

EXPLORING POVERTY ERADICATION STRATEGY DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE: A FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION AMONG HOUSEWIVES IN SABAK BERNAM

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This paper presents strategies to eradicate poverty due to the impact of climate change on housewives in Sabak Bernam Selangor, a coastal district in the Malacca Strait of Peninsular Malaysia. This paper reported two data sets: the survey and Focus Group Discussion (FGD). The survey was among $n=274$, in which $n=108$ [39.42%]) of respondents reported on their experiences of households' poverty increase due to climate change - the responses are by sex disaggregation and in four levels. The highest percentage (21.30%) among males experienced 'YES moderately' that climate change impacts their household poverty level, but among females, the highest percentage (22.22%) reported 'no increase' in poverty level. These results may be due to gender roles, where males are responsible for household income and feel more about the impact of poverty on the household as compared to females.

Among $n=108$, the 16 housewives then participated in the FGD session discussing on strategies to eradicate poverty. In the survey, the majority of females responded to the 'no increase' in poverty, which may be due to their strategies to cope with it. Therefore, this FGD was conducted among housewives. In the survey, among these 16 informants, 43.75% indicated 'YES, moderately'; 12.5%, 'YES, obviously,' and 43.75% 'NO' or 'NOT SURE' that climate change increases their household poverty. This paper focuses on nine informants who answered 'YES, obviously' and 'YES moderately.' They experience the impact of climate change on households' poverty at a younger age. With little assets and little savings, any disaster will be a significant point in life and may suddenly turn their households into poor or extremely poor. The FGD discussion on poverty eradication strategies due to climate change concluded with three themes which are good practices of personal finance, agricultural activities, and venture into business. In conclusion, from the point of view of housewives, they have some coping strategies for household poverty, which may be why they responded to 'no increase' of poverty in the survey because besides 'agriculture activities', the strategies obtained which are good practices in personal financial management, and venture into business are also good strategies during climate change.