



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**A SURVEY ON SQUATTER RESIDENTS PROBLEMS IN
TABUAN FOOCHOW, KUCHING.**

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Abstract

Squatter problem is not a new phenomenon exist as a consequences of the development of the country and the economic growth of the country. This problem can be assumed as a "development diseases" if there are no measures taken to overcome to and can give a bad implication to our country.

Squatter problems in Kuching is not new in our country but it already exist since early 1960's and at the moment it is still growing. Even though in reality, the squatter problem in Kuching is not that serious like in the Peninsular Malaysia especially in Kuala Lumpur and Penang, we are not supposed to react coldly towards this problem.

Squatter in Sarawak especially in Kuching can be determined as a "bomb waiting to be exploded". Even though it cannot be denied that the existence of squatter now are getting dangerous and frightening the government. Therefore, it is important for the government to line up various sustainable plans and it must be conscientiously done.

This study mainly being done in Tabuan Foochow area, as the squatter area exists for very long time without any concerned from the government. The objective of this study is to go deeply what are the factors causing the squatter problem and appropriate steps that government and the residents themselves should take to solve the problem arise in the squatter area.

Therefore, it is our hope that this study will be as a guide the government and related parties to plan for effective strategies in order to overcome the problem of squatter especially in the area and in Kuching generally.

Chapter 1: Introduction of the study

1.1 Introduction

Housing has always been a major problem in cities all over the world, and in this regard cities in Malaysia are not exception. Owing to shortage and high price of houses as well as exorbitant rentals, large number of people cannot afford them and so have been forced to build houses in squatter areas. Although initially meant to be temporary, these often ultimately become their permanent house. The majorities of the squatter are from lower or lower middle-income groups. They used to be mainly local people, but now there are a number of squatters settlement that have been opened up by migrants both legal or illegal.

Squatters by means is a persons who settles on a government or private land without the permission or rights to acquire a legal title to it and that without paying any rent or land taxes. It is also defined as, someone who occupies an abandoned building, people who do not acquire any ownership of it under government regulations.

In Malaysia, some squatters settlements are as old as most of the cities. In Kuala Lumpur, there are many, like Kampung Kerinchi and Kampung Puhah, Kampung Chubadak, which have existed for more than 100 years. When these cities grow, after becoming the country's administrative capital and commercial centre, it attracted migrants legal or illegal not only from within the country but also from outside, especially Indonesia, India and China. Some of the Indonesian is the earliest squatter settlements there.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Squatter is person that settles on a government or private land without the permission or rights to acquire a legal title to it and that without paying any tents or land taxes. People who are living in a squatter's area also suffer great problems. Most of these problems are most people living here are illiterate or uneducated. They also face the main problem of unemployment. There are lacking of source and facilities such as water, electricity and food. The other problems are squatters' area is unmerciful and troublesome. The problems of health and sanitation also occur. In this place, the problem of roads and toilet also occurs. Besides, problems of garbage collection disposal and lastly in this literature review found the problems of squatting syndicates like drug pushing.

Behind, all the problems, there must be great causes why these people in the squatters area tending to squat. First, the people have no proper or permanent settlement. The people also have no stable job or work. It also because most people have nowhere to go and are homeless. The other causes are poverty and lack of proper education and training. Moreover, the other causes are the prohibitive cost of rent and shelter, the proliferation of squatting syndicates and professional squatters. These people in the squatters area are tending to squat because the laxity of landowners and government units. The lure of city life and the concentration of opportunities in the urban areas also cause the squatter area.