

## Registration Care Institutions of Orphan and Poor Children in Terengganu, Malaysia

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### Abstract

Every established care institution should be registered under a body or organization. Therefore, the study was conducted to identify the registration care institutions of orphan and poor child in Terengganu, Malaysia. The study was conducted using a qualitative design through the distribution of questionnaires to 43 institutions in all districts in the State of Terengganu, Malaysia. This study used a qualitative research design consisting of structured interviews guided by a checklist on 43 institutions. The purposive sampling method was used in this study. The data obtained were analyzed using the frequency and percentages of the built-in checklists. The findings of the study show that there are 43 institutions involved in this study. There are 28 (65.1%) institutions were registered with MAIDAM, 9 (21.0%) institutions were registered with JKM and ROS and 2 (4.7%) institutions were registered with SSM. Proactive action needs to be implemented immediately to ensure that child care institutions established in the State of Terengganu are registered with any body or organization whether government or non-government to guarantee the well-being and functionality of the lives of children placed in national care institutions.

**Keywords:** Care, Institution, Registration Status, Orphan, Poor Children

### Introduction

The world has changed a lot and has an impact on the Institution of Care for Orphans and the Poor to improve the quality of its management to a better level (Van Ijzendoorn, 2011; Groark & McCall, 2011; Moyo et al., 2015; Browne, 2017; Zolkepli & Kawangit, 2018; Huynh et al., 2019). Orphanage and destitute care institutions have been a primary placement option for orphans and destitute children for centuries (Rosas & McCall, 2009; Dozier et al., 2012; Hermenau et al., 2015). These care institutions are built under the management of the government, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or individuals to provide the best care and services to children in need (Rosenberg et al., 2008; Chui & Jordan, 2017; Chege & Ucembe, 2020). Usually, children are placed in care institutions due to the death of a mother

or father, neglect due to poverty and the inability to access the children's education (Runyan, 2002; WHO, 2013; Petersen et al., 2014; Desalegn, 2015).

Care Institutions of orphans and the poor children were established to preserve, educate and nurture orphans; own, develop and administer orphanages and promote welfare work among members and the public around the care institution (Rahyl Mahyuddin et al, 1993; Awang et al., 2004; Wolff & Fesseha, 1998; Singletary, 2007; Dillon, 2007; UNICEF, 2011; Naher, 2012; Embleton et al., 2014). The effort to place care institutions of orphans and poor children is a noble effort (Stover et al., 2007; Zhao et al., 2009; Nair, 2014; Browne, 2017; Petrowski, Coppa & Gross, 2017). Because of that, the growth and development of these orphans and poor children, whether physically, mentally or socially, must be given as much attention as possible as children of the same age as those who can experience life in their own families (Roche, 2019; Van IJzendoorn et al., 2020).

New child care institutions are like mushrooms growing, but they need to be in line with the management's ability to ensure that the value system that is practiced coincides with the acts and policies that have been set by the government. It is not wrong to establish a care institution for children, but it needs to be registered with any government agency so that monitoring can be done as best as possible. A large number of care institutions operating throughout the country are run by individuals, private institutions such as NGOs, or government agencies to provide accommodation, care and support for children who need care for various social, economic and security reasons (Eliansu, 2017).

Based on the Care Center Act 1993, care institutions are required to register with the Department of Social Welfare (JKM). The purpose of registration is for data storage and monitoring for the regulations that have been set in the 1994 Care Center Regulations that need to be followed by the care center management (Raudah et al., 2015). The purpose of the Care Center Act 1993 (Act 506) is to provide provisions for the registration, control and inspection of care centers. In line with the government's desire to control daycare centers, the government has mandated the registration of daycare centers. Each applicant must submit an application to JKM first before this matter is referred to the Local Authority (PBT), the Malaysian Fire and Rescue Department (JBPM) and the Malaysian Ministry of Health (KKM). Therefore, JKM indirectly plays a role in the management of care institutions. This is in line with JKM's role to improve capabilities and breathe new life into the organization (JKM, 2018).

There are several types of registration that exist which are registered and unregistered. A registered institution means that the institution is registered with the government. The registration of institutions in Malaysia is under the authority of JKM (Ghida, 2014). The responsible party is the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM). The registration of care institutions in Malaysia is subject to the Care Center Act 1993. This Act explains that the application for the registration of a care center is under section 6 of the Care Center Act 1993 (UNICEF, 2010). However, there are still many institutions that do not register their care institutions (LUMOS, 2018). Care institution managers and staff are responsible for ensuring that quality care is provided to children. The Ministry and Department of Child Welfare are responsible for policies, guidelines, registration, supervision, monitoring and provision of facilities in childcare centers (Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, 2009; Better Care Network, 2015; Heng, 2008).

**Methodology**

This study used secondary data and a qualitative research design with structured interviews guided by a checklist. This study has received a research ethics approval from the Faculty Evaluation Committee of Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) to conduct the study.

To obtain information regarding orphanages in Terengganu, the researcher searched through the lists of care institutions from the Welfare Department, the Registrar of Societies (ROS), the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM), and the Islamic Religious Council and Malay Customs Council (MAIDAM). In addition, the list of institutions were also obtained through systematic searches on social media such as Facebook, official websites, newspapers and magazines. Furthermore, information from the public was also used to obtain a list of care institutions that housed orphans throughout Terengganu, Malaysia.

The purposive sampling method was used in this study. The inclusion criteria were the care institution should be a residential institution that houses poor orphans while being established in the state of Terengganu, Malaysia. The information taken into account are institution name, district, institution ownership, institution registration status and institution type.

To get a deeper look at the institution's profile, a qualitative study in the form of a checklist-guided interview was used. A checklist is a set of questions (Karges-Bone, 2000; De Vaus, 2002) that contains items needed, things to do and things to consider that are used to review everything that needs to be done, has been and will be (Council Dictionary, 2005) either formal or informal (British Columbia Institute of Technology, 2010; McCain & Tobey, 2004) or systematically and un-systematically. The checklist in the study was used to identify practices of the management of care institutions that shelters poor orphans on a regular basis. The types of checklists used in this study were dichotomous questions and multiple nominal responses (De Vaus, 2002) in order to obtain regular and systematic data from respondents. The data collection procedure of this study involves firstly getting the respondent's consent to participate in this study. Respondents who agreed to participate in this study were required to sign informed consent. In the informed consent, information regarding the objectives of the study, the right of the respondent to withdraw from the study, not answering any questions, the information of the researcher and the purpose of the study were provided. After signing the informed consent, the respondents were interviewed by the researcher. Structured interviews using the checklist took approximately 60 minutes for each respondent. All information obtained from the respondents were recorded using the audio recording machine and checklist form. The data obtained were analyzed using frequency and percentage based on the built-in checklist. To ensure the accuracy of the data collected, peer debriefing was conducted among the researchers. Peer debriefing is a technique that requires researchers to analyze data and then compare answers to ensure the accuracy of their answers (Guba, 1981). Table 1 below shows the child care institutions in Terengganu that were used as a study sample.

Table 1

*Care Institutions of Orphaned and Poor Children in Terengganu, Malaysia*

No	District	Care Institutions Of Orphaned And Poor Children
1.	Besut	5
2.	Setiu	1
3.	Kuala Nerus	3
4.	Kuala Terengganu	11
5.	Marang	6
6.	Hulu Terengganu	2
7.	Dungun	6
8.	Kemaman	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>43</b>

**Result and Discussion**

The study found that there are four types of IJAYM registration status, namely MAIDAM, JKM, ROS and SSM. However, the results of the study found that there are also IJAYM that register more than one agency. Table 2 shows the types of institutional registration according to the district involved in this study.

Table 2

*Registration Status Care Institution of Orphaned and Poor Children*

No	Institutions List	District	Registration Status			
			MAIDA M	J K M	R O S	R O C
1	Asrama Darul Falah Bukit Payong	Marang	X	√	√	X
2	Pertubuhan Asrama Anak-Anak Saudara Kita, Yatim, Fakir & Miskin (PERKIM)	Marang	√	X	X	X
3	Maahad Tahfiz Waltarbiyah Darul Iman	Kuala Terengganu	√	X	X	X
4	Asrama Perkaya Marang	Marang	X	√	X	X
5	Madrasatul Quran Kubang Bujuk	Kuala Terengganu	√	X	X	X
6	Maahad Darul Quran	Marang	√	X	X	X
7	Madrasah Ad-Diniah Al-Islamiah	Setiu	√	X	X	X
8	Pondok At Taqwa	Besut	√	X	X	X
9	Markaz Tarbiyyah Islamiah Darul Bayan	Dungun	√	X	X	X
10	Madrasah Darul Bayan	Dungun	√	√	X	X
11	Madrasatul Miftatul Huda	Besut	√	√	X	X
12	Madrasah Mazahirul Ulum	Marang	√	X	X	X
13	Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Al-Mizan	Dungun	√	X	X	X
14	Pondok Darussalam	Kuala Terengganu	√	X	X	X

15	Madrasatul Quran Lilbanat	Kuala Terengganu	√	X	X	X
16	Pondok Al Huda	Marang	√	X	X	X
17	Madrasah Ibtidai	Hulu Terengganu	√	X	X	X
18	Pusat Tarbiyyah Nurul Iman	Besut	X	X	√	X
19	Asrama Perkaya Besut	Besut	X	X	√	X
20	Maahad Tahfiz As-Syifa'	Kuala Terengganu	X	X	X	X
21	Madrasah Ta'alim Wattarbiyah	Besut	√	X	X	X
22	Pertubuhan Kebajikan dan Pendidikan Baitul Sakinah	Kuala Terengganu	X	√	X	X
23	Pertubuhan Cakna Anak Yatim Kemaman	Kemaman	X	√	√	X
24	Madrasah Asharaful Ulum	Kuala Terengganu	√	X	X	X
25	Madrasah Hafizatul Akmal	Kemaman	X	X	X	√
26	Akademik Tahfiz Al-Quran Azzawawi	Kemaman	X	X	√	X
27	Asrama Kebajikan Anak-Anak Yatim Miskin Darul Akhyar	Kuala Nerus	√	X	X	X
28	Madrasah Darul Ansar	Hulu Terengganu	√	X	X	X
29	Ribath Al-Asyraf	Kemaman	√	X	X	X
30	Madrasah Tarbiyah Islamiyyah Darul Hijrah (Kompleks Anak Yatim Tahfiz Darul Hijrah)	Kuala Terengganu	√	X	X	X
31	Rumah Kebajikan Anak-Anak Yatim Al-Hijrah	Kemaman	√	√	√	X
32	Madrasah Moden Maidam	Kuala Nerus	√	X	X	X
33	Maahad Tahfiz Al-Quran Al-Azhar	Kuala Terengganu	√	X	X	X
34	Asrama Pra Tahfiz Perkaya Dungun	Dungun	X	√	X	X
35	Madrasah Tahfiz Al-Quran Darul Ulum	Dungun	√	X	X	X
36	Madrasah Tahfiz Al-Quran Darul Ulum Lil Banat	Dungun	√	X	X	X
37	Madrasah Hafizatul Quran	Kuala Terengganu	X	X	X	√
38	Maahad Tahfiz Al-Huda	Kuala Terengganu	√	X	X	X
39	Ma'had Daruttaqwa	Kuala Nerus	√	X	X	X
40	Pertubuhan Kebajikan Komuniti Raudhatul Hijrah	Kemaman	X	X	√	X
41	Rumah Hafizatul Quran	Kemaman	√	X	X	X
42	Rumah Anak Yatim Asnaf As-Solehah	Kemaman	X	√	√	X
43	Pusat Tahfiz Darul Mahabbah	Kemaman	X	X	√	X

Table 3 shows the frequency distribution of the status of enrolment of care institutions that house poor orphans. A total of 28 (65.1) institutions were registered with MAIDAM, 9 (21.0%) institutions were registered with JKM and ROS and 2 (4.7) institutions were registered with SSM.

Table 3

*Registration Status Care Institutions for Orphans and the Poor Children in the State of Terengganu, Malaysia*

No	List Agency	Total	%
1	MAIDAM	28	65.1
2	JKM	9	21.0
3	ROS	9	21.0
4	ROC	2	4.7

Based on the registration status that has been made by the institution, there are various types of registration made by institutions that care for orphans and poor children. If the parties involved can coordinate the registration of the childcare institution, it will make it easier for all parties in terms of financial allocation, security, policies and also guidelines for the establishment of a childcare institution. This type of institutional registration results in confusion and misunderstanding of individuals who will establish a care institution. This matter also needs to be publicized to the general public so that the institutions that are established follow the correct and systematic guidelines so that the welfare and safety of the residents in the care institutions are guaranteed. There are several reasons or excuses given by institutions when questioned about their institution's registration status. Some of them stated that they are still in the registration process and it takes a long time. In addition, some stated that their institutions have not received support or approval from technical agencies such as the Local Authority (PBT), Fire and Rescue Department and Health Department before starting operations.

The problems that arise are not only related to newly established institutions, but existing institutions also face their own problems. For example, in a study conducted by Nalasamy and Ah (2013), care institutions registered in Malaysia mostly fail to comply with most of the matters contained in the UNESCO Convention on the Rights of the Child. This statement is supported by a study conducted by JKM together with several other agencies and found that most of the welfare institutions in this country failed to fulfill the matters contained in the international convention on children's rights (UNESCO). According to Nalasamy and Ah (2013), the convention on children's rights does not state clearly and in detail how each child's right needs to be implemented into the lives of children living in care institutions. How does this happen when Act 506 of the Care Center Act 1993 (Act 506) was created as the basis for provisions for the registration, control and inspection of care centers and matters related thereto.

### **Conclusion**

A study by Chear et al (2020) showed that the establishment status of care institutions was also found to vary with registration records at JKM. This situation occurs because the care institution in question is not registered with relevant agencies such as JKM. This situation causes difficulties for the government to channel any form of aid that is needed. This statement is supported by studies conducted by Abu Talib et al (2020); Siti Hajar et al (2020), which prove that the list of institutions for the care of orphans and the poor, especially in Malaysia, is still vague. This is because there is still a list of care institutions that house orphans and poor children that are not registered with JKM. Therefore, the management practices practiced by this institution caused such a situation to occur. Every child care institution or other care institution needs to be registered to facilitate the affairs of the management in completing the functionality of the lives of the residents living in the premises involved. The government is advised to simplify the registration process, especially the conditions that need to be complied with by individuals who want to open a care center. This can help ease the government's burden in helping groups that need proper care and protection. Proactive action also needs to be implemented immediately to ensure that child care institutions established in the State of Terengganu are registered with any body or organization whether government or non-government to guarantee the well-being and functionality of the lives of children placed in national care institutions.

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