

The Development Scheme Of People's Welfare (Spkr): The Changes Main Income Of Group Fisherman In Hardcore Poverty In Area North Kuala Terengganu In 2008

Mohd Hudzairi Mansor Mohd Nadzir ; Mohd Yusof Hussain
Malaysian National University(UKM)
Email: hudzairi@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research was conduct in 2008. That time the writer had finance problem to publish this paper. Now the writer try to publish this paper and add some of new input. Poverty eradication has been one of the government's agenda since the New Economic Policy. Various poverty alleviation programs have been implemented by government agencies and the non-government agencies. Government agencies are the Malaysia Fisheries Development Authority (LKIM) and non-government agencies are Ikhtiar Trust Malaysia (AIM) and the Foundation for Poverty eradication (YBK). This article reveals the extreme poverty situation among the fishermen in the North of Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu. The respondents were categorized as extreme poverty fishermen and at the same time, they are participating in the Development Scheme of People's Welfare or in malay langauge says " Skim Kesejahteraan Pembangunan Rakyat" (SPKR). The scheme is managed by Malaysia Fisheries Development Authority, Terengganu. The number of participants for the Kuala Terengganu SPKR Northern part is 35 and only 17 were selected as respondents using judgemental sampling. The purpose of this paper is to identify the demographic profile and income of the respondents (head of household) before and after their participation in the scheme. In addition to identifying changes in quality of life in terms of accommodation and facilities

owned. The questionnaire also used to gather information. The findings of the study show that 82.4 percent of respondents managed to increase their income after getting assistance from the scheme (SPKR). There is also a change in type of accommodation and stages of receiving electricity and water supply. Mostly of the participants managed to exit the poverty line income (PLI) as for the extreme poverty gaining more than RM469. PLI level is based on the guidelines set by the State of Terengganu. Implications that can be seen are the increase in income then the participants can change their lives. Indirectly, they are able to enjoy life like other communities though not as a whole.

Key words: Tranquility, fisherman, extreme poverty, poverty line income.

INTRODUCTION

This research was conduct in 2008. That time the writer had finance problem to publish this paper. Now the writer try to publish this paper and add some of new input. Since the implementation of the New Economic Policy in 1970, poverty eradication has become one of the main agenda of the Malaysian government in developing the livelihood and socio-economic status of the Malaysian population. Poverty is an enemy in the success of the country's development plans. According to economists such as Karl Mark,

poverty is attributable to low yields, unemployment, capitalizing systems and marketing of inefficient or perfect outcomes (Rohana Yusof & Che Su Mustaffa 1995). For Hairi Abdullah (1984) who gives opinion from the Islamic perspective, poverty is considered a social illness. Where it is considered to be the main enemy of the country's development plan. Even poverty is one of two areas of life that Islam is fighting. All science and economic institutions founded by Islam are aimed at combating poverty considered a disease (Ismail Ibrahim 2011). Syed Othman Alhabshi (1996), states that poverty is not only seen in terms of economic perspectives but also in terms of social and political issues (Selangor State Economic Planning Unit 2005).

Various programs have been implemented by the government to eradicate poverty, regardless of urban or rural poverty. For example, programs implemented by the government are like the Poorest People Development Program. The program is now replaced by the Development Scheme of People's Welfare (SPKR) by the Ministry of Rural Development (Hassan Md Amin 2006). In Malay language SPKR mean *Skim Pembangunan Kesejahteraan Rakyat*. The eradication of poverty especially hardcore poverty has intensified in the Ninth Malaysia Plan, in which the government has targeted the eradication of zero hardcore poverty by 2010 (Malaysia 2006). For the Terengganu Fish Development Authority of Malaysia, a poverty eradication program was created to eradicate hardcore poverty among fishermen, through the Development Scheme of People's Welfare.

LITERATURE HIGHLIGHTS

There are various individual opinions on the issue of poverty. However, research and writing is made to approach and parse the issue of poverty which is a concern in this section. Syed Husin Ali (1978) in his research on socio-economic in Kelantan states that there are four theories that cause the causes of poverty namely personality and cultural characteristics, population increase, lack of technology and capital and also the structure of economic and social inequality. The theory of the characteristics of piety and culture tells us that poverty is caused by the negative characteristics of the individual and their culture. For example, Malaysians are said to have sluggishness, tendency, fate and so on. The theory of this theory is that if the income does not increase is due to the lazy nature of the effort. For the theory of population increase, he states that this theory emphasizes the increasing number of population movement ahead of stage of development or economic development.

McNamara (1975) states that the poor live in rural areas and they sometimes suffocate for acquiring limited resources. But the actual situation they suffer is because no technology and services and the reason that institutionalized control over the upper levels resulted in productivity leakage.

In the study of poverty among fishermen in Kelantan, Ishak Shaari (1990) states that fishermen are poor, moderate and rich. Most of these fishermen are poor and they lack capital and do not have their own fishery equipment. He saw poverty in 1970, 1975 and 1980. According to him again, these people earned very low income (ranging from RM30 to RM300) to cause them less able to support their families.

Jomo (1991) states that these fishermen in 1970 and 1971, the third household belong to poverty. According to

him again in 1976, fishermen in Peninsular Malaysia by 35 percent earned about RM150 while 9 percent earned RM500. These poor fishermen are also of different races. Most important is Malay and second is Chinese. Fishermen in the East Coast have less opportunities and rights in the market and they are also earning less (less than RM350).

The study conducted by Yahya Ibrahim (2007) on three islands on the east coast is touched on the life of fishermen. In his study on Pulau Redang, Perhentian and Tioman shows at first most household heads are working as fishermen. Most of them are below the poverty line. In order to increase their income they start to engage in tourism activities and in turn their income increases. For those who are still in the job as fishermen, they make extra work and there are tourist boat drivers.

Mohammad Raduan Mohd Ariff, Mazlan Majid and Yeap Hock Lai (2009) in their study in the Kota Belut district say that the Poverty Eradication Program of traditional fishermen is difficult to achieve as the program package is incomplete and perfect. For example, equipment provision only. It needs to give more depth such as boat repair workshops, equipment making workshops and encouraging them to open downstream industries such as opening a barbecue restaurant.

Norviarti, Jamaluddin Md. Jahid and Abd. Rahim Md. Nor (2011) in their study in West Sumatra states that the constraints of physical and social environments are a major problem in fulfilling the quality of life of fishermen's households. According to them, to increase the income of the economy is the involvement of household members. Even the economic growth can change their quality of life. Economic and social problems affecting fishermen are associated

with internal constraints and external constraints. Internal constraints such as education, experience and skills. While external constraints are such as environmental systems and institutions.

For Mohamed Zaini Omar, Main Rindam and Che Supian Mohamad Nor (2012) states that with the granting of capital allowances can increase the income of the poor. This gives new income opportunities. But their study was to grant credit by Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia. Which loan product is between RM 2000 to RM 50000. For Sham 1991 states that one of the ways to eradicate poverty in the short term is by granting credits (in Mohamed Zaini Omar, Main Rindam and Che Supian Mohamad Nor 2012).

If we see some factors contributing to poverty and retention of the poor in the same level. This paper looks at the fishermen who participated in the SPKR program and the study was conducted in the new millennium.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEMS AND OBJECTIVES

It is generally evident that various programs have been implemented by the Malaysian government to eradicate poverty and the involvement of various government and non-government agencies such as the Malaysian Fisheries Development Authority and Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia. Household diminution also occurred where the number of hardcore poverty households decreased from 91,700 in 1999 to 67,300 households in 2004 (RMK9 2006).

However, the number of hardcore poverty households still exists. In 2005, the Poverty Line Income set by the government was RM691 for the whole of Malaysia (RMK 9 2006). The overall PLI difference

in Malaysia with Terengganu state PLI can be seen in Table 1.1. If we in the table, we see PLI Terengganu for hardcore poverty

was RM 469 and for overall PLI Terengganu for poverty was RM734.

Table 1.1 : Differences in Poverty Line Income (PLI) For All Malaysia and Terengganu State For The Year 2004

PLI Overall		Hardcore Poverty PLI	
Malaysia	Terengganu	Malaysia	Terengganu
RM691	RM734	RM415	RM469

The size of the home for Terengganu is 5.0
The size of the household for Malaysia is 4.5
Sumber : 9th Malaysia Plan (RMK9) 2006

Therefore, the most important thing to see here is whether the SPKR will increase the income of fishermen who are categorized as hardcore poor and remove them from the Poverty Line Income. In addition, whether hardcore poverty among fishermen continues after joining this scheme.

The health conditions of the poor are also one of their poorer factors. The health condition of the poorest people causes the assistance available in the People's Welfare Development Scheme to be fully utilized to reach the maximum level of full energy to generate the economy of their family members. These health problems will impose the work they are doing. Their level of education and health play a role as the cause of their continued residence in hardcore poverty.

This leads the researcher to carry out this study. From here, this paper presents the main objective of knowing the number of

poorest fishermen whose income has increased after being involved with the SPKR implemented by Terengganu Fish Development Authority of Malaysia.

The level of education of the family head and the poorest category of fishermen's health is observed whether it affects the income level after joining the scheme in the North Kuala Terengganu area. Specifically, the objective of this paper is to identify the respondents' fixed income profile (head of household) before and after being a participant in the SPKR. In addition, identifying changes in the quality of life in terms of accommodation and facilities.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this section we discuss in detail the way or method used during the study. The questionnaire is location selection, respondent selection, sampling method, data collection technique and data processing.

The location of the study was the fishermen's residence in North Kuala Terengganu, mostly in rural areas and near the coast. Kuala Terengganu North is part of Kuala Terengganu district. This area is the most fishery area in the State of Terengganu with a total of 1,790 people living in the area (Terengganu State Economic Planning Unit 2002).

Respondents were selected from the list of participants of the People's Welfare Development Scheme given by the Terengganu State Fish Development Authority of Malaysia. The sampling method used is sampling consideration. Kuala Terengganu Utara covers the area between Seberang Takir to Kampung Merang such as Batu Rakit mukim, Seberang Takir, Padang Nenas, Pak Tuyu, Floating Telipot and Kampung Merang. The residence of this participant is not in a single area. There are two data collection techniques that are used as secondary data and primary data.

Interview techniques are also used when conducting interviews or conversations with respondents and those involved with the SPKR, officers of the Malaysian Fisheries Development Authority (LKIM), Terengganu State Fishermen's Association (PENENTU) and Kuala Terengganu Utara Area Fishermen's Association (PNK). While informal interviews were spontaneously presented in the conversation with the respondent. The purpose of this questionnaire is to respond to respondents to add information in the study where the respondents clarify the information in detail and the information is recorded. Data from this interview is important to strengthen the argument and data in this paper, which can not be in the collection of other information. This way can also collect the latest information. In

addition, a survey form is also used to facilitate respondents to answer questions. This is to see if this program helps increase their income or vice versa. In addition to achieving and completing the objective of this paper.

ANALYSIS AND DATE OF STUDY

In this section, the paper will examine the results of the analysis obtained from the survey form on 17 respondents involved with People's Welfare Development Scheme (SPKR) organized by Terengganu Fish Development Authority Malaysia (LKIM). Analysis shows that there are respondents involved with the SPKR within two to four years. Of the 17 respondents, only 88.2 per cent were involved with the SPKR for three years. A respondent stated that he was involved with the SPKR for two years and another stated that he had been involved with the Four-Year SPKR.

A total of 13 respondents from 17 respondents, all of whom are male and working as fishermen have received fishery equipment assistance such as fiber boats, boat engines and trawlers. Meanwhile, only two respondents receive only the engines and nets. Respondents are women and they receive processing equipment and wards for them to engage in this small industry. Their husband's spirits are fishermen. The small industry they are involved in is making a lobster and sucker crackers. The age of the respondents involved is between 35 and 66 years old. In terms of education level, respondents whose backgrounds have never received formal education are more and more than 50 percent ie 58.82 per cent. Four respondents received education to primary school. The rest reaches high school level but only ranks three only.



The highest number of child dependents is seven people, only one respondent, who has the dependency. The highest number of respondents was respondents with five children whose percentage was 29.41 percent. 94.12 percent of respondents who have children in their dependents at secondary school level. There are seven respondents who have three children in high school. For the higher education stage every four respondents had a child studying at higher education, for example polytechnics. Percentage of respondents with children who are unemployed or unemployed is 35.29 percent.

Furthermore, analysis is also made on the health of all respondents. Only two people have diabetes and their scientific name is diabetes mellitus. Two of the respondents were ill because of an older age of 56 years old. The remaining respondents stated in the survey form that they had no illness.

Before joining the People's Welfare Development Scheme (SPKR) the income of all respondents earned between RM150 to RM450. After participating in the People's Welfare Development Scheme, 82.4 percent of respondents indicated an increase in income above RM500 and the rest was raised at RM 300 to RM 400. For additional income or non-employment prior to joining the People's Welfare Development Scheme, only three respondents had additional income. Two out of three respondents are men and another respondents are women. These additional income are like child money, relatives and side work like home repair. After joining the People's Welfare Development Scheme (SPKR) there was one respondent whose additional income came from the sale of dried fish.

Analysis also shows that all income earned by the respondents is used for household expenses. A male respondent stated that for her important child education, she did not want her children to live an adult like her. So for her extra classes can help in her child's education. Children's school spending is the money earned by the respondents.

However, no respondents pay their children to an additional class before joining the People's Welfare Development Scheme (SPKR). After participating in the SPKR, four respondents were able to spend their income to fund their supplementary classes for Junior High School (PMR) or Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM).

Prior to joining SPKR, the percentage of respondents who did not have their own electrical facilities at 52.9 percent. To spare the facility they use kerosene lamps or lamps. However after participating in the program, 52.9 percent of respondents who previously had no electrical facilities at home had already used electricity in their homes. Similarly with the water pipe, there is still a respondent in his house who still do not use the water pipe facility after participating in the program.

Once the analysis is completed, the author has obtained some results from the analysis made. These results are the findings of a study conducted on fishermen in Kuala Terengganu Utara accompanying SPKR. The first finding was that 82.4 percent of respondents (14 people) out of 17 people participating in SPKR organized by LKIM successfully increased their income.

Although the level of education is low or not schooled, they are using the opportunity given the best they can to increase their income. They also surpassed the Hardcore Poverty Line Income set in the State of Terengganu at RM469. Appointing

and informing SPKR participants also helped increase the catchment of respondents working fishermen. Increased fish catch contributes to increased income of respondents.

In addition, household spending on most respondents increases as their income rises. Analysis also found that respondents, no savings made by respondent to care for the future. This is because of the high spending and payable debt caused the respondents not saving.

The aspect of the quality of life change from two aspects, namely residence and facilities owned only 11.8 percent of respondents whose homes have already made the addition of cement stone in the kitchen room. Aspects of facilities such as electricity and water, the analysis found that 100 percent of respondents after participating in SPKR had electrical facilities. For pipeline facilities, 94.1 percent of respondents installed water pipes in their homes. But the remaining 5.9 per cent does not indicate that this respondent does not want to install water piping facilities but he is more comfortable with water facilities than water wells in his home.

SUMMARY

In summary, this paper reaches its goal in terms of its main purpose. Where the papers can submit a demographic profile and fixed income of the respondents before (between RM150 to RM450) and after (between RM400 to RM600) join the SPKR. In view of the results of the analysis and findings, the program implemented by the LKIM to eradicate hardcore poverty among fishermen was successful. But the success of the participants was only out of a single level of hardcore poverty. While they are still in poverty. The preservation of the State of

Terengganu is RM734 and RM691 for Malaysia. This may take some time as they are new and need more attention in generating better revenue.

However, with this increase in income they can enjoy better facilities. These people enjoy the use of electricity and water pipes. Not only that, some of them increase in income, it can provide better education for their children by giving their children to attend extra classes.

This program can be improved, where equipment and capital allocation is increased. In addition, financial management and the development of identity and mind need to be present. In because this group is uneducated and there is only low education. Therefore, they need guidance in administering and managing income and having self-development initiatives. Other agency cooperation in the program implemented by LKIM is necessary to ensure more opportunities and forms of assistance that can be channeled to eradicate poverty.

RUJUKAN

- [1] Hairi Abdulah. (1984). *Kemiskinan Dan Kehidupan Golongan Rendah*. Bangi: Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.
- [2] Hassan Md Amin, 2006. *Pembangunan Luarbandar: Pembasmian Kemiskinan*. Kertas kerja Kementerian Kemajuan Luarbandar dan Wilayah. Ceramah kuliah pembangunan dan perubahan desa. (14 Mac).
- [3] Ismail Ibrahim. (2011). *Konsep Wasatiyyah: Perspektif Islam*. Kertas Pembentangan Konvensyen Wasatiyyah Sempena Satu Milenium Islam di Nusantara. (9 Jun).

- [4] Ishak Shaari. 1990. *Ekonomi Nelayan*. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka
- [5] Jomo K.S. 1991. *Fishing For Trouble: Malaysian Fisheries, Sustainable Development and Inequality*. Kuala Lumpur: Universiti Malaya.
- [6] Norviarti, Jamaluddin Md. Jahid dan Abd. Rahim Md. Nor. (2011). Kualiti Hidup Nelayan di Sumatera Barat: Kekangan dan Adaptasi. *International Journal of the Malay World and Civilisation*,. 29(1): 245-257.
- [7] Malaysia. (2006). *Rancangan Malaysia Ke Sembilan 2006-2010*.
- [8] McNamara, R.S. (1975). *The Assault On World Poverty, Problems Of Rural Development, Education And Health*. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- [9] Mohamed Zaini Omar, Main Rindam dan Che Supian Mohamad Nor. (2012). Pencapaian skim kredit mikro Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM) dalam lanskap pembangunan luar bandar: Satu penilaian. *Malaysia Journal of Society and Space*. 8(2).7-19.
- [10] Mohammad Raduan Mohd Ariff, Mazlan Majid & Yeap Hock Lai. (2009). Penilaian Semula Program Pembasmian Kemiskinan Nelayan Tradisional di Sabah: Kajian Kes Daerah Kota Belud. *Borneo Research Journal*, 3. 93-114
- [11] Rohana Yusof dan Che Su Mustaffa. (1995). *Journal Pendekatan Projek Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia dalam Menangani Masalah Kemiskinan*. Kuala Lumpur : Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat.
- [12] Syed. Husin Ali. 1978. Kemiskinan Dan Kelaparan Tanah Di Kelantan (Satu Penyelidikan Sosio - Ekonomi Kelantan). Petaling Jaya: Karagkraf Sdn. Bhd.
- [13] Unit Perancang Ekonomi Negeri Kerajaan Negeri Selangor. (2005). *Blue Print: Membasmi Kemiskinan Di Negeri Selangor*.
- [14] Unit Perancang Ekonomi Negeri Terengganu. (2002). *Pelan Tindakan Ekonomi Rakyat Terengganu 2002-2006*.
- [15] Yahya Ibrahim. (2007). Komuniti Pulau dalam Era Pembangunan: Terpinggir atau Meminggir? *Akademika*, 70 :57-76