

Participation of Poor Town Community as Agro-Entrepreneur Towards Urban Agriculture

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Abstract

Poor town communities are being chosen as the main respondents in this study. The homelessness contributed negatives impact for certain country that having homelessness which involved in crime, racial problem and social problems. This also includes a few factors like migration, changes in a new lifestyle and many more personal reasons. Migration can be occurred due to the push and pull factor in the original location, while urban agriculture was introduced to reduce the negatives impact for this group to participate in urban agriculture for alternative income. The objectives of this study have identified the level of participation of the poor town community in urban agriculture entrepreneur. The significance of this study is to make the number of decreasing homelessness by providing a job for them and to improve the quality of idle land. 79 respondents were involved in this study. Most of the respondent was from homelessness. In this study, purposely sampling method was used to prevent any bias. There are three analysis tests run to obtain the information from raw data. The test used in this study was a descriptive test which included the mean, mode and standard deviation. Chi-square test was used to determine the relationship between the factorial. The result showed to implement the urban agriculture needs the right attitude, knowledge and perception, although the chi-square showed no significant value on socioeconomics towards urban agriculture within the poor town community.

Key words: Homelessness; Poor town community; Urban agriculture; Agro entrepreneur

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INTRODUCTION

The definition of poverty is connected to some keywords such as deficiencies, hardships, the pain and torture of life faced by an individual, family and an individual community. To measure poverty often refers to an objective and positivist form, which is a simple method like content revenue a month's home and several dependents. There is no single concept of poverty universal that can be adopted in all cultural context, society for a long time. Today, poverty is often interpreted as a middle income or medium income level, which is the house is considered poor if it has less of 50% middle income households (Kartini, 2016). Hence, poverty in this study only focuses on homelessness.

There is a survey that has been conducted by City Hall Kuala Lumpur (DBKL). There were 1500 until 2000 homeless people in and around Kuala Lumpur every day (Astro awani, 2015). This population occurs because of no place or not having enough money to rent a house. Homeless people can give impact in social, economic, political and aspect of a community. They can spread illness in social that affect both rural and urban areas (Hanina, Nobaya, & Precious, 2014). This means the safety of city folks become at a dangerous level. Other than that, homeless can give an impact on surrounding environments. The personality, behaviour and hygiene of a homeless will make a public people scary (Hashimah & Juhana, 2016).

Besides, the major reason for the migration of homeless people in an urban area, which lead to the pull and push factors. This factor also influences by personal and environment decision to move out of the origin

places. Personal and environment decision is the cause of job opportunity, educations, enjoyment and seeking a new life. Most attracting factor for migrants to receiving country is gaining the higher standard of living and higher wages (Everett Lee, 1966).

Urban agriculture is involving a traditional activity with the production, processing, marketing and consumption. This also includes recreation and leisure and economic vitality for the community environment. City farming play roles in enhancing urban food security causes of increasing cost for supplying and distributing. It can help in economic development, environment by the disposal of urban waste like water waste and reduce the population of urban poverty (Ruaf Foundation, 2017). Therefore, urban agriculture can assist the poor town community in food supply and reduce the cost of living in urban area.

METHODOLOGY

Research data had been collected from 79 respondents who were among the poor communities in urban areas. This survey will be conducted at several hot spots of homeless people in Kuala Lumpur City area. The hot spot area is Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Masjid Jamek, Dataran Merdeka, Bank Negara, and Menara Maybank. While Johor is only Johor Bharu area, the question was distributed in purposely sample random to prevent any bias through a research survey using based on a set of questionnaires that have been designed for this study.

This data of respondent has recorded in the program SPSS 21.0 software. A few analyses were carried out. Analysis that had been applied in this study is a descriptive test, reliability test and chi-square test. For the descriptive test, the background of the homeless and other variables like knowledge, attitude and perception were analysed.

Also, a reliability analysis was done to estimate the consistency of the data and the Cronbach Alpha was used as the index of the reliability of the data (Tavakol & Dennick, 2011). As suggested by Nunnally (1978), the Cronbach's Alpha reliability test should have a minimum value of 0.6 for the data to be considered as consistent in the early stage of research.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 showed the result of descriptive analysis for socio-demographic. Most of the respondent, 77 % were male, and 23 % were female. There were five groups of age that were used, which is below 20 years old, 21 years old until 50 years old and above. The results showed based on age 3% below than 20 years old. Most respondents was from 31 to 40 years old, which carries 41.8% and 21-30 years old, which were 39.2% and 4% were from age 41 to 50 and 12 % above than 51 years old. From the survey showed the poor majority

communities was Malay represented 84.5 %, Chinese 10 % and Indian 5.5% and majorities were Muslims 89 % Buddha 6 % and Hindus 5%. Majorities chose the sidewalk as their home, which carried 62%, 18% stayed at the rental room, 15% stayed at the mosque, and 5 % stayed at transit house and bus stop. In the education most of respondents were SPM/ MCE (Malaysia Certificates Education) holders which carried 48 % followed completed the secondary school 20%, SRP/ LCE (Lower Certificates Education) 15%, completed primary school 6%, STPM/ HCE (Higher Certificates Education) 3%, Diploma and others formal education 8%. Most of the respondents were looking for new environments in an urban area, which carried 27 % followed by looking for a new standard of living 15 %, and 14 % stated that having a conflict with family. Most respondents were asked about the interested or passion for doing job in agriculture field. 45.5% was decided to do the job in planting vegetable as their passion in agriculture sector followed by rearing goat resulted in 10%. Majorities of poor communities came from Selangor resulted 34 % followed from Federal Territory 15 %, Perak 8 %.

Table 1
Result of Socio-Demographic

Variables	Percentage (%)
<u>Gender</u>	
Male	77
Female	23
<u>Age</u>	
> 20 years old	3
21 – 30 years old	39.2
31 – 40 years old	41.8
41 – 50 years old	4
< 51 years old	12
<u>Race</u>	
Malay	84.5
Chinese	10
Indian	5.5
<u>Religion</u>	
Muslim	89
Buddhist	6
Hindu	5
<u>Places for Homeless</u>	
Sidewalk	62
Rental room	18
Mosque	9
Bus stop	2.5
Transit house	2.5
Under bridge	6
<u>Level of Education</u>	
STPM/ HCE (Higher Certificates Education)	3
Diploma	8
SPM/ MCE (Malaysia Certificates Education)	48
Secondary School	20
SRP/LCE (Lower Certificates Education)	15
Primary School	6

To be continued

Continued

Variables	Percentage (%)
<u>Reasons</u>	
Looking for new environments in an urban area	27
Looking for a new standard of living	15
Looking for peace of life	9
Having a conflict with family	14
Lost job	14
Driven from village	2
Lost home	6
Out of prison	4
Others	9
<u>Passion to do the job in the agriculture field</u>	
Planting vegetable	45.5
Rearing goat	10
Fish farming	8
Poultry	8
Mushroom	9
Horticulture	5
Others	14.5
<u>Come from</u>	
Selangor	34
Kuala Lumpur	15
Perak	8
Melaka	6
Johor	5
Pahang	5
Kelantan	4
Kedah	4
Perlis	3
Terengganu	3
Negeri Sembilan	3
Sabah	3
Pulau Pinang	1
Foreign	6

Source: Survey, 2018.

Table 3
Knowledge in Urban Agriculture

Statement	Percentage					Mean	SD
	1	2	3	4	5		
I know about urban agriculture	34.2	31.6	15.2	12.7	6.3	2.25	1.23
I know how city farms entrepreneur are doing business	32.9	11.4	36.7	11.4	7.6	2.49	1.27
I know capital is very importance to start-up the business	7.6	30.4	27.8	22.8	11.4	3.0	1.14
I know that urban agriculture needs to learn	7.6	27.8	35.4	19.0	10.1	2.96	1.09
I know that urban agriculture needs to have the skill	5.1	27.8	30.4	22.8	13.9	3.13	1.12
I know that technology is very importance to be an urban agriculture entrepreneur	2.5	22.8	39.2	21.5	13.9	3.22	1.03
I know to be an urban agriculture entrepreneur need talent to sell	3.8	30.4	32.9	22.8	10.1	3.05	1.04
I know how to handle pesticide and fertilizer	25.3	17.7	25.3	21.5	10.1	2.73	1.32
I know agriculture can increase country income	3.8	21.5	45.6	12.7	16.5	3.16	1.06

Source: Survey, 2018.

Based Table 4 on the attitude the result showed most of the respondent have mildly agreed and disagree with the statement. 45.6% might know or do not know about marketing in the agriculture sector. The level of knowledge among the homeless is moderate. There is 3.8% state very disagree for a statement about entrepreneur and income. The lowest percentage is 2.5% state very disagree for a statement about technology. This is similar to they do not make sure and lack of knowledge in urban agriculture.

Table 2 showed the reliability test, which showed the three values were related to the KAP theory. Surprisingly, the three variable which has almost the same value. All of three variable has significant value. Based on the table above, each Cronbach's alpha gives value below than 0.95. So, the internal consistency of the knowledge, attitude and perception is good and fit with this study, the value of Cronbach's alpha of more than 0.7 that adhered to the ideal Cronbach's alpha coefficient (Hair *et al.*, 2014).

Table 2:
Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Test

Variable	Cronbach's Alpha	No of item
Knowledge	0.88	9
Attitude	0.94	8
Perception	0.80	8

Based Table 3 on knowledge, the result showed most of the respondent have mildly agreed and disagree with the statement. 45.6% might know or do not know about marketing in the agriculture sector. The level of knowledge among the homeless is moderate. There is 3.8% state very disagree for a statement about entrepreneur and income. The lowest percentage is 2.5% state very disagree for a statement about technology. This is similar to they do not make sure and lack of knowledge in urban agriculture.

Table 5 showed of all; the data was shown enormous in 'moderate' answer. The high of 'moderate' answer is 49.4 for the statement 'I think that agriculture has high risk'. The second high of 'moderate' answer is 41.8 for statement 'I feel the most challenging is farming work'. The low percentage value is 3.8, which is two statement that answers with 'very disagree'. The two statement is 'I feel the most challenging is farming work' and 'I think farming should follow the rules'.

Table 4
Attitude in Urban Agriculture

Statement	Percentage					Mean	SD
	1	2	3	4	5		
I am interested in farming	5.1	40.5	21.5	16.5	16.5	2.99	1.20
I will learn to become a farmer	2.5	13.9	46.8	24.1	12.7	3.30	0.95
I will become more diligent to be a farmer	6.3	29.1	27.8	25.3	11.4	3.06	1.12
I need surrounding people for help me to be an urban agriculture entrepreneur	5.1	16.5	41.8	20.3	16.5	3.27	1.08
I will help people that get involve in agriculture with seriously	5.1	32.9	25.3	20.3	16.5	3.10	1.18
I will make agriculture as a main job	6.3	19.0	38.0	22.8	13.9	3.19	1.09
I will look for the capital to start agriculture	6.3	27.8	27.8	27.8	10.1	3.08	1.10
I will live in the village to become a farmer and will not return to poverty	6.3	17.7	39.2	20.3	16.5	3.23	1.12

Source: Survey, 2018.

Table 5
Perception in Urban Agriculture

Statement	Percentage					Mean	SD
	1	2	3	4	5		
Entrepreneur in agriculture are very profitable	6.3	34.2	31.6	13.9	13.9	2.95	1.14
I think that agriculture has high risk	6.3	16.5	49.4	20.3	7.6	3.06	0.96
I think farming work is very dirty.	31.6	20.3	25.3	15.2	7.6	2.47	1.28
I think farming is not good for me.	15.2	26.6	35.4	12.7	10.1	2.76	1.16
I need a mentor who will teach me to guide me.	3.8	25.3	32.9	21.5	16.5	3.22	1.11
I feel the most challenging is farming work.	3.8	17.7	41.8	24.1	12.7	3.24	1.01
I think agriculture is not suitable for me	12.7	34.2	34.2	12.7	6.3	2.66	1.06
I think farming should follow the rules.	3.8	25.3	38.0	22.8	10.1	3.10	1.02

Source: Survey, 2018.

Chi-square is a measurable test ordinarily used to contrast watched information and information as an indicator by a particular theory. Fundamentally, absolute variable information in classes and numerical variable in numerical structure (Hakim M., 2016). For this paper, the chi-square test is used to determine the relationship between demographic and variable factor. For demographic, the test was including gender, age, race and religion. Variable that include in this factor are knowledge, attitude and perceptions in urban agriculture entrepreneur. The data was

shown using a contingency table. Here are a big number of values between demographic and variable value. The significant value only 0.03, which is the relationship between age and part C. If the p-value is lower than 0.05, the null hypothesis is acceptable. If the p-value of Chi-square test is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis is failed to be rejected. This means that there is no relationship between populations. The other things are, the data is not significant and fit to this study. It means that the respondent is not interested in agriculture entrepreneur.

Table 6
Chi-Square Test Result

Variable	I know to handle pesticide and fertiliser	I know agriculture can increase country income	I am interested in farming	I will make agriculture as my main job	I think farming work is very dirty	I think agriculture is not suitable for me
Gender	0.38	0.03	0.22	0.48	0.87	0.32
Age	0.46	0.86	0.85	0.66	0.73	0.66
Race	0.76	0.81	0.53	0.21	0.47	0.94
Religion	0.73	0.67	0.41	0.07	0.95	0.85

Source: Survey, 2018.

CONCLUSION

In this study, knowledge, attitude and perception is used as an indicator to determine which is the most influential factor in the poor town community to participate in agriculture entrepreneur. All these factors that influence of poor town community about urban agriculture to participate in agriculture entrepreneur. Most of poor town communities gave a positive opinion to become an agro entrepreneur. The level of attitude and knowledge is moderate among poor town community.

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