

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**UNDERSTANDING RISK FACTOR  
INFLUENCED FOOD SECURITY  
FACED BY ELDERLY DURING  
FLOOD DISASTER IN BERA,  
PAHANG, MALAYSIA**

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**Thesis submitted in fulfilment  
of the requirements for the degree of  
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## DECLARATION

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

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

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## **ABSTRACT**

Flood disaster can be considered as emergencies situation where food security can be one of the topic that can be looked up. Food security can be defined when the food is available, can be access, and acquired in acceptable means at any given time that possibly will maintain health and wellbeing, while food insecurity gives contrasting meaning to it where limited or uncertain ability to attain nutritious food in socially acceptable means. The main aim of this study was to identify the risks factor that influenced food security faced by elderly during flood disaster at Sungai Pahang basins area. The determination of coping strategies of the victims of the flood disaster also identified in this research paper. This study enlighten a qualitative approach for the data collection which engaging semi structured interview between eight selected individual affected by the flood disaster and thematic analysis is using to analyze the themes for each of the objectives. The qualitative data indicated that inappropriate food assistance, feeling insecurity and mental and emotional stress were the major risk factor of food security for the elderly that can be identified during the flood disaster .As from the identification of the risk factor it can be conclude that it is very important to be specifically and directly focus to the needs, pay more attention, and understand the situation of the elderly as they are tend to be a vulnerable group to food insecurity especially in emergencies situation.

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The natural disasters that in actuality can influence people worldwide in many ways tend to become more intense as the years go on. This situation is actually reminding us that there is always threat around us including from the natural phenomenon. Malaysia is one of the countries which are very lucky that it is not directly affected by serious disasters like earthquake, hurricanes, typhoon, tornadoes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions like any other countries. However, it cannot be denied that without exception, Malaysia also affected by the natural disaster.

One of common natural disaster that has been part of Malaysian geographical dilemma is floods. Floods are not something new to Malaysia, each year, the months of November, December and January are considered as periods of heavy rainfall leading to unexpected floods in the country. The 2014 floods in Malaysia that occur in the mid of December and continues until early January 2015 have witnessed unusually high levels of rainfall as an effect of heavy seasonal rains and strong winds that affected most parts of Malaysia including in the east coast of Malaysia which are Terengganu, Pahang and Kelantan and these states noticeable as the most affected area. This flood also marked as the worse flood disaster that happened in Malaysian history.

Flooding is the most significant natural hazard in Malaysia in the aspect of population affected, frequency, area extent, flood duration and social economic damage (Mustaffa, Marzuki, Ariffin, Salleh, & Rahaman, 2014). Throughout Malaysia including Sabah and Sarawak, there are about 189 river basins area in which these rivers and their corridors of flood plains carry out a numerous of tasks both for human use and for the benefit of natural ecosystem for instance they are elemental parts of the natural, economic, and social system wherever they occur (Mustaffa et al., 2014). However at the same time, rivers might be the main threat to entire corridor areas, this is supported by Chan (1995) which stated that at least 3.5 million people live on flood plains are exposed to flood of varying probabilities. Given the sudden nature of natural disasters and the challenge of predicting the extent of the impacts, there are some particular things that can be looked up in terms of the preparedness to