

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA  
FACULTY OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCE AND POLICY  
STUDIES



**POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMS IN RURAL SARAWAK:  
CASE STUDY ASAJAYA SAMARAHAN**

ABDUL KAMIS BIN TAWA  
2011603154

RELLYN NEENA ALLEN JAMES  
2011402652

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Introduction

Ever since independence in 1957, Malaysia has successfully transformed itself from a poor country into a middle-income nation. The Malaysian economy has seen a periodic growth despite challenging external factors. It can also definitely claim its success of combat against poverty. Despite its poverty reduction success, there still remains a vulnerable group of people in the country experiencing poverty for some geographical and societal reasons such as in Sarawak. The concept of this study is about the poverty reduction programs in rural Sarawak: Case study Asajaya, Samarahan.

Sarawak state has one of the highest poverty rates in Malaysia, 2010 since independence especially in the rural area. According to *Kalantari et.al.* 2008, rural area and poor communities almost a synonym for the agricultural sector (Nor Diana M.I, Chamhuri S, Basri A.B, Madeline B, 2012). It is clearly specify in order to achieve sustainable livelihood in rural communities, poverty reduction through sustain the economic viability of farm operation, satisfy human food and fibre needs and enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole ( Murad et al., 2008). Therefore, sustainable rural development in the agricultural sector often receives attention in the planning agenda of poverty eradication program in Malaysia through various government programs. (Hashim, 1996).

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW & CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

#### 2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

##### 2.1.1 Poverty

Poverty is a multidimensional economic phenomenon that has both political and social ramifications. There is no single definition of poverty which can be applied to all countries and at all times, independent of the social structure and level of employment. According to Nur Hafizah M & Shafinah R, 2012, poverty is a syndrome affecting people in situations characterized by malnutrition and poor health standards, low income, unemployment, unsafe housing, lack of education, inability to acquire modern necessities, insecure jobs, and a very negative outlook on life.

According to Berma (2003), in Malaysia, poverty is measured by Poverty Line Income (PLI), which takes into account household's minimum needs for food, clothing and shelter and other regular expenditures that are necessary to enable them to maintain a decent standard of living. The PLI gives the minimum level of household income per month necessary to maintain a decent living. People are considered as poor if the income not over the level of PLI. He also mentioned that in Sarawak, poverty is basically a rural phenomenon and there is higher inequality in Sarawak as compared to Peninsular Malaysia. (Nur Hafizah M & Shafinah R, 2012)

## CHAPTER 3

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Introduction

According to Polit and Hungler (2004), methodology refers to ways of obtaining, organising and analysing data. Methodology decisions depend on the nature of the research question. Methodology in research can be considered to be the theory of correct scientific decisions (Karfman as cited in Mouton & Marais 1996:16). So in this chapter, the research methodology explained about how well the study will be carried out.

#### 3.2 Research Design

This study will be the exploratory method to gain the people perspective on the effectiveness of the poverty reduction policies and program done by the government. Other than that we can also determine the best strategies to approach and challenges faced.

#### 3.3 Unit of Analysis

Unit of analysis can be defines as the level of aggregation of the data collected during the subsequent data analysis. (Sekaran, 2003). In this study the unit of analysis that will be selected are:

- a) Kampung Moyan
- b) Kampung Asajaya Ulu
- c) Kampung Tambirat
- d) Kampung Moyan Laut
- e) Kampung Sui