

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**URBAN POVERTY
ENTREPRENEURIAL RESILIENCE:
A QUALITATIVE STUDY**

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ABSTRACT

Urban poverty remains a significant challenge worldwide, requiring a deeper understanding and effective interventions. Despite decades of scholarly attention, there is a gap in understanding the philosophical framework of urban poverty studies, particularly regarding entrepreneurship among the urban poor. This study aims to address this gap by examining the variables influencing entrepreneurial resilience among urban poverty entrepreneurs in Malaysia to develop a resilient urban poverty entrepreneurship model. Drawing on a review of literature and empirical data, the study identifies the complexities of urban poverty and the challenges faced by entrepreneurs in this context. The research questions focus on identifying these variables and developing a model to enhance resilience. Through qualitative research methods including focus groups and interviews with urban poverty entrepreneurs supplemented by secondary data sources, the study delves into the unique factors shaping entrepreneurial resilience in Malaysia. Thematic analysis has been adopted to understand the dynamics of urban poverty entrepreneurship, shedding light on the interplay between socio-economic factors, personal competencies, and environmental conditions. The significance of the study lies in its potential to inform policy development, academic discourse, and practical interventions aimed at alleviating urban poverty and promoting economic independence. By elucidating the pathways to resilience in entrepreneurship, this research seeks to empower urban poverty entrepreneurs and foster resilience in the entrepreneurial ecosystem. While the scope of the study is limited to urban areas in Klang Valley, Malaysia, the insights generated are expected to have broader implications for understanding and addressing urban poverty challenges globally. This research contributes to a nuanced understanding of urban poverty entrepreneurship and offers actionable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers striving to create sustainable pathways out of poverty.

Key Words: Urban Poverty, Urban Poverty Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship Independence, Entrepreneurial Resilience.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

One of the most significant and pressing issues facing contemporary civilization is urban poverty. A rapidly expanding body of scholarly literature that seeks to both explain the dynamics of urban poverty and advocate long-term, practical remedies serves as a testament to the criticality of this worldwide issue. But even after decades of investigation, limited studies have yet been carried out that disclose and examine the general philosophical framework of the urban poverty study community. A bibliometric analysis of 52 years of scientific literature on urban poverty (1965– 2017) was conducted considering this gap (Panori et al., 2019). This demonstrates the length of time that urban poverty has existed and the lack of attention it received as compared to rural poverty.

Individuals from urban poor communities in Malaysia struggle to meet basic needs, and the difficulty of overcoming poverty becomes ever more evident. Lucci et al. (2018) emphasize that with the ongoing acceleration of urbanization, there is an urgent need to increase awareness and deepen the understanding of urban deprivation. While the growth of urban areas has generally been associated with reductions in poverty rates, there is an increasing paradox where the number of urban poor continues to grow despite overall national poverty reductions (Ravallion et al., 2008). The concept of the "urbanization of poverty" is not new but has become a central focus of academic and policy discourse in recent years.

The first breakdown of the international dollar-a-day poverty estimates by rural and urban location was done by Ravallion et al., (2008). In their work, they highlighted that urbanization, while contributing to the overall decline in poverty, has also seen a rise in the number of poor people living in urban areas. In fact, by 2014, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) estimated that 881 million people, or about 30% of the urban populations in developing countries, live in slums. This figure is expected to rise significantly, with predictions suggesting that by 2050, as much as 60% of urban populations in developing nations will reside in such conditions. These statistics underscore the alarming nature of urban poverty, a