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BOOK OF EXTENDED ABSTRACTS

iVCPPTS 2021

1ST INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

iVCPPTS 2021:

**REGIONAL ISSUES IN PUBLIC POLICY
AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC**

CO-ORGANIZED BY:

**FACULTY OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCE
AND POLICY STUDIES, UTM KEDAH
& FAKULTAS ILMU SOSIAL DAN ILMU POLITIK
UNIVERSITI OF AIRLANGGA (UNAIR)**

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REGIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN MALAYSIA: UNRAVEL THE TALE OF RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

As a fully developed country to be, Malaysia must ensure that both urban and rural areas develop equally, and poverty level is taking care appropriately. Regional and Sustainable development in Malaysia is design to support the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health & Wellbeing, Gender Equality, Decent Work & Economic Growth, Reduced Inequalities, and Sustainable Cities & Communities. At global level, Agenda 21 emerged as one of the world commitments in upholding sustainable development through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets. All the country around the globe shall achieved their SDGs by the year of 2030 with "no one left behind" in all the activities, especially for the main pillar; economic, social, and environmental through local or regional development plans.

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE OF STUDY

Economic development is one of the key indicators in measuring the community development in any country or region. Economic development and quality of life need to be address properly in relations with the sustainability development and at the same time confronting future challenges. Many developing countries having their economic development and growth but unfortunately, their people standard of living does not have many changes. In Peninsular Malaysia, Perlis (6%) and Kedah (5.3%) emerged as first and second highest of incidence of poverty (Department of Statistic Malaysia, 2013 & 2016). There have some attempts to assess a specific policies and programs that related to the poverty eradication and rural development, unfortunately there were based on a generalized country-wide experience and not geared specifically to evaluate the socio-economic impact on the rural population at the micro level. Therefore, by considering that there are a few studies done at micro level in Malaysia, especially in Kedah where this state recorded as one of the highest rates of incidence of poverty in rural area in Peninsular Malaysia, this study was done to filing the gap at micro-level, particularly toward the economic development among rural community in Kedah, Malaysia.

METHODOLOGY

In obtaining in-depth information regarding economic development in rural area in Kedah, a focus group methodology was used. Two focus groups that involve directly with authorized government agency (Kedah Regional Development Authority or KEDA) were selected, consisted of (1) Headman from 13 selected rural village and (2) Six Development Manager. All the interviews and discussion were recorded with the permission from the informants related to the economic development. By using Hermeneutic

Analysis, the interview and discussion were transcribed into a written text to get and understand the meaning of an action and the information gained via interview. Then, check back with the informants for confirmation of meaning. For non-confirmation information, the transcribed process is restarted until agreed by the informants. Finally, prepare the report that synthesizing the findings.

FINDINGS/ RESULTS

The summary of achievement level on economic development in rural area under this study can be seen in Table 1 below.

No.	Items	Achievement level on Economic Development	Counts	% of Total
1.	Economic Development	Very small achievement	0	0
		Small achievement	5	26.3
		Medium achievement	8	42.1
		Large achievement	6	31.6
	Total		19	100

Table 1: Achievement level on Economic Development (Summary)

Source: Field Study, 2019

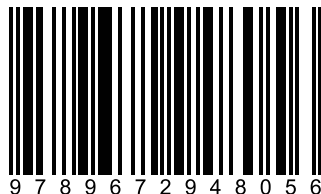
The finding indicated that five respondents claimed that their people experiencing a small achievement, eight for medium achievement and six for large achievement in the economic development. Out of six Development Managers, two of them claimed that as an overall, rural people are experiencing large achievement in the economic development. A lot of programs and assistance are given to the target group, covering all level of the people.

CONCLUSIONS

From the result of the analysis, it shows that rural community development which are carried out by KEDA and related government agencies in Kedah did contribute to the successful in developing the economy of rural people in Kedah. However, there are variances in the degree of successfulness since some respondents are still struggling in improving their economic condition as their standard of living has less changes. Even though KEDA and other government agencies are trying their best to improve the agricultural management and diversified rural economy but the response from target group is not as expected. Some of the respondents are still delaying in grabbing the opportunities while some are still with old attitude of slow and steady and only waiting the assistance given by KEDA and other government agencies without paying extra effort.

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