

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**DESIGNING ENVIRONMENT FOR AGING AND
DEMENTIA COMMUNITY AT RUMAH SERI
KENANGAN, CHERAS, SELANGOR**

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ABSTRACT

A forecast by the Statistic Department has revealed that Malaysia will be an ageing nation by 2035 with 5.6 million of aged 60 and above (Daim, 2016). Ageing is known reasonably among us as part of the human life cycle, even come with the possibility of various diseases to be encountered such as dementia or Alzheimer's. Thus, in tandem with various related issues, the government began to take initiatives to curb this by setting up several institutions. Yet, they might forget about what kinds of the environment are needs by those who ageing. Therefore, this study focus on designing the outdoor environment for elderly and dementia community by mindful design approach which applying incorporates therapeutic landscape principles towards wellbeing at Rumah Seri Kenangan Cheras. To achieve this goal, the psychosocial difficulties that resulted from dementia / Alzheimer's and how therapeutic landscape elements could encourage the healing progress have been studied and identified thoroughly. Then, the issues and potential of the existing outdoor environment at Rumah Seri Kenangan has been analyzed and the best therapeutic landscape approach and elements that could be incorporated been determined. Lastly, the best design strategies towards providing an outdoor healing environment and improving psychosocial wellbeing elderly / Dementia community has been proposed based on the concept of Neurosenses.

Keyword: *Ageing, Dementia, Alzheimer's, Therapeutic Landscape, Horticulture Therapy*

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION OF TOPIC

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The population is now seen increasingly in tandem with rapid development. Consequently, the elderly population also seen increased by two per cent per year which is faster than the overall population itself (Oranuch, 2005). Malaysia is one of the countries without exception from the increase of elderly population even it is being significantly increased with rapid economic development, increased urbanization, fertility decline and the increase of life expectancy. Therefore, as predicted, the percentage of the elderly population is higher in the urban area than the rural (Oranuch, 2005). According to Mafauzy (2000) has stated, estimation of the number of Malaysians aged 60 years and above is 1.4 million and will be increased to 3.3 million in 2020. Then, as said by Datuk Seri Rohani Abdul Karim (Minister of Women, Family and Community Development) in New Straits Times (2016), a forecast by the Statistic Department has revealed that Malaysia's senior citizen population, aged 60 and above will be 5.6 million in 2035. As for it, when 15 per cent out of the population be classified as senior citizens, then Malaysia will be an ageing nation by 2035 (Daim, 2016).

Since there is a change in the demographic pattern of the elderly population, there is more concern on health care resources supply as the elderlies are known weaker and less healthy than the young themselves. As for it, the health problem among them has been significantly increased. Changed in physical and social among them are caused by the debilitating effects of multiple, acute and chronic diseases. Alzheimer's disease is a common problem that has been faced by the elderly and at least 5 per cent of the population aged 65 and above are having it. Since the elderly population growing, it is predicted that the number of this disease among them will be increased and affect more on the country's resources (Mafauzy, 2000). As predicted by Alzheimer's Disease Foundation Malaysia in 2016, there are about 50,000 people in Malaysia have this