

Human Development Index of Bahau Community

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ABSTRACT

To enhance the human development, the government has established a number of policies and facilities. All Malaysian have the opportunity to gain the benefits from such establishments. This study attempts to determine the level of human development among Bahau community. This study is a quantitative study and the respondents were chosen based on simple random sampling. A total of 300 respondents from Bahau were chosen to be surveyed. This study focuses on three parts which are 1) health; 2) income and 3) education. It was found that the human development index among Bahau community is at a moderate level. To further enhance their human development index, the government should provide opportunities for communities to increase their income and develop several new educational models to encourage and enable a new generation to explore new knowledge.

KEYWORDS: Human development index, Bahau community, health, income, education, community development

1- INTRODUCTION

Human development refers to stages of enhancing people's freedom and provides chances to improve their well-being (United Nation Development Programme, 2010). Additionally, it refers to people freedom to decide who to be, what to do and how to do. The economist Mahbub ul Haq is the person who developed the concept of human development and has published the first Human Development Report in 1990 and was commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The first report of human development presented a new measurement on development by focusing on three factors namely health, education and income into a composite of human development index (HDI) (UNDP, 2011). All these three components are very important in measuring the HDI. The most valuable capability people possess is to be alive. To stay alive, people have to avoid the premature death, live in a healthy environment, maintain a healthy lifestyle, receive a better quality of medical care and attain the highest possible standard of physical and mental health (American Human Development Project Social science Research Council, 2011). Besides, to decide what to do and who to be, people need knowledge. By knowledge, people can determine the long-term of well-being and is important to individual freedom, self-determination and self-sufficiency (American Human Development Project Social science Research Council, 2011). On top of it, to fulfill the basic needs, people need money. Without money the life chances is limited and restrict access to many opportunities.

2- Situation in bahau

Over the years, Bahau, a town located in the district of Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan has seen tremendous development especially in the field of education, health and economic activities. Based on the government education policy in the 8th Malaysia Plan, adequate education facilities have been provided by the government especially for rural areas. It is visible that Bahau has already received the impact of the transformation in the education policies. This can be proven as a number of areas in Bahau have been developed in terms of the establishment of new schools. For instance, Jempol, one of the areas in Bahau has 50 primary schools, 16 secondary schools and 22 religious schools.

Besides, in terms of health, the Ministry of Health has set an objective to assist people in achieving and sustaining as well as maintaining a certain level of health status to further facilitate them in leading a productive lifestyle economically and socially. Furthermore, the health aspect is further boosted by introducing or providing promotional and preventive approaches, other than an efficient treatment and rehabilitation services, which is suitable and effective, whilst priorities are also given on the less fortunate groups. In Kuala Pilah alone, the government has provided 29 government health clinics, five government dental clinics and one government health office to increase the level of health among communities in this area.

Currently, it was identified that the major source of income for Bahau community is from the agriculture sector, and the main commodities grown are rubber and palm oil. However, the prices of these commodities are

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unstable due to imbalance in the market demand and supply. Even though other sectors such as the small-industry are at present developing in Bahau, the contribution towards the income of the people is still low.

From the above, it is clear that information with regard to the status of human development of the community in Bahau is still ambiguous albeit its importance. Thus, this study is designed to investigate on the level of human development index of the Bahau community and the underlying factors that have an impact on this index.

3- MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study is a quantitative study and the respondents were chosen based on simple random sampling. A total of 300 respondents from Bahau were chosen to be surveyed. This study focuses on three part which are 1) health; 2) income and 3) education. Then to calculate the HDI, the well-o-meter has been used to gain the index value. SPSS was used to run the appropriate analyses.

4- RESULTS

Respondent background

Data gained have proven that more than a quarter of the respondents were housewife (26.7%) and nearly to quarter of them were self-employed (24.7%). Not too many of the respondents were working within the government and private sectors as only 12.7% of them were identified to work within both sectors. This study provides positive indicator as the percentage recorded for those who grouped in the below poverty level¹ is only (29.7%). Most of the respondents can be considered as “senior” villagers as most of them were included in the group age of >50 years (39.7%). It can be detected that a total of 14.0% of the respondents stayed 11km from the nearest city and 30% of the respondents live at the distance or range 501-1000 meter from river. Majority of the respondents (41.3%) were detected to have 3-5 of family members.

4.1 HDI: health

In term of gender, there was an equal distribution between male and female respondents. Respondents of this study were dominated by the “senior” villagers as the mean score recorded for the respondents was 56.90 years. A huge majority of the respondents stay in the rural areas which has less than 2 million people. In term of health history, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents do have family members who are free from chronic diseases such as stroke, heart attack, cancer or diabetes. Furthermore, some of the respondents have stated in term of age, their grandparents have reach 80 years or more.

We can conclude that majority of the respondents whose age 65 years above are free from any work stress as they are not attached to any works or professions. In can be detected that majority of the respondents are staying with their spouse. In addition, majority of them have never stayed alone since they were 25 years old. Only minority of the respondents was working behind desks and this is not surprising as majority of the respondents were housewife, self-employed and retirees. Moreover, only minority of the respondents claimed that their current works involve heavy physical works.

Majority of the respondents were not having frequent exercise as slightly half of them only exercise less than two times in a week. Only small number of respondents sleeps more than 10 hours in a day. In addition, minority of them claimed that there were easy going and relaxes and was not easily got angered.

It can be seen that the respondents were practicing a good driving behavior as only a small number of them have received speeding tickets. None of the respondents drink liquor as all of them were Muslim². The facts that majority of respondents are not facing overweight problem and were having their annual medical checkup portray that the respondents studied were practicing a healthy lifestyle and the aspect of health is expected to contribute much towards the respondents HDI.

Table 1: Human Development Index in Health

Level	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	SD
Gender				
Male	152	50.7		
Female	148	49.3		
Age (years)			56.90	14.816
<30	17	5.7		
30-40	29	9.7		
40-50	52	17.3		
50-70	142	47.3		
>70	60	20.0		

¹ The poverty level in Malaysia is set by the Economic Planning Unit and it refers to person who earn below RM720 a month (equivalent to USD 240)

² Muslim is prohibited to drink liquor.

Live in urban areas with the population more than 2 million		
Yes	1	0.3
No	299	99.7
Has one of your grandparents live to age 85 or more		
Yes	82	27.3
No	218	72.7
Have all of your grandparents live to age 80 or more		
Yes	81	27.0
No	219	73.0
Has either one of your parents died of a stroke of heart attack before 50		
Yes	49	16.3
No	251	83.7
Has any parents, brother or sister under the age 50 has or had cancer of a heart condition or has diabetes		
Yes	55	18.3
No	245	81.7
Are you over 65 and still working		
Yes	25	8.3
No	275	91.7
Do you live with the spouse or friend		
Yes	293	97.7
No	7	2.3
How many years have you lived alone since age 25 (years)		
0	272	90.7
1-5	19	6.3
6-10	6	2.0
>10	3	1.0
Do you work behind a desk		
Yes	17	5.7
No	283	94.3
Does your work require heavy physical work		
Yes	43	14.3
No	257	85.7
How long do you exercise strenuously (tennis, running, etc) a week for at least ½ hour		
5 times	81	27.0
2-3 times	52	17.3
Less than two times	167	55.7
Do you sleep more than 10 hour each night		
Yes	16	5.3
No	284	94.7
Are you intense; aggressive or easily angered		
Yes	4	1.3
No	296	98.7
Are you easy-going and relaxed		
Yes	296	98.7
No	4	1.3
Are you happy		
Yes	298	99.3
No	2	0.7
Are you unhappy		
Yes	6	2.0
No	294	98.0
Have you had a speeding ticket last year		
Yes	29	9.7
No	271	90.3
Do you drink equivalent of two drink or liquor a day		
Yes	0	0
No	300	100.0
Are you overweight		
I'm not overweight	211	70.3
By 10 to 30 pounds	47	15.7
By 30 to 50 pounds	38	12.7
By 50 pounds or more	4	1.3
Do you have annual medical check up		
Yes	252	84.0
No	48	16.0

4.2 HDI: income

The mean income per year recorded was RM26, 395.92 which is equivalent to RM2,199.41 per month. Such number exceeds the poverty level set by EPU. Nonetheless, albeit the average income per month do exceed the

poverty level, it should be highlighted that near one fifth of the respondents (18.7%) were detected to received yearly salary of <RM6,000 which is equivalent to <RM500 per month and it was below the poverty level (<RM720). Based on the data provided, it can be seen that income would not contribute much towards the respondents HDI (Table 2).

Table 2: Human Development Index in Income

Level	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Income per year			26395.92
<RM6,000	56	18.7	
RM6,001-RM12,000	79	26.3	
RM12,001-RM18,000	55	18.3	
RM18,001-RM30,000	56	18.7	
>RM30,001	54	18.0	

4.3 HDI: education

In term of education, it was categorized into 5 categories of education level. Those who never gone to school and attain PMR³ level of education were included in the first category (did not complete high school/no diploma). Respondents who attained SPM/SPMV⁴ were included in the second category (high school graduate or equivalent) while the third categories (some college credit or associate credit but not received a bachelor degree) were for those who attained STPM⁵/Skill Certificates or Diploma. The fourth and fifth category were referred to respondents who attained degree or Master/PhD respectively. Based on the data, majority of the respondents (59.0%) were included in category one and 32.3% of them were included in category two which is expected to reduce their overall HDI (Table 3).

Table 3: Human development Index in Education

Level of Education	Frequency	Percentage
Did not complete high school / no diploma	177	59.0
High school graduate or equivalent	97	32.3
Some college credit or associate credit, but did not receive a bachelor degree	19	6.3
Bachelor degree from four year college or university	7	2.3
Master/Doctorate of Professional Degree	0	0

4.4. Overall HDI

The HDI value was categorized into three groups which are low (1.00-4.00), moderate (4.01-7.00) and high (7.01-10.0). The overall mean HDI score for Bahau community (M=4.09). More than half of the respondents (56.7%) have low HDI index followed by respondents who have moderate HDI index (36.0%) and only 7.3% of respondents have high HDI (Table 4).

Table 4: Overall level of Bahau Community Development Index

HDI Index Category	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	SD
Low (1.00-4.00)	170	56.7	4.09	1.609
Moderate (4.01-7.00)	108	36.0		
High (7.01-10.00)	22	7.3		

5- DISCUSSION

Results gained have revealed that the Bahau community has a moderate level of human development index. There are two probable factors, namely education and income have caused the human development index among the community is low. In term of education, most of them did not complete high school / no diploma. Even some of them have never gone to school. Situation occurs here can be related to the demographic data of the respondents which indicate that majority of the respondents were included in the age group of 50-70 years old. During their period, education was not emphasized and the awareness among them on the importance of education is still low especially before the country gained its independence in 1957. Only after Malaysia independence, the education policy was further strengthened and people start to receive a higher level of education. Relatively, due most of them are not receiving any higher education, its impinge their job profession and most of the were found to be self-

³ PMR refers to Malaysia Lower Education Certificate

⁴ SPM/SPMV refers to Malaysia Education Certificate/Malaysia Vocational Education Certificate

⁵ SPMV refers to Malaysia Higher Education Certificate

employed and earned a monthly income less than RM1000. Even some of them are classified under poverty level. However, due to good health condition, it makes the human development index value not pushed too low.

6- Conclusion

It can be concluded that the HDI among Bahau community is at a moderate level. Such level of HDI can be resulted from their minimum achievement and earns in education and income. Therefore, the government should provide opportunities for communities to increase their income while providing some incentive to them. In addition, the ministry also should developed several new educational model to encourage and enable a new generation to explore new knowledge and provide scholarships for all those who pursue to higher education especially for Master and Doctorate degree.

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