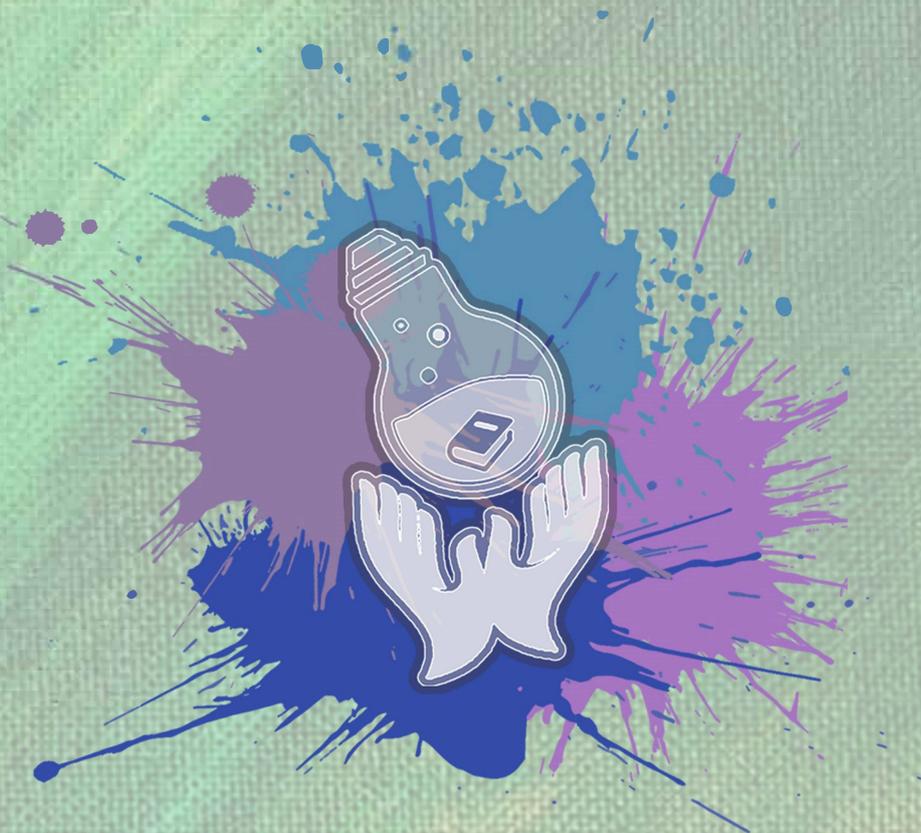




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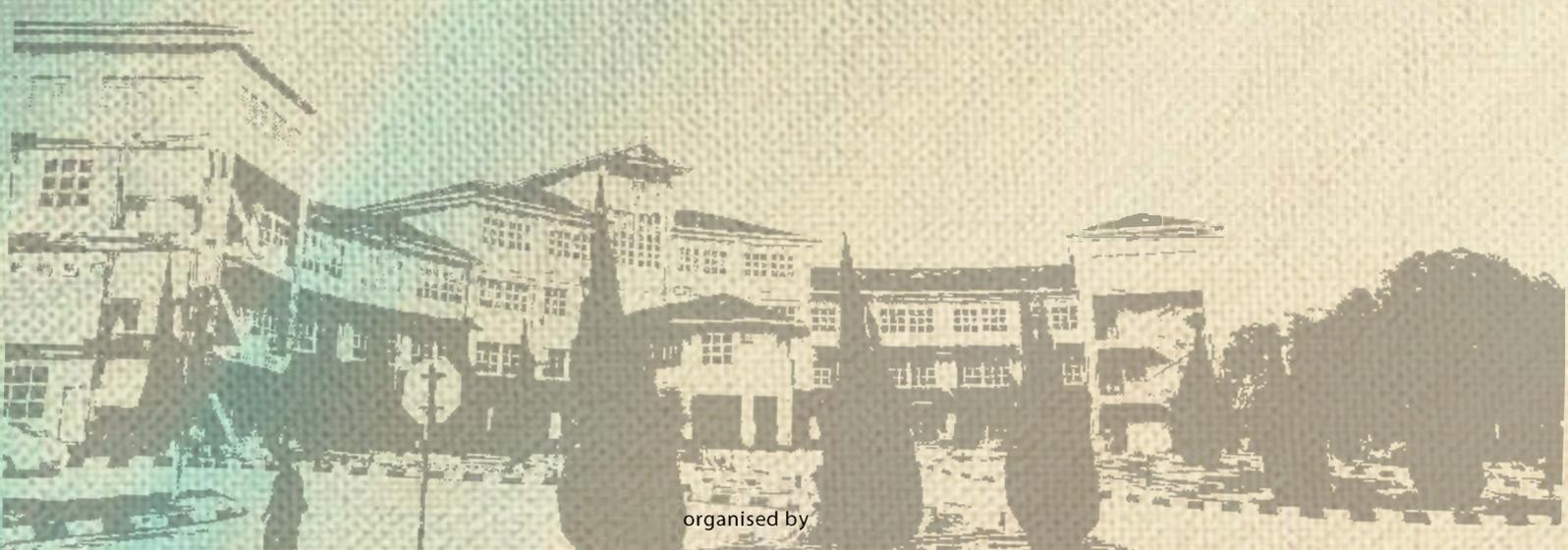
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**FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & SURVEYING**  
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# **SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRO-TOURISM DEVELOPMENT ON LOCAL RESIDENTS CASE STUDY: SUNGAI GALAH, TANJUNG TUALANG, PERAK**

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## **Abstract:**

Agro-tourism is a tourism concept that is rapidly gaining popularity in Malaysia as it offers tourists an assortment of activities relating to the agriculture sector. Perak Agro-tourism Resort (PATRO) located at Sungai Galah, Tanjung Tualang has offered traditional environment vacation by having eco-adventures and agro-tourism activities. The aim of this study is to analyze how the socio-economic impacts of agrotourism development are perceived by the local residents. A questionnaire survey has been conducted among 52 respondents of local residents who reside in the area of Sungai Galah, Tanjung Tualang, Perak. The socioeconomic were analyzed based on four (4) main aspects, *i.e.* economic assessment, social assessment, cultural assessment, and environmental assessment. The findings reveal that the local residents were positively and also negatively affected by the agro-tourism activities and development in Sungai Galah. As an overall conclusion, assessment on economic, social, cultural and environment compliment the objective of this study. Proper planning and policies are the crucial part need to be taken by the industry player to ensure the natural attraction can be maintained besides enlivening the economic structure.

## **Keywords:**

Socio-economic; agro-tourism development; local residents

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Maintaining rural spaces is a priority in term to enhancing the locality value. The maturity of the rural area considering the population and generational replacement and its need to be conserved. Requesting from nature, several actions need to be taken by the joint-venture of public and private economic agents (Victoria & Teresa, 2018). Focusing on better conditions of socioeconomics, this action gives the local population the best quality of life to improve individual and social skills. In determining the socioeconomic impact, the selected factor are economic assessment, social assessment, cultural assessment, and environmental assessment. The finding said that traditional jobs and local resident activities have decreased. Thus, the opportunity needs to diversify, the family economy needs to enhance and the locality needs a job creator. The benefit of this study is to portray the outcomes of the development and help the local resident in determining their socio-economic problems.

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

Agrotourism is very important in a term to grow the travel industry segment. Research by Petrović, *et. al.*, (2017) tourism helps the residents nearby to improve their local economy, the standard of living in the community also has an increment, agro tourism helps to stimulate job opportunities and generates income for the local economy. Moreover, tourism is able to create a favorable image of the countryside and facilitates the process of modernization.

As contended by Kim & Thapa (2018) in study on Factors That Influence Residents' Support for Environmental Development Along the Haeparang Trail in South Korea with citation on Woo, *et. al.*, (2015) mentioned that tourism development is able to have both sides of impact consists of positive and negative on quality of life, community values and patterns of behavior among residences. Besides that, the agro-tourism industry also creates a challenge to balance residents' satisfaction by getting supporting from tourism development.

As studied by Giaccio, *et. al.*, (2018) analyzed the implementation of tourism activities is a venture of diversification of agricultural activities. This study analyzed that agro-tourism development is one of the ways to increase revenue in the community. As the recognition of agriculture in the role, the relationship between communities' natural resources and rural areas are accepted.

Meanwhile Ibrahim, *et. al.*, (2016) in the previous research was conclude that tourists shift towards a tourism destination highly influenced by service facilities, destination attraction, tourism information, budget, motivation, visit form and level of individual knowledge. Knowledge and understanding of their movement will assist in the planning of processes and the development of tourism in the province that will influence the choice of the tourism destination.

### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire survey has been conducted among 52 respondents of Sungai Galah, Tanjung Tualang. The questionnaire survey was divided into two sections as follows:

- a) Background of respondents
- b) The perceptions of the local residents on the socio-economic impact of agro-tourism.

The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics as available in Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software. The method used is frequency analysis.

### 4.0 ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

The purpose of this study is to identify the impact of agrotourism development depending on the local resident's perspective. The various factors of socio-economic may influencing their perceptions. The study on the socio-economic condition of respondents is compulsory to understand their socio-economic background. Analysis and findings in this research were conducted regarding various assessments inclusive new opportunities to the community, achievements, and contributions the development to the community. Table 1 below shows the summary of demographic analysis on the local residents.

Table 1: Demographic profiles of the respondents; Total of respondents = 52

Item	Freq.	%	Item	Freq.	%
<b>Gender</b>			<b>Occupation</b>		
Male	20	38.5	Farmer	13	25.0
Female	32	61.5	Livestock breeder	1	1.9
			Retired	4	7.7
			Craftsman	2	3.8
			Civil servant	2	3.8
			Others	30	57.7
<b>Age</b>			<b>Occupancy term</b>		
Less than 20	5	9.6	Less than 10 years	7	13.5
21 - 30	16	30.8	11 – 20 years	7	13.5
31 – 40	10	19.2	21 – 30 years	19	36.5
41 or more	21	40.4	31 years or more	19	36.5
<b>Marital status</b>			<b>Source of income</b>		
Single	19	36.5	Salary	8	15.4
Married	32	61.5	Agriculture	21	40.4
Divorced	1	1.9	Rental	3	5.8
			Pension	5	9.6
			Others	15	28.8
<b>Employment status</b>			<b>Monthly income</b>		
Employed	32	1.5	Less than RM 1100	33	63.5
Unemployed	13	25.0	RM 1100 – RM 2000	17	32.7
Student	4	7.7	RM 2100 – RM 3000	2	3.8
Retire	3	5.8			

Meanwhile, the impact of agro-tourism to local residents was measured from four aspects. Those chooses aspects are economic, social, cultural and environmental. These aspects were selected to be part of this study to obtain the local residents' perceptions from various angles. Table 2 below shows the result on the local resident's perspective based on the selective elements.

Table 2: Local resident's perspective based on four elements; Total of respondents = 52

<b>Local resident's perspective based on economic assessment</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Local perception of income generation	Agree	33	63.5
Local perception of job opportunity	Agree	38	73.1
Local perception of the increment of trading product	Agree	30	57.7
Local perception of involvement rate in small medium industry	Agree	18	34.6
<b>Local resident's perspective based on social assessment</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Local resident's perspective on changes of lifestyle	Neutral	29	55.8
Local perception of migration rate	Neutral	23	44.2
Local perception of the crime rate in the locality	Neutral	29	55.8
Local perception of tourist's attractiveness level on the community's traditional practices	Agree	31	59.6
<b>Local resident's perspective based on cultural assessment</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Local perception of community involvement rate in cultural activities	Agree	34	65.4
Local perception of local resident's appreciation level on cultural heritage	Agree	25	48.1
<b>Local resident's perspective based on environment assessment</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
Local perception of environment condition	Agree	28	53.8
Local perception of the impact of agro-tourism area to the locality	Disagree	32	61.5
Local perception of water quality	Disagree	33	63.5
Local perception of traffic condition	Disagree	30	57.7
Local perception of the waste condition	Agree	32	61.5

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

The objectives in this study were reached. The conclusion and the discussion on the socioeconomics impact outcomes have been presented. As the result presented in every assessment, the development of agro-tourism gives various impacts to the local residents in Sungai Galah, Tanjung Tualang, Perak. On top of that, several improvements have to conduct by local residents to bring more attractiveness value on locality it is because whenever the visitor comes to the Perak Agro-tourism Resort (PATRO) they will pass through the locality area. Based on the result, the team involved needing to implement new strategies in order to make the locality itself be more presentable in the future. The local residents should improve their knowledge and lifestyle including their behavior towards the visitors. In terms of survival, during these studies was conducted, the survey found that local residents need to migrate to the nearby district to seek a job.

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