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**CHALLENGES FACED BY URBAN POVERTY CITIZEN
TOWARD URBANIZATION:
A CASE STUDY IN KAMPUNG KUDEI, KUCHING**

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the challenges faced by urban poverty citizen towards urbanization. The study is specific to Kampung Kudei, Kuching. This paper investigate whether the challenges faced by urban poverty citizen influence their satisfaction on urbanization. The objectives of the study is to assess the relationship between the challenges faced by the urban poverty citizen and the satisfaction on urbanization, and the most significant challenge faced by them. The data collection approach used was quantitative. The sample size are 100 respondents from Kampung Kudei, Kuching.

Keywords: Urban poverty; urbanization; employment; income; consumption; social provision; environment; health

CONTENTS

	PAGE
TITLE PAGE	i
THE DECLARATION	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
ABSTRACT	vi
TABLES OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	x
LIST OF TABLES	xi
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of Urbanization	1
1.1.1 Urbanization in Malaysia	1
1.1.2 Urbanization in Sarawak	2
1.1.1 Urbanization in Kuching	2
1.2 Background of Urban Poverty	3
1.3 Kampung Kudei, Kuching	3
1.4 Problem Statement	4
1.5 Research Questions	5
1.6 Research Objectives	5
1.7 Significance of the Study	6
1.7.1 The Readers	6
1.7.2 The Urban Poverty Citizen and Society at Large	6
1.7.3 The Future Researcher	6
1.8 Scope of Study	6
1.8.1 Level	6
1.8.1 Territory	6

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF URBANIZATION

Urbanization is a process of migration of low income groups from the rural to urban areas, within borders (internal migration), and across borders (international migration) in order to search for better jobs and a better life (Zainal, Kaur, Ahmad & Khalili, 2012; Cooper & Yue, 2008).

Sapawi (2001) states that urban growth in many developing countries is an unmitigated problem. The explanation on urbanization or urban growth states as:

“Human Development is the end – economic growth a means. So, the purpose of growth should be to enrich people’s lives. But far too often it does not” (UNDP, 1996: 1).

1.1.1 Urbanization in Malaysia

Urban planning in Malaysia is based on structure planning which governed by the Town and Country Planning Act 1976 (Sapawi, 2001). This act was almost equivalent to British legislation of 1971. Therefore, urbanization in Malaysia is directly linked to the British colonial rules by exploiting the natural resources and the use of foreign labor. This led to the rise of international immigrant population in the west coast of the Peninsula Malaysia. The natural rate of population growth itself have increased role in the urbanization process in the recent period. Moreover, there are three types of planned urbanization programs carried out to meet the demand of major ethnic groups such ‘new villages’ created during emergency: FELDA settlements created during the post-independence period; and ‘new towns’ in the rural regions created during the post-NEP. Referring to Eighth Malaysia Plan, the urbanization process has increased from 55.1 percent in 1995 to 61.8 percent in 2000.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, poverty is growing faster in urban than in rural areas due to the rapid urbanization in city center (Naylor & Falcon, 1995). According to United Nations (2008), Malaysia itself is experiencing a rapid urbanization process due to industrialization which occurs particularly in the urban areas. Based on the latest estimate on the level of urbanization, it currently at 65 percent and is expected to increase to 85 percent in 2050. Moreover, the urbanization has led to unfavorable effects, including the increased incidence of urban poverty. The rapid growth of economic activities in the large urban areas gives an impact in increasing urban diseconomies, rising social costs and resulting in unequal distribution of development benefits between urban-rural areas (Siwar & Kasim, 1997). Even though there are efforts have been initiated to eradicate urban poverty, still there are some limitations in tackling these issues, especially for those who do not have access to amenities, knowledge and skills. Therefore, the literature review will discuss challenges faced by urban poverty citizen towards urbanization. Based on previous literature, a few factors on challenges faced by urban poverty citizen are employment, income consumption, social provision, environment and health as discussed before.

2.2 EMPLOYMENT

According to Oxford Dictionaries (2014), employment refers to the state of having paid work.

As stated by Kuiper and Ree (2006), the speed and magnitude of urbanization constitute a challenge in urban management, especially in sustaining the provision of adequate jobs. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that 500 million people will participate in the world's job market in which most of them are the young people in developing countries with secondary level education and training. As the cities unable to provide enough job opportunities for the influx of job seeker, therefore, the