

Impact of Social Change Urban Poverty toward Sustainable Livelihoods in Klang Valley, Malaysia

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Abstract

The issue of poverty becomes more serious with the migration of people from rural to urban in search of employment opportunities and a more comfortable life compared to rural areas. The Economic Planning Unit report stated that 56% of poor families are from household in urban areas with their incomes are below RM4,000 a month. The main objective of this study to examine the correlations and regressions among construct of social change and sustainable livelihood. Data analyse using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) software. The respondents was randomly selected using simple random sampling. This study expects to discover significant relationship between adaptation social change of urban poverty and life sustainability. The results show that the human capital and social wellbeing have a significant influence on the sustainability of life. The findings contributes to the social change indeed has an impact on the sustainable of community life.

Keywords: Social Change, Life Sustainability, Urban Poverty, Urban Poor

Introduction

Based on statistics from the Economic Planning Unit (2015), in 2014 there were a total of 2.7 million households still belong to the B40 or low -income group. The average B40 household income is between RM2537 to RM3860. In 2015, the urban poor were found to be 33.8% with an income of between RM1,500 and RM3000 per month. Meanwhile, the percentage of Malaysians with a monthly income between RM2,500 to RM3,999 increased to 23.9% compared to 13.1% in 1995 (Economic Planning Unit, 2016). Poverty refers to a state of deprivation faced by an individual or family in order to cope with the survival of daily life (Zin & Tambi, 2018). The concept of poverty according to the global definition is a difficult situation or lack faced by an individual or family to meet the needs of human rights (Kartini 2016; Wratten 1995).

Poverty is a phenomenon of deprivation, inadequacy or instability experienced by every household (Che Mat et al., 2012). High cost of living, competition for job opportunities and very low income are one of the factors in the occurrence of urban poverty (Jamil & Mat, 2014). Mitlin (2001) point out that it is possible for the urban poor to live in different

economic, political and economic conditions. These people are prone to various problems and shortcomings as a result of the social changes that occur. Poverty refers to a state of deprivation faced by an individual or family to cope with daily life (Zin & Tambi, 2018). The issue of tackling the urban poor is becoming very important in social change and sustainability.

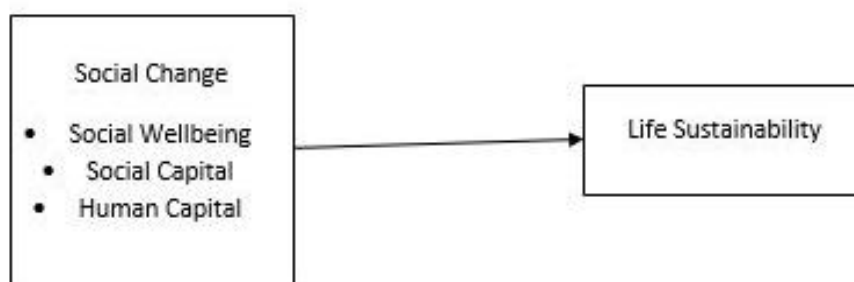
Social change is a process that describes how society experiences change over time (Salerno, 2017). Changes that occur in relation to the community either occur slowly or rapidly (Roslan, 2010). These social changes to some extent interfere with the sustainability of society, especially the poor in our country. Poverty is an issue that familiar to the whole world because almost every country experiences poverty both in developed and developing countries (Chen & Ravallion, 2010). Poverty experienced by the population is a major challenge of the global community especially in the Asian and Pacific Continents (S Gopal et al., 2021). Roslan (2010) noted that the main pre-condition of a community to create a peaceful and happy atmosphere is through the sustainability of life. Improving the sustainability of life has become an agenda in the development of the country is one of the six Key Result Areas of the Nation (NKRA) (Abd Wahab et al., 2017). In achieving sustainability of life, we must address the issue of urban poverty. Saleh et al., (2020) also agrees that the quality of life of rural communities is different from urban communities. The poor community struggle to occupy their needs to achieve sustainability and survival.

Therefore, the title of this study is highlighted in line with the government's development aspirations through the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 (SPV 2030) which is to address the economic gap between ethnic groups, regional development and improve the ability of all citizens so that nothing is left behind. The inclusive value applied in SPV 2030 is a justification for the government to work harder in empowering social development in the success of more creative and innovative programs or mechanisms. (Fazni, 2020) This will not be achieved if the problem of urban poor is still plagued. Therefore, this study intends to address the following objectives:

1. To determine whether adaption of social change has a positive correlation on sustainability of life
2. To determine whether the adaptation social change influence sustainable livelihood of urban poverty.

Hence, this study has propose a conceptual framework to identify the impact of social change toward sustainable livelihood of urban poverty. Three dimensions have been included in the social change variables stated in Figure 1.

Figure 1



Literature Review

There are many scientific reports stating that social change is closely related to the sustainability of urban poor living. Adam Smith in his study stressed that the changes that take place have to do with the changing economy of society (Salerno, 2017). Structure in society said to be a social change such as values and norms that encompass each other. (Nor et al., 2011). A study conducted by Kim (2008) on the relationship of social change with psychological well-being emphasizes that the well-being of society depends on the social changes that occur from various sectors such as economy, health, well-being, technology and crime. Aspects of social well-being are a major factor in determining the level of development of a society or country (Hilmi et al., 2017). Social development aims to provide quality services to meet the social well-being of the community (Malaysian Social Institute, 2020).

In the extant literature, there are seven characteristics of social well-being among them are the demands of health insurance, a stable economy, opportunities in society and a stable family (Iklima, 2017). Based on the Institut Sosial Malaysia (2004), social development aims to provide quality services to meet the social well-being of the community. James Midgley defines social wellbeing must meet the main conditions: 1). When social problems can be well managed, 2). When the requirements are met, 3). When social opportunities are maximized. (Gorahe, Waani & Tasik 2021). Whereas (Ahmad, 1999) has listed applicable well-being indicators in her study, among them are protection, health, education, recreation, security, social stability, physical environment and income.

While according to Shah et al (2015), each space or area has a different atmosphere, environment, ideology or culture will eventually form a unique well-being and influence the existing development. Thus, environmental factors in house, neighbourhood are also among the factors that affect the quality of life. There is no generally accepted definition and assessing of life sustainability. Leplege and Hunt (1997), explain sustainability of life is a descriptive term that refers to healthy human emotions, social and physical and their ability to function with normal tasks in life. In a study that has been done on the life sustainability of the population around industry area in Singapore, it was found that the three most impressive factors taken accounted for are health, family life and public safety. (Ibrahim & Chung, 2003). These studies reinforce that safety, health and neighbourhood are essential aspects of social well-being variables.

Quality of life studies are important to illustrate urban sustainability and human capital that aims towards a better life and comfortable (Shafii, Musa & Rahman, 2009). According to the World Health Organization (1993), life sustainability can be defined as an individual's perception of their life position in a cultural and systemic context. It is closely related to goals, expectations, levels and burdens. Varni et al (2006) state that sustainability life also can be defined as a multi-dimensional construct that reflects one's own perceptions of joy and satisfaction with life. In other words, the meaning of this sustainable livelihood depend on each individual according to the level of their needs and satisfaction. According to Ahmad (2008) education plays an important role in achieving sustainability of life because education is one of the most important indicators in the quality of human life. This study proves that education is one of the main foundation to maintain the social unity of the country.

Human capital in terminology of knowledge, education, skills and attitudes have influence to life sustainability (Shafii et al., 2009; Omar, 2010; Shaladdin et al., 2006). Gary S. Becker (2009) views human capital having relevance to the economics of society and the nation, because the individual himself is inseparable from knowledge, skills and health. The

productivity of developed countries such as Japan and South Korea is increasing due to their high human capital. These countries are developed without pushing aside the role of values and identity. (Ismail, Yussof & Saukani 2011) Human development is an important capital that can help society towards a good and happy life (Mohamed & Abu, 2010). Human capital development in this study are education, knowledge, skills and attitude is a lifelong learning that needs to be emphasized to achieve a good quality of life. Atkinson et al (2020) strongly support the notion that social capital as one of the dimensions of social change has to do with a well-governed community and institutional economy. Bourdieu (1986) states social capital as the nature of social networks in which available resources are shared. Fukuyama 1999 agree that social capital focuses on cooperation, honesty, performance of duties and honesty between group members. Moreover, Dinda (2014) in research show that social capital can improve the quality of life. Lumintang, (2015) also concluded that there is an influence of social capital on quality of life. Even Uslaner (2019) recognize social capital focuses on cooperation, honesty, task execution and honesty between group members. Atkinson et al (2020) in their study also emphasize the importance of social relations such as trust and integration in a community in living a prosperous life. Social capital an important element in tackling urban poverty.

Indeks Kesejahteraan Rakyat Malaysia (IKRM) in 2013 and the report show that various initiatives have been taken by the government to improve the well-being of the people regardless of race and ethnicity (Indeks et al., 2019). According to Azizah et, al. (2014), most developed countries focus on this concept of well -being as a national development agenda. Sustainability of life is important and is a key precondition in building conditions that are more geared towards peace and happiness in a community for each country (Mohamed & Abu 2010). Although the government has worked to improve the living wellness index, issues related to urban poverty still exist. The study of Azman et al., (2016) showed that the factor that drives the increasing expenditure of the population in urban areas is due to the standard of living of urbanization that occurs. This causes the researcher to use three dimensions of social change in this study.

Methodology

The study uses the survey design by studying the population through measurement data from a determined sample size (Chua, 2014). The population in this research are urban poverty from Klang Valley, Malaysia. The sample is 412 of respondents using the formula from Krejcie and Morgan (1970). The survey questionnaires are used as the instrument to collect data was adapted and modified from (Aziz & Yahaya 2019). The measurement used five-point likert scale from the lowest scale 1 'strongly disagree' to the highest scale 5 'strongly agree'. The questionnaire contains 68 items and three dimensions of social change. The interaction between variables was tested using regression weight, while the amount of prediction was calculated by R squared using correlation and regression test method in SPSS. The reliability test analysed display in table 1.

Table 1

Reliability Test Analysis

	Number of item	Cronbach's Alpha
Social Wellbeing	19	0.916
Social Capital	18	0.932
Human Capital	18	0.936
Life Sustainability	8	0.945

Table 1 shows the value of Cronbach's Alpha for dimensions of social change is 0.916, 0.932 and 0.936 respectively while Cronbach's Alpha for life sustainability is 0.945. All of the Cronbach's Alpha value exceeds 0.6 means the dimension items are suitable for use and acceptable as measurement (Cates, 1990).

Results and Discussions

The findings of this study has established the model on the impact adaptation of social change of urban poverty toward sustainable livelihood. The study confirms the three dimensions proposed in adaption of social change – social capital, social wellbeing and human capital have a positive and significant correlation on life sustainability as shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Correlation

	Social Wellbeing	Social Capital	Human Capital	Life Sustainability
Social Wellbeing	1			
Social Capital	.809**	1		
Human Capital	.840**	.763**	1	
Life Sustainability	.769**	.636**	.802**	1

The impact of social change towards sustainable livelihood display in regression analysis findings shown that 67.8% of the variance adaption social change have contributed toward life sustainability of urban poverty. While the balance of 30 percent of the variance was influence by other factors. This analysis found that human capital are the most influential followed by social wellbeing as shown in Table 3.

Table 3

Model Summary and Coefficients

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.272	.132		2.068	.039
Social Wellbeing	.443	.069	.380	6.445	.000
Social Capital	-.099	.051	-.096	-1.935	.054
Human Capital	.620	.060	.556	10.374	.000
Life Sustainability					
R Square = 0.678					

This analysis can also be explained by using following equation:

$$Y = a + \beta X_1 + \beta X_2$$

Y = life sustainability

A = constant

β = regression coefficient

X1 = social wellbeing

X2 = human capital

Life Sustainability = 0.272 + (0.38) social wellbeing + (0.556) human capital.

This study was discovered that there was a positive correlation between social wellbeing and human capital toward sustainability of life. Social capital has shown no significant value in this analysis. In fact of that, the component of social capital in this discoveries has no huge impact on the sustainable livelihood. The final model developed in this study showed that impact adaptation of social change toward urban poverty sustainable livelihood as shown in figure 2.

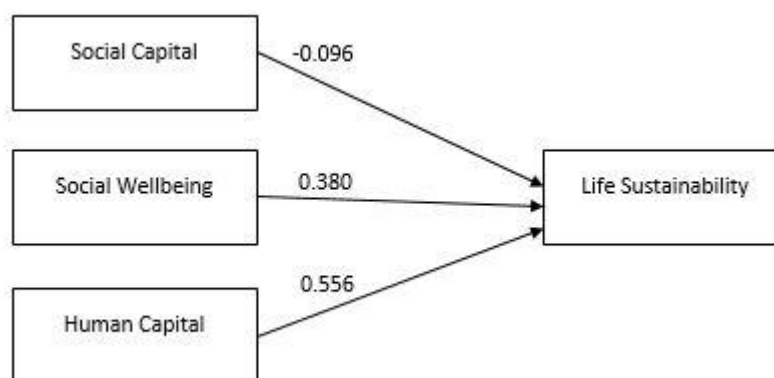


Figure 2

Conclusion

This study proposed a research framework that examined the impact adaptation of social change related to sustainable livelihood of urban poverty. A study by the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER) showed that more than two-thirds of Malaysians live in cities. The urban poor are at risk because majority do not have emergency savings especially when something unexpected happens such as the Covid-19 pandemic that effects community and

the economy of the country. Each person plays a role primarily in ensuring that families live in a sustainable. The government also plays a key role in providing aid and programs that benefits for the groups.

Policy makers and stakeholders can use the knowledge from this study in formulating strategies to improve quality of life of the community especially from the dimensions that affect the social changes. Social well-being factors such as health, neighborhood, safety and even human capital in terms of education, knowledge, skills and attitudes should be addressed to improve sustainability of life. These are the factors indicated by the findings can contribute to the survival of the respondents. If used accurately and consistently, impacting factors can help stakeholders to plan, organize, and more importantly, give hope to the urban poor, as these groups are critical to a country's economic success or backwardness. This model will provide insightful information to social studied regarding urban poverty in Malaysia. The study recommends using a larger sample of participants and mediator for future research to sustain the quality and significant results. (Amin, , Zolkifeli, & Hassan, 2019; Zolkifeli, & Amin, 2018; Zolkifeli, & Amin, 2019)

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