

A STUDY OF THE ATTITUDES OF THE LOCAL ELITES OF  
DUNGUN ON POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING

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## PREFACE

The aim of this Academic Exercise is to discover knowledge and attitudes of people on population, in this case, in Dungun, Trengganu.

In this research, the data was mainly obtained from interviews. The interviews were done in the various villages of Dungun, though not in the very rural areas. Specifically, it was done in the villages that is within a few miles from the district capital.

I have also proposed a hypothesis to be tested by the chi-square test.

I wish to record here, my deep indebtedness to, Dr. Arthur Terry Rambo, my supervisor, from whom I have received valuable advice and comments in the compilation of this Academic Exercise.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Much of the world now faces severe social and economic problems resulting from rapid population growth. The South East Asian countries, including Malaysia are no exception. In 1976, the world's population had already reached the 4 billion mark. Malaysia's population alone is 10,500,000<sup>1</sup> which represents an increase of about two million<sup>2</sup> since 1966. Such rapid population growth is an obstacle towards achieving better standards of living. It also creates various problems for the government for it is the concern of the government to create more jobs, school places, better housing - all of which is directed towards a better standard of living. The problem lies not so much on the increase of population but more so on keeping pace with the rapid population increase. As more people come to be born into the world, more jobs must be created, so too in other fields. And that poses a great problem to the country. Thus the problem lies here; rapid population growth will not be a problem if the welfare of the people is not affected. But we have to face the fact that providing for the needs of a large population is a great problem indeed for the government and also the people.

<sup>1</sup> Spectrum - New Sunday Times Magazine, June 13, 1976.

<sup>2</sup> Research Paper No: 9, Estimates of Inter-Censal Population by Sex, Community and age-group, Peninsular Malaysia (1957 - 1970) Department of Statistics Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur.



Despite the concern of social scientists, ecologists and some senior government officials about the rate of population increase many if not most, citizens appear to be apathetic about the problem. The author has therefore made a study on the attitudes of the local elites on population and family planning with the aim of finding out overtly what their perceptions and knowledge are of this important matter and to see how these influence their willingness to support population control programmes.

As has already been said, the aim of this study is to discover how much the local elites of Dungun, Trengganu know about population growth and family planning and what their attitudes toward population are. This study was focused on the elites rather than on the population in general because they are the people considered as having a certain amount of effective control over the community in one way or another and thus their opinion are likely to strongly influence the views of the rest of the community. In any case, since they hold a disproportionate share of political influence and power, it is their views that the government is most likely to take into consideration when formulating policy.

A simple acceptable definition of elites is that given in the Dictionary of the Social Sciences,

"Elites in the most general sense denotes a group of person who in society hold positions of eminence. More specifically it denotes a group of persons who are eminent in a particular field especially the governing minority and the circles from which the governing minority is recruited." <sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Julius Gould & William L. Kolb (ed). A Dictionary of the Social Sciences pp. 234.



H.D. Lasswell has defined elite as,

"those with the greatest access to and control of values of high positions in a given society. There are as many elites as there are values. Besides an elite of power (political elite) there are elites of wealth, respect, knowledge, (to name a few). Since we need a term for persons who are elites in relation to several values, we speak of "the elite" (the elite of society)."<sup>4</sup>

Based on the above two definitions, the author has chosen her respondents. This is due to the fact that the elites are the people who have greater political influence and that makes their views significant.

#### BACKGROUND OF THE AREA STUDIED :

##### LOCATION :

Dungun is a district whose capital is situated about 47 miles from the state's capital, Kuala Trengganu and about 300 miles from the federal capital, Kuala Lumpur. It has a population of about 52,790<sup>5</sup>, consisting of Malays, Chinese and Indians. The majority of the population is Malays with Indians the least in number.

Dungun is situated by the South China Sea which make it a suitable fishing area. The people especially the Malays living along the beaches, are fishermen by occupation. Those living in the town area are mostly civil servants and teachers. The majority of the Chinese are involved in business. There are no major industries in Dungun and that there are few industrial workers.

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<sup>4</sup>op cit; pp. 234.

<sup>5</sup>The information is obtained from the Dungun District Office.



CHOICE OF SAMPLE :

The author attempted to interview a representative sample of the elite population of Dungun. To start with, the author compiled a list of all the elite statuses, for example, senior government officers, political leaders village heads, etc., in the study area. She then sought out people on the list to interview them. Every respondent interviewed was asked, "Who do you think are the elites or the influential people of this area?" The author then also interviewed the people whom the respondents mentioned.

Thus there are two ways in which the author chose respondents. First -ly by listing down high positions in the area and secondly following the opinion of respondents themselves as to who other members of the elite were. Ultimately a list of 398 elite persons was compiled out of which 59 were interviewed.

It is important to note that the author did not know these respondents before the interview was carried out. Also the choice of respondents was not a matter of convenience for the respondents live far from the author's house. If after several visits to the homes and offices of the people chosen, the author still could not interview them then their names were cancelled from the list.

Before proceeding to discuss further, it would be more appropriate to state down what the social and occupational types constitute the elites of Dungun. It is shown in the Table 1 - 1 (a).



**TABLE 1 - 1 (a) : SOCIAL AND OCCUPATIONAL TYPES OF THE TOTAL ELITE OF DUNGUN.**

<u>POSITIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>NO. INTERVIEWED</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
RELIGIOUS HEADS	30	4	13
SENIOR OFFICERS	25	14	56
TEACHERS	250	10	4
HEADMASTERS	12	5	42
POLITICIANS	30	12	40
VILLAGE HEADS	6	3	50
BUSINESSMEN	10	2	20
JUNIOR OFFICERS	35	9	26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>14.8</b>

$$\frac{59 \times 100}{398} = 14.8$$

#### INTERVIEWING METHODS

The collection of data can be done in a number of ways, either through the observational method, questionnaire and interviews or projective and other methods. It is said that the observational method are less effective in giving information about persons, perceptions, attitudes, etc. They primarily describe behaviour as it occurs.

Out of the total of 59 respondents :-

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>	
14	24	are senior officers.
9	15	are junior officers.
2	4	are businessmen.
10	17	are teachers.
5	8	are headmasters.
4	7	are religious teachers.
3	5	are village heads.
12	20	are politicians.
<hr/>	<hr/>	
59	100	

It should be pointed out that some of the junior officers, teachers, and businessmen also function as political leaders of the area. The 3% who are privately employed are influential through their involvement in politics thus they are included under the main heading of politicians.

#### INTERVIEWING PROCEDURE :

The collection of data<sup>6</sup> can be done in a number of ways, either through the observational method, questionnaire and interviews or projective and other methods. It is said that the observational method are less effective in giving information about persons, perceptions, attitudes, etc. They primarily describe behaviour as it occurs.

<sup>6</sup>Phillip, Bernard S.; Social Research Strategy and Tactics, pp.125-145



In the interview and the questionnaire approach, the respondents' verbal report is most important for information. In these kind of approaches only the material that the subject is willing and able to report can be obtained.

The form of interviews and questionnaires may vary widely. It can be classified into 3 groups: the standardised/structured, unstandardised and semi-standardised interview. In the standardised/structured interview the interviewer has to use the specific wording in the interview question schedule. In the unstandardised interview the interviewer is free to ask whatever question he prefers for the purposes at hand. In the semi-standardised interview the interviewer may have to ask a number of specific major questions but he may be free to probe beyond the answers to these questions.

In this particular fieldwork, the structured interview method was used. A questionnaire was drawn up before hand and the author read out the questions to the respondents and recorded their answers.

A copy of the questionnaire is reproduced in Appendix 1. The questionnaire was open ended so the respondents were free to voice out their opinion. The approach used in the interviews varied with different respondents depending on their education and background. This was done so as to get the maximum co-operation from the respondents. The interview was carried out in their offices as well as in the homes of the respondents.

Most of the elites that the author approached were very co-operative. Many gave very long and elaborate answers. There were a number, however, who initially refused to be interviewed and had to be talked into answering the questions. There were also some who gave short answers such as "yes" or "no",



as their answers. One of them was a government officer who felt that his position does not permit him to voice out his opinion while the other two claimed that they did not know anything regarding this topic.

Some respondents seemed rather shy to give their opinion. Most probably they were afraid that their answers would be considered as wrong by the interviewer.

#### PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED :

##### a) Difficulty to meet the respondents:

As by definition the elites are the people who hold positions of eminence in the area, they are thus very busy people holding one position or more in the society besides their main occupation. So most of the time they will be away from home working and it is difficult to guess where they were working at a certain time. This is especially so of the businessmen and the teachers who take an active part in the politics of the area. Sometimes the author had to make 3 or 4 visits in a day to the same house each time renewing the appointment but without seeing the respondents concerned.

This problem is made more serious by the preparation for the elections for the area at the same time the research was done. Here again the difficulty was to meet the people involved in the politics of the area because they were most of the time out doing their campaigning. These were also the teachers and the social workers of the area. The fact that the author could not see many of them causes these elites to be under-represented in her total sample.



b) Some of the respondents refused to be interviewed because according to them they were ignorant of the topic. Because of this the author had to go all out to make them co-operate. Some of them did co-operate after being talked into it though there were some who refused no matter what was said. As a result the number of respondents was reduced.

c) A small number of respondents found difficulty in understanding the questions put forward to them. On the other hand they asked the author, questions. The author had to give long and elaborate explanations to make them understand exactly what the questions meant. Here the author had to be really very careful not to bias their responses.

Proceeding this chapter on definition and methodology, is a chapter on perception of general problems in the country at present. This is a chapter explaining what the respondents think are the major problems facing Malaysia. Each respondent was asked to list three major problems. Also included in this chapter is the respondents' perception on what is the most serious problem facing Malaysia at the moment and reasons given by them in general.

Chapter 3 will discuss the knowledge of the respondents on certain aspects related to population and family planning. Here will be mentioned respondents' knowledge on population : population increase rate, respondents' estimation of the present population, population by 1980 and 2000 and also about food production - whether it is self-sufficient at present.

In chapter four, attitudes of the respondents toward population and family planning will be discussed; whether they think that the government should be concerned with the problems of population, whether the government

should give full support towards family planning programmes, whether the government should take certain measures for example tax measures, educational programmes to limit the number of children a person should have.

In the final chapter, that is chapter five, an analysis of the interrelationship between the knowledge of respondents on population and family planning and their attitudes toward it will be presented. This is done with the aim of finding out whether those respondents with sufficient knowledge on population and family planning would have positive attitudes toward it or otherwise. Thus, then the purpose of the study would be achieved.

It should be noted as though this we can find out the respondents' perception of the major problems facing Nigeria at present, whether they are problems of population or others. It is important to mention that the problems perceived by the respondents need not be reality.

To find out what are the major problems facing Nigeria at present each respondent was asked to state what they believed to be the three most serious problems facing Nigeria currently. The majority of the respondents did list 3 problems though there were a few respondents who listed only one or two problems. According to those who refused to list three problems, the question was too difficult for them for they do not know much about this. Therefore the total number of problems cited amounted to only 177 whereas it is supposed to total up to 177 citations. Table 2 - 1 shows the total number of citations and the problems cited by the elite respondents of Lagos.



## CHAPTER II

### PERCEPTIONS OF PROBLEMS

In this chapter respondents' perceptions on the current problems that faces Malaysia will be presented. As the topic infers the aim of this study is to find out the attitudes of the local elites of Dungun on population and family planning. To start with, perceptions on current problems should be known as through this we can find out what the respondents perceive as the major problems facing Malaysia at present, whether they are problems of population or others. It is important to mention that the problems perceived by the respondents need not be reality.

To find out what are the major problems facing Malaysia at present each respondent was asked to state what they believed to be the three most serious problems facing Malaysia currently. The majority of the respondents did list 3 problems although there were a few respondents who listed only one or two problems. According to those who refused to list three problems, the question was too difficult for them for they do not know much about this. Therefore the total number of problems cited amounted to only 159 whereas it is supposed to total up to 177 citations. Table 2 - 1 shows the total number of citations and the problems cited by the elite respondents of Dungun.

TABLE 2 - 1 : GENERAL TYPES OF PROBLEMS FACING MALAYSIA CITED  
BY ELITE RESPONDENTS IN DUNGUN.

<u>PROBLEMS CITED</u>	<u>NO. OF CITATIONS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
SOCIAL	59	100
ECONOMIC	53	90
NATIONAL SECURITY	30	51
POLITICAL	12	20
POPULATION GROWTH	<u>5</u>	8
TOTAL	159	

NB : All percentages are calculated in terms of 59 respondents.

It is important to note here that the respondents were not asked to list the three problems in order of importance; they were just asked to list them at random. Also two or more specific problems cited by one respondent may be grouped under one main analytical heading.

As can be seen from Table 2 - 1 social problems were cited by all of the respondents. Economic problems were cited by 90% of the respondents, national security 51%, political problems 20% and population growth only 8%.

Grouped under the main heading of social problems are a number of specific problems namely, national intergration between the races in Malaysia and various social and educational problems. Refer to Table 2 - 2.



TABLE 2 - 2 : SPECIFIC SOCIAL PROBLEMS

<u>PROBLEMS CITED</u>	<u>NO. OF CITATIONS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
NATIONAL INTERGRATION	21	36
DRUGS	8	14
MORALITY	8	14
SOCIAL ISSUES	10	16
EDUCATION	12	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	59	100

Particular concern was expressed regarding alleged decreasing morality among the younger generation, misuse of drugs and increasing crimes. Many mentioned the misuse of drugs as a social problem because according to them, the increasing drug users especially among the young adults and the students, will affect the country as a whole, especially in terms of education and also man-power. People who take drugs will have bad effects in their day to day activities. Thus government projects will be affected and we cannot achieve progress. In their opinion the increasing misuse of drugs is due to the lack of psychological satisfaction, lack of education and also due to the lack of strong religious beliefs and influences.

Most respondents who mentioned this problem are from the older generation and are religious teachers and heads. Thus for example, one religious teacher said,

"The increasing misuse of drugs poses a great problem to Malaysia now. This misuse especially among the students defeat the aims of the educational system in this country for these



people will not be able to follow the syllabus in the schools. These are the people who lack education and thus unemployed they will create other problems such as thefts. This problem of the misuse of drugs I think is due to the lack of psychological satisfaction and also the lack of strong religious influence among the students themselves. So it is up to the parents and teachers to provide them with love and education so that the problem can be overcome."

The problem of national intergration among the various races or ethnic groups existing in Malaysia was mentioned mostly by the young, with at least a secondary education, civil servants, that is senior officers, teachers and doctors, and those who are not religiously inclined.

The respondents who mentioned this problem have the opinion that in a multiracial country like Malaysia, there should be unity. Racial suspicion should not exist at all among the various races/ethnic groups. What there should be is the feeling of belonging to this country only as Malaysians. According to these respondents the feeling of belonging and unity is important in helping the country to achieve progress and a better standard of living. For if there exist racial suspicion and no sense of belonging to this country then developmental programmes will not be successful. Furthermore racial suspicion has a tendency to create trouble due to grudges and racial discontent.

To quote one senior government officer,

"The absense of the feeling of belonging to one country, affects government projects because there will be poor response from the population for the absense of the feeling of belonging may create a couldn't-care-less attitude among the different races. In addition there may be dissatisfaction among them (that is the different races) due to economic inequality and thus may



lead to such incidents as the May 13th and this definitely will be a hindrance to the success in government projects which is aimed at improving the standard of living of the people."

Educational problems were mentioned mostly by the older people.

There is also a tendency for the more secularly oriented respondents with at least a secondary education to mention this problem. Another significant characteristic of those who mentioned this problem is that they are often teachers or retired teachers.

These respondents have the opinion that Malaysia has not achieved a high standard of education, yet. This they said may be due to the inadequacy of the educational system which caters mostly towards the needs of the urban areas. Then also there is the problem of a shortage of teachers to teach in the various schools. In Malaysia now there is still a large number of uneducated people. In addition the dropout problem makes matters worse.

It is important to educate the people so that they will be better equipped to participate in government projects thus ensuring their success. Otherwise government projects cannot be fully implemented.

Under the general category of economic problems are included, poverty, unemployment, living standards and class and racial imbalance of incomes. (Table 2 - 3 ).



TABLE 2 - 3 : SPECIFIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

<u>PROBLEM CITED</u>	<u>NO. OF CITATIONS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
POVERTY	16	30
UNEMPLOYMENT	6	12
IMBALANCES OF INCOME	16	30
LIVING STD. AND CLASS	<u>15</u>	<u>28</u>
TOTAL	53	100

There is a great tendency for the older people to mention low living standards and imbalances in income. Another characteristic of those who mentioned this problem is that they are government officers namely the teachers, village heads and also the agricultural officers.

The majority of the respondents who mentioned this problem said that there is a great difference between the haves and have-nots due to the imbalances of income. According to them this is especially so among the rural people. These are the people who depend totally on the weather and also manpower. They do not have modern machines to help them out. Then there is the problem of marketing where the middle-men comes in to take advantage of the farmers. Thus this leads to the farmers getting low incomes and the middle-men getting the bulk of it. Also the standard of living remains low because of this.

One senior officer said that,

"One of the main problems facing Malaysia is the great gap between the haves and have-nots



This, you can see in the rural areas, especially. We must try to narrow this gap for it can lead to discontent among these people, thus trouble. The government should take measures such as eliminating the middle-men and the creation of new associations such as FAMA and others for easy marketing and also to stabilise prices. Thus, through this the gap between the haves and have-nots can be narrowed and any possible trouble can be eliminated."

One distinct feature of those who mentioned poverty as an economic problem is that they are mostly senior government officers. These respondents agree that there is still widespread poverty in this country and poverty, they said, has effects on other aspects of life such as education and economic development. Being in the state of poverty, these people need man-power to work their land, so that they cannot afford to send to send their children to school. Thus, they are left uneducated. Even if they should send their children to school they can never progress any higher than primary school thus, the dropout problem.

A senior government officer said,

"I feel that one of the main problems facing Malaysia now is poverty. I have been to the rural areas and seen with my very own eyes the kind of life that these people lead. I have come to realise that poverty prevails at all levels but more so in the rural areas. They work very hard but they produce little. The government should give them a chance to better their standard of living, for example give them more land, educate them, so that they will have a higher productivity and also a more positive attitude towards life. If poverty still prevails then government projects such as development and education cannot be implemented."

A total of 6 citations are for unemployment problems. According to these respondents unemployment is one of the main problems facing Malaysia because it will create other problems in turn. Unemployment rate is increasing



each year thus leaving the youths, especially idle; no jobs to keep them occupied. They will then turn to drugs and also crimes for their income. Also it will create rebellious feelings and trouble may result due to this discontent. The only thing to do, in their opinion, is to create more jobs so as to cater for these people and thus eliminating any possible trouble.

These respondents did not relate growing unemployment to population growth. They simply mentioned this looking at situation now, that is a situation where there are more job-seekers than there are jobs.

A senior government officer said,

"As you can see now, the number of unemployed people is increasing. Even in this small town you can see people, especially the youths, loitering around without anything to do, what more elsewhere. I think that inemployment will have a tendency to lead to other social problems such as the misuse of drugs and other problems such as thefts to name but one."

National security has a total of 29 citations that is 51% out of the total number of 59 respondents. National security to them is a great problem because this concerns peace and security in the country. There are two threats to the country at the moment, that is the possible internal trouble caused by discontent among the different races and also external threat for example, from the communist. Without peace and security there can be no development and progress for the people will live in fear. Furthermore the bulk of the budget will go towards maintaining this peace and security through buying of arms and recruitment of military man-power. In addition there may be ambushes from the communist and destruction of the economic infrastructure. Thus development is hindered.



To quote a businessman,

"If we do not have peace and security then government projects cannot be implemented thus our standard of living will remain low. This is because most of our resources will be directed towards achieving this peace and security and less attention will be paid towards other fields."

Political problems are cited by only a small number of elite respondents of Dungun. Such problems are mainly cited by the older elites though not necessarily political in orientation. The respondents said that it is the responsibility of the government to create a sound administrative system so that the people will give their full support and thus ensure the success of government projects. Corruption should by all means be eliminated.

One respondent said,

"The political situation in the country is important because it affects the country and the people as a whole. The political situation in the country should be stable otherwise people will lose confidence in them and in whatever they plan and do. Thus this will not ensure the development and progress in this country and therefore cannot achieve a high standard of living for the people as aimed."

The problem of population growth was the least cited of any problems being mentioned by only 5 respondents or 8% of the total. The majority of those who mentioned this problem are below 37 years of age.

According to these respondents population growth is a problem for Malaysia because, unchecked, it will create other economic and social problems to the country. As it is the rate is already about 2 - 3% and as far as possible this rate should be reduced. Already we have the problem of unemployment; if population growth is not checked then this problem will become



more acute. Then there is the food problem. At the moment Malaysia cannot produce to meet 100% of the country's needs then what more if the population keeps on increasing.

A government officer said,

"Population growth should be checked starting from now for it will create more problems in the future. Even though now the problem is not that serious we have to be prepared to face the future where I think condition will worsen. Even now we are already faced with problems such as unemployment, education and other social and economic problems. In my opinion when population growth is checked then all these problems can be overcome or at least reduced."

With the aim of finding out more specifically which problem the respondents think is the most serious, a second question was asked that is "Of the three problems that you mentioned (in question 1) which is the most serious?" The respondents were only needed to mention one serious problem. The respondents answers is presented in Table 2 - 4.

National security and economic problems were cited as the most serious problems, of each mentioned by 17 (29%) respondents. Economic problems as the most serious problem was cited mostly by people from the older generation. 36% out of the total people above 40 years of age cited this problem. 34% out of the total a-political people mentioned this problem as compared to 21% out of the total politically oriented people/respondents. Therefore we can deduce that a-political respondents have a tendency to mention this problem as the most serious problem. There is also a tendency for civil servants to mention for as can be seen from the sample 33% out of the total civil servants, mentioned this problem whereas only 18% put of the total private workers mentioned it.



TABLE 2 - 4 : THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM FACING MALAYSIA CITED  
BY ELITE RESPONDENTS OF DUNGUN.

<u>PROBLEMS CITED</u>	<u>NO. OF CITATIONS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
NATIONAL SECURITY	17	29
ECONOMIC	17	29
SOCIAL	16	26
POLITICAL	5	9
POPULATION GROWTH	1	2
NO ANSWER/DON'T KNOW	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	59	100

With regards to social problems only 16 respondents (26%) mentioned it as the most serious problem. As can be gathered from the sample 39% of the politically oriented respondents mentioned this problem as the most serious. It is also significant that, the more religious respondents tend to mention this problem as the most serious one that is 36% out of the total religious respondents as compared to 22% of the secularly oriented group.

Only 5 respondents (9%) cited political problems as the most serious problem facing Malaysia currently. There is no significant characteristic of those who mentioned this problem.

The least cited problem is population growth; to be exact only one respondent mentioned it as the most serious.

Three respondents did not give any answers for they said that they do not know about all this. One significant characteristic of those who did

not give any answers is that they are mainly from the people working privately which amounts to 13% out of the total respondents working privately.

Generally the respondents related their choice of the most serious problem to the development of the country. To them the problems they mentioned are serious because they are a hindrance towards progress and development in the country.

One teacher respondent who mentioned national security as the most serious problem said,

"In my opinion national security is the most serious problem because when we are faced with threat external or internal (communist threat and internal trouble caused by racial discontent) we cannot progress. Furthermore the bulk of the budget will go towards maintaining peace and security in the country and lesser towards other projects."

With regards to economic problem being the most serious, the respondents who listed this problem are of the opinion that poverty, unemployment and imbalances of income hinder further development of the country.

A businessman said,

"Economic problem is the most serious because it will have effects on other aspects of life for example the social aspect. With widespread poverty, imbalances in income and the like, will have a tendency to create social problems and also is a hindrance towards development."

A religious teacher who cited social problem as the most serious problem said,

"Social problems in this country are increasing



crimes, drugs users etc. All these in one way or another hinder progress. I feel that to be socially sound is important to achieve progress and a better standard of living."

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### CHAPTER III

#### KNOWLEDGE

To understand a country with regards to its population problems, one has not only to be aware of its present population size and its annual rate of population increase, but also its projected future population. Without such a knowledge people cannot realistically perceive its overall population problems. Such factual information about Malaysia's population is readily available : Malaysia at present has a population of about 10,500,000.<sup>1</sup> The annual population growth rate of Peninsular Malaysia is about 2.5%.<sup>2</sup> Therefore by the year 1980 the population would be about 11 - 12 million,<sup>3</sup> and by the year 2000 it would reach up to about 19,025,000.<sup>4</sup> This chapter reports an assessment of the extent to which members of the elite possessed such a factual knowledge.

When asked if they thought overpopulation constituted a major problem for Malaysia, a total of 44(75%) out of 59 respondents agreed that overpopulation constitute a major problem for Malaysia. Only 15 respondents (25%) disagreed to it. (Table 3 - 1).

<sup>1</sup> Spectrum - New Sunday Times Magazine, June 13, 1976.

<sup>2</sup> ibid.

<sup>3</sup> This is obtained by multiplying the present population, 10,500,000 by the annual rate of population increase, 2.5%.

<sup>4</sup> This is obtained by multiplying the present population, 10,500,000 by the annual rate of population increase 2.5%.



TABLE 3 - 1 : RESPONSE TO QUESTION: DOES OVERPOPULATION CONSTITUTE  
A MAJOR PROBLEM TO MALAYSIA?

<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
YES	44	75
NO	<u>15</u>	<u>25</u>
TOTAL	59	100

There is a slight tendency for the politically inclined respondents to agree, whereas the less politically inclined respondents have a tendency to disagree. Again this would be more clearly seen if the sample was larger.

In addition to that it can be seen that a large percentage of the secularly oriented respondents agreed that overpopulation does constitute a major problem to Malaysia at present. On the otherhand only a small percentage of the religious people agreed to it.

Generally those who agreed that overpopulation constitutes a major problem, are of the opinion that overpopulation creates many problems to the country and the people too. So many people in such a small country, they said, will affect them in terms of opportunities in many fields. Job opportunities will lessen. Thus there will be much competition for a living. As a result poverty would still prevail.

Overpopulation not only creates problems for the people but also for the government for it is the task of the government to create more jobs for the growing population and to eradicate poverty. So much money would have to spent for this project that could be used for other useful purposes.



One teacher respondent stated,

"We can already see the result of having a large population now; we have educational problems, social problems and most important I think is the problem of unemployment. It is important to provide jobs for the youths otherwise they will become restless and as a result create other problems such as causing trouble and crimes. If no suitable measures are taken to reduce the rate of population increase then the problem of unemployment will be more acute in the near future."

In contradistinction those respondents who did not agree that overpopulation constitutes a major problem supported their opinion with the reason that Malaysia is a large country and could support a large population. Compared to its surface area the present population is small. There is still much land which is fertile and suitable for cultivation and being put to good use it is enough to provide for the well being of the people. Besides that there are still many minerals that could be mined, for example tin. Although it needs skilled manpower it can be done successfully provided aid from the government is given.

To quote a senior government officer,

"In Malaysia now there is still much land even though we have a population of 10 million or slightly more. Much of the land is fertile thus it can be cultivated for purposes of providing for the needs of the people."

In response to the question, "Is the population of Malaysia increasing, static or decreasing?", all the 59 respondents said that the population of Malaysia is definitely increasing and that is the correct answer.



According to some of them who stated that the population is increasing, the number of deaths is lesser than the number of births thus resulting in the population, increasing.

Most of them when being asked the above question gave a very quick answer of, "Yes, of course it is increasing," Under half of the respondents knew the correct rate of increase for the population (2 - 3 per cent per year)<sup>5</sup> 8% gave too low of an estimate, 14% too high a rate, while 39% were not sure. (Table 3 - 2).

TABLE 3 - 2 RESPONSE TO QUESTION : WHAT IS THE ANNUAL RATE OF POPULATION INCREASE?

<u>RATE OF POPULATION INCREASE</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
1 - 2 %	5	8
2 - 3 %	23	39
3 - 4 %	3	6
4 - 5 %	2	2
5% OR MORE	3	6
NOT SURE	23	39
TOTAL	59	100

67% of respondents who gave the rate as 2 - 3% are included in the younger generation category, as compared to only 36% from the older generation. 64% of the respondents categorised under the older generation were not sure as to what the rate of population increase is.

<sup>5</sup>Spectrum - New Sunday Times Magazine, June 13, 1976.

One significant characteristic of those who mentioned 2 - 3% as the rate of population increase is that they are at least educated at the secondary level. Besides that there were also those who were college trained and a university graduate.

Another significant characteristic is that the answer of 2 - 3% mostly came from the secularly oriented respondents that is 68% of them as compared to 29% of the total more religiously oriented respondents.

It is relevant to note here that there is a possibility that government servants have a tendency to give the correct answer, provided the sample is larger, it could be more clearly seen.

Close to half of the respondents (42%) correctly stated the present population of Malaysia, while 20% were not sure about its size. None underestimated its size. (Table 3 - 3)

TABLE 3 - 3 RESPONSE TO QUESTION : WHAT IS THE PRESENT  
POPULATION OF MALAYSIA?

<u>POPULATION IN MILLION</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
10 - 11	25	42
11 - 12	13	22
12 - 13	4	7
13 - 14	4	7
14 - 15	1	2
NOT SURE	12	20
TOTAL	59	100



Government officers appear to be more informed about the figure for 44% out of the total government officers gave the correct answer that the present population of Malaysia is about 10 - 11 million.<sup>6</sup> At the same time it was also found that 38% of those respondents who do not work with the government preferred not to give any answers. This they declared was due to their ignorance and the lack of information on this subject and guessing was out of question for they were afraid that they would give the wrong answers.

Only fourteen respondents (24%) correctly predicted that the population of Malaysia would be 11 - 13 million<sup>7</sup> by 1980. Another 18 (32%) predicted that it would be 13 - 15 million. There is a total of 15 respondents making up 26% of the total who were not sure what the population of Malaysia would be in 1980. (Table 3 - 4).

TABLE 3 - 4 : RESPONSE TO QUESTION : WHAT WOULD THE  
POPULATION BE IN 1980?

<u>POPULATION IN MILLION</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
11 - 13	14	24
13 - 15	18	30
15 - 17	8	14
17 - 19	1	2
19 - 21	3	5
NOT SURE	15	25
TOTAL	59	100

<sup>6</sup> Spectrum - New Sunday Times Magazine, June 13, 1976.

<sup>7</sup> This was obtained by multiplying the present population, 10,500,000 by the annual rate of population increase, 2.5%.

One characteristic of the not sure group is that they are the respondents who are not active in the politics of the area studied. This group makes up 28% of the total not political group as compared to 22% who are not sure from the politically active group. This would be more obvious should the sample be larger.

It is surprising to find out that 30% of the total secularly oriented respondents were not sure in contrast to only 8% from the total religious respondents.

When asked what the population of Malaysia would be by the year 2000, 19 respondents (32%) out of the total 59, said that they either were not sure or did not know. 14 respondents correctly mentioned that the population would be about 19 - 21 million<sup>8</sup> by the year 2000. Eight respondents said that the population would be more than 25 million by then. (Table 3-5).

TABLE 3 - 5 : ESTIMATION OF POPULATION OF MALAYSIA BY 2000.

<u>POPULATION IN MILLION</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
13 - 15	3	5
15 - 17	3	5
17 - 19	4	7
19 - 21	14	24
21 - 23	2	3
23 - 25	6	10
25 AND ABOVE	8	14
NOT SURE	19	32
TOTAL	59	100

<sup>8</sup>This was obtained by multiplying the present population, 10,500,000 by the annual rate of population increase, 2.5%.



To be noted is that 36% of the non-politically active respondents were not sure whereas only 26% of the politically active respondents were not sure. Another noticeable feature is that of the secularly oriented respondents, 36% were not sure. On the other hand only 37% of the religious respondents were not sure. 44% of the respondents who work privately are categorised under the not sure group compared to only 26% of the government officers.

As shown in the Table 3 - 6, 25 respondents mentioned the correct present population of Malaysia that is between 10 - 11 million. As has been mentioned earlier the population of Malaysia, calculated by the National Family Planning Board is 10,500,000.<sup>9</sup> 22 respondents mentioned too high a present population and 12 were not sure.

TABLE 3 - 6 : NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS WHO MENTIONED THE CORRECT  
TOO LOW OR TOO HIGH, POPULATION.

<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>TOO LOW</u>	<u>CORRECT</u>	<u>TOO HIGH</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
PRESENT	-	25	22	12
1980	-	14	30	15
2000	10	14	16	19

As for the population by the year 1980 only 14 respondents predicted the population to be about 19 - 21 million. 30 respondents mentioned too high predictions and 15 were not sure.

<sup>9</sup>Spectrum - New Sunday Times Magazine, June 13, 1976.

For the population of Malaysia by 2000 again 14 respondents mentioned the correct answer, 10 mentioned a population that is too low and 16 mentioned it to be too high. 19 respondents were not sure.

It is interesting to note here that the number of respondents who are unable to answer is greater for future than for present population figures. For the present population 12 respondents were not sure; for the population by 1980, 15 respondents were not sure and 19 were not sure of the population by the year 2000. According to these respondents it is too far ahead to predict correctly.

Besides that we are able to see that the percentage of respondents who correctly state the size of the present population is quite large when compared to the years 1980 and 2000. The number of respondents who mentioned the correct answers for 1980 and the year 2000 is the same, that is 14 respondents altogether.

TABLE 3 - 7 : RESPONSE TO QUESTION : IS MALAYSIA SELF-SUFFICIENT  
IN FOOD PRODUCTION?

<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
YES	16	27
NO	43	73
TOTAL	59	100

There is a greater tendency for the younger age group to believe it is self-sufficient than the older age group. Secondary educated respondents were also more inclined than primary educated respondents to believe this. Another significant characteristic is that more non-political respondents said it is self-sufficient as compared to the politically active



respondents. 32% of the secularly oriented respondents believed that it is self-sufficient compared to 82% from the religiously oriented respondents.

In this particular question there is a marked distinction between the government officers and those respondents working privately in the sense that 33% of the government officers believed Malaysia is self-sufficient as compared to 13% of those respondents who worked privately such as the businessmen of the area.

The majority of the respondents when being asked this question gave very brief answers that is simply a "yes" or "no", though there were some who gave reasons or elaborated on their answers but the number was very small compared to those who gave short answers. Those respondents who agreed that Malaysia is self-sufficient in food production felt Malaysia is a large country consisting of fertile lands in many parts. And at the moment, they said we are producing enough for the people. Whatever food supplies that are being imported are mainly luxury items.

On the other hand those respondents who disagreed gave reasons that Malaysia is still importing food supplies from other countries to supplement our food supply here for example, rice. They said that this importing of food supplies takes away a great amount from the country's budget.

To quote a senior government officer,

"The food production in Malaysia can only cater for about 90% of the country's needs. Thus it is necessary that we import food supplies from other countries to supplement our needs for example rice to name but one. Due to this again I would like to stress that Malaysia is still not sufficient in its food production."



It is necessary to state here that about three quarters of the respondents mentioned correct answers for this question that is Malaysia is not self-sufficient in its food production. We have to import alot from other countries.<sup>10</sup>

A total of 49 respondents(83%) believed that Malaysia spends a large amount of money on importing food supplies whereas only 7 disagree. A total of three respondents (5%) stated that they did not know because they did not know much about the country's balance of payments situation.(Table 3-8).

TABLE 3 - 8 RESPONSE TO QUESTION: DOES MALAYSIA SPEND A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY ON IMPORTING FOOD SUPPLIES?

<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
YES	49	83
NO	7	12
DON'T KNOW	3	5
TOTAL	59	100

Slightly more than three quarters of the respondents had correct answers for this question that is Malaysia does spend a large amount of money on importing food supplies.<sup>11</sup> In 1973 Malaysia spent about 1175.2 million ringgit on import of food supplies.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Import Export Trade in Food and Agricultural Products, Malaysia, 1973, pp. 1, Table 1.

<sup>11</sup> ibid

<sup>12</sup> ibid



There is a slight tendency for the politically active respondents to agree that Malaysia does spend a large amount of money on importing food supplies whereas the non-politically inclined respondents had the opposite view,

Here again as in the previous question the answers given were very short; the majority of the respondents answered with a yes or no only.

Almost all of the respondents believe that there is enough suitable land for cultivation in Malaysia. (Table 3 - 9).

TABLE 3 - 9 RESPONSE TO QUESTION: IS THERE ENOUGH SUITABLE LAND FOR CULTIVATION?

<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
YES	56	95
NO	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	59	100

All of them agreed that the soil is fertile and is very much suitable for cultivation.

Those respondents who mentioned that there is enough land gave virtually identical reasons to support their answers: The population of Malaysia they said, is not so high as to make the land insufficient for the people. There is still much land that is fertile but it is up to the peoples' initiative to work it so as to produce for the needs of the people.

One political leader of the area,

"Yes, we do have enough suitable land for cultivation here in Malaysia. We have fertile lands in many parts, so in order to make us self-sufficient, we have to make the best use of the land."

Asked to estimate the number of new job-seekers each year only one third of the respondents even attempted to answer. (Table 3 - 10).

TABLE 3 - 10 NO. OF RESPONDENTS WHO ANSWERED THE QUESTION  
ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF JOB-SEEKERS EACH YEAR.

<u>ANSWERED/NO ANSWER</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
ANSWERED	20	34
NO ANSWER	39	66
TOTAL	59	100

It should be noted that the annual number of new job-seekers is about 120,000 - 150,000.<sup>13</sup> Only 3% of the respondents had their answers correct. The rest mentioned numbers that are too low.

As shown in the table above only 20 respondents (34%) gave answers when being asked, the remainder of the respondents not giving any answers at all. According to them it was difficult to guess the correct number for with so little information either in the papers or the mass media about the matter they were not really informed and thus could not give the author any answers.

<sup>13</sup> This is obtained by multiplying the total labour force, 3.7 million by the annual growth rate, 3.2% and then subtracting this result from the total labour force, that is 3.7 million.



In response to the above question, one teacher respondent stated,

"I cannot give you any answers for this question because, frankly I do not know very much. All that I can say is that, definitely the number of new job-seekers increases each year that there are not enough jobs for this large number of new job-seekers. Thus we have the problem of unemployment. This problem of unemployment is known to everybody since it is widely publicised."

Of those respondents who did answer 40% mentioned that the number of new job-seekers is around ten to twenty thousand per year. Six respondents mentioned that it is about thirty thousand, five said that it is about 1 - 10,000 and only one respondent mentioned it to be about 20,000 - 30,000.

Even those respondents who did answer were of the opinion that the question was a rather difficult one.

Only 29% of respondents were able to answer a question about the capital investment required to create one new job in industry.(Table 3 - 11).

TABLE 3 - 11 RESPONSE TO QUESTION: WHAT IS THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT NEEDED TO CREATE ONE JOB IN INDUSTRY?

<u>ANSWERED/NO ANSWER</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
ANSWERED	17	29
NO ANSWER	<u>42</u>	<u>71</u>
TOTAL	59	100

This question too had been considered a difficult one thus this accounts for the few respondents who gave answers.

Those respondents who answered show little agreement as to the amount of capital required with estimates ranging from one thousand to 30,000 ringgit. (Table 3 - 12).

TABLE 3 - 12 AMOUNT OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT REQUIRED TO CREATE ONE JOB IN INDUSTRY.

<u>NO. IN THOUSAND</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
1 - 5	2	12
6 - 10	3	18
11 - 15	2	12
16 - 20	5	29
21 - 25	4	24
26 - 30	1	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	17	100

The capital investment needed to create one job in industry is about 50,000 - 60,000 ringgit.<sup>14</sup> Of those who answered none had their answers correct.

More than half the respondents provided the author with answers with regards to the question on the amount of capital investment needed to create one new job in agriculture. Only 21 stated that they did not know. (Table 3 - 13).

<sup>14</sup>This was obtained by dividing the total capital investment, 1.7 thousand million ringgit by the total number of jobs in industry, 33660. For the numbers, refer, Third Malaysia Plan, Chapter xvii pp. 310.



TABLE 3 - 13 RESPONSE TO QUESTION: WHAT IS THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT  
NEEDED TO CREATE ONE JOB IN AGRICULTURE?

<u>ANSWERED/NO ANSWER</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
ANSWERED	38	64
NO ANSWER	21	36
TOTAL	59	100

In response to the above question about half of the respondents stated that the number of capital investment needed to create one job in agriculture is about 1 - 5 thousand ringgit, 8 mentioned 6 - 10 thousand 3 respondents mentioned under 1000 and 11 - 15 thousand respectively and 2 respondents mentioned 16 - 20 thousand. (Table 3 - 14).

TABLE 3 - 14 AMOUNT OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT NEEDED TO CREATE ONE  
NEW JOB IN AGRICULTURE.

<u>NO. IN THOUSAND</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
UNDER 1000	3	8
1 - 5	22	59
6 - 10	8	21
11 - 15	3	8
16 - 20	2	5
TOTAL	38	100

In agriculture, the capital investment required to create one new job is about 30,000 - 40,000 ringgit. Here too none of the respondents gave the correct amount.

Two thirds of the respondents answered when asked about the amount of capital investment to create one job in FELDA. (Table 3 - 15).

TABLE 3 - 16 RESPONSE TO QUESTION : WHAT IS THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT NEEDED TO CREATE ONE NEW JOB IN FELDA?

<u>ANSWERED/NO ANSWER</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
ANSWERED	39	66
NO ANSWER	20	34
TOTAL	59	100

Out of the total 39 who gave answers to the above question, 2 said that the capital investment required was about 1 - 5 thousand ringgit, 13 respondents said that it would be about 6 - 10 thousand, 15 respondents was in the opinion that it needed about 11 - 15 thousand ringgit and 9 said it to be more than 15 thousand ringgit.

It should be stated here that the capital investment needed to create one new job in FELDA is about 50,000 - 60,000 ringgit.<sup>15</sup> And again as in industry and agriculture, none of the respondents had the correct answer.

It is interesting to note here that the number of respondents who gave answers varied with variations in the fields being asked, that is industry, agriculture and in FELDA.

<sup>15</sup> This was obtained by dividing the total capital investment, 1.1 thousand million and the total number of jobs in agriculture, 20,500 jobs. The numbers was obtained from Third Malaysia Plan, Chapter xvi.



The number of respondents who answered when being asked the question of what is the capital investment needed to create one new job in industry is 17. The respondents regarded this question a difficult one because to them they were not very familiar with this particular topic.

In agriculture the number of respondents who answered was slightly more than that in industry, that is a total of 38 respondents answered. This can be accounted for the familiarity with regards to this field and also confidence with regards to it.

In FELDA, the number of respondents who answered had increased to a total of 39 respondents, the remaining 20 gave no answers. This may be due to the scheme being so widely publicised.

A question on which ethnic group has the highest birth rate was also asked, to find out the respondents perception on this. Accompanying it was a question on which ethnic group that has the lowest birth rate. Response was good in the sense that most of the respondents readily answered when the question was put forward to them. The Tables 3 - 16 and 3 - 17 would show the findings.

TABLE 3 - 16 BELIEF AS TO WHICH ETHNIC GROUP HAS THE HIGHEST BIRTH RATE.

<u>ETHNIC GROUP</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
CHINESE	32	54
MALAYS	24	41
INDIANS	0	0
OTHERS	0	0
DON'T KNOW	3	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	59	100

Out of the total number of 59 respondents, 32(54%) of them stated that the ethnic group that has the highest birth rate is the Chinese and 24(41%) of them said that it is the Malays. Only 3 respondents did not know the answer.

Through tabulation it was found that two thirds of the older respondents mentioned that the Chinese has the highest birth rate whereas only 46% respondents from the younger age group mentioned this. On the other hand 54% of the respondents from the younger age group stated that the ethnic group that has the highest birth rate is the Malays compared to only 34% from the older age group.

It was also found that the secondary educated of which has a total percentage of 61% had a tendency to mention the Chinese as having the highest birth rate compared to 47% from the primary educated respondents. The primary educated on the other hand were more likely to mention the Malays as having the highest birth rate their total being 53% of the primary educated respondents as against 39% of the total secondary educated.



TABLE 3 - 17 BELIEF AS TO WHICH ETHNIC GROUP THAT HAS THE LOWEST BIRTH RATE.

<u>ETHNIC GROUP</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
INDIANS	36	61
OTHERS	15	25
MALAYS	3	5
CHINESE	2	4
NO ANSWER	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	59	100

The highest citations goes to the Indians as the ethnic group that has the lowest birth rate. Citations for this ethnic group totalled up to more than half of the total respondents. Next in number is others (included in it are groups like the Eurasians) which has a total of 15 respondents. 3 respondents mentioned the Malays and only 2 mentioned the Chinese.

No particular characteristics appear to distinguish between those who mentioned the Indians and others as having the lowest birth rate.

To be noted here is that the ethnic group that has the highest birth rate is the Malays, with a total fertility rate of about 5.1%.<sup>16</sup> The Indians comes in second with a total fertility rate of about 4.9%.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup> James A. Palmore, Ramesh Chander, and Dorothy E. Fernandez; The Demographic Situation in Malaysia, pp. 74, Table 4 - 19.

<sup>17</sup> ibid; pp. 76, Table 4 - 12.

The ethnic group that has the lowest birth rate is the Chinese, whose total fertility rate is about 4.7%.<sup>18</sup>

Slightly less than half the respondents had their answers correct as for the ethnic group that has the highest birth rate, that is those who mentioned the Malays. Many said that the Chinese has the highest birth rate. Only about 3% of the respondents had their answers correct with regards to the ethnic group that has the lowest birth rate, that is the Chinese. Almost two thirds mentioned the Indians as the ethnic group that has the lowest birth rate.

<sup>18</sup>James A. Palmore, Ramesh Chander and Dorothy Z. Fernandez; The Demographic Situation in Malaysia, pp. 75, Table 4 - 11.



# CHAPTER IV

## ATTITUDES TOWARD POPULATION QUESTIONS

Determining the number of children desired by respondents is one indicator of their attitudes toward the problem of population and family planning. To find this out the respondents were asked how many children they already had and how many children they would like to have. The majority of the respondents desired between two and six children. 27 respondents desired 2 - 4 children and 23 desired 4 - 6 children. Only 9 respondents desired 6 or more children. This is illustrated in Table 4 - 1.

TABLE 4 - 1 : INCLINATION TOWARDS BIG OR SMALL FAMILIES.

<u>NO. OF CHILDREN DESIRED</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
2 - 4	27	46
4 - 6	23	39
6 AND ABOVE	9	15
TOTAL	59	100

Thus it can be seen that the majority of the elite respondents of Dungun, desired families of about 2 - 6 children. This was not due to their perception of the population problem but more so because they felt that big families were a great economic burden. Thus if they had smaller families

they could provide a better life for their children.

Respondents in the 21 - 39 age category were found to desire smaller families than the older age group that is those between the ages of 40 and 58. Almost all respondents (92%) from this younger age group desired small families. On the other hand 79% respondents from the older age group desired small families but 21% desired large families. Therefore, the younger age group is somewhat more inclined towards preferring small families than the older age group.

97% of the secularly oriented respondents desired small families in contrast to only 62% of the more religious respondents. Or to put it in terms of desire for many children, 36% of the more religious respondents desired large families in contrast to only 3% from the secularly oriented respondents.

Table (4 - 3) shows the relationship between the number of children desired by respondents and the actual size of their families.



TABLE 4 - 3 : RELATION BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN  
ACHIEVED AND THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN DESIRED.

13						1								1
12						1								1
11							1					1		
10							1							
9										1				
8														1
7										1	1			
6					3		3							
5				2	1	5								1
4					4	1	2							
3				1	6	1	1							
2			2		1	2								
1				1	1	3	1							1
0			2		3	1								1
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	ANY NO.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN DESIRED

21 out of 59 respondents mentioned that the number of children they already had was what they desired. In addition to that it is noticeable that 7 out of 11 respondents who had many children were ones who desired many children, in a few cases even more than they already had.

In order to find out what the attitude of the local elites is with regards to the problems of population, each of the respondents was asked whether the government should be concerned with the problems of population or not.

All the respondents answered this question. As can be seen from the table below a great majority of the respondents (93%) were of the opinion that the government should be concerned with the problems of population. Only 4 respondents thought otherwise.

TABLE 4 - 3 : RESPONSE TO QUESTION : SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT  
BE CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEMS OF POPULATION.?

<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
YES	55	93
NO	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>
TOTAL	59	100

They believe that Malaysia with a large population and an annual increase which is considerably high is already faced with many problems such as social and unemployment problems. This rapid rate of population increase has got to be reduced otherwise more problems would arise.

One senior government officer stated,



"I greatly feel that the government should do something to cut down the rate of population increase. We, as well as the government are now faced with many problems and the only way to try to solve it is by controlling the population in this country."

Only 4 out of the total 59 respondents disagreed. To them Malaysia has not yet come to the stage where the population should be reduced or controlled, as one religious head said,

"With regards to the population of Malaysia, there is not much need to control or reduce it as there is still land available to provide for the needs of the people."

TABLE 4 - 4 RESPONSE TO QUESTION : SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMMES?

<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
UNCON. YES	44	75
CON. YES	8	14
CON. NO	6	10
UNCON. NO	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	59	100

NOTE: Uncon. Yes - Unconditional yes,

Uncon. No - Unconditional no.

The unconditional yes and no here means that the answer given was simply a 'yes' and 'no'. On the other hand conditional 'yes' and 'no' are answers with certain conditions given.

Out of the total 59 respondents 44 stated their answers as unconditional yes, 8 respondents agreed with certain conditions given. On the other hand only a small number did not favour government support of family planning programmes. 6 respondents disagreed with certain conditions and only 1 disagreed unconditionally.

One respondent who gave a conditional yes for an answer said that,

"If the family planning programmes is directed towards certain people for example the poor and not everyone in general, and certain places only, I agree that the government give full support to it. Otherwise I don't because if the people can afford a large family I don't see why the government should impose the family planning programmes on them."

Those respondents who gave a conditional no, gave reasons such as given by a religious teacher,

"I am against the idea if the aim is to reduce the population but on the other hand I do agree if it is to better the standard of living of the people."

In this case, the only significant characteristic of those who said yes is that they were the respondents catergorised under the more secular group. And those who said no were mostly from the more religious group.

Compared to the previous question on should the government give full support to the family planning programmes, this question received a lesser number of yes answers - only totalling 36 in number. (Table 4 - 5).



TABLE 4 - 5 SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT TAKE MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN THEY HAVE E.G. TAX MEASURES?

<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
YES	36	61
NO	<u>23</u>	<u>39</u>
TOTAL	59	100

Of the younger age group, 56% agreed, compared to 75% from the older age group. Thus we can conclude that respondents from the old age group has a tendency to agree that the government should take measures to encourage people to limit the number of children they have.

Also the respondents who are primary educated tended to disagree whereas the secondary educated had a tendency to agree, the total percentage being 56% as against 66%.

In addition to that 68% of the less political people (respondents) were more inclined to agree whereas only 50% of the more political oriented agreed.

Although there were 36 respondents who agreed in general there were also those who agreed only in terms of using certain measures. For example there were some who agreed that tax measures and educational programmes should be used and there were some who agreed to educational programmes alone, and not tax measures.

It is important to note here that when the question of compulsory sterilisation was suggested, a great majority did not agree to it, their

reason being that it is against the religion of Islam.

Yet another question which was asked was whether the government should use force to reduce the number of children one has.

Almost all respondents (95%) disagreed with the use of force. To most of them the total number of children a person has depends on the individual. Furthermore they said, it is going against Islam or any other religion for that matter, to forcibly limit the number of children a person has.

TABLE 4 - 6 SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT USE FORCE TO LIMIT THE  
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ONE HAS?

<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
YES	3	5
NO	56	95
TOTAL	59	100

In response to the above question one senior government officer said,

"Force should not be used as yet because we still have land to cope up with the growing population. Anyway it would be going against Islam and I think, also other religion, and going against the wishes of the people too, to force the people to limit the number of children. I greatly feel that this should be decided by the individual."

The last attitudinal question which was asked was whether



population studies should be made part of the school curriculum. In this case the vast majority of the respondents agreed that population studies should be made part of the school curriculum whereas only 4 respondents were not in favour of the idea. Table 4 - 7 provides a clear picture of the response.

TABLE 4 - 7 SHOULD POPULATION STUDIES BE MADE PART OF THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM?

<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
YES	55	93
NO	4	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	59	100

The respondents who favoured population studies be made part of the school curriculum stated that they fully support it for it is one of the ways in which to prepare the younger generation to the facts of life; rapid population growth and the consequences. Thus with such a knowledge they would understand and would therefore try to solve it. Then the problem of rapid population growth would not be so acute. This problem be solved or decreased through knowledge on this aspect.

One government officer who favoured the idea said,

"Population studies should be made part of the school curriculum because through this students would be informed of the problems -- that is the rapid population growth and its consequences and thus being informed they could equip themselves to try and solve this problem."

On the other hand one teacher respondent who disagreed towards the idea stated,

"I think the syllabus in school at present is wide enough. I am afraid that if this population studies should be introduced in the schools it would be too much for the students to follow and gain from it."

In this chapter an analysis of the relationship between the knowledge respondents show of population problems and their attitudes toward population control programmes will be presented. More precisely, the null hypothesis is that there is a relationship between knowledge and attitudes of the respondents. Those respondents with a high knowledge on population are expected to have favourable attitudes toward population problems and population control programmes.

With this hypothesis in mind the author started off the analysis by dividing the respondents into high knowledge and low knowledge groups, depending on how many correct answers to the factual questions on population they had given. Altogether there were 13 questions which were aimed at finding out the population knowledge of the respondents. It should be mentioned here that the question on which ethnic group has the highest and lowest birth rate are not included in this analysis because it shows a bias response towards race, thus it was not considered a fair test of their knowledge. Therefore this analysis is based on the 12 factual questions on population. Of these questions, the highest number of correct answers given by any respondent was six and the lowest was two answers. Out of the total of 59 respondents that were interviewed, 7% of the respondents had six answers correct, 22% had 5 answers correct, 36% had 4 answers correct, 22% had 3 answers correct and 13% had 2 answers correct.



## CHAPTER V

### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES

In this chapter an analysis of the relationship between the knowledge respondents show of population problems and their attitudes toward population control programmes will be presented. More precisely, the null hypothesis is that there is a relationship between knowledge and attitudes of the respondents. Those respondents with a high knowledge on population are expected to have favourable attitudes toward population problems and population control programmes.

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Looking at the number of answers that the respondents had, correct, the author came to a decision that those respondents who had 5 and more answers correct were to be classed under the high knowledge category and those who had 3 and fewer answers correct were to be classed under the low knowledge category. Those respondents with 4 answers correct were categorised under the medium category. Thus, the total number of high knowledge respondents were 17 and low knowledge respondents were 21.

These categories of high and low knowledge respondents were then tested against their attitudes toward population problems and population control programmes, that is finding out whether they are favourable or unfavourable toward it. There were a total of 6 questions which were aimed at finding out respondents attitudes toward population problems and population control programmes. The first of these attitude questions was whether overpopulation constitutes a major problem at present. The findings are presented in the Table 5 - 1 below.

TABLE 5-1 : RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER OVERPOPULATION  
CONSTITUTES A MAJOR PROBLEM

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>AGREE</u>	<u>DISAGREE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HIGH KNOWLEDGE	14(82%)	3(18%)	17(100%)
LOW KNOWLEDGE	11(52%)	10(48%)	21(100%)
TOTAL	25	13	38

As shown in the table above 82% of high knowledge respondents agreed that overpopulation is a major problem while 52% of the low knowledge respondents agreed that overpopulation being the major problem at present.



A great majority of the respondents who were favourable toward overpopulation being a major problem at present, in response to the question put forward to them mentioned simply a 'yes' to indicate their favourable attitude. Besides that there were also a small number of respondents who supported their views with reasons. According to them overpopulation is a major problem at present because progress cannot cope with the large population increase. Government projects for development for example, will not be able to cater for the large population. Thus there will be great competition among the population and it will then lead to inequality in opportunities. It may also lead to discontent and chaos as a result of it.

A Headmaster in support of his view, mentioned that,

"Overpopulation is a major problem because there will be acute unemployment in the near future. Already we are faced with that particular problem and something has got to be done to stop the population from growing any larger."

In contrast to those respondents who were favourable, most respondents who were unfavourable toward overpopulation being a major problem at present, mentioned reasons to support their views. The general opinion was that there is still much land for the people even up to a few years or more in the future. Thus, it is not a cause for alarm, as yet. Furthermore to work these lands, we need a lot more man-power and this could be provided for by the population. It is not a matter of not enough land to go round but it ~~is~~ a matter of hard work plus a little help from the government.

Another Headmaster stated that,

"Overpopulation does not constitute a major



problem at present because the resources for example the land and minerals that we have in Malaysia are able to cope up with the increasing population."

With regards to the question on whether the government should be concerned with the problems of population, 100% of the high knowledge respondents held the opinion that the government, at this stage should take steps to check on the rate of population growth. On the other hand 95% of the low knowledge respondents were favourable toward it and that leaves 5% who were unfavourable. The number and percentages are shown in Table 5 - 2, below.

TABLE 5 - 2 : ATTITUDES TOWARD GOVERNMENT EFFORTS  
TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OF POPULATION.

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>FAVOURABLE</u>	<u>UNFAVOURABLE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HIGH KNOWLEDGE	17(100%)	0(0%)	17(100%)
LOW KNOWLEDGE	<u>20(95%)</u>	<u>1(5%)</u>	<u>21(100%)</u>
TOTAL	37	1	38

Generally the opinion of those who agreed that the government should be concerned with the problems of population was that, the population at present is growing at quite a high rate thus the annual increase in the population is large. As has been mentioned earlier the large population of Malaysia poses a great problem to the country and to the people. There would be more expenditure in providing for the needs of the people. More food would have to be imported because even at the present, Malaysia cannot produce sufficient food supply and has to supplement it by import-



ing from the neighbouring countries.

An officer said,

"I should say that the government should be concerned with the problems of population starting from now. The reason is that even at the present population it is difficult for the government to cope with the bare needs of the majority of the people, whatmore to provide for a better standard of living. Programmes should be introduced to reduce or stabilise the population as a long term programme so as not to create more problems in the near future."

Those who were in the opinion that the government should not be concerned with the problems of population supported their views with reasons; the population of Malaysia is not that large as to cause serious problems. We still need alot of man-power to help with the developmental programmes, being drafted by the government. Again here they mentioned that Malaysia has much land and could cater for the needs of today's population and may be for a few years ahead.

A religious teacher stated,

"There is no need to be concerned with the population at present or a few more years ahead. We have land for them to work on. Besides that they could provide man-power for programmes toward development."

To find out more definitely respondents attitudes toward population problems and population control programmes, a number of questions were put forward to them during the interview. The first of these was a question on whether the government should give full support to the Family Planning Programmes. From the response given by the respondents the



author then could categorise them into favourable or unfavourable attitudes. It was found out that 96% of high knowledge respondents were favourable toward Family Planning Programmes whereas only 81% of the low knowledge respondents were favourable. The Table 5 - 3 below would show this more clearly.

TABLE 5 - 3 : ATTITUDES TOWARD FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMMES.

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>FAVOURABLE</u>	<u>UNFAVOURABLE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HIGH KNOWLEDGE	16(96%)	1(4%)	17(100%)
LOW KNOWLEDGE	<u>17(81%)</u>	<u>4(19%)</u>	<u>21(100%)</u>
TOTAL	33	5	38

With regards to the Family Planning Programmes, a senior government officer said,

"I personally support the Family Planning Programmes. This is not only for the good of one's own life but for the government too. Many would think that the number of children they should have is not for them to determine but god. But everyone should bear in mind that the more children one has the more difficult it is to raise them adequately. More important is that a large population creates a number of problems. Thus it would be better off if the people and the government would support the Family Planning Programmes."

For those who were unfavourable toward the Family Planning programmes, their reasons were that, one should not limit or control the number of children one should have. They should accept what god has decided for them. Another reason put forward by them was that it is against the



religion of Islam to practice the Family Planning Programmes.

A religious teacher commented,

"I don't think that the government should give full support to the Family Planning Programmes because it is against the religion of Islam and as we all know it is the official religion of this country."

The next question which was asked was whether the government should take measures to encourage people to limit the number of children to for example 4 children, through tax measures, educational programmes and other programmes.

In response to the question mentioned above, 65% of respondents from the high knowledge category favoured such measures and 35% disapproved. From the low knowledge category it was found that 57% were favourable whereas 42% were unfavourable. This is shown in Table 5 - 4 below.

TABLE 5 - 4 : ATTITUDES TOWARD GOVERNMENT MEASURES E.G. TAX MEASURES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES ETC. TO LIMIT POPULATION GROWTH.

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>FAVOURABLE</u>	<u>UNFAVOURABLE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HIGH KNOWLEDGE	11(65%)	6(35%)	17(100%)
LOW KNOWLEDGE	<u>12(57%)</u>	<u>9(42%)</u>	<u>21(100%)</u>
TOTAL	23	15	38

It should be mentioned that in this particular question not all the respondents agreed to all the measures that were mentioned to them during the interview. But the fact is that, most of the respondents agreed



to at least one of the measures that were mentioned and they were included in the favourable category. Some agreed to educational programmes only for they said that it is only through this method that the people could realise the importance of having a small planned family and the problems created as a result of having a large population. To them tax measures could only be applied to fixed-salaried people and not others thus making the measure less effective. Others felt that it would be sort of forcing the people into limiting the number of children to 4 for example. The people should be given the freedom to choose and the only way is to educate them so that they would realise the necessity of it. The most important thing is that the choice should come from within themselves. On the other hand there were also respondents who agreed to tax measures for they felt that, that is the only way to make people limit the number of children for example to 4 children. We need not have to follow Singapore which limits it to a total of 2 children only. All of them disagreed at the idea of giving gifts like what India is doing now.

A teacher respondent said,

"I agree with educational programmes but not with tax measures because I feel that through educational programmes there would be better chances that the aim would be fulfilled. This is because the people would do what is expected of them through realization of the problems. Imposing tax measures would be in other words, using force. I believe in freedom of choice."

Again here religion became the reason for those respondents who disagreed to the idea of encouraging people to limit the number of children through measures such as educational programmes, tax measures etc.



Besides that they were in the opinion that the population of Malaysia is not that large as to need all these measures. Furthermore the people should be free to make their own choice without anyone or anything to influence them.

A Senior Officer stated,

"If a person can afford it, there is no need for these measures. A person should be allowed the freedom to have as many children, as long as a person can afford it that is to raise them adequately."

Yet another question that was asked was whether the government should use force to make the people limit the number of children they should have. In this question, the response was strongly inclined towards the unfavourable side, among both high and low knowledge respondents. The result are presented in Table 5 - 5 below.

TABLE 5 - 5 : ATTITUDES TOWARD USING FORCE TO LIMIT  
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN A PERSON HAS.

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>FAVOURABLE</u>	<u>UNFAVOURABLE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HIGH KNOWLEDGE	1(6%)	16(94%)	17(100%)
LOW KNOWLEDGE	<u>2(10%)</u>	<u>19(90%)</u>	<u>21(100%)</u>
TOTAL	3	35	38

In the above table it is shown that 94% of high knowledge respondents and 90% of the low knowledge respondents were unfavourable towards the use of force for example the imposition of compulsory sterilization in achieving the aim of limiting the number of children



a person has for example a total of 4 children. Thus it can be clearly seen that regardless of category the majority of the respondents disagreed to the use of force. A great majority of the respondents, in response to the question, both verbally gave a 'no' for their answers and made facial expressions such as to show complete disapproval. Here again, as in the previous cases the matter of religion was brought up; that is using force is against the religion of Islam and also other religions.

The respondents were also asked whether they would agree that population studies should be made part of the school curriculum. It is interesting to mention that a large number of respondents favoured population studies be made part of the school curriculum, no matter whether they are from the high knowledge or low knowledge category. This is presented in Table 5 - 6 below.

TABLE 5 - 6 : ATTITUDES TOWARD POPULATION STUDIES.

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>FAVOURABLE</u>	<u>UNFAVOURABLE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HIGH KNOWLEDGE	17(100%)	0(0%)	17(100%)
LOW KNOWLEDGE	<u>19(90%)</u>	<u>2(10%)</u>	<u>21(100%)</u>
TOTAL	36	2	38

Generally the respondents favoured the idea of population studies as part of the school curriculum because it would equip the students at a young age, with knowledge on population; thus after learning about the consequences of having a large population, there would be better understanding of situations and they would be able to take measures to avoid



more problems being created, most probably by taking steps to stabilise the population. Educational programmes may not be effective to the adults now but if the young or students are exposed to the facts they would grow to understand the situation better.

A Senior government officer said,

"It is a very good idea to make population studies part of the school curriculum because children should be taught about population and the consequences of having a large population so that they will have a better understanding of the situation and thus they can react accordingly. We have to be prepared for the future so the only way is to educate the students and equip them with knowledge in this particular aspect."

On the other hand a teacher who did not quite like the idea said,

"At present the syllabus in the schools is very wide and even then it is very difficult for them to cope up with. If at this stage another subject is added I doubt that the students would be able to follow, so it is better to leave the syllabus as it is."

It is necessary to mention that these findings were tested for statistical significance using the chi-square measure. All differences between high and low knowledge groups were found to be insignificant. This is not surprising since the total number of respondents is quite small and thus only extremely great difference would be revealed as significant by the chi-square method.

Another reason why those results were not found to be significant probably lies with the respondents themselves. These respondents are all



selected from a relatively homogenous portion of the total population of Dugun. They are all members of the elites and frequently interact with one another. Thus being the active people in society they mix around more than the rest and thus may result in a similarity of their thinking on certain aspects including population problems and population control programmes - in other words their attitudes generally trend toward being favourable to population control programmes.

It should be noted that on all questions but one, the high knowledge respondents showed themselves more favourable to population control programmes than the low knowledge respondents. While the differences are relatively slight and in no simple case, statistically significant the existence of such an overall trend, supports the view that increased factual knowledge of population questions is positively related to holding of attitudes favouring family planning and population control programmes.

It should also be observed that even the low knowledge respondents were more favourable than hostile to population control programmes. There thus appears to exist a relatively strong predisposition among the Dugun elite as a whole to support government efforts to cope with population problems. Increased efforts to educate the elite about population problem would appear worthwhile, however, in being likely to reinforce these already favourable attitudes.



### CONCLUSION

From the interviews and tabulation that has been done, it was found that not much concern on knowledge have been shown by the elite respondents of Dungun with regards to population and population problems. Problems such as national security, national intergration and educational problems (to mention a few) were mentioned as major problems. Only a small minority of respondents mentioned population growth as a major problem that is, it constitutes only 8% of the total citations of major problems. It is necessary to mention that, not one respondents mentioned population as the most serious problem.

Similarly many respondents did not know the total present total population of Malaysia and the annual rate of population growth. Knowledge on this is important for it may have influence on attitudes.

With regards to the forecast on population the great majority of the respondents mentioned population that would be too high for the years 1980 and 2000. For the year 1980 many said that the population would be ~~above 15 million~~ 15 million. That would be too high, for at the rate of population increase of about 2.5 - 2.7% it would only reach 12 - 13 million by that year. The population of Malaysia by 2000 would be about 19 - 21 million but some respondents even expected it to be 25 - 30 million. Food production in Malaysia at present is not sufficient for the country's needs. This has got to be supplemented by imports from the neighbouring



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With regards to the forecast on population the great majority of the respondents mentioned population that would be too high for the years 1980 and 2000. For the year 1980 many said that the population would be above 15 million. That would be too high, for at the rate of population increase of about 2.5 - 2.7% it would only reach 12 - 13 million by that year. The population of Malaysia by 2000 would be about 19 - 21 million but some respondents even expected it to be 25 - 30 million. Food production in Malaysia at present is not sufficient for the country's needs. This has got to be supplemented by importing food supplies from the neighbouring



countries like Burma and Thailand. Here too many respondents revealed their lack of knowledge by saying that Malaysia is self-sufficient in food production. The same goes to the question on import of food production and the amount of fertile land in Malaysia.

The question on the number of new job-seekers each year and the amount of capital investment needed to create a job in industry /FELDA/ agriculture, too, showed that the knowledge of these respondents on these aspects, is inadequate. The majority of these respondents, in fact, did not answer the question on the annual number of new job-seekers. The few who gave answers stated numbers that are too small. On the question of how much capital investment is needed to create one job in industry, FELDA and agriculture, the respondents stated amounts that is too low, that is the most that was mentioned was about \$25,000 - \$30,000, the same goes with FELDA. For agriculture some respondents mentioned amount as low as \$100 - \$500. The amount that is supposed to be sufficient to create one job in industry is roughly about \$40,000 - \$50,000 and for agriculture it is about \$30,000 - \$40,000.

Generally however, the elite respondents of Dungun, seemed to be favourable towards population control programmes despite the fact that they have very little knowledge on population. These favourable attitudes may be reinforced if more efforts are put to educate the elites about population.

From the above discussion we can conclude that :

1. Population increase and overpopulation are not perceived as major problems facing Malaysia by majority of respondents.



2. The level of knowledge of respondents about population issues is quite low.
3. The respondents generally favour efforts to limit population increase but most of the respondents rejected the use of forcable measures.
4. Respondents with more knowledge of population issues are somewhat more favourable toward taking steps to limit population increase than are those with less knowledge.
5. Therefore it would appear advisable for the government to increase efforts to educate people about facts of population issues as increased knowledge appears to be positively associated with holding of favourable attitudes to population limitation programmes.

As has been explained in the earlier part of the Exercise, the elites of Dungun were chosen as the focus of study. The sample thus is a socially homogeneous one. In addition these people are socially active and have frequent contacts with one another. Through this inter-mixing, they most probably develop a common orientation in their ideas and thought, which in this context causes them to be favourable to population control and family planning programmes. If a more representative sample of the total Malaysian population had been studied a wider range of attitudes would probably have been found.

Therefore it may be suggested that, for further research in the future, it is advisable to have a more heterogeneous sample so that a variety of responses may be obtained. Thus there is a possibility that the hypothesis previously stated could be proved.



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