UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

RIVER POLLUTION: FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT

IN SELANGOR

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ABSTRACT

River pollution becomes an issue in today's world. With increasing urbanization and globalization, the concept of Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) was introduced in order for the government to curb the problem. One of the key elements in the concept of Integrated River Basin Management is public participation. Public Participation is important since public in general is the largest stakeholders. Without the involvement of public, the implementation of this concept will be considered as a failure. This research aim is to study the factors that influence the public participation in the implementation of Integrated River Basin Management. It specifically studies on the pollution in Sungai Semenyih that affected the public that resided in Semenyih, Kajang and Bangi. The problem occurred when Sungai Semenyih was polluted by the odor that came from the river and caused the Water Treatment Plant to be closed for a few times. This research is based on data obtained from a survey questionnaire collected from the public who resided in the affected areas. The data was analyzed to evaluate and determine the factors of public participation in the implementation of this concept. Among from all three factors which are Awareness, Experiences and Social Exclusion, this research found that the most influential factor is Awareness. It is hope that the study conducted will contribute to the improvement in the implementation of Integrated River Basin Management in Selangor.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Environment plays a huge role in creating and structuring the life of a human being. In order to maintain the ecosystem within the environment, it must be seen from the core of the ecosystem itself. Especially from the river basin as river basin is heart of the environment. Within Malaysia, the ecosystem of the rivers had been identified as polluted where the number are increasing from year to year. Two third of the rivers were identified as slightly polluted or polluted especially within the range of river basins (Khalid et al, 2017). In order to enhance the program of preserving the river basin, Malaysia's former Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohammad had initiated the implementation of the Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) since the year of 1999. A lot of program had been initiated so that the implementation can be regarded as a successful program. In addition, Malaysia is one of the countries in the world that regarded them as a democratic country. Due to that, it is important for us to look the on the contribution of the public as in general in the decision making and also during the implementation of Integrated River Basin Management in Malaysia, particularly in Selangor.

1.2 Problem Statement

River is a gift from god that had been lent to us since the very first human being existed in the world. Throughout Malaysia, there are hundreds of river systems. Since the beginning of the civilization, river has always played the most important role in the life of the early settlement. Human had built a few ancient civilizations along the main river in the world. For example, the location of ancient Egypt was along the Nile River while the Babylon city was established along the Tigris River. This showed that, since the early civilization, river had always become a part of human life. The earliest settlement in