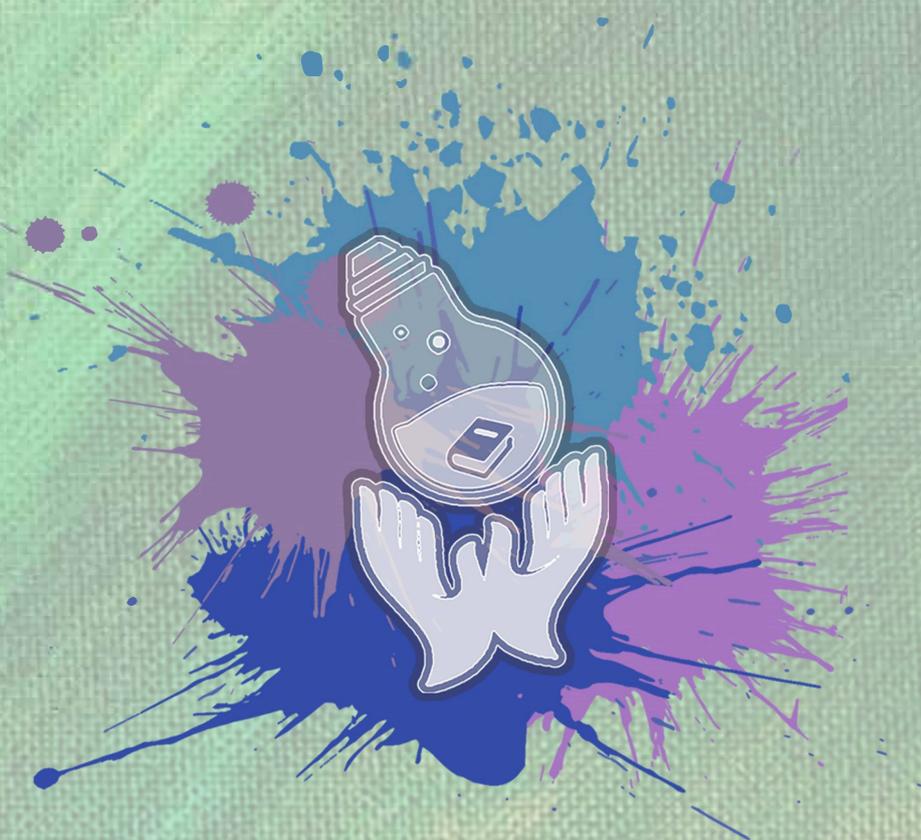




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SERI ISKANDAR CAMPUS

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF COMPONENTS OF CENTRALISED LABOUR QUARTER (CLQ) STANDARD FOR WORKERS' HOUSING AND AMENITIES

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Abstract:

The introduction of the Centralised Labour Quarters (CLQ) through the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) project is still new in the construction industry, therefore there are targets to be implemented in the long run. Unfortunately, due to the high standards given by the first MRT project, this is a burden for other construction sites to apply for in its construction area. The aim of this research is to investigate the basic needs component of CLQ standard to implement for worker housing and amenities. A questionnaire survey was conducted to seek for the significant of the component from 10 Worker Packaging Contractor (WPC). This data collection was analysed by using SPSS version 25. The result indicates that 5 out of 10 components is necessary to recommend for other construction site which are electricity, first aid and medical facilities, water, drainage, and water disposal. Majority of these findings are fit to function and comply to the Malaysian Standard (MS). However, there are several improvements proposed to further promote and develop a sustainability environment of the working housing and amenities for other CLQ.

Keywords:

Centralised Labour Quarters (CLQ), Mass Rapid Transit (MRT), Worker Packaging Contractor (WPC), Basic Component.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

"Housing" is one of the compulsory shelter for every individual. Trade Dictionary, characterizes accommodation as a building or structure that complies with legal requirements and directions, in which people with their families can live within the system of housing policy

The Malaysian economy needs to implement effectively and play an important role in achieving the status of developed nation. (Khan, Liew & Ghazali, 2014). Unfortunately, the bad attitude of the employers towards their workers has been identified in the construction economy as the stumbling block in materializing the status. For example, employers hire undocumented immigrant workers, provide uncomfortable place to stay, lack of clean water supply, and incomplete facilities, (Hill, 2016; Samsudin, 2019).

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

In addressing issues concerning construction workers' living conditions, the Construction Labour Exchange Centre Berhad (CLAB), subsidiary of the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Malaysia, has launched its first Centralised Labour Quarters (CLQ) with 2.02 hectares for workers' quarters. This was launched by Works Minister, Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof which acknowledge CLQ in construction industry as one of the main catalysts driving the construction of the country's economy, (Lim, 2018).

The CLQ is pointed at overhauling the living conditions of construction specialists, which can make huge strides in their prosperity and work efficiency in the long run. In spite of the fact, that there are now existing CLQs' by designers, Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof still encouraged the contractors to construct more CLQs with offices that are equivalent to standard of CLQs' overseas to guarantee way better standard of living of construction specialists, (Lim, 2018). Even though this will help to improve

the workplace safety, (Choong, 2018) the readiness from construction industry still did not get the major voice to build more CLQ in Malaysia. Therefore, the need to investigate the reason behind the CLQ issue arises.

2.1 Workers Housing and Amenities Issues

a. Shared House or 'Rumah Kongsi'

According to Utusan Online, (Marzuki, Mohamad Nizar, Bakri, Omar, & Abu Bakar, 2015a), the government was studying the proposal to disallow foreign workers' homes on construction site. This is because it found that this activity brings various threat and concerns to the safety, health and social issues to the local community. In addition, the government receives complaints from residents regarding the problems such as changes of landscape, dirty place and mosquito breeding places (Marzuki, Mohamad Nizar, Bakri, Omar, & Abu Bakar, 2015b).

b. Lack of water accessibility

The New Straits Times describes that , (Nokman and Rashid, 2017), the lack of water in a shared house causes the workers to live in a poor condition which workers cannot clean perfectly and cook with clean water resources. According to World of Buzz,(Jolene, 2019), interview with worker, "every time there is someone who wanted to poop, they need to use newspaper and then later throw it in the ditch as well as repeat this situation everyday same well as everyone else", as a result, this give bad effect not only on the worker but also in the shared house area in term of hygiene.

c. Worker turnover

In construction, this happens due to job unsatisfaction. According to George and Jones, (2012), job satisfaction is very important when it comes to human behaviour and attitude. Unfortunately, due to an uncomfortable place to stay, lack of water supply and incomplete facilities to workers, it is a cause of why worker shifting their works,(Samsudin, 2019). For example, a basic item such as blanket, pillows and bed are not prepared in a shared house. Not only that, this worker need to live in 24sqm which shared among 10 people. In addition, workers needs to create in their own creativity such as plywood to sleep and have a comforting rest, (Nokman & Rashid, 2017).

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research applies quantitative research methodologies. A questionnaire was prepared for this survey for 10 components of significance of CLQ. For data collection, ten (10) numbers of questionnaires has been distributed to 10 companies of Work Packaging Contractor (WPC) which total up of 100 questionnaires for the responsible for completing the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) project. However, only 37 questionnaires are received and were analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25. The data were interpreted in arithmetic mean and rank are given accordingly based on the significance of components.

4.0 ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Table 1: Overall Components of CLQ Specification.

No.	Components	Mean (n=37)	Rank
1	Electricity	4.89	1
2	First aid and medical facilities	4.70	2
3	Water	4.58	3
4	Drainage	4.58	4
5	Water disposal	4.51	5
6	Signage	4.42	6
7	Building	4.33	7
8	Sanitary facilities	4.31	8
9	Cooking and dining area	4.31	9
10	Leisure and social facilities	4.28	10

Based on the data above, the five (5) highest rank are determined from the component of CLQ. The highest mean rank of CLQ are electricity, first aid and medical facilities, water, drainage, and water disposal. Hence, this shows that these 5 components are significance in implementation of CLQ for proper amenities.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Centralized Labour Quarters (CLQ) is an important tool in the wheel that drives the Malaysian economy. This information could be use by other contractors in preparing CLQ or workers housing at construction site. Therefore, it is advisable for the contractor to apply the same concept of the CLQ for workers housing and amenities.

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