

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**UNDERSTANDING THE RISK
FACTOR OF FOOD SECURITY
FACED BY CHILDREN DURING
FLOOD DISASTER IN BERA,
PAHANG, MALAYSIA**

NUR FARAHIM BINTI ABDULLAH

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of the requirement for the
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AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and regulations for Under Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

Name of Student	:	Nur Farahim Binti Abdullah
Student I.D. No	:	2012256808
Programme	:	Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetic (Hons.)
Faculty	:	Faculty of Health Sciences
Thesis Title	:	Understanding The Risk factor of Food Security Faced By Children During Flood Disaster.
Signature of Student	:	
Date	:	January 2016

ABSTRACT

Food security is when all people at all times have access to adequate, safe, healthy food to sustain a healthy and active life. Food security in children expressed that the children is having adequate food daily and have a normal growth development without suffering any malnutrition. During flood situation, the food security and insecurity may happened to children due to unavoided risk factor. Bera, Pahang had been selected as the area of research as it was one of the most severe flooding district in December 2014. In this study, the risk factor of food security faced by children during the flood disaster are being identified. Secondly is the nutritional status of the respected informant are evaluated by using the anthropometry data. The methodologies used are observation and interview with the respected victims in order to collect further information and opinion regarding the flood disaster. The selected informant consist of five female and four male from different village. The post flood questionnaires are being used to guide the responds from the informant. The data collected are being analyzed by using thematic analysis to determine the risk factor of food security associated with children. Findings showed that food supply, food choice and food intolerance may play as a vital part in food security during flood disaster. Children who move to the relocation center said that, they eat less quantity of food during flood due to the repeated menu being cooked everyday. Eventhough, they may eat less quantity of food than normal, their nutritional status after the flood disaster such as weight and height only had minimal differences as compared to the control subject. Most of them didn't lose any weight during and after the flood. In conclusion, even though there are risk factors associated with the food security, the effect on their nutritional status such as weight and height are minimal.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 RESEARCH BACKGROUND

There are two common type of natural disaster, natural and man-made (Redmond, A.D 2005). Natural disaster such as flood, earthquake, hurricanes occur in several parts around the world and nowadays flood had occurs anywhere and becoming one of the world big disaster. This may due to several climate changes that occurs lately causing the changes in physical structural of the earth (Elias, Hamin, & Bahrin, 2013). Our country, Malaysia is one of the tropical countries located in the South-East. Heavy rainfall throughout the year occurred in this region annually. Many natural disasters had occurred in Malaysia such as landslides, mudslides, and floods due to the heavy rainfall (Shaluf & Ahmadun, 2006).

This study is to identify the risk factor of food security that may associate with children during flood disaster and also achieving food in emergencies situation. The term children are “child” who defines anybody below the age of 18, as stated by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Malaysia’s Child Act 2001. Apart from that, the nutritional statuses of the children after the flood disaster are also being accessed, so that we can identify whether the children undergo any effect of food security after flood disaster. Another purpose of this study is to identify the coping strategies used by children to adapt to the flood disaster situation and reduce the stress during the flood disaster. If the children are coping well during the flood, there would be reduced risk of food insecurity during the flood. Apart from that, if the risk is being reduce the food security among children is higher, the food insecurity is decrease and also the level of nutritional status will become normal among the affected children during the flood disaster. The information gathered in this study would help in planning the intervention to reduce the risk factor of food security that may face by the children during flood disaster situation in Malaysia. Flood risk management is important to minimise the risk of flood disaster which include several program such as the preparation for the worst condition (Back, Cameron, & Tanner, 2009).