

ABSTRACT

Environmental issues especially in urban areas are gaining widespread attention due to increasing pressures on natural resources and environmental quality. This study examines the issue of household waste disposal and management within the context of squatter communities. This is especially relevant in urban areas where environmental facilities and services at squatter areas are not common. The study provides insights to support developing environmental programmes and policy options amongst squatter communities towards a healthy environment and improved quality of life. In particular, the study assesses the environmental awareness and behaviour of squatter settlements through case studies of Kampung Sungai Kayu Ara and Kampung Pelumut. It identifies areas for community participation and joint action with local authorities. The study also discusses implications for policies and programmes to alleviate urban environment pollution.

The findings show that ethnicity, attitudes in environmental friendly actions and knowing specific information such as the location of recycling centers influence the participation of environmental activities. The study found that respondents with higher levels of awareness may not necessarily participate in environmental programmes. A reason may be due to the lower income levels among squatter communities that suggest higher prioritisation for other basic needs compared to environmental health.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The completion of the project paper was made possible through the invaluable advice and support from many individuals. I would like to thank Professor Dr. Tan Poo Chang for her tireless efforts in guiding and providing comments throughout.

I would also like to thank Miss. Ng Sor Tho for her instantaneous response and support with regards to the study data. The study would not have been possible without the survey data collected by the undergraduate students of University Malaya in July 2000. Their efforts are gratefully acknowledged. The assistance from Mr. Sia Bik Kai especially in facilitating communication on the submission of drafts is also gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, the encouragement and support from my parents, family members and friends provided valuable motivation towards the completion of the project paper. I would especially like to thank Ms. Chong Chiew Kieok and Mr. Dan Ting Lip for their support and also to my brother, Mr. Yeo Kean Kok, for patiently braving the traffic jams to provide transportation for me to University Malaya during the course of my study.

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