and competition from other sources of information. They further added that such problems occur as youth, particularly students are congested with their schooling schedule and most of them prefer the easy and time saving way of seeking information via ICT particularly the internet and mobile phone. Another view by Julian (2004) stated that problems with regard to uncertain direction to library and overwhelming of the choices have resulted youth not to use library services. Mumtaz and Hana (1998) have expressed their

concern as some of the services offered by library are seem irrelevant to youth. In some point highlighted by Mumtaz and Hana (1998) have focused on unavailability of internet and computers which are sought by majority of library users. Loertscher and Woolls (2002) have stressed on dissatisfaction with the library staff and library resources as the main obstacles faced by youth while Corradini (2003) via his study has found that youth perceived library as 'traditional', poorly updated collections and lacking of materials on relevant topics.

Methodology

This was a quantitative study where a developed questionnaire was employed to collect the data needed. The instrument was constructed based on the past studies, reviews of literatures and Focus Group Discussions done by the research group. A completed instrument was then pre-tested at the Rural Library in Muar. The Cronbach Alpha value shows that .725 for purposes of using rural library services part and .929 for problems in using rural library services which exceeded the recommended value of .700 suggested by Nunally (1978). The actual data collection process was conducted at four states representing four zones in Malaysia namely Perak (central zone), Terengganu (east coast zone), Johor (southern zone) and Kedah (northern zone). Each of the state was represented by two rural libraries with ICT services. For each of the rural library, 25 library users were randomly selected as the respondents, making the total of the respondents for this study were 200 (4 states x 2 rural libraries x 25 respondents). The data collection process was assisted by trained and experienced enumerators. For the purposes of analysis, SPSS was employed where descriptive analyses such as frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation were run.

Results and discussion

Demographic Profile

With regard to respondents' demographic data, as been presented in Table 1, result shows that majority of the rural library users were female (67.0%). To have such result is not surprising as study done by Mooko (2005) has concluded that female do use the library services offered as they have more time to be spent and reading is part of their main habits. Majority of rural library users were secondary school students (age 15 -17 years) and those whose age 25-40 years. According to a study done by Norshila et al. (2011) youth age between 15 to 17 years old are the main users of rural library, as according to them, at this level of age, they shall find that things prepared for them particularly one related to ICT applications are fit to their interests. A total of 36.0% of the users hold PMR certificates and a total of 5.0% of them hold at least Degree/Master/Ph.D. It seems that rural library is one of the main attractions for unemployed people; which within the scope of this study are students and housewives. To have such groups as the main users is not surprising as things prepared at the rural library seems to fit their interest and furthermore they have more time to be spent

compared to employed users. The mean score recorded for income per month was RM1, 305.80 and most of the respondents were single. The mean score recorded for time spent at the rural library during weekdays was 1.61 hours compared to 2.10 hours during weekends. Though the difference is not too significant, yet it still demonstrates that rural people spent more time at the rural library during weekends compared to weekdays. Similarly, majority of the respondents went to the rural library at the evening either during weekdays or weekends.

Table 1: Respondents' demographic data

	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Gender			
Male	66	33.0	
Female	134	67.0	
Age			23.4
15-17 years	80	40.0	
18-24 years	40	20.0	
25-40 years	80	40.0	
Education Achievement			
Never been to school	1	.5	
Primary school	16	8.0	
PMR ¹	72	36.0	
SPM/ SPMV ²	55	27.5	
Skill Certificate/ STPM ³	25	12.5	
Diploma	21	10.5	
Degree/ Master/ PhD	10	5.0	
Employed			
Yes	71	35.5	
No	129	64.5	
Income (n = 71)			1305.80
<RM750.00	16	22.5	
RM751.00 - RM1000.00	26	36.6	
RM1001.00 - RM1500.00	12	16.9	
>RM1501.00	17	23.9	
Marriage status			
Single	136	68.0	

¹Malaysia Lower Education Certificate

²Malaysia Education Certificate/Malaysia Vocational Certificate

³Malaysia Higher Education Certificate

Married	61	30.5	
Divorced	3	1.5	
Time spent at rural library during weekdays (n = 192)			1.61
Less than an hour	113	58.9	
Between an hour – 2 hours	54	28.1	
More than 2 hours	25	13.0	
Main time going to the rural library during weekdays			
Morning	43	22.4	
Evening	149	77.6	
Time spent at rural library during weekends (n = 150)			2.10
Less than an hour	54	36.0	
Between an hour – 2 hours	55	36.7	
More than 2 hours	41	27.3	
Main time going to the rural library during weekends			
Morning	43	28.7	
Evening	107	71.3	

Patterns of rural library usage

Result presented in Table 2 have confirmed that majority of the users come to rural library to read reading materials. Via this result, it informs us that there is possibility of majority of rural youth to be included in the dormant reader category suggested by Beers (1996). Within such category youth are considered those who like to read and do it during their convenient time as during school breaks or after completion of major projects. Astonishingly, ICT usage applications are not among the main reason why rural youth come to rural library. To use internet and computer only recorded the fourth and sixth highest mean score respectively. To have such data is surprising as studies done by Alexopolous (2010) and Kuate (2008) have confirmed ICT applications are among the main preference of rural youth. Within the context of this study, there is a number of possible reasons that might drive towards such scenario. First, we associate such scenario with the facts that majority of the users come to rural library to read reading materials as their main purpose.

Second, as most of rural areas in Malaysia are equipped telecenters; currently with a total of 624 telecenters such as Rural Internet Center (PID), Medan Infodesa and Community Broadband Centers, it offers alternative for youth and probably this is the reason why rural

library wasn't their main place to use free ICT applications. Furthermore, commonly rural library within this study were equipped with maximum of three computers, thus, it is obvious that telecenters in Malaysia is the better place for rural youth to use ICT applications as it offers adequate ICT facilities and better internet coverage. Rural library in Malaysia should be promoted as a place for conducting family activities as such purpose recorded the lowest mean score. Such scenario might occur as according to Corradini (2003) adult have perceived that rural library is a suitable place for reading and borrowing resources and not for their family activities. Furthermore, Corradini (2003) in his study has concluded that majority of adult are reluctant to allot times with their family at the rural library as they perceived that rural library is only the place for children and book lovers. In addition, some of the respondents have informed that rural library is not a suitable place to conduct group discussion among them probably due to problem of too many children at there.

Table 2: Pattern of rural library usage among rural youth

Statements	Mean	Standard Deviation
To read reading materials	4.46	.737
To fill leisure time	4.40	.885
Borrowing reading materials	4.34	.985
Using internet	4.24	1.03
To seek information related to my activities	4.16	.972
Using computer	4.08	1.13
Completing assignments/tasks	4.03	1.02
To conduct group discussion	3.64	1.32
Activities with family	3.20	1.17

In general, the recorded mean score for all the statements used to measure problems to use rural library services recorded a low level mean score (range from 1.68 to 2.33). Nonetheless, a number of respondents have highlighted their concern on the number of children at the rural library as they can create a noisy condition which distracts other users. To have a separate space for children and other users should be considered by rural library administration. Though such suggestion might be obstructed by the facts that some of rural library are facing inadequate operating spaces, such suggestion might be appropriate for a larger rural library. Small building seems does not fit the needs of rural library which demand larger spaces for its operation. Here, though it will be challenging and involve financial commitment, concern parties such as Village Development and Security Committee and rural library can play their roles in seeking a better building for the rural library whereby renting a larger building seems to be a realistic suggestion. In addition, problems such as lacking of direction sign and lacking of promotion should be highly considered. Problems of lacking of direction sign can be solved via intensive promotion. Rural library staffs should play their roles in conducting intensive promotion.

As for rural community, Hassan et al. (2011) has suggested usage of printed media such as brochure and pamphlets as these things are considered as reliable among them. Furthermore, VDSC members can assist in promoting the rural library as according to Hassan et al. (2011) VDSC members have a huge influence among rural community as they are trusted as reliable sources among the rural community. Albeit efforts by the staffs, it is also the responsibility of others particularly the relevant agencies in intensifying campaign on reading among Malaysian rural youth. It is good to know that only a small portion of the respondents expressed their agreement on problem with regard to internet coverage. It can be seen that rural library do offers adequate local resources and that's why most of the respondents expressed their disagreement on statement measuring inadequacy of local resources which drive towards a low mean score on such statement. Such results shall consistently attract users particularly students to come and use services offered. Furthermore, it seems that rural library staffs do possess a good communication skills as most of the respondents do not agree on the statement of 'staff were not friendly'. To maintain this, the staffs should be given a guide on how to conduct a research particularly on customer satisfactions. Such research shall offers opportunity for the users to evaluate the staff which then offers valuable information to the staffs on the things that they should do and avoid, particularly to the library users.

Table 3: Problems to use rural library services among rural youth

Statements	Mean	Standard Deviation
Too many children at the rural library	2.33	1.25
Lacking of spaces	2.27	1.26
Noisy	2.23	1.24
Lack of promotion	2.18	1.16
Available reading resources is not the current one	2.17	1.22
No signboards showing direction/location to the rural library	2.16	1.35
Available internet services are problematic	2.12	1.15
Lacking of education materials	2.09	1.16
Available computer services are problematic	2.06	1.17
Lacking of English resources	2.02	1.06
Available reading resources is not suitable for my age	2.01	1.09
Unsuitable location	1.99	1.19
Limited time to be spent at rural library	1.98	1.12
Unsuitable operation duration	1.95	1.07
Unsuitable operation time	1.93	1.12
Staff were not friendly	1.68	1.08
Lacking of local resources	1.89	1.06

Conclusion

As for conclusion, though emergence of digital era has posted its great challenges, yet, rural library still have a good potential to be an effective catalyst in ensuring the continuity of information flow among rural community particularly the young one; the future country leader. Though demand of modernization which accentuated on technology particularly ICT are keep mounting, nonetheless, effective 'traditional' roles played by rural library in disseminating information and knowledge should be sustained. As to improve its services, aspects such as specific space for children, bigger spaces, updated sources and intensive promotion should be taken into consideration.

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PROFITS VERSUS LOSSES IN CAGED AQUACULTURE REARING: THE CASE OF ENTREPRENEURS IN PEKAN, PAHANG

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Abstract

The main attempt of this study is to identify the benefits and problems faced by entrepreneurs of caged aquaculture rearing in Pekan Pahang. This study is qualitative in nature where two FGDs have been conducted to gain the needed data. The FGDs have been joined by a total of 12 respondents; five respondents for FGD conducted at Tanjung Gosong and seven respondents for FGD in Pulau Keladi Village. The selected respondents were the entrepreneurs of caged aquaculture rearing from two villages in Pekan Pahang which were Pulau Keladi Village and Tanjung Gosong Village. For the benefits of aquaculture activities, four main themes have emerged namely increasing their income, sense of hard work, creativity to vary alternatives in solving problems and norm of cooperation. In term of problems faced by the entrepreneurs, four main themes namely financial, environments, seedling and diseases and human and animal factors have emerged.

Keywords: Aquaculture entrepreneurs; social development; economic development.

Introduction

Aquaculture as we know is one the agriculture branches and its believed that people started to rear fish for the past 2500 years. Community in China is believed to start aquaculture activity where carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) were cultivated. Cage culture probably instigated with fishermen who used cages to accrue fish for market. Over time, they learned to nurse the fish in these cages to increase their size and improve their overall health. Southeast Asia was culturing the fish since end of the 18th century. Initially, these cages were built of wood and bamboo and the kept fish were fed trash fish and food scraps. But, from the time being the technology changed the cage from wooden into "high density polyethylene" (HDPE) cage which could last longer in an exposed area with less maintenance cost.. In Malaysia, aquaculture became popular since the last 20 years back where caged aquaculture have been developed and reflected as one of the most popular techniques used especially within the area that have a sheltered coast or bay. Today, aquaculture in Malaysia has been well developed. Statistic by Department of Fisheries Malaysia have confirmed that in 2007, a total 221

million tonne aquaculture products have been reared which generates a total of RM1.32 billion income for aquaculture entrepreneurs; a significant increase compared to previous ten years where only 134 million tonne of aquaculture productivity have been reared which generates a total of RM654 million. In addition, the emergence of high impact agriculture project such as Zone Industry Aquaculture has reflected the government efforts to further develop this industry.

In Pekan, aquaculture has been considered as one of the main money making activities for the locals. Kuala Pahang, a village in Pekan is the place where Pahang River flows to the South China Sea. Pahang River is the longest river in Peninsular Malaysia and one of the main places for aquaculture activities. Among the main species reared in cage along Pahang River are sea bass, red tilapia and river catfish (locals call it as *Patin*). Pahang, where Pekan is one of the districts, has the highest number of aquaculture entrepreneurs where in 2010, a total of 1,738 entrepreneurs have been recorded with a huge majority of them are Malay and a small portion of this were the Cambodian migrant who are among the participants of UNCHR refugees program which was took place during the Khmer Rouge regime era. Many of them settled in villages such as Pulau Keladi, Sekukuh and Kemahang.

The good thing about caged aquaculture is that it can be established in any suitable body of water, including lakes, ponds, mining pits, streams or rivers with proper water quality, access and legal authority. This flexibility makes it possible to utilize underused water resources to produce fish. Rather than pond aquaculture, cage farming need less investment in construction phase. Through cages, the aqua entrepreneurs can observe fish behavior, especially feeding behavior, which is critical to anticipate and avoid problems with stress and diseases, which often occur in cage culture. Cages are usually harvested by moving them into shallow water, crowding the fish into a restricted area, and simply dipping the fish out of the cage. Alternatively, the cage can be lifted partially out of the water so that the fish are crowded into a smaller volume, and then the fish dipped out. This makes it possible to partially harvest fish from cages as needed for local niche markets or personal consumption. The confinement of fish in cages should not hinder other uses of the water resource, such as fishing, boating, swimming, irrigation or livestock watering. Contrarily, the disadvantages of caged aquaculture are they need to feed the fish with the complete diets including all essential nutrition. Caged fish much depend on manufactured food rather than the natural food. Furthermore, diseases are a common problem in cage culture and they can cause catastrophic losses. Besides that, the caged fish always been threatened by predators such as turtles, snakes, and fish-eating birds. Another problem of caged aquaculture is limited production because of the stress associated with fish density, the poorer localized water quality, and threats of diseases.

As the marine sources are consistently declining, aquaculture is seen as one of the alternatives. Within Malaysia context, aquaculture can be considered as a new industry which resulted in lacking of studies conducted. Though there are large volume of studies conducted related to aquaculture (Katranidis et al., 2003; El-Gayar, 2003; Bondad-Reantaso et al., 2005; Mazur and Curtis, 2006; Amberg and Hall, 2008; Schlag, 2010;), less interests have been

placed on the social aspects of aquaculture industry particularly on the profits and problems faced by the entrepreneurs in running the aquaculture industry. To have such study is indeed important as according to Schlag (2010) aquaculture entails a social science approach to anticipate and address future controversies in a timely and efficient manner. Such facts have geared this study to its prime objective which is to explore the profits and problems faced by the aquaculture entrepreneurs particularly those involve in caged rearing.

Methodology

This study is qualitative in nature. A total of two FGDs have been conducted with two groups of entrepreneurs who run the caged aquaculture rearing activities. One of the FGDs was conducted with five entrepreneurs in Tanjung Gosong Village (Respondent A, D, F, G and K) whereby sea bass and red tilapia were the main species reared. The second FGD was conducted among Cambodian migrants who settled in Pulau Keladi Village. A total of seven entrepreneurs (Respondent 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7) were involved in the FGD whereby the main species reared by this group is *Patin*. All of the respondents have experience between two to 20 years in aquaculture activities.

The number of respondents was determined according to the quality of the data and findings, as is the case in most qualitative methodologies. The researchers continued to conduct interviews until they believed they had reached saturation. This is understood as the moment when a researcher has gained a full understanding of the experience that will not be altered through further discussion with participants (Laverty, 2003).

The first FGD took an hour 21 minutes to be completed while the second FGD took an hour and 16 minutes to be completed. The researchers began the FGD subtly with a small conversation as to understand the backgrounds of the participants and later progressed into deeper discussion concerning the issues. The FGD was guided by the interview protocol which was designed to keep to a standard interview procedure and maintain the flow of conversation. The questions included within the interview protocol were mainly created to fit the purposes determined which was to explore the benefits and problems in conducting the aquaculture activities. The questions served as a guide, allowing respondents freedom and flexibility in their answers. Questions with regard to problems faced consumed the longest time for both FGDs. The data obtained were later transcribed verbatim and analyzed using thematic analysis.

Results and discussions

The benefits

Aquaculture in Malaysia is known to have great potentials to satisfy the customers demand and recorded unprecedented growth during previous years which contributes towards socio-

economic development of both; the country and the entrepreneurs (DOF, 2010). Such facts are proven through the data of this study which managed to reveal four main themes for benefits of conducting caged aquaculture rearing among the entrepreneurs namely increasing their income, sense of hard work, creativity to vary alternatives in solving problems and norm of cooperation.

Increase their income

In a study done by Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) (2006) has confirmed on the ability of aquaculture in strengthening the community socio-economic aspects particularly on gaining better income, additional and alternative forms of employment and the development of rural areas (FAO 2006). In another study by Katranidis et al. (2003), has admitted on the strength of aquaculture in offering economic opportunity and diversity to community particularly those in remote and rural areas. Findings of this study seem to be in tandem with such findings as they are able to gain more income via the aquaculture activities whereby such scenario are fueled with reasonable market price and their proximity to meet the demand. In the case of respondents in Pulau Keladi Village for example, a kilo of harvested fish can be sold for RM20 and it proves to profit their investment. Respondent 4 clarified on the generated income from the harvested fish ‘sometimes they want one kilogram and even at sometimes, they want 100 kilos...’ . Respondent 1 demonstrated his agreement on ability of aquaculture to raise his income as the demand for the fish is consistently increasing ‘it depends on time, if it is in the middle of the year (June or July), customers even ask us to prepare 100 kilograms of harvested fishes’.

Sense of hard work

In the case of respondents in Pulau Keladi Village, holding migrants status has hindered them from receiving any assistance and subsidy from the government. Albeit such hindrance seems to post a great challenge to them particularly in the earlier part of life as aquaculture entrepreneurs, it actually develops sense of hard work among them. Respondent 5 has informed that financial limitation has restricted them from buying the seedlings and what they did in the past was netting the seedlings on the river by themselves which consumed a lot of time and energy.

Previously, I didn’t buy the seedlings, I caught the seedlings by myself in the river which in that time was a lot, I managed to caught half a tin of seedlings each time I went for netting’

Creativity to vary alternatives in solving problems

Problems faced by the respondents have taught them well on how to rely on available alternatives. Such alternatives arrived from shared experiences among them. As the pellet price is keep increasing, Respondent D informed on how he reduces the consumption of pellets

I feed the fish two times in a day, sometimes I just feed them once in a day to reduce the pellet consumption and it seems ok for the fish. I need to try such alternatives to reduce the cost...

As there are growing public unease on the health and methods on how aquaculture fish are produced (Amberg and Hall, 2008), what have been practiced by entrepreneurs in Pekan shall relieve them. The respondents have informed on their creativity to cure the infected diseases by relying on more environmental friendly method. Based on their indigenous knowledge, traditional medicine which locally called as '*Daun Kapal Terbang*' or plane leaves are used which they claimed can act as medicine and antibiotic for tilapia.

The leaves (plane leaves) is good for tilapia, it can act as medicine and antibiotic. We can blend it together with onion and then with the pellets, that's the way and it seems that our tilapia can cope with such blended food. (Respondent G).

Norm of cooperation

It seems that norm of cooperation have emerged from the aquaculture activities. As aquaculture activities involves a lot of activities that requires more than one person efforts, cooperation between the entrepreneurs seem to benefit them all. One of the respondents have clarified on how they guard their fish cages

We don't have any shift, the rotation for guarding the block happened by itself, here we have four blocks of cages, people from other block will cover other blocks if their colleagues are yet to arrive. Here there is no specific time for guarding... (Respondent G).

Experience is a part of knowledge and it hugely fuels how people conducting their practices (Baynes et al. 2011). Experiences without doubt should be shared and disseminated among the entrepreneurs as it can contribute towards the development of both; the industry and the entrepreneurs. A good cooperation among the entrepreneurs has resulted in the knowledge and experience sharing and exchanging among the new and senior entrepreneurs and one of the respondents has confirmed on this.

...based on our own experience and information from experienced entrepreneurs, we ask them some information with regard to the best practices and they have no problem to share it with us... (Respondent K).

The problems

In any socio-economic activities conducted, certainly they shall be a number of problems raised and community involved should be ready for it. The problems faced should vary in a sense that different group of communities shall face different challenges in their activities. In the case of aquaculture entrepreneurs in Pekan, there are four themes emerged for the problems faced in running their aquaculture activities namely financial, environment, seedlings, and human and animal factors. Each of the themes has come out with their own sub themes.

Financial

Financial aspects can be considered as the backbone of any economic activities conducted. To intensify their production, entrepreneurs require a wider access to additional financial resources as it shall assist them to cope with financial issues such as unstable pellet price, less commercial and competitive market. In line with this, the theme of financial have emerged for this study and under this theme a total of four sub themes have been created namely unstable pellet prices, competition from other entrepreneurs, less commercial and non-systematic financial record.

Unstable pellet price

Issue of pellets have been long argued among the local entrepreneurs as there are no control on its price whereby such situation have given the opportunity for pellet producers to increase the price from time to time. Such scenario increase the production cost and post difficulties for the entrepreneurs as one of them have informed on this

The most obvious one is the pellet price and this problem yet to be solved as there is no control on it (Respondent D).

Another respondent have accentuated on the role of government to provide pellet subsidy for them as one of the alternative to ease their burden.

“...Paddy farmers, half of their fertilizer are subsidized by government, for us, we need the pellet subsidy, if they (the government) not afford to give us full subsidy, just give us half of it, it is enough for us” (Respondent F)

Competition from other entrepreneurs

It is a nature for the business world to face fierce competition in the market. Such competition however should be handled carefully as a study done by FAO (2006) has confirmed that social conflicts can potentially emerged from such competition. Moreover, as the numbers of aquaculture entrepreneurs are consistently increasing in Malaysia, entrepreneurs in Pekan are expected to face problem in marketing their goods.

The get good market nowadays is very competitive; our main rival is coming from the pond fish. Pond fish entrepreneurs typically harvest their fish in a large volume which enables the dealer to buy at a lower price... (Respondent K)

.... Things are worsen when some dealers in Kuantan (place near to Pekan) request stock from P.Pinang, they frozen it for a week or two weeks, that add competition in the local market (Respondent G).

Less commercial

Most of the respondents interviewed yet to become commercial aquaculture entrepreneurs as most of them have inadequate capital for a bigger scale of aquaculture business. Respondent G has clarified on this

I don't think so, averagely we are not achieving yet such status (commercial business). Each of us still possess cages below 30, even some of us only have less than 20 cages, so we don't achieve the commercial status yet.

Non-systematic financial record

It seems that aquaculture entrepreneurs in Pekan still rely on traditional way of doing things with regard to the way they keep their financial record. Only a few of them started to use advance technology such as computer and such situation can be associated with findings by Shaffril et al. (2009) who accentuated on lack of ICT knowledge, skills and compatibility which have resulted people refuse to use it on their daily tasks or routine.

We have the record, but we only make the written record, only few of us use computer to record their financial, we can say it typical (written) financial record (Respondent G)

Environment

Environment can be threatened by two main sources, the natural disasters and the human themselves. As one of the main dependents of the natural sources, any changes to the environment shall post great challenges for the entrepreneurs. Within the scope of Pekan, the sub themes that emerged under environment theme are pollution, natural disaster and clean water supply.

Pollution

Albeit community claims on threats brought by uncontrolled aquaculture activities to the environment (Mazur and Curtis, 2006), reversely, the respondents have expressed their concern on the pollution caused by the community to the river; the main place they conduct their economic activities. Respondent G has accentuated on this by saying "...but there are people who polluted the river, I mean they throw away trashes, they throw it in the river, in the sea..." In other view by Respondent 3 has stressed on the logging activities "The logging activities have caused problem to our fish"

Natural disaster

As the world climate is keep on changing, entrepreneurs are predicted to face great challenges from the changing environment. According to Badjeck et al. (2009), changing climate is expected to threat the aquaculture activities in a sense that it such condition shall result in sea level rise which can cause salt water intrusion to the downstream areas. Such scenario shall increase the salinity of the water which is unsuitable for brackish water species. Similarly, frequent rain is also expected to threat the aquaculture activities as it potentially could reduce the salinity of the water at downstream areas which is unsuitable for brackish water species. In case of Pekan, frequent rain and flood have been mentioned by a number of respondents as the main threats they have to face.

During the flood season, water from upstream have intruded our areas which are more suitable for brackish species such as sea bass and tilapia, our fish cannot cope with that kind of water... (Respondent K).

Frequent rain can cause death for the fish (Respondent 6).

During the flood we have to transfer our cages over there, lots of our fish death...(Respondent 1)

Clean water supply

Clean water supply is important as it can act of one of alternative treatments for infected fish. Using clean water as remedy is considered as effective and moreover it is more

environmental friendly and consumes less cost. Unfortunately, to get the supply for the clean water post challenges for the entrepreneurs as their cages are located far away from the main sources of the clean water. One of the respondents has clarified on this.

Supposedly we use the clean water for the treatment (for infected fish), but here we have the problem to get the supply, previously some of us bring the clean water from their home to the cages but not anymore now, it consumes too much our energy (Respondent K)

Another respondent have informed that as there are no clean water supply at the cages, it posted problems not only on the fish treatments but also on the equipment, respondent G has clarified on this by saying

If we use the water jet (for cleaning the net), as there are no clean water supply, we just use the water from the river, unlike typical river water, downstream river has more salty water and it damages the water jet.

Seedlings and disease

Selecting the quality seedlings is the most important part of any aquaculture activities as it shall hugely impinge on their productivity. Disease is another threat in this industry whereby ignoring early treatment for the fish shall post greater problems for the entrepreneurs in the future. Seedlings and disease have been frequently raised by the respondents as one of their main problems and has been chosen as one of the themes for this study. Moreover, under this theme two sub themes have emerged namely low quality seedlings and diseases.

Low quality seedlings

Low quality seedlings seem to post problem for the entrepreneurs. There are number of seedlings issues raised by El-Gayar (2003), first, is the ability to supply seedlings of appropriate size. To have the appropriate size as it shall fuel the farm to produce the bigger fish which return more money for them. Second, is the ability to produce mono-sex fry and the last issue raised is the ability to supply species that suit and fit the salinity levels. Probably these issues might be considered in the case of entrepreneurs in Pekan as a number of them have highlighted on the quality of seedlings in their aquaculture activities.

Most of the seedling provided to us is low quality one, it is not perfect, if they provide us with 10 seedlings, only five will survive, in some cases only three or two will survive. (Respondent D).

More than 60% of the seedlings died after certain stages (Respondent G)

Seedlings has a number of grades, not only one grade, some of the dealer provide us with last grade of seedlings which in turn post a great risk to us. We need quality seedlings to produce quality fish as the quality fish will increase our income (Respondent K)

Diseases

Disease can be considered as one of the prime threats in aquaculture activities and it may negatively impinge the socio-economic development of the entrepreneurs (Bondad-Reantaso et al., 2005). Reared fish can be made vulnerable to diseases via 1) introduction of exotic diseases; 2) sudden changes in the pattern of existing endemic diseases, or 3) appearance of previously unrecognized diseases (Wei, 2002). One of the respondents has highlighted scale protrusion as one of the common disease he needs to face.

Typically it is the scale protrusion disease, we as the entrepreneurs we can detect the infected fish (Respondent A).

Respondent A also admitted the risks of their fish being infected by scale protrusion and accentuated on the use of traditional way to deal with such disease “Here we call it as plane leaves to cure the disease (scale protrusion)”.

Human and animal factors

As their aquaculture activities are located at the river, it is not surprising that they facing threats from the animal. Fish are the main diets for predators such as monitor lizards and the otter which can be found in a big number at their location. Another main threat is the criminal who steal their fish especially during harvested season.

Theft and predator

Aquaculture entrepreneurs have to deal with losses through theft. The stealing of live fish from cages typically becomes more serious as the harvesting season approaches. Respondent F have confirmed on this by saying ‘usually there do the crime (theft) during harvest season or during festive seasons, that’s their target’. The other respondents also have accentuated on these problems by stating:

No, the most dangerous one is the human (thieves), for us that is the main predator and the second one is the original predator; the animal. (Respondent K).

Monitor lizards can steal the fish; there are also otters and thieves (Respondent G)

If we are not guarding the monitor lizards will steal some of the fish
(Respondent 6)

Conclusion

This study shall reflect perspectives that might be different from other studies. Nevertheless, such differences can lead to a vary perspectives that might assist the government and the aquaculture industry to be prepared and equipped to generate a socially acceptable and sustainable industry. To consider and include all of these views in their planning is deem crucial as according to Hugues-Dit-Ciles (2000) the values and the needs of local should be considered into aquaculture planning as a plan that suit their needs and interests can be developed.

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IMPACT OF LOCATION AND RANK ON THE LEVEL OF OFFICER COMMITMENT TOWARDS COMMUNITY POLICING IN MELAKA

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Abstract

This study is interested in examining the commitment of Malaysian police towards community policing, specifically, the study is going to (a) find out whether commitment of police officers in Malaysia is affected by their rank and position in the hierarchy of the organization, and (b) to determine if there is any difference in commitment of officers based on district of duty. The survey method was utilized using a questionnaire adopted from previous studies on officer commitment, a total of 197 police officers responded from three districts of Alor Gajah, Jasin and Malacca Tengah in the state of Malacca. Officers who responded in this study were chosen through administrative recommendation. Findings reveal that majority of police officers in Malaysia have high commitment to community policing, results from the study also showed that there is a no significant difference in commitment level by rank of officers and district of duty.

Key words: community policing, commitment, engagement

Introduction

As a mechanism for facilitating crime control by police officers, community policing has come to enrich the relationship between the police and citizens (Yates, Pillai & Vijayan, 1996). This enrichment becomes necessary to enable the police to have confidence in the support they receive from the public for the purpose of crime control and advancing civil order (Krishnan *et al*, 2012). In the last two to three decades, traditional policing have received tremendous criticism (Trojanowicz & Bucqueroux, 1990 in Cheurprokobkit & Puthongsiriporn, 2005), especially as crime rates continued to grow as society becoming more and more complex. In Malaysia, and Kuala Lumpur in particular crime rate grew from 121, 176 in 2007 to 156, 455 in 2004, by 2006 the number of recorded crimes stood at 198, 622. (Crime index statistics, 2011)

Adopting the ideals of community policing is one thing and implementing it is another, Lucas *et al* (2003) observed that line officers most welcome and commit to the tenants of community policing for the programme to success as they are in the best position to actualize

the precepts. This signifies that the accomplishment of community policing ideals will be determined by the extent of zeal exhibited by police officers (Yates, Pillai & Vijayan, 1996). This necessitates a study of such, to among others things ascertain the level and extent of commitment of Malaysian police towards community policing. The study also intends to finding out if police officer rank has any influence on commitment level or not. Finally, the study is interested in comparing results from three districts to see if there is any difference in officer commitment to community policing in the state of Malacca.

There are so many factors which can influence officer commitment; studies on working climate have shown that the feeling of police towards their job is influenced by their social interaction which greatly influences the quality of law enforcement they offer, in a study by Halsted *et al*, 2000. & Lilley and Hinduja (2007). Job satisfaction was found to be associated with officers' attitudes toward community policing.

Other studies have revealed that top management support correlates positively with employee productivity and general conduct (Setton, Bennett, and Liden, 1996). Furthermore, police work is prone to many challenges depending on the content an officer is assigned, therefore this study is of the opinion that the content of an officers work is capable of influencing his level of commitment, Rosenbaum and Wilkinson (2004) observed that the introduction of community policing is likely to make officers feel a change of work which may not be easy and so officer could exhibit an aura of opposition and thus not commit. Another concern by this study is community support, Officers who believed that they are esteemly perceived by the public proclaim affirmative behaviour towards community policing and elevated levels of job satisfaction and commitment (Boke and Nalla, 2009). Good working relationship and support by peers have been found to be positively related with community policing (Lurigo and Skogan, 1994). This study is set to discover if the rank of officer influence their commitment considering the fact that previous studies have indicated that law enforcement officer attitudes and personality characteristics differ as they spend more time on the job and more experience is gained as well as rank goes up (Coman, 1990; Evans, Coman, and Stanley, 1992; Hillgren and Bond, 1975; Rogers, 1991; Symonds, 1972; Violanti and Marshall, 1983, in McEloroy & Paula, 1999). This study will also offer an opportunity to know if the location of officer's in the three districts determine their commitment or not.

Conceptual overview.

2.1 Community Policing

Despite the fact that there have been a lot of fierce argument on the definition of community policing (Kang, 2012), it has developed in acceptance, and most police organizations claim to engage in community policing (Lewis *et al.*, 1999; Moon, 2006; Rosenbaum and Lurigo, 1994). The concept is currently becoming "multidimensional" as implementation vary in various modes (Yero *et al*, 2012)

As a law enforcement theory, community policing is premised on the concept that cooperation and backing by the community can help in addressing issues of public safety, criminality, social disorder and fear of crime. Community policing therefore is all about engagement with the community by way of organizational configuration of police force and changing the daily routine of agency officer (Sagrave and Ratcliffe, 2004). Three facets constitute community policing: community partnership, organizational transformation and proactive problem solving (USDOJ; Fridell 2004).

Organizationally, the prevailing arraignment and administration of law enforcement is remodelled, with the aim of encouraging community commitment and steadfast solution of community ills. Problem solving is necessary to effectively avert crime as the police are then addressing the essential predicament of crime not just merely reacting to the same setting repeatedly (Fridell 2004:6). Based on the realization that the police cannot address crime alone, partnership so that trust can be built and common solution to problems can initiated (USDOJ 2009:3 in schols, 2011).

For the purpose of this research, community policing is conceived as an engagement strategy with the civil public for the purpose of crime prevention and improving the quality of life.

2.2 Commitment.

Exploiting the full potential of officers to ensure law and order has become one of the most constant problems of police organizations (Takebe, 2010)¹. This is why police organizations view commitment as necessary to ensure loyalty; by extension Coser (1974:1) observed that “loyalty even in the face of competing appeals from other source within the wider social structure”.² Over the years, there appear to be lack of established definition among scholars on what commitment denotes, perhaps this lead to the multidimensional approach scholars adopt in construct (Meyer & Allen, 1991 in Meyer & Herscovitch, 2001)³. Despite the fact that commitment has no universal definition, a close observation of various definitions reveals a core element. For example, Baker (1960:32) defined commitment as “extraneous interests which are linked to consistent line of activity and comes into being when a person makes a side bet”⁴. From organizational view, “commitment represent “a psychological state that binds the individual to an organization” (Rusbult & Farrell, 1983)⁵. Strategically, commitment denotes “willingness of the person to put forth effort to enact the strategy” (Weissbein, Plamondon & Ford, 1998:3)⁶. Occupationally, commitment can be seen as “ones motivation to work in a chosen vocation” (Carson & Bedeian, 1994:240)⁷.

From the above conceptions, one element stands out, which is *psychological and mind-set*, i.e. frame of mind or psychological state that compels an individual towards a course of action. For the purpose of this study therefore, commitment will be viewed from the core essence it represent.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of this study is to find out the level of commitment among police office towards community policing. Specifically, the research want to (a) find out if there is any

difference based on rank police officer's rank and the level of commitment towards community policing, (b) to ascertain whether the level of police officer commitment vary among the three district of Alor Gajah, Jasin and Melaka Tengah, where the study cover.

Methodology

This study employs survey design using questionnaire instrument from a sample of 197 Malaysian police officers in October 2012. Three districts were selected from the state of Malacca (Alor gajah, Jasin and Malacca Tengah). The respondents for this survey are officers who participate in community policing in their districts and range in rank from constable to inspectors and senior officers.

The survey instrument was adopted from Ford, Weissbein and Plamondon (2006) strategy and organizational commitment measure consisting of six and eight item scale. The scales were modified to reflect the socio-cultural characteristics of Malaysian society and police.

Findings and Discussion

Demographic profile

Table 1 presents a demographic breakdown of the police officers involved in this study; these variables include gender, marital status, religion, race and level of education. From the result below we can see that a total of 164 (83.4%) of the respondents were male while 33 (16.8%) are female. This shows that majority of the officers who participated in this study are male. With regards to marital status, 41 (20.8%) of the respondents are single while 148 (75.1%) are married, only 8 (4.1%) were found to be divorced. Region on the other hand shows that 184 (93.4%) of the officers are Muslims, 7 (3.6%) are Christians and 6 (3.0%) and of Hindu faith. Racially, the Malay have been found to be majority with 182 (92.4%) respondents followed by Indians with 7 (3.6%). The Indians were followed by the b/putera Sarawak with 4 (2.0%) while the Chinese and b/putera Sarawak have 2 (1.0%) represented in the sample. This shows that though the Malays were most populous in this study, all the ethnic groups are have been featured, we can also say that majority of police officers in Malaysia are from the Malays ethnic group.

Educationally, the figures shows that 147 (74.6%) have Malaysian certificate of education and 26 (13.2%) have higher Malaysian certificate of education, this shows that majority of police officers are very much educated. 20(10.2%) of the officers also have a lower certificate of education while only two officers; one with degree and another with PhD were part of the respondents group representing .5% each, with a total of 1% within the sample size. Finally, 2 (1.0%) respondent within the study have indicated having educational level that is lower than that of the Malaysian lower certificate of education.

Table 1

	n	%
Gender		
Male	164	83.2
Female	33	16.8
Marital status		
Single	41	20.8
Married	148	75.1
Divorced	8	4.1
Religion		
Islam	184	93.4
Christianity	7	3.6
Hindu	6	3.0
Race		
Malay	182	92.4
Chinese	2	1.0
Indian	7	3.6
b/putera sabah	2	1.0
b/putera sarawak	4	2.0
Level of education		
Primary	2	1.0
Lower certificate of education	20	10.2
Malaysian certificate of education	147	74.6
Higher certificate of education	26	13.2
First degree	1	.5
Masters/PhD	1	.5

5.2 Commitment to Community Policing

Table 2 shows the overall measurement of commitment of the police officers towards community policing, using the combined 6 item scale to measuring strategy commitment and 8 item scale measuring organizational commitment (as modified), the result based on scale of measurement shows that a very high number of officers 178 (90.4%) exhibit high level of commitment to community policing. Previous studies only measure either organizational commitment, strategy commitment or individual commitment, however this study combined

all the measures of commitment to arrive at a sum total of strategy and organizational commitment of officers.

Table 2 level of commitment

	n	%	<i>M</i>	<i>sd</i>
			<u>2.90</u>	<u>.319</u>
Low (1.00-2.339)	1	.5		
Medium (2.340-3.699)	18	9.1		
High (3.670-5.00)	178	90.4		

5.3 Officer rank and Commitment to Community Policing

Previous studies have indicated that there is a relationship that exists between commitment and community policing, Chang-Hun and Chang Bae (2011:716) observed that With respect to “role-related factors”, the rank of officer has an effect on the officer’s attitude and approach. The shift to community policing has brought about tremendous shift by police organizations, i.e. a move from traditional bureaucratic system to an integral structure (Katz and Kahn, 1966; Kuykendall and Roberg, 1982).Consequently, the community policing strategy affected the duties, actions, and performance, not only for line officers, but also for supervisors and administrators (Engel, 2001; Van Maane, 1984). Trojanowicz (1980), for example, argued that perhaps, police officers with the rank of sergeants can build up a change of seeming consciousness as a result of clash between their obligation to the organization leaders and their engagement with subordinates. Engel (2001) further found that police lieutenants were more committed to contemporary administrative approaches, which promotes community policing and problem-solving activities within junior officers while sergeants exhibited preferred traditional supervisory style. The following findings exhibit the existence of divergence in attitude at personal level by officers towards community policing by their rank.

In Malaysian context, result from this survey showed that 174 (90.2%) of the officers portrayed a high level of commitment to community policing while 18 (9.3%) exhibited medium level of commitment. Only 1 (.5) lance corporal indicated low level of commitment. The result also support previous studies which showed that higher officers exhibit higher level of commitment compared to junior officers (Engels, 2001., Seltzer, Alone, and Howard, 1996), however in contrast this study revealed that to a significant level, junior officers exhibit a significant level of commitment, even though the only officer in this study that shower low level of commitment happens to be a lance corporal.

Table 3

rank * commitment level Cross tabulation

Rank		commitment level			
		low	medium	High	Total
Constable	Count	0	4	26	30
	%	.0%	2.1%	13.5%	15.5%
Lance corporals	Count	1	4	44	49
	%	.5%	2.1%	22.8%	25.4%
Corporal	Count	0	9	80	89
	%	.0%	4.7%	41.5%	46.1%
Sergeant	Count	0	1	9	10
	%	.0%	.5%	4.7%	5.2%
Sergeant major	Count	0	0	7	7
	%	.0%	.0%	3.6%	3.6%
Inspector & higher	Count	0	0	8	8
	%	.0%	.0%	4.1%	4.1%
Total	Count	1	18	174	193
	%	.5%	9.3%	90.2%	100.0%

* 4 police officers did not fill out the commitment section.

This study also sought to investigate whether officers will portray different level of commitment based on district, studies have shown that working environment factors such as peer support (Lurigo and Skogan, 1994), management support (Setton, Bennett, and Liden, 1996) and community support (Boke and Nalla, 2009), could affect commitment levels. The results from this study showed a high mean for the three districts combined. 77 officers in Alor Gajah responded to the instrument representing 39.1% of the total population, 67 (34.0%) showed a high level of commitment while 10 (5.1%) revealed a medium level of commitment. In the district of Jasin 42 (21.3%) of officers responded, 39 (19.8%) showed a commitment level while 2 (1.0%) had medium level of commitment, only 1 (.5%) officer showed low level of commitment. This result is similar to the previous, when testing for commitment based on rank, only one officer was also found to be having low commitment. In Malacca Tengah, 78 (39.6%) officers participated in the study, 72 (36.5%) showed high commitment level, while 6 (3.0%) revealed medium level commitment. In both Alor Gajah and Malacca tengah, no single officer showed any sign of low commitment.

Table 4: Districts * commitment level Cross tabulation

			commitment level			
			Low	Medium	high	Total
Districts	alor gajah	Count	0	10	67	77
		%	.0%	5.1%	34.0%	39.1%
	Jasin	Count	1	2	39	42
		%	.5%	1.0%	19.8%	21.3%
	malacca tengah	Count	0	6	72	78
		%	.0%	3.0%	36.5%	39.6%
Total	Count		1	18	178	197
	%		.5%	9.1%	90.4%	100.0%

Table 5: Difference

District	n	Mean total	SD	F	P
				.286	.752
Alor gajah	77	4.1391	.43739		
Jasin	42	4.1718	.53917		
Malacca	78	4.1969	.47773		

6.0 Conclusion

This study concludes that, there exists a high level of commitment to community policing officer in the case study. However it must be noted that since this study was conducted in only three districts, using this result for generalization should be cautiously done, only officer rank and district was also measured so further research most also be done to test commitment and age or years of service and level of education.

Importantly, adopting community policing and implementing it system wise is not an easy task therefore, time must be give to really access the level at which officers commit as they enhance their understanding of community policing over time.

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PERSEPSI PEMIMPIN BELIA TERHADAPA KEBERKESANAN MAJLIS BELIA MALAYSIA (MBM) DI DALAM MENYELARAS BADAN GABUNGAN DI BAWAHNYA

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Pendahuluan

Majlis Belia Malaysia yang juga dikenali sebagai MBM merupakan sebuah pertubuhan bukan kerajaan yang ditubuhkan seawal tahun 1950 yang bertujuan untuk bergerak sebagai badan utama yang bertanggungjawab menyelaras dan menguruskan badan gabungan di bawahnya. Badan gabungan ini termasuklah semua pertubuhan dan organisasi yang menjalankan kegiatan melibatkan belia dan pelajar di negara ini.

Berdasarkan hala tuju MBM 2010-2012 yang telah dibentangkan pada Majlis Perundingan Belia Negara Sidang III penggal 2009-2010, MBM berhasrat menjadi 'Bottom Billion' iaitu Jurubicara Rakyat dalam apa saja perkara berkaitan dengan belia baik di peringkat akar umbi, nasional mahupun antarabangsa. Dalam menentukan hasrat tersebut tercapai, terdapat fokus yang utama yang diberi perhatian antaranya ialah mengembangkan rangkaian Majlis Belia Malaysia (MBM). Dengan erti kata lain, MBM berhasrat menambahkan keahlian dan badan gabungan di bawahnya yang dirasakan mampu memberi bantuan dalam pembangunan belia di negara ini.

Pernyataan Masalah

Seiring dengan arus pembangunan yang semakin berkembang pesat, isu berkaitan generasi belia semakin menjadi-jadi dewasa ini dan seperti ini sukar dibendung. Masalah ini dilihat mampu menggugat masa depan generasi ini yang merupakan tonggak negara pada masa akan datang. Lingkungan umur di antara 15 tahun hingga 40 tahun menempatkan belia sebagai kumpulan majoriti penduduk di negara ini. Dengan statistik yang dikeluarkan oleh Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia, pada tahun 2008 golongan belia mencatatkan seramai 11.26 juta daripada 27.7 juta penduduk di Malaysia. Pada tahun 2012, dijangka angka yang dicatatkan akan meningkat kepada 11.65 juta iaitu 40.2% daripada penduduk di Malaysia (Dzulhailmi et al., 2012). Peningkatan kepada golongan belia ini menggambarkan negara dahagakan pertubuhan dan persatuan belia yang proaktif bagi memainkan peranan dan tanggungjawab

memajukan golongan ini. Menurut Azimi (2002), persatuan belia diperlukan sebagai rakan pembangunan negara terutamanya dalam aspek sumber manusia.

Angka generasi belia yang dicatatkan menunjukkan belia merupakan golongan yang akan menjadi penerus kepada agenda membangunkan negara ini. Maka, tanpa golongan generasi belia yang produktif dan efektif, sebarang matlamat dan hala tuju yang ingin dicapai sukar untuk dilaksanakan dengan jayanya. Dalam konteks ini, pendidikan generasi belia seharusnya berteraskan pembangunan modal insan bagi menjamin agenda memajukan pembangunan negara menjelang wawasan 2020 terlaksana.

Malangnya saban hari peningkatan masalah sosial yang melibatkan golongan belia semakin hangat diperkatakan. Generasi belia dikaitkan dengan krisis moral dan nilai yang semakin mendebarakan. Gejala ini termasuklah lari dari rumah, pembuangan bayi, pengambilan dadah dan alkohol, kegiatan merempit serta melayari laman sesawang yang tidak bermoral (Haslinda et.al, 2009). Gejala sosial yang melibatkan belia ini meningkat dengan berkembangnya teknologi yang semakin canggih dan mencabar. Tanpa pengawasan dan penyeliaan dari pihak yang bertanggungjawab seperti ibu bapa, mereka bebas menggunakan kemudahan internet ini dengan sewenang-wenangnya. Tidak dinafikan terdapat kebaikan daripada teknologi ini seperti laman sosial yang mampu menghubungkan antara keluarga dan rakan-rakan tetapi keburukannya juga tidak dapat dibendung seperti penipuan, kecurangan dan penyelewengan.

Menurut Delgado (2002), jika dibandingkan dengan golongan belia yang sering dikaitkan dengan gejala sosial, pendekatan positif juga perlu dilihat di mana terdapat juga sebilangan besar golongan ini yang menjadi sumber dan pembangun kepada kekuatan dan keupayaan dalam komuniti mereka. Pembangunan belia yang positif bermatlamat memenuhi keperluan dalam melahirkan generasi dewasa yang berjaya. Dalam konteks Malaysia, sebuah badan bukan kerajaan telah dibentuk untuk memayungi badan-badan persatuan yang lain.

Majlis Belia Malaysia (MBM) merupakan badan bukan kerajaan yang diiktiraf dalam mewakili suara generasi belia di Malaysia. Badan ini mempunyai hasrat untuk mengembangkan sayap dengan menambahkan badan gabungan di bawahnya yang mana dirasakan mampu memberi bantuan dalam pembangunan belia dirasakan amat baik. Walau bagaimanapun, sebelum ia dilaksanakan, kajian bagi menentukan sejauhmana keberkesanan Majlis Belia Malaysia (MBM) di dalam menyelaras badan gabungan yang telah sedia ada di bawahnya perlu dijalankan.

Tuntutan terhadap peranan MBM dan kepimpinannya dalam menyelaraskan badan gabungan di bawahnya merupakan ciri utama yang amat penting bagi memastikan badan gabungan dibawah penyelarassannya mendapat bimbingan yang sewajarnya dari MBM. MBM berperanan mempengaruhi ahli gabungan di bawahnya untuk mencapai matlamat dan wawasan dengan memberi dorongan dan inspirasi dalam mengatasi pelbagai cabaran. Interaksi yang terbina di antara MBM dan badan gabungan di bawahnya inilah yang akan membentuk persefahaman dan kesepakatan dalam menjamin keberkesanan sesebuah badan

gabungan dalam melaksanakan tanggungjawab membangunkan generasi belia ke arah yang lebih baik.

Sungguhpun tidak dapat dinafikan bahawa MBM merupakan badan bukan kerajaan yang telah mampu melahirkan banyak kepimpinan yang boleh dianggap berjaya dalam negara namun jika diukur dari segi pembangunan belia secara holistic, apakah ianya setimpal dengan keruntuhan moral dan akhlak yang sedang berlaku di dalam golongan generasi belia hari ini. Walau apa pun persoalannya, pembentukan sesebuah persatuan atau badan organisasi yang proaktif dan berjaya merupakan satu persoalan yang kontroversi, kerana tiada satu pun model yang terbaik antara satu sama lain yang dapat menerangkan perkara ini (Robiah, 2004).

Secara umumnya, kajian ini dijalankan untuk mengenalpasti kerelevanan Majlis Belia Malaysia sebagai pemangkin gerakan belia di Malaysia. Secara khususnya, kajian ini menentukan sejauhmana keberkesanan MBM di dalam menyelaras badan gabungan di bawahnya.

Kaedah Penyelidikan

Pengumpulan data dijalankan dengan menggunakan kaedah survei kuantitatif. Dapatan kajian ini merupakan sebahagian dari kajian yang lebih besar melibatkan pemimpin serta ahli MBM serta badan dibawah gabungannya. Data dari 200 orang responden yang terdiri daripada pemimpin persatuan di bawah MBM di seluruh negeri di Malaysia termasuk di Sabah dan Sarawak digunakan untuk dianalisis bagi kajian ini. Perlu dijelaskan disini data yang dianalisis untuk pembentangan ini hanya melibatkan pihak pemimpin badan MBM serta badan gabungan dibawah MBM sahaja.

Soal selidik survei yang mengandungi variabel baru telah dibangunkan selain diadaptasi daripada Khairuddin, I. et al. (2008). Survei telah dijalankan di premis-premis persatuan belia yang terpilih dan borang soal selidik yang telah dilengkapi dikumpul serta merta. Aktiviti pengumpulan data juga telah memanfaatkan masa-masa penting seperti konvensyen, bengkel, serta perjumpaan-perjumpaan belia bagi tujuan mendapatkan responden.

Hasil Kajian

Profil demografi responden iaitu jantina, umur, bangsa, agama, status perkahwinan, pendidikan dan pekerjaan telah dimasukkan di dalam kajian ini. Taburan frekuensi dan peratusan telah digunakan untuk menggambarkan pembolehubah demografi yang mutlak. Dari segi jantina, majoriti daripada responden adalah lelaki (76.5%), manakala perempuan terdiri daripada 23.5%. Dari segi bangsa, kebanyakan responden adalah Melayu (66.5%), diikuti dengan Bumiputera Sabah (15%), Cina (10%), India (7%) dan lain-lain (1.5%). Majoriti exco belia terdiri dari mereka yang sudah berkahwin (66.5%), manakala dari segi pendidikan menunjukkan lebih dari separuh (62%) mempunyai sekurang-kurangnya

diploma ataupun STPM. Status pendidikan menunjukkan bahawa rata-rata pemimpin belia mempunyai taraf pendidikan yang agak tinggi dan ini penting kerana pemimpin belia seharusnya mempunyai kelayakkan dari segi akademik selain daripada kemahiran bersosial untuk mendekati golongan belia dinegara ini. Data juga menunjukkan bahawa terdapat tiga pemimpin belia yang mempunyai PhD.

Rajah 1.0: Pendidikan Tertinggi

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SRP/PMR	6	3.0	3.0	3.0
	SPM/SPVM	51	25.5	25.5	28.5
	STPM/SPVM	16	8.0	8.0	36.5
	STPM/Diploma	59	29.5	29.5	66.0
	Sarjana Muda	56	28.0	28.0	94.0
	Sarjana9	4.5	4.5	98.5	
	PhD	3	1.5	1.5	100.0
	Total	200	100.0	100.0	

Menentukan sejauh mana keberkesanan Majlis Belia Malaysia (MBM) dalam menyelaraskan badan gabungan di bawahnya

Secara umumnya, responden yang terdiri daripada Exco persatuan belia bersetuju bahawa MBM melaksanakan tugas dalam menyelaraskan badan gabungan di bawahnya. Responden bersetuju menyatakan bahawa MBM bertindak pantas dalam melaksanakan tugas yang diamanahkan malah berusaha untuk memudahkan pelaksanaan sesuatu program. Program yang dirancang juga dapat dijalankan dengan baik selari dengan matlamat persatuan. Sembilan daripada sebelas item yang mengukur sejauhmana keberkesanan MBM dalam menyelaraskan badan gabungan di bawahnya mencatatkan min di atas 3.6. Manakala dua lagi item mencatatkan min di bawah 3.0 kerana kedua-duanya merupakan item negatif. Cronbach's Alpha yang dicatatkan untuk pembolehubah ini ialah 0.809.

Walau bagaimanapun, apabila analisa terperinci setiap item dilakukan beberapa dapatan agak membimbangkan apabila hampir 66% peserta bersetuju bahawa kepimpinan MBM leka dengan politik semasa sehingga mengabaikan keperluan ahli gabungan.

Rajah 2.0: Kepimpinan MBM leka dengan politik semasa sehingga mengabaikan keperluan ahli gabungan.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid				
Sangat Tidak Setuju	17	8.5	8.5	8.5
Tidak setuju	40	20.0	20.1	28.6
Agak setuju	50	25.0	25.1	53.8
Setuju	55	27.5	27.6	81.4
Sangat setuju	27	13.5	13.6	95.0
Tiada Pendapat	10	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	199	99.5	100.0	
Missing	System1	.5		
Total	200	100.0		

Manakala 42% merasakan ketiadaan MBM tidak akan memberi kesan besar kepada pembangunan belia negara.

Rajah 2.0: Ketiadaan MBM tidak akan memberi kesan besar kepada pembangunan belia negara

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid				
Sangat Tidak Setuju	26	13.0	13.1	13.1
Tidak setuju	46	23.0	23.1	36.2
Agak setuju	36	18.0	18.1	54.3
Setuju	51	25.5	25.6	79.9
Sangat setuju	34	17.0	17.1	97.0
Tiada Pendapat	6	3.0	3.0	100.0
Total	199	99.5	100.0	

Missing System1 .5

Total 200 100.0

Rajah 3.0:Program pembangunan belia MBM tidak banyak memberi manfaat kepada persatuan belia

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Sangat Tidak Setuju	27	13.5	13.5	13.5
Tidak setuju	58	29.0	29.0	42.5
Agak setuju	42	21.0	21.0	63.5
Setuju	44	22.0	22.0	85.5
Sangat setuju	22	11.0	11.0	96.5
Tiada Pendapat	7	3.5	3.5	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

Dari segi program-program MBM yang dirasakan tidak banyak memberi manfaat kepada persatuan belia, kebanyakan (54%) pemimpin persatuan bersetuju dengan kenyataan tersebut dan dapatan ini seharusnya dinilai dengan lebih terperinci oleh pihak MBM bagi memperbaiki keadaan yang sedia ada.

Perbincangan

Kesemua program pembangunan belia yang dirancang dan dijalankan oleh MBM dan badan gabungan di bawahnya mempunyai kaitan yang sangat rapat dengan peranan MBM dalam menyelaraskan badan gabungan di bawahnya. Dengan kejayaan setiap program pembangunan ataupun aktiviti yang terlaksana, menunjukkan bahawa MBM mampu menguruskan badan gabungan di bawahnya bagi mencapai matlamat membina peribadi generasi belia ke arah yang lebih positif. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan pimpinan belia di bawah gabungan MBM amat positif dengan apa yang dilaksanakan oleh badan gabungan tersebut dan yakin akan kepimpinan yang diberikan.

Oleh kerana setiap program MBM secara tidak langsung melibatkan pihak kerajaan, ini menggambarkan pemimpin belia masih lagi yakin akan MBM serta pihak kerajaan yang turut sama terlibat dalam apa jua program yang dilaksanakan oleh MBM. Dalam konteks ini, pihak kerajaan merupakan pelaksana dan penaung utama dasar pembangunan belia manakala MBM dan persatuan belia merupakan rakan kongsi serta pemangkin kepada program dan aktiviti belia. Sejarah memperlihatkan peranan dan sumbangan pergerakan persatuan belia yang

besar dalam melahirkan pemimpin dan pewaris dalam pelbagai bidang pembangunan termasuklah politik, ekonomi dan sosial di negara ini. Peranan generasi belia semakin mencabar apatah lagi di negara yang sedang mengalami arus pembangunan yang sangat pesat.

Sebagai ‘agen sosialisasi’, MBM dan badan gabungan di bawahnya yang terdiri daripada persatuan-persatuan belia MBM dilihat telah memainkan peranan sebagai wadah dalam memberi ruang kepada belia untuk berinteraksi dan bergaul dengan masyarakat. Peranan ini juga didapati dapat mengurangkan konflik dalam kalangan rakyat dalam Malaysia. Walau bagaimanapun, perlu ditegaskan disini bahawa dapatan kajian merupakan persepsi mereka yang terdiri dari pemimpin persatuan. Berdasarkan analisis terperinci setiap item, dapatan ini seharusnya dinilai secara kritis dari dua perspektif yang berbeza, yang pertama mereka benar-benar memberikan pandangan yang ikhlas atas apa yang dilakukan oleh MBM serta yakin akan kepimpinan sedia ada, dan yang kedua masih ada ruang terutamanya di bahagian program untuk memperbaiki suasana yang sedia ada bagi memantapkan badan utama persatuan belia di Malaysia ini.

Kesimpulan

Menyelaras badan gabungan tidak boleh dipandang sebagai sesuatu kerja yang remeh oleh MBM. Ia bukanlah sesuatu kerja yang mudah untuk menjadikan generasi belia sebagai agen perubahan masyarakat (agent of change). Generasi belia yang dilahirkan perlulah memenuhi keperluan di mana proses transformasi dilaksanakan bagi membangunkan negara dan membanteras serta menyelesaikan gejala sosial yang menjadi fenomena hangat dewasa ini. Baik melalui pembangunan dari sudut luaran dan dalaman, MBM dan badan gabungan di bawahnya perlulah terus ligat menggerakkan program-program memacu belia, membangunkan modal insan di samping melahirkan generasi belia yang memiliki peribadi yang bersepadu dari segi rohani dan jasmani dalam membentuk sifat tanggungjawab, berdikari, bersemangat sukarela dan patriotik agar dapat berperanan sebagai penggerak kepada pembangunan bangsa, agama dan Negara.

Sebagai sebuah badan NGO, MBM memerlukan semua pihak tidak kira samada pihak kerajaan mahupun swasta untuk sama-sama menggembling tenaga agar proses membangunkan golongan belia dapat dijana secara bersama. Bagi merealisasikan impian ini, kesepaduan semua pihak untuk merencana satu ekosistem belia yang holistik adalah amat penting. Dokongan yang padu ini akan menjamin satu proses pembentukan belia positif yang mantap.

Dapatan kajian jelas menunjukkan bahawa kedudukan MBM sebagai badan utama yang menyelaras persatuan-persatuan belia di Malaysia harus diperkemaskan dengan menghasilkan pemimpin-pemimpin yang mempunyai kredibiliti serta ciri-ciri kepimpinan yang terpuji. Persepsi golongan pemimpin badan gabungan belia menunjukkan bahawa masih ada ruang

dan peluang untuk MBM memperbaiki keadaan yang sedia ada untuk lebih efisien dan proaktif demi menjamin masa depan belia Negara.

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SOCIAL SUPPORT AND YOUTH VOICE AS PREDICTORS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EMPOWERMENT AMONG YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

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Introduction

As Malaysia continues its transformation to a high-income developed country, the role of young people as future leaders becomes ever more relevant as they will soon inherit the leadership of multiple transformation initiatives currently underway throughout the country. Despite the huge amounts of financial resources that have been invested in services for young people in the form of both formal and non-formal educational initiatives, there has been a recent shift – at least in rhetoric – toward ‘empowering’ young people. Modest indicators of this shift from a traditional youth service approach to a preparation and empowerment strategy are evident in various forms. For one, the Malaysian government continues to invest millions of Ringgit in youth development initiatives across the country to empower youth to play a greater role as partners in national development. Some of these programs include ‘Rakan Muda’, ‘Program Latihan Khidmat Negara’, ‘Youth Parliament’, ‘I Volunteers’, ‘My Corps’, ‘Perdana Youth Leadership’ and the recently launched ‘1 Malaysia for Youth’ (1M4Youth). From the policy side, the recent liberalization of the University and College University Act 1971 (AUKU), which had previously restricted students’ participation in political parties and related political activities, effectively limiting their ability to engage as leaders in meaningful dialogue related to public policy matters (Nga, 2009). The liberalization of AUKU will open up a variety of different channels for empowering young people to engage more directly in the political process, and by extension, increase their participation in a variety of civic organizations and decision-making bodies. Other key indicators include the substantial investments made in providing young people with the various skills they need to be economically empowered through entrepreneurship schemes. Furthermore, a multitude of skill-based educational programs for those who do not qualify for the conventional academic streams within the tertiary education system have been introduced including several technical and vocational training centers across the country, community colleges and polytechnic institutes.

Through these approaches, there has been an acceptance of empowerment as an important strategy to prepare youth in Malaysia for their future role as leaders. Malaysia’s policy makers want their young people to be more empowered economically in order for them to be more self-reliant and less dependent on the government to ensure their future economic well-being. This approach to empowering youth sees empowerment as a strategy to achieve

economic and sociopolitical outcomes. However, little discussion within the youth sector looks at the importance of Malaysian young people's sense of empowerment, also known as psychological empowerment, and the benefits that come with it. Psychological empowerment occurs when young people are adequately engaged in their different social and community roles and is a key process in the context of their own development and continuous learning. In this paper, we begin to explore – within the context of Malaysian youth programs – demographic and social support predictors of psychological empowerment among Malaysian youth, including the roles of family and school. In addition, using hierarchical regression, we also consider a key process variable within youth development programmatic settings – youth voice – to assess the extent to which young people's participation in the decision-making of organizations influences their overall sense of empowerment. We begin by discussing related literature on the concepts presented and past research related to the study variables.

Youth Empowerment

Empowerment has often been defined as a “mechanism by which people, groups, and communities gain control over their affairs” (Christens & Peterson, 2012, 623). It has been theorized at the psychological level as a latent construct that incorporates intrapersonal, interactional, and behavioral components including “the perception of control in relevant domains; motivation to control; decision-making and problem-solving skills; critical understanding of the sociopolitical environment; and participatory behaviors” (Ozer & Schotland, 2011, 348). Christens (2012, 114) elaborated on the definition as “psychological aspects of processes by which people gain greater control over their lives, participate in democratic decision-making, and develop critical awareness of their sociopolitical environments.” Research indicates that when people feel empowered, they perceive themselves as having greater efficacy and control within the sociopolitical domain, resulting in a variety of positive outcomes. Specific studies have linked psychological empowerment with several positive psychosocial and behavioral indicators including sense of wellbeing, self-esteem, stress buffering, and psychological and behavioral health outcomes (Christens & Peterson, 2012).

Although less work has been done on empowerment among youth and adolescence, there is a growing body of literature in this area. Chinman and Linney (1998) provided an initial theoretical framework for adolescent empowerment that included identity development, meaningful roles, bonding, and social control while Kim et al. (1998) also provided a conceptual model for youth development and empowerment as promising approaches to substance abuse prevention (Christens & Peterson, 2012). In an earlier longitudinal study, Cargo et al. (2003) found that youth empowerment within youth programs led to increases in several youth development outcomes such as increased self-esteem, enhanced consciousness, increased confidence and greater competence in a variety of areas including decision-making, communication and advocacy. Addressing the gap in the youth development literature on the role of psychological empowerment in developmental processes, Peterson et al. (2011) found that young people who had greater perceptions of sociopolitical control were more engaged

in their communities and schools, and were less likely to use alcohol and drugs. Furthermore, Christens and Peterson (2012) found that sociopolitical control mediated the relationships between ecological supports and risk factors and developmental outcomes. The authors concluded that youth empowerment, more generally, should be considered as a core element of the ecology of human development.

Social Support and Youth Empowerment

In terms of social support for young people's healthy development, it is widely accepted that supportive parents and family are an indispensable promotive factor on youth development outcomes (Fergus & Zimmerman, 2005; Messias, Fore, McLoughlin, & Parra-Medina, 2005; Krauss et al., 2012; Youngblade et al., 2007). There is a much smaller literature on the role of family and parental support, however, on youth empowerment in the context of youth and community development programs and organizations. One exception is the previously mentioned study by Christens and Peterson (2012), who found that family cohesion and social support significantly predicted youth empowerment in the form of socio-political control. The authors found that socio-political control is developed, in part, through supportive family, peer, school, and neighborhood environments.

Parents who are involved in youth empowerment in the form of assisting or supporting their children play a pivotal role. They provide support to the program staff as well as their own young people in various forms. When parents and youth have strong family relations, the parents are more inclined to be active participants in helping out with programs as volunteers, or take on more formal roles (Messias, Fore, McLoughlin, & Parra-Medina, 2005). Lack of parental monitoring, for example, can lead to less parental involvement in young peoples' lives, including being actively supportive of their role in youth development and community programs. Thus, the family contribution to empowerment of their youth is often as much of a direct relationship – through encouragement and support of youth engagement in programs and community endeavours – as much as an indirect relationship, through their own support in such endeavours.

Several authors have pointed to the need for more research on the role of adults in youth empowerment, especially from the perspectives of parents and other adult community members. Much of the existing research has examined the roles of adults already actively engaged in community programs. However, there continues to be a need for research that seeks to uncover the contributions of adults – including parents – not involved in such programs toward young people's empowerment (Messias, Fore, McLoughlin, & Parra-Medina, 2005).

Youth Voice in Decision Making

Authentic youth participation in the decision-making of communities and organizations, also referred to as “youth voice”, is a key component of the emerging youth-adult partnership (Y-

AP) conceptual framework (Camino, 2000; Zeldin, Christens & Powers, 2012). Youth-adult partnerships have been defined as “relationships in which both youth and adults have the potential to contribute to decision-making processes, to learn from one another, and to promote change” (Mitra, 2009, 407-408). Youth voice is a product of adults working with youth, where the two engage one another and adults give youth a platform to develop key competencies needed for their healthy development. According to Zeldin, Christens and Powers (2012, 6),

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is premised on the principle that youth have a right to be heard in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously in accordance with their age and maturity (Landsdown 2001). Thus, youth voice is not only about expression, but more centrally, it is about recognition by powerful others and by inclusion in consequential deliberations.

Conceptually, ‘voice’, or participation in decision-making, is based on the premise that individuals gain greater control over their environments -- or a sense thereof -- when they exercise voice, i.e. assume responsibility in organizational settings (Maton and Salem, 1995; Zeldin, Christens & Powers, 2012). Empirically, youth voice initiatives have been shown to help young people develop competencies crucial to becoming an involved and productive citizen. In youth development settings, opportunities to participate in decision making and to take on leadership roles have been linked with multiple positive outcomes: the facilitation of mastery; skill development; confidence; identity exploration; initiative; emotional wellbeing; the development of agency and confidence to achieve one’s personal goals; increased sociopolitical awareness; and psychological empowerment. All of these outcomes have been shown to contribute to civic and political participation among youth (Mitra, 2008; Zeldin, Christens & Powers, 2012).

Focus of the Current Study

Among the Malaysian youth population at large, few research attempts have been made to understand correlates of young Malaysian’s psychological empowerment. More specifically, in the context of youth development programs, there is little knowledge of the extent to which young people’s engagement in programmatic settings in the form of having substantive roles in the decision-making of their programs contributes to their overall sense of empowerment. It is too often assumed that Malaysian youth are not afforded the opportunity to contribute to the decision-making of their organizations and programs given the dominant culture. However, this has yet to be tested with empirical data.

Against this background, the current study sought to address two main issues. First is the contribution of social support measures to psychological empowerment, including religious salience, school engagement, involvement in co-curricular activities, parental monitoring and family cohesion specifically. In addition, the authors aimed to identify the contribution of youth voice in decision making as a unique predictor of psychological empowerment, while

controlling for both demographic traits and social support. This latter question was aimed at understanding the unique role of a key youth engagement construct, youth voice, in the context of Malaysian youth development programs above and beyond the predictive effects of demographics and social support.

METHODS

Participants and Procedures

Table 1 provides descriptive information about the study sample. The sample included 299 youth development program participants from six diverse youth programs all taking place in the Klang Valley (M Age = 18.28, SD = .65). Programs were selected that met five main criteria: 1) the activities conducted had to be developmental in nature; 2) they had to be ‘center-based’, i.e. they were conducted out of a fixed location; 3) they had to meet regularly; and 4) there had to be adults actively involved in the programs and a high level of interaction with the youth participants; and 5) participants had to be within the ages of 15 to 24. In terms of program content, the groups engaged in a variety of recreational, arts and civics, religious, and leadership development activities.

Approximately 56% of the sample was between 15-18 years old. The mean family income for the sample was RM3,376 per month, which is below the national average monthly household income for urban families of RM4,356 (Department of Statistics, Malaysia, 2007). Overall, the sample was near evenly split between males and females and was primarily an urban, Malay and Chinese, middle-income socioeconomic sample of young people. However, being a predominantly urban sample, the percentage of respondents living in two-parent families (61%) was significantly lower than the national average of 87% (based on year 2000 data; Wilcox, Lippman, & Whitney, 2009). This is most likely due to the fact that 17% of the respondents reported living at their universities; a majority of whom probably also came from intact two-parent families.

Data were collected using survey method. At each program, the research team members administered the questionnaires in groups. Respondents completed the questionnaires within 45 minutes to 1 hour. Scores for each scale were summed (negatively worded items were reverse scored). All measures used in the study were self-report.

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Respondents ($N = 299$)

Variable	<i>N</i>	%	<i>M(SD)</i>	Variable	<i>N</i>	%
Age				Gender		
15-18	167	55.9		Male	163	54.5
19-24	132	44.1		Female	136	45.5

Program			Family Structure		
(A)	24	8.0	With both parents	182	60.9
(BB)	65	21.7	Mother or father	25	8.4
(HC)	38	12.7	Half time with	6	2.0
(EP)	8	2.7	mother/father		
(P)	84	28.1	Mother or father and	4	1.3
(SG)	80	26.8	another adult		
			Group home or foster	2	0.7
Race			parents		
Malay	166	55.5	Cousins/extended	3	1.0
Chinese	124	41.5	family	26	8.7
Indian	3	1.0	Live alone or with	51	17.1
Other	6	2.0	friends		
			College/university		
Mother's Education			Father's Education		
Primary school	31	10.4	Primary school	36	12.0
PMR/Junior High	40	13.4	PMR/Junior High	39	13.0
SPM/High School	109	36.5	SPM/High School	97	32.4
Skills Certificate	14	4.7	Skills Certificate	7	2.3
STPM/Diploma	21	7.0	STPM/Diploma	23	7.7
Bachelor's	20	6.7	Bachelor's	23	7.7
Master's/PhD	15	5.0	Master's/PhD	24	8.1
Not Sure	41	13.7	Not Sure	43	14.4
Missing	8	2.7	Missing	7	2.3
Grades in School			Religion		
Mostly A's	30	10.0	Muslim	168	56.2
Mostly B's	73	24.4	Buddhist	81	27.1
Mostly C's	76	25.4	Protestant	32	10.7
Mostly D's	25	8.4	Catholic	2	0.7
Mostly F's	6	2.0	Hindu	2	0.7
Missing	89	29.8	Atheist/Agnostic	2	0.7
			Other	10	3.3
Monthly Income (RM)		3375.89 (1644.04)			

Empowerment

The dependent variable psychological empowerment was measured using eight items from Peterson et al.'s (2011) socio-political control scale. All items involved statements rated for agreement or disagreement along a 5-point Likert-type scale and represent two components: (a) leadership competence (3 items) (e.g., "I would rather have a leadership role when I'm involved in a group project", "I find it easy to talk in front of a group"), and (b) policy control (5 items) (e.g., "Youth like me can really understand what's going on with my community and school," "My school or community leaders would listen to me"). In addition, four items on empowering others were added to Peterson et al.'s scale to capture the relational element of empowerment (see Christens, 2012). Sample items for the empowering others subscale included "I have knowledge and skills that I will pass on to others" and "I think about ways to help others become leaders." For this and all other measures, items were translated into Malay by the research team and presented in both English and Malay. Cronbach alpha for the scale was .75.

Youth Voice in Decision Making

Youth voice was measured using five items adapted from the Youth Engagement Tool (Camino, Zeldin, Mook & O'Connor, 2004), which assesses the degree to which youth have legitimate chances to be heard, respected and taken seriously during program design and implementation. Items were measured on a 5-point Likert Scale: *strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree, strongly agree*. Sample items included, "In this program, I get to make decisions about the things I want to do" and "In this center, I am encouraged to express my ideas and opinions." Cronbach alpha for the scale was .81.

Family Cohesion

Family cohesion was measured using five items from the Family Environment Scale (Moos, 1974). Support for the construct validity of the Family Environment Scale has been established by over one hundred studies that have used the scale in a variety of ways (Holahan & Moos, 1982). Item statements were rated along a 4-point scale: *Not True, Hardly True or Sometimes, True a lot of the Time, Always True or Almost Always*. Sample items included, "I listen to what other family members have to say, even when I disagree" and "My family can easily think of things to do together." Cronbach alpha for the scale was .84.

Parental Monitoring

Parental monitoring was measured using four items from the Parental Monitoring Scale (Small & Kerns, 1993). This measure assesses the extent to which parents know the whereabouts of their offspring, know who their friends are, and generally discuss their offspring's social life and plans. Sample items include the following: "My parents/guardians know who my friends are" and "When I go out at night, my parents/guardians know where I am." Responses ranged from 1 = *never*, 2 = *rarely/sometimes*, 3 = *most of the time*, 4 = *always*. Cronbach alpha for the scale was .74.

School Engagement

School engagement was comprised of 10 items measuring the respondents' adherence to the educational goals and values of their school, as well as their emotional attachment to school (Cochran et al. 1994; McNeely, Nonnemaker & Blum, 2002). Sample items on the scale include, "Going to school has been an enjoyable experience for me", "Doing well in school is important for getting a good job", "I feel close to people at my school" and "I feel I am a part of my school." All items were measured using a 5-point Likert Scale: *strongly disagree*, *disagree*, *neither agree nor disagree*, *agree*, *strongly agree*. Cronbach alpha for the scale was .84.

Involvement in Extracurricular Activities

Involvement in extracurricular activities was measured with eight items asking respondents' the extent of their involvement in the following activities: volunteering time; mentoring other youth; paid work; attending religious services; participating in school athletics; hanging out with friends; attending programs at a community center, and participating in a religious youth group. Responses ranged from 1 = *Never*; 2 = *Once a Month or Less*; 3 = *A Couple Times a Month*; 4 = *Once a Week*; 5 = *A Few Times a week*; 6 = *Daily*. Cronbach alpha for the scale was .74.

Religious Salience and Demographic Controls

Religious salience, or how an individual views the importance of religion to one's life (Hoge & De Zulueta, 1985) was included in the social support block of predictors. Religion is a core value of Malaysians of all races and influences many dimensions of Malaysian social life. Religious salience was measured with a single item, "How important is religious faith in shaping how you live your daily life?" Responses ranged from 1 = *not important*, 2 = *a little important*, 3 = *pretty important*, 4 = *very important*. The analysis also included five demographic controls: gender (1 = male; 0 = female); age; income; and two dummy variables for race, race - Malay (1 = Malay; 0 = other) and race - Chinese (1 = Chinese; 0 = other).

RESULTS

Means and standard deviations for the test variables are reported in Table 2. Religious salience, school engagement, family cohesion and parental monitoring indicated the highest mean scores, while respondents scored involvement in extracurricular activities considerably lower. The results are not surprising for a Malaysian population, which culturally still values family, religion and school. Scores for empowerment and youth voice were somewhat lower than the family and school measures. Bivariate correlation results (Table 2) indicated that most of the measures correlated at a low to moderate level. Youth voice, involvement in extracurricular activities and school engagement indicated the highest correlations with empowerment while parental monitoring, family cohesion and religious salience were significant but low.

Table 2: Means, Standard Deviations and Bivariate Correlations for the Test Variables

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>M(SD)</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
1. Religious Salience	1 - 4	3.74(.60)	-						
2. Family Cohesion	1 - 4	2.97(.65)	.18**	-					
3. Parental Monitoring	1 - 5	3.76(.85)	.02	.46**	-				
4. School Engagement	1 - 5	3.87(.60)	.16**	.29**	.24**	-			
5. Extracurricular Activities	1 - 5	2.56(.67)	.23**	.20**	.05	.19**	-		
6. Youth Voice	1 - 5	3.72(.60)	.10	.18**	.16**	.11	.25**	-	
7. Empowerment	1 - 5	3.57(.45)	.12*	.17**	.16**	.25**	.32**	.48**	-

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$

Results of the multiple regression (Table 3) produced several findings of interest in relation to the study objectives. In terms of the contribution of the personal/social support factors to empowerment, there was a significant contribution of these factors in predicting empowerment ($R^2 = .25$; $p < .01$). The social support factors contributed an additional 14% of variance ($p < .001$), over and above the sociodemographic traits, while youth voice contributed an additional 12% ($p < .01$) over and above the other variables in the model. In the final model school engagement, extracurricular activities and youth voice effects were found such that adolescents reporting higher in each of the three reported a greater sense of empowerment. In addition, age and income, although controls, were both significant as predictors of empowerment in the final model indicating that older youth who come from higher socioeconomic backgrounds feel more empowered.

Table 3: Standardized Beta Coefficients from Hierarchical Regression Analysis for Empowerment

	Model 1			Model 2			Model 3		
Variable	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	β	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	β	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	β
	<i>B</i>			<i>B</i>			<i>B</i>		
<i>Demographic Controls</i>									
Age	.05	.01	.30**	.04	.01	.21**	.04	.01	.23**
Race – Malay	-.24	.15	-.26	-.23	.14	-.26	-.11	.13	-.12
Race – Chinese	-.22	.15	-.24	-.06	.14	-.06	-.04	.13	-.05
Income	.00	.00	.07	.00	.00	.09	.00	.00	.11*
Gender	.04	.05	.04	.07	.05	.07	.03	.05	.03
<i>Personal/ Social Support Factors</i>									
Religious Salience	-	-	-	.03	.04	.04	.01	.04	.01
Family Cohesion	-	-	-	.03	.04	.05	.01	.04	.01
Parental Monitoring	-	-	-	.03	.03	.05	.01	.03	.02

School Engagement	-	-	-	.17	.04	.22**	.14	.04	.19**
Extracurricular Activities	-	-	-	.19	.04	.27**	.11	.04	.16**
<i>Engagement Factor</i>									
Youth Voice	-	-	-	-	-	-	.29	.04	.38**
R^2	.10**			.25**			.37**		
F for change in R^2	6.78**			10.91**			54.90**		

Note: **p < .01, *p < .05

DISCUSSION

If Malaysian adults and leaders are concerned about young people's future role as leaders and their capacity to effectively execute them, then helping Malaysian youth feel empowered is critical. Empowerment is, in its essence, about participative ownership (Zimmerman, 1995). It means having a place at the table and an authentic role to play in the decision-making of organizations and communities. For Malaysian youth to take on the responsibility of future leadership in a way that will ensure their utmost effort and care, empowering them now at an early age will translate into multiple benefits in the future. With the sense of shared ownership that comes with being empowered, young people will feel that the country is as much theirs as anyone's and they will value it, care for it and do their best to ensure its success and safety.

Although the focus of the article was not on sociodemographic traits as predictors, age and income predicting empowerment is consistent with both the literature and reason as older youth and those with greater financial resources tend to feel more empowered than their younger, less affluent peers (Leung, 2009; Speer, Jackson & Peterson, 2001). Wealthy youth are often afforded more opportunities to participate in programs and activities, as are older youth. Wealth is also related to social status, especially in developing country settings, so naturally those with more social status will have greater feelings of privilege and power. From the personal/social support block of variables, neither family construct nor religious salience predicted empowerment, indicating that although family and religion are institutions that have significant influence on young Malaysian's, there was no evidence that they contribute to sense of empowerment when entered alongside variables such as school engagement, extra-curricular involvement and youth voice. More research is needed to untangle the relationships between family, religion and youth empowerment and how family dynamics and different aspects of religion impact young people's psychological empowerment in the local context.

The role of school engagement and involvement in extra-curricular activities plays an important role in enhancing young people's sense of empowerment in the current study. School is a place where empowerment can be practiced by involving young people in the decisions of the school. Mitra (2008; 2009) has written extensively on the role of youth voice in schools and how it can create meaningful experiences and help to meet fundamental

developmental youth needs such as agency, belonging and competency, especially for students who otherwise do not find meaning in their school experiences. Extra-curricular activities, particularly in the form of youth development programs and after-school programs, are an important forum for young people to take the lead on different types of initiatives and acquire a sense of empowerment. Such programs can foster leadership skills, teamwork, and community and civic engagement. In doing so, young people can acquire a stronger sense of empowerment.

As expected, youth voice was a strong predictor of empowerment in the current study, even after controlling for both the demographic and social support measures. The finding is not only consistent with a wealth of literature emphasizing the importance of youth have a role to play in their organizations, programs and communities, but also says much about the universal role that youth voice can play in youth development settings regardless of context. Although the current study was limited by the fact that we used a uni-dimensional measure of youth voice, there is much that can be learned from the finding on the importance of providing authentic participative experiences for Malaysian youth in youth programs toward facilitating their sense of empowerment. Having a say in the direction of programs that they are involved in matters, and this is something that policy makers and program staff need to consider when programs are being designed and executed. Empowering young people cannot remain at the rhetorical level; there is a need for ensuring that empowerment is infused within each and every youth program offered within the Malaysian youth service. This starts with ensuring that the youth themselves have a significant role to play in the planning and decision-making of such programs so that youth-centered programming becomes the norm rather than the exception.

Future research should expand the sample to include a larger number and breadth of programs and participants and longitudinal rather than cross-sectional research designs should be considered along with qualitative investigations to better understand the processes through which youth empowerment occurs. Further investigation by age, race and gender would provide a better understanding of the nuances within the present data set, and can be used to compare different contributors to empowerment by key demographic traits. Additional predictors of psychological empowerment related to youth development program quality should also be considered in future research such as program engagement, relationships with staff and other adults and the role of the physical setting.

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PENGLIBATAN DALAM AKTIVITI AGRO-PELANCONGAN DI KALANGAN KOMUNITI DESA WAWASAN NELAYAN DI SEMENANJUNG MALAYSIA

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Abstrak

Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia dengan kerjasama Persatuan Nelayan Kawasan dan Persatuan Nelayan Negeri telah mewujudkan satu produk pelancongan baru yang dinamakan agro-pelancongan nelayan di Desa Wawasan Nelayan. Penglibatan komuniti setempat dalam program agro-pelancongan ini adalah penting kerana ianya kunci kejayaan kepada program ini yang secara tidak langsung berpotensi memberi impak positif kepada ekonomi dan memperkasakan komuniti setempat. Oleh kerana itu, kajian ini telah dijalankan bagi mengkaji tahap penglibatan penduduk Desa Wawasan Nelayan dalam aktiviti agro-pelancongan di tempat mereka. Sejumlah seribu seratus (1100) responden dipilih secara rawak dari sepuluh (10) buah kampung di semenanjung Malaysia yang tersenarai sebagai Desa Wawasan Nelayan. Dapatan kajian hasil analisis yang dibuat menggunakan perisian SPSS menunjukkan tahap keseluruhan penglibatan komuniti Desa Wawasan Nelayan dalam aktiviti agro-pelancongan adalah pada tahap yang sederhana ($M=2.70$, $S.P=.78$). Manakala bagi analisis perkaitan dan perbezaan, hasil kajian mendapati bahawa terdapatnya perkaitan yang signifikan bagi pembolehubah umur ($p=.001$) dan pendapatan bulanan ($p=.000$) terhadap penglibatan penduduk dalam aktiviti agro-pelancongan pada nilai keertian $p<.01$. Bagi perbezaan pula, terdapatnya perbezaan yang signifikan dalam penglibatan penduduk berdasarkan pembolehubah jantina ($t=6.843$, $p=.000$), status perkahwinan ($t=-4.131$, $p=.000$), keahlian dalam organisasi ($t=-11.867$, $p=.000$), dan kesedaran terhadap program Desa Wawasan Nelayan ($t=-7.614$, $p=.000$) pada nilai keertian $p<.05$. Berdasarkan hasil kajian ini, dicadangkan supaya pihak yang berkaitan meningkatkan usaha untuk melibatkan komuniti tempatan dalam program agro-pelancongan yang dibuat di kawasan mereka supaya impak positif ekonomi dan sosial-budaya dapat diperolehi oleh komuniti setempat. Secara tidak langsung dapat mendidik dan memperkasakan komuniti setempat sekaligus dapat mewujudkan industri agro-pelancongan yang mampan.

Pengenalan

Industri pelancongan dan sektor pertanian adalah dua bidang yang berbeza, tetapi boleh diintegrasikan dalam banyak cara, antaranya ialah agro-pelancongan. Menurut Eduardo dan Francisco (2006), agro-pelancongan adalah salah satu daripada jenis pelancongan desa yang merujuk kepada aktiviti rekreasi yang dianjurkan oleh komuniti kawasan tersebut bagi tujuan pelancongan. Komuniti desa yang kebanyakan penduduknya menjadikan sektor pertanian sebagai pekerjaan utama mempunyai potensi sebagai destinasi pelancongan kerana keunikan

kehidupan setempat dan landskap alam semulajadi yang menjadi daya tarikan pelancong (Richard dan Hall, 2000).

Sejak dahulu lagi pembangunan pelancongan dan resort di Malaysia telah tertumpu di kawasan berhampiran sungai dan pantai (Badaruddin, 2006). Kini Malaysia, melalui Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia (LKIM) membangunkan satu lagi produk baru pelancongan berasaskan konsep Agro-Pelancongan Nelayan melalui Persatuan Nelayan Negeri (PNN) dan Persatuan Nelayan Kawasan (PNK) yang menawarkan pelbagai aktiviti seperti sukan memancing, kelong, homestay, chelet nelayan medan ikan bakar dan sebagainya yang mana semuanya berasaskan kepada keistimewaan dan keindahan perkampungan nelayan yang dijadikan aset dan tarikan untuk memenuhi citarasa dan pilihan setiap pengunjung. Antara tujuan utama program ini adalah untuk mewujudkan peluang-peluang pekerjaan kepada komuniti nelayan dalam industri pelancongan, meningkatkan kemahiran nelayan dalam bidang pelancongan dan keusahawanan, meningkatkan nilai tambah sumber perikanan kepada industri hiliran, mempercepatkan pertumbuhan ekonomi di perkampungan nelayan tradisional, dan yang terakhir untuk menggalakkan rakyat tempatan dan pelancong asing datang melancong dalam negara, sekaligus dapat menambah pendapatan negara melalui pertukaran wang asing (LKIM, 2007).

Usaha untuk mewujudkan sebuah komuniti nelayan yang berkemahiran dan maju ianya tidak terhad hanya kepada kelompok nelayan sahaja, tetapi memerlukan penglibatan daripada kesemua komuniti itu sendiri (Muhammad et.al., 2012). Penglibatan komuniti dalam program agro-pelancongan adalah penting kerana ianya satu bentuk perhubungan antara komuniti dan program perancangan agro-pelancongan yang akan membawa aspirasi dan keperluan komuniti dan hasilnya akan dapat mendidik dan memperkasakan komuniti setempat (Tosun, 2000). Sebaliknya, sekiranya terlalu sedikit atau tiada penglibatan komuniti setempat dalam program pembangunan agro-pelancongan di kawasan mereka akan menyebabkan komuniti tersebut tidak mempunyai kuasa untuk mempengaruhi sebarang keputusan yang berkaitan dengan aktiviti agro-pelancongan (Scheyvens, 2000), dan lebih buruk lagi ia boleh membawa kepada konflik dan masalah di antara komuniti setempat dan pihak yang terlibat (Muhammad et. al., 2012; Emily 2009; Millar dan Aiken 1995).

Tujuan kajian ini dibuat adalah untuk mengukur tahap penglibatan komuniti nelayan di dalam aktiviti agro-pelancongan di kawasan mereka. Kajian ini juga mengukur perkaitan dan mengukur perbezaan antara faktor demografi terpilih terhadap penglibatan responden dalam agro-pelancongan

Metodologi

Data kajian ini telah dikumpulkan melalui kaedah borang soal-selidik yang dijalankan ke atas 1100 responden yang dipilih secara rawak daripada sepuluh (10) buah kampung Desa Wawasan Nelayan (DWN) dengan bantuan beberapa orang enumerator. Lokasi kajian dipilih berdasarkan senarai Desa Wawasan Nelayan yang diperolehi dari LKIM yang menyenaraikan perkampungan nelayan yang telah memenangi anugerah Desa Wawasan Nelayan di

peringkat negeri dan kebangsaan sepanjang tahun 2007 hingga 2009. Sejumlah 110 responden dipilih secara rawak dari setiap kampung Desa Wawasan Nelayan. Jumlah responden berserta sepuluh (10) kampung tersebut adalah seperti berikut:

Jadual 1: Senarai lokasi kajian dan jumlah responden

Lokasi	Jumlah Responden
DWN Kampung Rhu Sepuluh, Setiu, Terengganu	110
DWN Kampung Sempang Pantai, Merlimau, Melaka	110
DWN Kampung Tanjung Piai, Pontian, Johor	110
DWN Kampung Sedeli Kecil, Kota Tinggi, Johor	110
DWN Kampung Kuala Sungai Yan, Yan, Kedah	110
DWN Kampung Kuala Sungai Baru, Simpang Empat, Perlis	110
DWN Kampung Pantai Suri, Tumpat, Kelantan	110
DWN Kampung Tok Adam, Tanjung Karang, Selangor	110
DWN Kampung Jawa, Rompin, Pahang	110
DWN Kampung Kuala Pahang, Pekan, Pahang	110
Jumlah keseluruhan	1100

Dalam kajian ini, responden telah memberikan respons dengan memilih salah satu daripada lima skor pilihan jawapan (Sangat tidak setuju=1; tidak setuju=2; sederhana setuju=3; setuju=4; dan sangat setuju=5), melainkan bahagian demografi yang memerlukan responden untuk memilih satu jawapan yang menggambarkan diri mereka. Perisian SPSS telah digunakan untuk menganalisis data secara statistik. Analisis data secara deskriptif dibuat untuk melaporkan penemuan yang diperolehi daripada soal-selidik. Untuk mengukur tahap pembolehubah penglibatan, jumlah skor tersebut kemudiannya dibahagikan kepada tiga (3) tahap, iaitu: rendah (1.00-2.33), sederhana (2.34-3.66), dan tinggi (3.67-5.00). Seterusnya ujian-t, anova dan kolerasi dijalankan untuk mencari perbezaan dan perkaitan antara faktor terpilih terhadap penglibatan penduduk dalam agro-pelancongan.

Hasil Kajian

Secara keseluruhannya, jumlah responden yang mengisi borang soal selidik kajian ini ialah seramai 1100 responden. Analisis data menunjukkan 50.2% responden kajian terdiri daripada lelaki dan 49.8% adalah perempuan. Taburan kategori umur bagi responden dalam kajian ini menunjukkan majoriti responden adalah berumur antara 41-60 tahun iaitu sebanyak 40.8%, diikuti oleh 35.8% responden berumur antara 21-40 tahun, manakala 11.9% berumur antara 61-80 tahun, 11.3% berumur 20 tahun ke bawah, dan hanya 0.2% sahaja daripada keseluruhan responden yang berumur 81 tahun ke atas. Data kajian juga menunjukkan majoriti (76.5%) responden adalah terdiri daripada yang berkahwin, manakala 18.9% adalah bujang dan hanya 4.6% yang telah bercerai atau berpisah. Dari segi tahap pendidikan, dapatan kajian menunjukkan sebanyak 33.8% responden hanya mendapat pendidikan sehingga sekolah rendah sahaja. Manakala 29.4% pula hanya menamatkan pendidikan

sehingga tahap SPM/SPMV/MCE, 21% menamatkan pendidikan sehingga tahap PMR/SRP/LCE dan 10.4% daripada responden tidak mendapat pendidikan secara formal.

Jadual 1: Latar belakang demografi responden

Profil Demografi	Kekerapan	Peratusan (%)	<i>M</i>	<i>S.P</i>
Jantina				
Lelaki	552	50.2		
Perempuan	548	49.8		
Jumlah keseluruhan	1100	100.0		
Umur			42.0	15.80
< 20 tahun	124	11.3		
21 – 40 tahun	394	35.8		
41 – 60 tahun	449	40.8		
61 – 80 tahun	131	11.9		
> 81 tahun	2	0.2		
Jumlah keseluruhan	1100	100.0		
Status Perkahwinan				
Bujang	208	18.9		
Berkahwin	841	76.5		
Berceraai/berpisah	51	4.6		
Jumlah keseluruhan	1100	100.0		
Taraf Pendidikan				
Tidak bersekolah	114	10.4		
Sekolah rendah	372	33.8		
PMR/SRP/LCE	231	21.0		
SPM/SPMV/MCE	323	29.4		
Sijil kemahiran	19	1.7		
STPM/Diploma	28	2.5		
Ijazah/Master/PhD	13	1.2		
Jumlah keseluruhan	1100	100.0		
Pendapatan			836.13	935.11
< RM1000	881	80.1		
RM1001 – RM2000	158	14.4		
RM2001 – RM3000	36	3.3		
RM3001 – RM4000	10	0.9		
RM4001 – RM5000	7	0.6		
> RM5001	8	0.7		
Jumlah keseluruhan	1100	100.0		

Analisis data juga menunjukkan bahawa kebanyakan (80.1%) responden berpendapatan kurang daripada RM1,000, diikuti yang berpendapatan di antara RM1,001-RM2,000 sebanyak 14.4%, dan RM2,001-RM3,000 sebanyak 3.3%, dengan min keseluruhan pendapatan responden iaitu 836.13 (S.P=935.110). Taburan keseluruhan latar belakang responden kajian ini ditunjukkan dalam Jadual 2.

Jadual 3: Taburan peratusan dan min bagi setiap pernyataan berkaitan penglibatan dalam agro-pelancongan

Bil.	Pernyataan	1	2	3	4	5	<i>M</i>	<i>S.P</i>
1.	<i>Saya terlibat dalam aktiviti perikanan di kawasan ini (cth: nelayan, penternakan ikan dalam sangkar)</i>	55. 2	7.8	3.7	10. 5	22. 7	2.38	1.71
2.	<i>Saya terlibat dalam aktiviti perlancongan di sini (cth: bot pelancong, pemandu pelancong, bot memancing)</i>	75. 0	8.0	4.3	7.4	5.4	1.60	1.19
3.	<i>Saya terlibat dalam aktiviti pertanian selain daripada perikanan di kawasan ini</i>	67. 1	8.5	4.6	13. 4	6.4	1.83	1.34
4.	<i>Saya sering terlibat dengan mesyuarat berkenaan dengan pembangunan aktiviti agro-perlancongan di kawasan ini</i>	51. 4	14. 1	8.0	18. 6	7.9	2.18	1.42
5.	<i>Saya berkerjasama dengan agensi berkenaan dalam mengukuhkan aktiviti perlancongan di sini</i>	45. 2	13. 5	10.3	21. 5	9.6	2.37	1.47
6.	<i>Penglibatan saya dalam aktiviti/projek agro-perlancongan bukan dipengaruhi oleh sesiapa, ia adalah kemahuan saya sendiri</i>	41. 9	12. 2	8.9	23. 9	13. 1	2.54	1.53
7.	<i>Saya sering mempromosi produk tempatan kepada pelancong luar</i>	23. 8	12. 7	9.2	36. 2	18. 1	3.12	1.47
8.	<i>Saya terlibat dalam aktiviti keusahawanan di kawasan ini (cth: menghasilkan produk tempatan, berniaga)</i>	45. 5	13. 6	5.3	24. 5	11. 2	2.42	1.52
9.	<i>Saya terlibat dalam aktiviti pemuliharaan alam sekitar di kawasan ini</i>	4.5	3.5	7.2	46. 9	37. 9	4.10	.99

10. Saya mengambil berat dan terlibat dalam aktiviti kebersihan kampung ini	.5	1.2	4.1	43. 7	50. 5	4.42	.68
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Dalam kajian ini, penglibatan penduduk dalam agro-pelancongan di kawasan mereka diukur berdasarkan analisis terhadap sepuluh (10) pernyataan. Apabila dianalisis berdasarkan setiap pernyataan (Jadual 3), majoriti responden memilih sangat tidak setuju bagi pernyataan kedua (75.0%), pernyataan ketiga (67.1%), pernyataan pertama (55.2%), pernyataan keempat (51.4%), pernyataan kelapan (45.5%), pernyataan kelima (45.2%), dan pernyataan keenam (41.9%). Manakala selebihnya memilih sangat setuju terhadap pernyataan kesepuluh (50.5%), dan memilih setuju terhadap dua pernyataan iaitu pernyataan kesembilan (46.9%) dan pernyataan ketujuh (36.2%). Bagi analisis min setiap pernyataan, dapatan menunjukkan min paling tinggi ($M=4.42$) pada pernyataan kesepuluh dan min paling rendah ($M=1.60$) pada pernyataan kedua.

Secara keseluruhannya, majoriti responden (47.4%) mempunyai tahap penglibatan dalam agro-pelancongan pada tahap sederhana ($M=2.70$, $S.P=.78$), ini memberi gambaran bahawa komuniti setempat mempunyai penglibatan dalam aktiviti agro-pelancongan tetapi dengan skala yang sederhana. Jadual 4 menunjukkan tahap bagi pembolehubah penglibatan di kalangan komuniti perkampungan nelayan.

Jadual 4: Tahap penglibatan secara keseluruhan

	Bil	%	M	$S.P$
			2.70	.78
Rendah (1.00 – 2.33)	424	38.5		
Sederhana (2.34 – 3.67)	521	47.4		
Tinggi (3.68 – 5.00)	155	14.1		
Jumlah keseluruhan	1100	100.0		

Bagi mengukur perkaitan antara faktor demografi (umur, pendapatan bulanan dan bilangan isi rumah) terhadap penglibatan dalam aktiviti agro-pelancongan, analisis kolerasi pearson telah digunakan. Jadual 5 menunjukkan bahawa terdapat dua pembolehubah mempunyai perkaitan yang signifikan pada nilai keertian $p<.01$. Pembolehubah umur ($r=.102^{**}$, $p=.001$) mempunyai perkaitan yang signifikan, namun tahap perkaitannya hampir tiada hubungan dan positif. Manakala bagi pembolehubah pendapatan bulanan ($r=.192^{**}$, $p=.000$), didapati terdapat perkaitan yang signifikan, hubungan yang hampir tiada hubungan dan positif.

Jadual 5: Perkaitan faktor demografi terhadap penglibatan

	<i>R</i>	<i>p</i>
Umur	.102**	.001
Pendapatan Bulanan	.192**	.000
Bilangan Isi Rumah	-.044	.148

Nota: ** Perkaitan pada aras keertian 0.01 (2-tailed)

Kesimpulannya semakin meningkat usia umur dan pendapatan bulanan seseorang penduduk kampung, maka semakin tinggi penglibatan mereka dalam aktiviti agro-pelancongan. Walaubagaimanapun, dapatan kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa tidak terdapat perkaitan yang signifikan antara pembolehubah bilangan isi rumah ($r=-.044$, $p=.148$) terhadap penglibatan dalam program agro-pelancongan.

Bagi melihat perbezaan penglibatan penduduk di antara faktor demografi terpilih, maka ujian-t telah dijalankan. Berdasarkan Jadual 6, terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan bagi jantina di antara lelaki dan perempuan, di mana lelaki ($M=2.85$, $S.P=.74$) adalah lebih tinggi berbanding perempuan ($M=2.54$, $S.P=.79$) [$t=6.843$, $p=.000$]. Manakala, bagi status perkahwinan pula, terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan bagi status perkahwinan di antara bujang/berpisah dan berkahwin, di mana berkahwin ($M=2.75$, $S.P=.79$) dan bujang/berpisah ($M=2.52$, $S.P=.74$) [$t=-4.131$, $p=.000$]. Jadual 5 juga menunjukkan terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan bagi keahlian dalam persatuan/organisasi di antara yang menjadi ahli dan tidak menjadi ahli, di mana yang menjadi ahli ($M=2.95$, $S.P=.76$) lebih tinggi daripada yang tidak menjadi ahli dalam persatuan/organisasi ($M=2.42$, $S.P=.71$) [$t=-11.867$, $p=.000$]. Bagi perbezaan kesedaran terhadap program Desa Wawasan Nelayan pula, terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan di antara yang tahu ($M=2.86$, $S.P=.79$) dan yang tidak tahu ($M=2.51$, $S.P=.74$) [$t=-7.614$, $p=.000$]. Secara keseluruhannya, terdapat perbezaan yang ketara dalam penglibatan penduduk berdasarkan faktor jantina, status perkahwinan, keahlian dalam organisasi, dan kesedaran terhadap program Desa Wawasan Nelayan pada nilai keertian $p<.05$.

Jadual 6: Perbezaan penglibatan berdasarkan faktor jantina, status perkahwinan, keahlian dalam persatuan dan kesedaran terhadap program DWN menggunakan analisis ujian-t

	N	Min	<i>S.P</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Jantina				6.843	.000
1. Lelaki	552	2.85	.74		
2. Perempuan	548	2.54	.79		
Status Perkahwinan				-4.131	.000
1. Bujang/berpisah	259	2.52	.74		
2. Berkahwin	841	2.75	.79		
Keahlian dalam Persatuan/Organisasi				-11.867	.000

1. Tidak menjadi ahli	532	2.42	.71		
2. Menjadi ahli	568	2.95	.76		
Kesedaran Terhadap Program				-7.614	.000
Desa Wawasan Nelayan					
1. Tidak tahu	507	2.51	.74		
2. Tahu	593	2.86	.79		

Nota: * aras keertian pada .05

Bagi melihat perbezaan peglibatan berdasarkan tahap pendidikan responden, analisis anova sehala telah dibuat bagi melihat perbezaan yang signifikan berdasarkan empat kumpulan tahap pendidikan iaitu kumpulan tidak bersekolah, kumpulan sekolah rendah, kumpulan PMR/SRP/LCE, dan kumpulan SPM dan ke atas (Jadual 7). Secara keseluruhannya, analisis mendapati bahawa tidak terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan [$F=1.875$, $p=.132$] bagi perbezaan tahap pendidikan terhadap penglibatan dalam aktiviti agro-pelancongan.

Jadual 7: Perbezaan responden berdasarkan tahap pendidikan terhadap penglibatan dalam agro-pelancongan berdasarkan analisis anova

	n	<i>M</i>	<i>S.P</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
Tahap Pendidikan				1.875	.132
1. Tidak bersekolah	114	2.57	.82		
2. Sekolah rendah	372	2.71	.75		
3. PMR/SRP/LCE	231	2.65	.78		
4. SPM dan ke atas	383	2.75	.80		

Nota: * aras keertian pada .05

Perbincangan

Secara keseluruhannya, kajian ini mendapati responden yang terdiri daripada lapan kampung dalam komuniti Desa Wawasan Nelayan mempunyai tahap penglibatan dalam aktiviti agro-pelancongan pada tahap sederhana ($M=2.70$, $S.P=.78$). Dapatan kajian juga mendapati program agro-pelancongan belum lagi berjaya membawa perubahan ketara yang membawa kebaikan kepada komuniti pesisir pantai khususnya kepada komuniti Desa Wawasan Nelayan. Ini jelas dapat dilihat berdasarkan pernyataan dalam soalan soal selidik yang berkaitan dengan penglibatan mereka dalam sebarang aktiviti pelancongan seperti membawa bot memancing dan bot pelancong ($M=1.60$), penglibatan dalam aktiviti keusahawanan ($M=2.42$), penglibatan dalam mesyuarat yang berkaitan dengan pembangunan agro-pelancongan ($M=2.18$) dan kerjasama dengan agensi berkaitan dalam mengukuhkan program agro-pelancongan ($M=2.37$) semuanya pada aras yang rendah dan dapatan ini berbeza dengan kajian yang dijalankan oleh Eshliki dan Kaboudi (2011) yang mendapati majoriti responden mengambil bahagian dalam pembangunan pelancongan yang akan memberikan manfaat

kepada mereka ($M=4.27$). Mengikut Kalsom dan Nor (2006), rendahnya tahap penglibatan komuniti dalam program pelancongan mungkin disebabkan kerana komuniti tempatan hanya memegang jawatan dalam persatuan atau organisasi yang berkaitan dengan program pelancongan, tetapi program dan aktiviti pelancongan sebenarnya dimonopoli oleh orang luar. Manakala Zainal (2007), menyatakan penglibatan komuniti setempat adalah rendah mungkin disebabkan oleh lemahnya kerjasama dan hubungan di antara kepimpinan kampung dan individu dalam masyarakat. Akibatnya, manfaat daripada aktiviti agro-pelancongan tidak diperolehi oleh komuniti setempat terutama yang melibatkan peluang perniagaan dan pekerjaan (Muhammad et. al., 2012). Walaubagaimanapun, dapatan kajian mendapati majoriti responden sangat setuju dan setuju untuk mengambil berat tentang kebersihan kampung ($M=4.42$) dan pemuliharaan alam sekitar kampung mereka ($M=4.10$) dengan melibatkan diri dalam aktiviti gontong-royong membersihkan kampung dan pantai serta aktiviti pemuliharaan alam sekitar untuk tujuan kebersihan dan tarikan pelancongan.

Kajian ini juga mendapati bahawa terdapatnya perkaitan yang signifikan bagi faktor demografi; umur ($p=.001$) dan pendapatan bulanan ($p=.000$) terhadap penglibatan penduduk dalam aktiviti agro-pelancongan pada nilai keertian $p<.01$, namun tahap perkaitannya menghampiri tiada hubungan ($r=.102^{**}$ dan $r=.192^{**}$). Walaubagaimanapun, bagi pembolehubah bilangan isi rumah, ianya menunjukkan tidak terdapat perkaitan yang signifikan ($r=-.044$, $p=.148$) terhadap penglibatan penduduk dalam aktiviti agro-pelancongan di tempat mereka.

Analisis data menggunakan ujian-t menunjukkan bahawa terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan dalam penglibatan penduduk berdasarkan faktor jantina ($t=6.843$, $p=.000$), status perkahwinan ($t=-4.131$, $p=.000$), keahlian dalam organisasi ($t=-11.867$, $p=.000$), dan kesedaran terhadap program Desa Wawasan Nelayan ($t=-7.614$, $p=.000$) pada nilai keertian $p<.05$. Walaubagaimanapun, tidak terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan ($F=1.875$, $p=.132$) bagi empat (4) kumpulan tahap pendidikan terhadap penglibatan penduduk dalam aktiviti agro-pelancongan.

Kesimpulan

Program agro-pelancongan di perkampungan nelayan khususnya Desa Wawasan Nelayan adalah satu produk baru yang diwujudkan oleh LKIM. Tujuan program ini dibangunkan adalah untuk mempromosikan keindahan semulajadi serta keunikan perkampungan nelayan di Malaysia, secara tidak langsung akan dapat mendatangkan pendapatan sampingan buat keluarga nelayan. Walaubagaimanapun, dapatan kajian menunjukkan tahap penglibatan penduduk dalam program agro-pelancongan ini masih pada tahap yang sederhana. Kajian ini mencadangkan supaya lebih banyak usaha dilakukan sama ada daripada pihak kerajaan mahupun pihak swasta untuk melibatkan komuniti setempat dalam pembangunan agro-pelancongan di tempat mereka bagi membawa aspirasi dan keperluan komuniti setempat, secara tidak langsung program agro-pelancongan ditempat mereka menjadi mampan dan bermanfaat kepada semua penduduk.

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PENGLIBATAN BELIA SIAM DALAM POLITIK KEPARTIAN DI MALAYSIA

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Abstrak

Wacana politik di Malaysia masih lagi berlegar dalam lingkungan politik komuniti majoriti semata-mata. Manakala wacana politik komuniti minoriti seakan-akan dipinggirkan. Realitinya, komuniti minoriti juga menyumbang kepada perkembangan politik negara. Pasca Pilihanraya Umum Ke 12 (PRU 12), belia minoriti khususnya dalam kalangan komuniti Siam dilihat sebagai golongan penting dalam mencorak landskap politik negara khasnya menjelang Pilihanraya Umum Ke 13 (PRU 13) kelak khususnya di beberapa buah negeri yang dominan dengan komuniti tersebut seperti Kedah, Kelantan dan Perlis. PRU 12 telah memberikan kesan besar kepada perubahan landskap politik Malaysia. Keputusan PRU 12 menunjukkan bahawa BN sebagai parti pemerintah tewas di Kedah dan masih lagi gagal menawan Kelantan yang mempunyai komuniti Siam paling ramai di Malaysia. Ini menunjukkan bahawa penglibatan mereka dalam pilihanraya begitu penting dalam membawa perubahan politik. Oleh itu, beberapa persoalan perlu dirungkai terutama berkaitan penglibatan belia komuniti Siam dalam politik. Apakah belia komuniti Siam menyertai parti politik? Apakah jawatan yang mereka sandang? Apakah mereka terlibat dalam program-program politik? Apa yang pasti, penglibatan mereka dalam politik secara langsung bakal memberi impak yang besar dalam PRU 13 yang bakal menjelang kelak.

Kata kunci: Siam, Belia, Komuniti Minoriti, Penglibatan, Politik

Pengenalan

Malaysia merupakan sebuah negara yang mempunyai masyarakat berbilang kaum (Abdul Rahman, 2006; Zaid, 2010) kerana faktor penjajahan oleh kuasa asing seperti Portugis, Belanda, Inggeris dan Jepun. Mereka terdiri daripada kaum Melayu, Cina, India, Orang Asli, Sikh, Siam dan lain-lain di Semenanjung manakala Iban, Bidayuh, Kadazan, Dusun, Sama-Bajau dan suku kaum Bumiputera yang lain kecil bilangannya mendiami Sarawak dan Sabah (Abdul Rahman, 2006). Kepelbagaian kaum yang wujud ini memberikan cabaran besar khususnya dalam membangunkan mereka. Mereka perlu diberikan layanan yang adil dan saksama walaupun mereka berbeza kaum, kelas, gender, kepercayaan dan lokasi (Syed Husin, 2004). Ini bermakna bahawa dalam sebuah negara berbilang etnik, semua etnik mempunyai hak yang sama sebagai warganegara misalnya terlibat secara langsung dalam program pembangunan yang dilaksanakan.

Kemajmukan dalam kalangan masyarakat Malaysia kurang diraikan dengan sebaiknya. Jelasnya, perbincangan tentang aspek pembangunan hanya meliputi komuniti yang dominan sahaja, iaitu Melayu, Cina dan India seolah-olah komuniti lain dipinggirkan. Yang pasti, komuniti minoriti seperti komuniti Siam turut menyumbang kepada pembangunan negara. Buktinya, sudah ramai ahli profesional lahir daripada komuniti minoriti ini. Mereka juga turut mengembleng tenaga dalam menyahut seruan pembangunan yang selalu dicanang oleh pihak kerajaan (Sarjit *et al.*, 2012a). Namun begitu, dalam beberapa aspek yang diceburi, komuniti Siam masih ketinggalan dalam beberapa aspek terutama aspek politik.

Penglibatan komuniti Siam terutama golongan belia dalam arena politik begitu penting untuk mengubah landskap politik tanah air. Landskap politik Malaysia telah berubah secara drastik pasca PRU 12 pada tahun 2008 lantaran kekalahan mengejutkan BN, iaitu kehilangan 82 kerusi Parlimen kepada pembangkang (Mohd Noor, 2008; Mohd Fuad *et al.*, 2009; Amer *et al.*, 2011). Tambahan pula, kedua-dua negeri yang mempunyai komuniti Siam berada di bawah kuasa PR. Perkembangan sedemikian akan lebih menarik lagi apabila menjelang PRU13 yang bakal diadakan pada bila-bila masa.

Komuniti Siam

Siam merupakan istilah yang digunakan di sini dalam konteks tempatan dan popular dan keutamaan berbanding istilah 'Thai'. Di Kelantan, istilah 'Thai' merupakan sesuatu yang sangat baru dan jarang digunakan dalam bahasa seharian masyarakat setempat (Mohamed Yusoff, 1980). Namun begitu, terdapat juga sesetengah masyarakat Siam yang kurang selesa dipanggil dengan istilah 'orang Thai' dan mereka lebih selesa dipanggil orang Siam. Ini kerana sesetengah daripada mereka menganggap mereka berasal daripada Mongolia dan bukannya Thailand.

Menurut Mohamed Yusoff (2002) komuniti Siam merupakan penduduk minoriti di Kelantan. Orang Siam di Kelantan adalah seramai kira-kira satu peratus daripada jumlah penduduk tempatan yang sebahagian besarnya adalah orang Melayu. Kehadiran mereka di Kelantan mempunyai sejarah yang agak berbeza daripada kumpulan etnik lain yang terdapat di Semenanjung Malaysia. Orang Siam telah lama berhijrah ke Kelantan dalam satu zaman

yang mendahului penghijrahan besar-besaran imigran lain, terutama sekali imigran Cina dan India yang datang secara besar-besaran ke Semenanjung Malaysia pada penghujung abad ke 19 dan permulaan abad ke-20.

Komuniti Siam atau Thai merupakan salah satu etnik di Malaysia. Komuniti ini mendiami sesetengah negeri sahaja di Semenanjung Malaysia seperti Perak, Kedah, Kelantan dan Perlis. Menurut Mahadee (2008), penempatan masyarakat Thai Buddha lebih tertumpu di Negeri Kelantan, Kedah dan Perlis. Negeri-negeri tersebut bersempadanan dengan Selatan Thailand. Menurut Kershaw (1984)(dipetik daripada Mohamed Yusoff, 2008), orang Siam tidak seperti golongan etnik lain kerana mereka menikmati beberapa keistimewaan misalnya, dari segi kerakyatan, orang Siam dianggap sebagai penduduk asal, serta diberikan hak yang sama seperti orang Melayu, terutama sekali dalam soal pemilikan tanah dalam kawasan rezab Melayu di bawah Akta Enakmen Tanah 1938. Mereka juga berpeluang melabur dalam Amanah Saham Bumiputra dan Amanah Saham Nasional (Mohamed Yusoff, 2006). Selain itu, pihak kerajaan juga menghargai jasa dan sumbangan komuniti Siam kepada pembangunan negara. Justeru, kerajaan telah melantik wakil komuniti Siam sebagai Senator. Terkini, Boon Som a/l Inong telah dilantik sebagai Senator selama tiga tahun (Berita Harian, 15 Disember 2010).

Orang Siam di Malaysia kebanyakannya menganut agama Buddha dan membina rumah ibadat di petempatan mereka. Kehidupan masyarakat Thai Buddha mempunyai pertalian yang rapat dengan pusat penyembahan atau *ketik*. Pegangan agama tersebut diterjemahkan dalam tatacara kehidupan mereka khususnya dalam sambutan perayaan yang sememangnya mempunyai perkaitan yang amat rapat dengan ajaran agama Buddha (Mahadee, 2008). Di Kelantan, terdapat perbezaan antara perkampungan Melayu dengan perkampungan Thai, iaitu dari segi struktur fizikal binaan biara atau *wat*, iaitu sebuah kawasan khas yang menempatkan bangunan suci dan rumah ibadat agama Buddha serta tempat tinggal golongan agamawan yang dikenali sebagai *Bikhu*. Kebanyakan kampong Thai yang mempunyai penduduk yang agak ramai mempunyai biara masing-masing (Mohamed Yusoff, 2002).

Metodologi

Reka bentuk penyelidikan yang digunakan dalam kajian ini adalah survei dengan menggunakan borang soal selidik. Dalam pengumpulan data primer, pemerhatian tidak turut serta digunakan bagi memberi nilai tambah kepada kekuatan dalam penemuan kajian. Umumnya, kajian ini hanya melibatkan kawasan Semenanjung Malaysia sahaja, iaitu Kelantan dan Kedah. Lokasi-lokasi ini dipilih kerana negeri-negeri tersebut mempunyai komuniti Siam yang paling ramai, yang mana mereka akan menjadi responden dalam kajian ini. Seramai 129 orang responden yang merupakan belia terlibat dalam kajian ini. Pemilihan responden adalah secara pensampelan mudah (*convenience*), iaitu golongan belia yang berumur 18 hingga 40 tahun bertepatan dengan pendefinisian belia yang diberikan oleh Dasar Pembangunan Belia Negara (1997), iaitu belia berumur 15 hingga 40 tahun. Data yang dikumpul dianalisis secara deskriptif dengan menggunakan pakej statistik *SPSS 19.0 for Windows*.

Dapatan Kajian Dan Perbincangan

4.1 Latar Belakang Demografi

Kajian telah dijalankan di dua buah negeri, iaitu Kelantan dan Kedah. Seramai 129 orang responden (58.1% lelaki dan 41.9% perempuan) dalam kalangan komuniti Siam terlibat dalam kajian ini. Kawasan kajian terdiri daripada beberapa penempatan komuniti Siam di kawasan luar bandar. Majoriti umur belia yang menjadi responden dalam kajian ini berumur antara 22 tahun hingga 31 tahun. Responden yang terlibat terdiri daripada latar belakang pendidikan dan pekerjaan yang berbeza. Purata pendapatan mereka ialah RM873 sebulan. Kesemua responden menganut agama Buddha.

4.2 Keahlian Parti Politik

Belia merupakan aset penting bagi sesebuah negara (Mohd Fadzilah, 1998; Azimi *et al.*, 2002; Asnarulkhadi, 2011). Oleh itu, penyertaan belia adalah kritikal sebagai pemacu utama dalam menyumbang bakat berkebolehan untuk menyokong keperluan sumber manusia dalam pembangunan ekonomi negara (Malaysia, 2010). Golongan belia perlu dilibatkan secara langsung dalam semua program pembangunan yang dianjurkan oleh pihak kerajaan. Mereka bukan hanya perlu terlibat dalam struktur pembangunan yang bersifat ekonomik semata-mata, malah mereka perlu didedahkan dengan aspek politik (Sarjit *et al.*, 2012c).

Dalam konteks komuniti Siam, mereka perlu diberikan lebih pendedahan dalam politik. Salah satu cara untuk melibatkan mereka dalam arena politik ialah dengan menggalakkan penglibatan dalam politik kepartian. Melalui penglibatan dalam parti politik, mereka mampu mengasah bakat kepimpinan di samping menyuarakan idea dan kritikan untuk membangunkan negara. Namun begitu, kebanyakan belia Siam tidak terlibat dalam politik kepartian. Berdasarkan hasil kajian, sebanyak 82.2 peratus belia Siam tidak menjadi ahli mana-mana parti politik. Ini kerana komuniti minoriti tidak mempunyai parti politik khas untuk membela mereka. Walaubagaimana pun, terdapat dalam kalangan mereka ini yang menyertai parti politik yang tidak bersifat perkauman seperti Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia (PGRM), Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) dan Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS) melalui penyertaan ke dalam Kelab Penyokong Pas (Sarjit *et al.*, 2012a). Jadual 1 menunjukkan keahlian belia Siam dalam parti politik.

Jadual 1. Keahlian Belia Siam dalam Parti Politik

Keahlian	Peratusan
Ya	17.8%
Tidak	82.2%

Sumber: Kajian Sarjit *et al.* (2012a)

4.3 Jawatan dalam Parti Politik

Dalam sesebuah organisasi politik, jawatan merupakan sesuatu yang menjadi sasaran kebanyakan ahli. Melalui jawatan yang disandang mereka mempunyai kuasa dalam proses pembuatan keputusan berkaitan arah tuju parti, dasar dan strategi parti. komuniti Siam tidak mempunyai parti politik khusus, maka mereka kurang berpeluang memegang jawatan tertinggi dalam parti politik. Tambahan pula, mereka menghadapi saingan sengit daripada komuniti yang lebih dominan dalam parti tersebut. Misalnya, sekiranya menyertai *United Malays National Organisation* (UMNO) mereka pasti menerima tentangan sengit dalam perebutan jawatan daripada komuniti Melayu.

Berdasarkan hasil kajian, sebanyak 10.9 peratus belia Siam yang menyandang jawatan tertinggi dalam parti, iaitu YDP/Pengerusi (1.6%), Setiausaha/Penolong Setiausaha (2.3%) , Bendahari (3.1%) dan Ahli Jawatankuasa (3.9%). Ini menunjukkan bahawa penglibatan belia Siam dalam aspek kepimpinan organisasi politik masih rendah. Tanpa jawatan tinggi dalam parti politik belia Siam menghadapi kekangan dan halangan untuk menyuarakan pandangan dan permasalahan terutama yang berkaitan dengan komuniti mereka. Realitinya, komuniti Siam masih lagi dibelenggu pelbagai masalah seperti pendidikan, kemiskinan, kesihatan dan sebagainya. Sepatutnya, belia Siam perlu diberikan ruang yang lebih besar oleh kelompok dominan dalam parti politik yang disertai. Dengan itu mereka boleh memainkan peranan yang sewajarnya dalam memantapkan parti dan membela golongan yang masih terpinggir. Justeru, pemilihan jawatan dalam parti yang berasaskan etnik semata-mata hanya membuatkan komuniti Siam terus terpinggir dalam politik negara. Mereka yang menjadi ahli biasa sahaja tidak akan memberikan impak yang besar kepada pembangunan komuniti kerana berpeluang menghadiri mesyuarat hanya sekali dalam setahun. Jadual 2 menunjukkan jawatan belia Siam dalam parti politik.

Jadual 2. Jawatan Belia Siam dalam Parti Politik

Jawatan	Peratusan
YDP/Pengerusi	1.6%
NYDP/Timbangan Pengerusi	-
Setiausaha/Pen. Setiausaha	2.3%
Bendahari	3.1%
Ahli Jawatankuasa	3.9%

Sumber: Kajian Sarjit *et al.* (2012a)

4.4 Kehadiran dalam Program Politik

BN dan PR merupakan pesaing utama dalam arena politik negara khususnya dalam memenangi PRU 13 yang akan diadakan selewat-lewatnya April 2013. Sudah pasti kedua-dua pihak akan cuba mendekati pengundi khususnya golongan belia untuk melebar pengaruh mereka. Antara kaedah yang digunakan ialah melalui pelbagai program. Kehadiran mereka

dalam pelbagai program yang dianjurkan oleh BN dan PR perlu dikaji untuk menganalisis penglibatan belia Siam dalam politik.

Secara keseluruhannya, semua program yang dianjurkan oleh BN dan PR kurang mendapat sambutan yang memberangsangkan daripada belia Siam. Berdasarkan kajian, hanya 23.3 peratus belia Siam yang pernah hadir ceramah politik anjuran BN. Manakala yang menghadiri ceramah politik anjuran PR lebih kecil jumlahnya, iaitu sebanyak 9.3 peratus. Peratusan kehadiran mereka ini agak kecil kerana parti politik kurang memberi tumpuan untuk menyampaikan maklumat di kawasan luar bandar berbanding di kawasan bandar. Kebanyakan ceramah politik diadakan di bandar besar seperti Alor Setar dan Kota Bharu. Tambahan pula, di bandar terdapat pelbagai kemudahan untuk memudahkan pihak penganjur mengadakan ceramah politik yang boleh menarik ramai pendengar.

Dapatan kajian menunjukkan belia Siam kurang terlibat dalam kehadiran dalam mesyuarat agung. Sebanyak 12.4 peratus responden yang pernah menghadiri mesyuarat agung anjuran BN. Mesyuarat agung anjuran PR pula pernah dihadiri sebanyak 4.7 peratus belia Siam. Apa yang pasti, kekurangan peratusan kehadiran ini juga selaras dengan keahlian mereka yang kecil dalam parti politik. Ketidakhadiran dalam mesyuarat agung juga menyebabkan mereka tidak boleh memilih pemimpin dalam kalangan komuniti Siam untuk memegang jawatan tinggi sekiranya pengundian dijalankan.

Sebanyak 35.7 peratus belia Siam menyatakan pernah hadir ke rumah terbuka/ majlis/ keraian/ jamuan rakyat yang dianjurkan oleh BN dan hanya 14.7 peratus anjuran PR. Kehadiran tersebut adalah kerana ingin beramah mesra dengan pemimpin politik dan mendapatkan makanan percuma. Namun begitu, kebanyakan mereka yang tidak pernah hadir kerana tiada atau amat kurang majlis seumpama itu diadakan di kawasan mereka. Kedua-dua pihak hanya menumpukan program tersebut di kawasan bandar semata-mata.

Belia Siam juga kurang terlibat dalam kerja-kerja sukarela atau kebajikan. Sebanyak 12.4 peratus responden terlibat dalam aktiviti mengagihkannya bantuan kepada masyarakat yang dianjurkan oleh BN, manakala hanya 3.9 peratus responden anjuran PR. Berdasarkan hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa kebanyakan belia Siam belum mempunyai semangat kesukarelawanan. Dalam sesetengah kes, kerja sukarela anjuran parti politik kurang mendapat sambutan kerana mereka yang menjadi tenaga sukarela secara langsung akan 'dilabelkan' sebagai penyokong atau ahli parti yang menganjur program tersebut. Sewajarnya sikap seperti itu perlu dikikis dalam komuniti kerana mereka yang terlibat dalam kerja sukarela merupakan pekerja profesional yang bertindak sebagai agen perubahan komuniti.

Jadual 3. Kehadiran Belia Siam dalam Program Politik

Pernyataan	Anjuran Barisan Nasional (BN)		Anjuran Pakatan Rakyat (PR)	
	Pernah Hadir	Tidak Pernah Hadir	Pernah Hadir	Tidak Pernah Hadir
1. Ceramah politik	23.3	76.7	9.3	90.7
2. Mesyuarat agung	12.4	87.6	4.7	95.3
3. Rumah terbuka/majlis keraian/ jamuan rakyat	35.7	64.3	14.7	85.3
4. Berkempen dari rumah ke rumah/perayu undi	12.4	87.6	4.7	95.3
5. Membantu mengagihkan bantuan kepada masyarakat	12.4	87.6	3.9	96.1

Sumber: Kajian Sarjit *et al.* (2012a)

4.5 Penglibatan dalam Kegiatan Politik

Belia Siam terlibat dalam politik melalui pelbagai cara. Kajian ini juga memberi fokus kepada penglibatan belia Siam dalam kegiatan politik misalnya dalam pendaftaran sebagai pemilih. Senario terkini menunjukkan bahawa masih ramai dalam kalangan belia yang masih belum mendaftar sebagai pengundi. Menurut Wan Ahmad (2010) jumlah yang mendaftar sebagai pemilih sehingga Mei 2010 ialah 11,247,525 pemilih daripada 15.6 juta warganegara yang berumur 21 tahun dan ke atas. Ini bermakna terdapat 4.3 juta warganegara yang telah cukup umur untuk mengundi tetapi masih belum mendaftar. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa 74.4 peratus belia Siam telah berdaftar sebagai pengundi. Namun begitu, peratus ini tidak masih belum boleh dibanggakan kerana masih ramai dalam kalangan mereka yang belum mendaftar walaupun telah mencapai umur 21 tahun. Mereka yang tidak mendaftar sebagai pemilih (25.6%) seolah-olah tidak prihatin terhadap hak mereka sebagai warganegara dalam menentukan teraju pemerintahan Malaysia untuk tempoh lima tahun akan datang. Sementara itu, sebanyak 52.7 peratus belia Siam telah menjalankan tanggungjawab sebagai pengundi pada PRU 12 yang lalu. Namun begitu, terdapat juga mereka yang telah berdaftar tetapi enggan mengundi. Sesetengah mereka menganggap bahawa satu undi mereka tidak memberi kesan kepada parti yang disokong atau parti lawan.

Sebanyak 16.3 peratus sahaja belia Siam yang memakai/mempamerkan lambang parti politik. Ini kerana mereka tidak mahu pegangan dan sokongan terhadap mana-mana parti politik dizahirkan kepada khalayak ramai. Senario sedemikian amat menonjol terutamanya di negeri yang diperintah oleh PR. Ini kerana mereka berpendapat sokongan yang dizahirkan

terhadap mana-mana parti politik akan memberi impak besar dalam mendapatkan bantuan. Sekiranya sokongan tidak ditonjolkan mereka mampu mendapatkan bantuan daripada kedua-dua pihak, iaitu BN dan PR. Di samping itu, belia Siam juga kurang membincangkan isu pembangunan komuniti setempat, iaitu hanya 38.8 peratus sahaja yang terlibat. Ini menggambarkan mereka kurang prihatin terhadap isu-isu pembangunan setempat. Walhal, komuniti yang mereka mengalami pelbagai masalah dalam pembangunan khususnya aspek keperluan asas (bekalan air bersih, sekolah, makanan berkhasiat), pendidikan, ekonomi dan sebagainya. Jadual 4 menunjukkan penglibatan belia Siam dalam kegiatan politik.

Jadual 4. Penglibatan Belia Siam dalam Kegiatan Politik

Bil	Penyataan	Ya (%)	Tidak (%)
1	Adakah anda telah mendaftar sebagai pengundi	74.4	25.6
2	Adakah anda mengundi dalam pilihanraya umum lepas	52.7	47.3
3	Memakai lencana atau melekatkan <i>stiker</i> atau meletakkan bendera sesebuah parti pada kenderaan	16.3	83.7
4	Membincangkan isu pembangunan komuniti setempat	38.8	61.2

Sumber: Kajian Sarjit *et al.* (2012)

Kesimpulan

Perkembangan dan perubahan landskap politik Malaysia pasca PRU 12 pada 8 Mac 2008 telah memberi ‘tsunami’ dan kejutan kepada semua pihak terutama parti politik, sarjana dan masyarakat umum. Kini, tumpuan banyak terarah kepada golongan belia kerana dalam kalangan mereka merupakan pengundi baharu. Oleh itu, penglibatan belia amat penting dan diraikan untuk melihat sejauh mana keberkesanan mereka sebagai ‘watak utama’ dalam PRU 13 akan datang. Belia minoriti merupakan sebahagian daripada belia yang lain. Sumbangan mereka khususnya dalam mencorak landskap politik semasa negara tidak boleh dipandang remeh oleh mana-mana pihak khususnya parti-parti politik (Sarjit *et al.* 2011). Dalam konteks Kelantan dan Kedah, belia Siam mempunyai peranan yang besar samada mengekalkan atau mengubah kerajaan sedia ada. Sudah pasti undi komuniti Siam akan menjadi sasaran BN dan PR pada PRU 13 kelak. Justeru, belia Siam perlu menilai sebaik mungkin sebarang tawaran oleh kedua-dua pihak tersebut untuk meneruskan kesinambungan pembangunan komuniti mereka.

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TEEN FEMALE RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR: RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

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Abstract

Teenage and unsafe sex behavior is the serious issue in many developing countries. This cross-sectional survey designed to identify the role of psychological maladjustment, family, peer, and school in risky sexual behavior among rural female adolescents in Peninsular Malaysia. A sample of 770 subjects, aged 13 – 17 from ten states in Malaysia participated in the study. The results indicate that 3.2% (n = 25) reported having had sexual intercourse. Among these 25 sexually active females, 64.0% (n = 16) stated that their first-time sex experience was at age 15 or younger, 20.0% (n=5) had multiple sex partners, 72.0% (n=18) no contraceptive use during last sex, and 12.0% (n=3) had experienced on unwanted pregnancy. Descriptive analysis also shows about 32.0% sexual experienced female adolescent come from imperfect family due to divorced/separated parents or father/mother/both parents died. Bivariate regression analysis indicates that negative attitude towards SRH, incomplete family structure, peers whose get involved in sexual disorder, lack of family communication and lack of school attachment were more likely to engage in sexually risky behaviors. Female adolescents who have positive attitude towards SRH, good family communication, completed family structure, and practice a healthy lifestyle with not involved in midnight activities are less likely to engage in sexually risky behaviors.

Keywords: Attitudes, sexually risky behaviors, rural female adolescents;

Introduction

Sexual relationship that began at a young age often lead to increased maternal mortality rate among girls under 18 years, two to five times higher than women aged 18 to 25 years and the number of abortions among adolescents is estimated to be between 1 to 4.4 million a year. Recently, studies of the risky sexual behavior reveal a substantial number of teenage in many developing countries (Yi, Poudel, Yasuoka, Palmer, Yi & Jimba, 2010; Le & Kato, 2006; Dixon-Mueller, 2009). Adolescence is an important stage of transition age between childhoods before they move into adulthood. They began the process of maturation of physical, biological, psychological and social (Hanina & Mastura, 2010). This makes matters related to sexual and reproductive health is also important to the

although the demands and needs of the transition are different from adults. Adolescent developmental processes are significant with their social environment such as family, peers, school and neighboring community. This makes matters related to sexual behavior important to the teen through the demands and needs of their transition are different from adults.

Malaysian teenagers and risky sexual behavior

The risky sexual incidents among the adolescent reported by the National Study on Reproductive Health of Adolescents 1994/95 were only 1% of the respondents (13 cases from 1379 adolescents aged 15-17 years) who had sexual intercourse (NPFDB, 1998 in WHO, 2007: pp. . 31), and about 1.8% of teenagers admitted to school ever had sex (National Health and Morbidity Survey 1996 in WHO, 2007: p. 32). The distribution of this percentage increased to 13%, and men are more at risk than females (Zulkifli & Low, 2000). It is difficult to compare prevalence rates of teenage girls who have sex with the findings of previous studies of local level for each survey respondent bias against certain groups. However, the trend in incidence between males and females consistently showed that higher male prevalence rate than women and increasing with the increase in teenage years. Records obtained from the Centre for Women and Youth Welfare, about 120 women from around the country giving birth out of wedlock between January and June 2010. Statistics from the Department of National Statistics showed that from 1999 to 2003, the number of single mothers who give birth out of wedlock is of 70.430 people (Kosmo 2010, 16 September). IPPBM study in 2009, the young women are more at risk of sexual misconduct against young men (Khaidzir et al 2009). A survey conducted by the Federation of Peninsular Malay Students, Kedah to 127 girls in a rural school in the state found that five percent of youths aged 14 years at the school had sex voluntarily, while 30 percent were admitted already exposed to pornography or sexual content via cell phones and video compact discs. While the study of 56 male students form one also finds 43 percent of those exposed to pornographic movies, and 61 percent of the 67 form two students were found to have been watching and symptoms of exposure to sex (Utusan, 16 Feb 2010). The study by Mohammad Shatar (2010), found that over 300 Malay youths in urban and rural areas between the ages of 13 to 25 years admitted involved with sexual misconduct and sexual symptom-free, so there is a drop of the fetus. About 85 percent of those who committed the act, not only do not regret, shame or fear in terms of sin, but described the experience as fun.

Development of risk and protective factors in this study is based on Social Developmental Model (SDM) proposed by Catalano and Hawkins (1996). Reviewed literature shows this model had been used by many previous researchers (Yi et al. 2010; Catalano et al. 1998; Lonczak et al 2001; Harlina Harliza, et al. 2012). In general, the paradigm of risk / protective factors can be seen as the role of risk and protective factors in influencing the behavior of an individual. The first approach would be applied in determining the paradigm of risk/protection is to place a protective factor as a buffer to risk. This will reduce the

impact of risk factors (Armstrong et al, 2005). The integration of risk factors and protective factors described in the SDM. Based on the SDM, youth attitudes learned from socialization agents in four contexts, namely: parents, friends, school, and community. The factor label to be 'at risk' if it can lead to unhealthy behavior (Kirby, 2002). Similarly, the protective factors. Based on empirical prior studies, children/adolescent exposed to domestic violence is significantly associated with internal and external problems (Davies 2005). Silliman (1998) has suggested that youth at risk, families or environments do not work well is expected to serve as destructive to the child/adolescent development. This matter should not be prevented and treated at an early stage; it will cause great harm to the community and country in the future. The environment's factors studied in this study are psychological factors, family, peer, and school. The objective of this study is to identify the risk and protective factors in individual, family, peer, and school domains in predicting unsafe sexual behavior in an understudied sample of adolescent females living in rural Peninsular Malaysia, ages 13 through 17. This study addresses the female adolescents' perception on their general knowledge and attitude towards premarital sex and sexually risky behaviors.

Methods

Research design, location and sampling procedure

Cross-sectional survey was used in investigating risk and protective factors towards rural female adolescents' sexual behaviors. The study was conducted from January to March 2012, in 41 schools located in ten states of Peninsular Malaysia. Target groups of this study are generation-Y among females ages range between 13 to be 17 years old. Random Number Generation sampling technique was used to select 3% of female adolescents from a list of schools in rural given by Ministry of Education. A total 770 students was involved in this study as respondent and survey was conducted by computer assisted self interview.

Instruments

Demographics. Demographic variables investigated included the following: age, parent's marital status (married, divorced/separated, father/mother/both parent died), head of household, head of household's education and living arrangement.

Sexually risky behaviors. This research used previous inventory had been used by Yi, Poudel, Yasuoka, Palmer, Yi and Jimba (2010) and Blum and Mmari (2004). Yi et al. (2010) proposed four items related to youth involvement in risky sexual behavior for last three months, 1) had sexual intercourse, 2) numbers of sex partners, 3) age at first sex experienced, and 4) unprotected sex (did not use any type of birth control during the last sexual encounter). While the fifth item is the question *had you ever pregnancy experienced?*

Knowledge and attitudes toward sexuality was assessed by instrument developed by researcher. There are 9 items for measuring adolescent's knowledge on SRH and 6 item for measuring their attitude towards SRH. The cronbach alpha for both variables are .60 and .69.

Psychological domains measured by Asian Adolescent Depression Scale (AADS) (Woo et al. 2005). There are 4 categories measured in AADS which is: negative self evaluation, lack of motivation, cognitive incompetency, and negative effect. This study only used negative self evaluation and lack of motivation. For additional variable, we included Self Control Scale adapted by instrument developed by Sutherland et al, (2005).

Family domain was measured by three scales developed by Ungemack, Delaronde and Cook (2000). Data's analyses based on response *how far this statement is correct with your family?* for each item in variables: family communication and attachment, family positive involvement, and family management practice. While the *school domain* assessed by school attachment (Yi et al, 2010).

Peer delinquency was measured by scale developed by Khaidzir and Hanina (2007). There are 18 categories of delinquent behavior, which clustered into five sub-dimensions: sexual disorder, drug abuse, discipline, integrity misconduct, and criminal. Respondent was asked, "*during the last six month, how many of your friend involved in offending behavior such as kissing, petting,...*"

Statistical analysis

The Statistical Programme for Social Science version 19.0 was used to analyze the data. Descriptive variables were examined.

Results

Descriptive statistics

Table 1 provides finding from descriptive analysis of the 770 rural female school students, stratified by sexual intercourse experienced. The mean age of the respondents was 15.16 (SD.=1.4). Majority of them living in complete family structure (88.3% parents marital status – married) with father as their head of household (86.0%).

Out of 707 respondent, 25 (3.2%) had experienced in sex. Although this percentage is not high, but it will increase if there are early intervention and prevention. Study indicates about 40% experienced respondents are in age 15 years old and below. One third (32%) of them was come from incomplete family either parent was divorced/separated (24.0%) or died (8.0%) and their head of household is mother (16.0%), grandfather (8.0%), and other's relatives (8.0%). These findings slightly difference with rural female adolescents whom had no experience in sex. Majority (89.0%) was from complete family and father (86.6%) was reported as their head of household. In terms of education, majority (69.9%) of no experience respondents has educated head of household compared (secondary/tertiary) with experienced (16.0%).

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of the rural female adolescents surveyed (N=770)

	N	%	
		No experience (n=745)	Ever had experienced (n=25)
Age			
13	114	15.2	4.0
14	168	21.7	24.0
15	111	14.5	12.0
16	237	31.0	24.0
17	140	17.6	36.0
<i>Total (% per 770)</i>	<i>770</i>	<i>96.8</i>	<i>3.2</i>
Parents marital status			
Married	680	89.0	68.0
Divorced/separated	54	6.3	24.0
Father/mother/both parents died	36	4.6	8.0
Head of household			
Father	662	86.6	68.0
Mother	65	8.2	16.0
Grandfather	26	3.2	8.0
Grandmother	3	0.4	-
Elder brother	5	0.7	-
Elder sister	1	0.1	-
Other relatives	8	0.8	8.0
Head of household' s education			
Ever received formal education	20	2.7	-
Primary	80	9.5	36.0

Secondary	359	47.1	32.0
Tertiary	274	22.8	16.0
Religious school	10	1.3	-
Don't know	127	16.5	16.0

Among those admitted to sexual intercourse (n=25), majority (64%) reported had early experience at young age (15 years and below) (Table 2). Almost half (48%) of the people involved in voluntary sex, one-fifth had more than one sex partner. It is very sad to report that majority (72%) practiced unprotected sex and 12% became pregnant.

Table 2: Risky Sexual behaviours among the 25 sexually active female adolescent

	N	%
Age during first time sexual experienced		
14	13	52.0
15	3	12.0
16	8	32.0
≥17	1	4.0
Type of first time sexual experiences		
Voluntary (for fun/ money)	12	48.00
Involuntary (been forced/raped)	13	52.00
Numbers of sex partners		
One	20	80.0
Two or more	5	20.0
Contraceptive used during last time having sex		
Yes	7	28.0
No	18	72.0
Had ever pregnancy experienced		
Yes	3	12.0
No	22	88.0

4.2 Bivariate analyses

Bivariate regressions were analyses the effect of 22 independent predictors of risky sexual behavior. The results are presented in Table 3. Higher likelihood of risky sexual behavior was significantly associated with higher level of lifestyles [more midnight activities ($\beta=.921$, $SE=.184$, $p<0.001$), clubbing ($\beta=.892$, $SE=.415$, $p<0.05$) and drug abuse ($\beta=-1.788$, $SE=.892$, $p<0.05$)], higher level of peer-sexual disorder ($\beta=.442$, $SE=.147$, $p<0.01$), lack of school attachment ($\beta=-.407$, $SE=.131$, $p<0.01$), incomplete family structure ($\beta=-.403$, $SE=.155$, $p<0.01$), lower level of family communication ($\beta=-.382$, $SE=.124$, $p<0.001$) and negative attitude toward SRH ($\beta=-.064$, $SE=.019$, $p<0.001$). However, others 14 independent variables were not significantly associated with risky sexual behaviour.

Table 3: Results of bivariate regression analyses showing the effects of 22 expected risk and protective factors on risky sexual behaviour

Expected risk and protective factors	β	SE	p - value
Lifestyle-involve in midnight activities	.921	.184	.000
Lifestyle-clubbing	.892	.415	.032
Lifestyle-drug abuse*	-1.788	.828	.031
Peer-sexual disorder	.442	.147	.003
School attachment	-.407	.131	.002
Family structure (0=incomplete; 1=complete)	-.403	.155	.010
Family communication	-.382	.125	.002
Attitude towards SRH	-.064	.019	.001
Lifestyle-tobacco	.248	.260	.340
Lifestyle-alcohol	-.185	.367	.613
Lifestyle-coupling/dating	.125	.116	.282
Lifestyle-illegal motorcycle race	.247	.325	.448
Negative self evaluation	.137	.103	.185

Self-control	.066	.131	.616
Family management	.052	.030	.087
Knowledge on SRH	.008	.027	.768
Living arrangement (0=without family; 1=with family)	.009	.138	.948
Family involvement	.070	.124	.577
Peer-discipline	.114	.146	.433
Peer-drug abuse	.001	.169	.995
Peer-criminal	.082	.172	.632
Peer-integrity disorder	.084	.125	.506

Note. SE=Standard error; SRH=Sexual health and reproductive

*Only 3 respondents who have a friend involved with drugs abuse and all of them are in a group ever had experienced

4.3 Multivariate analyses

To explore the association between risk and protective factors with having had sexual intercourse, logistic regression was conducted and results are shown in Table 4. Among the respondent studied, sexual activity was found to be associated with attitude towards SRH (4.6%), peer – sexual disorder (5.9%), lifestyle-involvement in midnight activities (8.8%), negative self evaluation (6.5%), incomplete family structure (3.2%), and family communication (4.6%). This indicates that by increasing the positive attitude towards SRH, the prevalence of sexual activity will decrease. However, the association between family structure and family communication were borderline significant ($p<.07$). These results indicate that the likelihood of having sexual intercourse was highest amongst those with more involvement in midnight activities (OR 8.8, 95% CI 3.1-24.6).

Table 4. Multivariate results: The effect of risk and protective factors as predictors of sexual activity among adolescent females (n=770)

	OR	95%CI
Lifestyle-involve in midnight activities	8.75 ₁	(3.110, 24.624)***
Negative self evaluation	6.49 ₀	(1.453, 28.998)*
Peer-sexual disorder	5.85 ₀	(2.064, 16.584)***
Family communication	4.58 ₀	(.980, 21.408)
Attitude towards SRH	4.03 ₆	(1.353, 12.039)*
Family structure (0=incomplete; 1=complete)	3.19 ₉	(.968, 10.577)
Lifestyle-clubbing	1.55 ₄	(.307, 7.865)
Self-control	1.42 ₀	(.419, 4.816)
Family management	0.65 ₆	(.233, 1.850)
Family involvement	0.47 ₅	(.111, 2.038)
School attachment	0.37 ₀	(.106, 1.291)

Note. *p<.05; **p<.01; ***p<.001; $\chi^2 = 84.328 (11)***$; Cox & Snell $R^2 = .104$; Nagelkerke $R^2 = .416$

SRH=Sexual health and reproductive

Discussion & Conclusion

Research on youth and risky sexual behavior in Malaysia has been done since 25 years ago. But it's very difficult to report the trend in the prevalence of sexual behavior by gender and locality as the studies done with different setting of data collection. Data collected as a National Survey only done twice in year 1994 and 2012 but the report in year 2012 is not publish yet. This study contributed to empirical literature review on prevalence rate of rural female adolescent in Peninsular Malaysia.

The results of this study reveal that the SDM can be a good model to identify the risk and protective factors to the adolescent risky sexual behavior. When we look across these 4 domains – psychology, family, peer, and school – certain factors are associated with leading adolescent to having sexual intercourse. Specifically, female teenager who report have negative attitude towards SRH, having friend who has sexual disorder problem, more involvement in midnight activities, having negative self evaluation, has been socialized in incomplete family structure, and less levels of family communication are at significantly greater risk. It's shown that the micro system (psychology, family, peers) in the human development of female teenager is more important rather than the others (school, and community) in order to focus the intervention and prevention programme.

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