

**PARTICIPATION OF FEMALE HAWKERS IN ECONOMIC
AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

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ABSTRACT

This study focuses on time use study to analyse participation of women in the hawking communities in various types of activities. Time use study is able to account for the time female hawkers spent on their daily activities. It has the added advantage of not requiring the women to interpret what constitutes economic and family activities.

Generally, female hawkers are not highly educated. They are mostly involved with selling non-food items. It is found that female hawkers spend long hours on economic activities and family activities. Many of the female hawkers work seven days a week. Participation in interactive activities with family members and friends are not emphasised.

Despite the long hours spent on economic activities, female hawkers are earning low income. The rate per hour of the female hawkers is only RM2.60. Nevertheless, female hawkers contribute significantly to the household's income. A higher percentage of female hawkers are earning higher income compared to their husbands. More female hawkers are giving financial support to family members compared to female hawkers who receive financial support from family members.

Considering that the life expectancy level is increasing every year, many of these hawker women will face the risk of being poverty-stricken when they reach old age. This is due to the non-existent savings and the lack of social security protection for the female hawkers. Thus, programmes to eradicate poverty should be targeted at the more vulnerable groups like the not educated, the older and the widowed/divorced or separated female hawkers

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