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CHILD CARE NEEDS OF LOW INCOME WOMEN
IN URBAN MALAYSIA

A Report Prepared by
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PREFACE

This report is one of six country reports on the field research findings and recommendations on child care needs of low income women in less developed countries. The project was undertaken (a) to identify child care needs of low income families as an increasing number of women participate in income production activities, and (b) to seek child care alternatives responsive to the child's socio-economic and cultural context.

Most women in less developed countries, especially in low income areas, perform the dual role of household manager and income provider. Women from low income families work as farm laborers, domestic servants, market vendors, factory workers and seamstresses for many hours a day, and then perform necessary household tasks such as cooking, grinding grain, washing clothes, fetching water, gathering firewood, and taking care of children. Development programs have only recently started to look more carefully at the specific needs of women in the many roles they play, including that of primary dispenser of health and nutrition care of the family.

In all societies children are cared for primarily by their mothers. Other female members of a household may help when necessary, as do some male members depending upon a society's mores and cultural traditions. As the demands of economic development increase, the need for more cash income to buy consumer goods and services also increases. The demand for better incomes, rural-urban migration, and the changing family structure are some of the factors which have an impact on the type and quality of care that children (especially those under five) receive in rural and urban areas.

This report on child care in Malaysia contributes to discovering answers to such questions as:

- (a) What are the current child care patterns of low income families?
- (b) To what extent do women participate and/or need to participate in income generation?
- (c) What are the effects of child care alternatives on opportunities for women to participate in the labor force?
- (d) How is the nutritional status of children affected by the mother's participation in the labor force, and by the various child care alternatives available?
- (e) What are the needs of low income families for child care and what alternative solutions do they recommend to fill these needs?

The project's basic research design includes the following data instruments: household survey, group discussion guide, literature search, and interviews with policy makers and program planners in government, domestic and international agencies. Details of the designs as they were adapted and were implemented in Malaysia are found in the Methodology section in the Appendix of this report.

In this report the following definitions of child care and work have been used:

Child Care is defined as a service that includes health/nutrition and education components integrated with custodial care which is responsive to the children's needs and cultural context. These services are provided in the absence of the mother while she is engaged in income production or otherwise occupied.

Work is defined as income generating activities, performed in the home or outside, that lead to an income in cash and/or kind.

We are grateful to the United States Agency for International Development, Nutrition Office, for funding the project and continuous commitment to it.* We are indebted to the National Family Planning Board of Malaysia for their collaboration in the Project. We greatly appreciate the cooperation extended by Malaysian government officials, domestic and international agency personnel and everyone who in one way or another helped personally and professionally during the course of this study.

It is hoped that the findings of this study and the emerging recommendations will make a significant contribution towards policy and program development to meet the needs identified by the low income families.

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*The view and interpretations in this publication are those of the authors and should not be attributed to the AID or any individual in its behalf.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE.		i
Chapter		
I	SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	1
	Summary.	1
	Conclusions.	2
	Recommendations.	3
II	COUNTRY AND STUDY AREA DESCRIPTIONS.	5
	Malaysia	5
	Education.	9
	Research Field Sites	10
	Pekeliling Flats (Malay)	10
	Kampong Sri Ampang (Malay Squatter Area)	13
	Sri Pahang Flats (Indian) and Bangsar Flats (Indian and Malay) - both in Bangsar Area.	15
	Kampong Muniandy (Indian and Chinese) and Kampong Pinang Squatter Areas (Indian and Malay).	17
	Tun Razak Flats (Chinese).	19
	Profile of Respondents	22
III	LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION.	25
	Urban Survey - Kuala Lumpur.	29
	Problems Associated with Working	34
	Current Trends	37
IV	CHILD CARE	39
	Rural Child Care	39
	Urban Child Care	41
	Child Care Arrangements of Surveyed Couples - Kuala Lumpur	42
V	HEALTH AND NUTRITION	51
	Survey Area - Nutrition Status	56
VI	COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT.	63
APPENDIX		65

LIST OF TABLES

Table

2.1	Birth Rate and Infant Mortality Rate, Peninsular Malaysia - 1975.	7
3.1	Comparison of Unemployment by Ethnic Group - 1975	26
3.2	Percentage Distribution of Working Age (15-64) Population by Employment and Sex - 1973.	27
3.3	Percentage of Male and Female Participation in Selected Professions - 1970.	28
3.4	Population Distribution by Age Group, Peninsular Malaysia	28
3:5	Labor Force Participation by Sex and Level of Education - 1973.	29
3:6	Proportion of Surveyed Women Who Have Received No Formal Education - Urban Kuala Lumpur.	29
3.7	Women Who Feel Their Husbands Approve of Their Working.	30
3.8	Location of Work - 249 Working Women Interviewed in Urban Kuala Lumpur.	31
3:9	Occupations of 249 Working Women Interviewed in Urban Kuala Lumpur.	31
3:10	Employment by Salary/Wage Group in All Covered Industries - Peninsular Malaysia 1972.	32
3.11	Reasons for Stopping Work - Women Who Do Not Currently Work but Have Worked Previously	33
3.12	Wives' Reasons for Not Wanting to Work.	33
3.13	Husbands' Reasons for Wife Not Working.	34
3.14	Family-Related Problems Caused by or Exaceruated by Women Working	34
3.15	Effect of Women's Work on Home Activity	35
3.16	Work-Related Problems of Working Women.	36
3.17	Women's Perception of What Would Help Them Find Better Jobs	36
4.1	Primary Caretaker by Age of Child - Nonworking Women.	42
4.2	Primary Caretaker by Age of Child - Working Women	43
4.3	Monthly Cost of Child Care Outside Home	44
4.4	Men's Participation in Household and Child Care Duties - Wives' and Husbands' Perceptions.	45
4.5	Activities During Day Off	47
4.6	Preferred/Ideal Caretakers.	48
5.1	Toddler Mortality Rates by Ethnic Group for Peninsular Malaysia.	52
5.2	Toddler Mortality Rate by States for Peninsular Malaysia - 1971 and 1976	53
5.3	Composition of Food Expenditure, Highest and Lowest Income Groups, Peninsular Malaysia 1973	56

Table

5.4	Major Problems Related to Available Health Services	57
5.5	Mothers' Perceptions of Causes of Children's Illnesses	58
5.6	Percent of Youngest Child Not Immunized and Reasons for Not Immunizing	59
5.7	Reasons for Not Breast-Feeding	60
5.8	Supplementary Food	60
A-1	Group Discussion Participants	67

LIST OF MAPS

Malaysia.	6
Kuala Lumpur & Environs	11
Pekeliling Flats - Malays	12
Kampong Sri Ampang Squatter Area - Malays	14
Bangsar Flats - Indians	16
Kampong Muniandy Squatter Area - Indians and Malays; Kampong Pinang Squatter Area - Chinese.	18
Tun Razak Flats - Chinese	21

CHAPTER I

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 1970 National Seminar on Planning for Children and Youth in National Development, Kuala Lumpur, made the following recommendations that have relevance today:

That it is of paramount importance to establish a nationwide programme for the proper physical, mental and social development of the pre-school children under one central body comprising representatives from the Ministries of Health, Education, National and Rural Development, Welfare and such other Ministries and bodies as are deemed necessary. This programme must include adequate experienced and controlled Government and non-Government child care centres such as kindergartens, play centres, nurseries and the like especially in rural areas and in selected urban areas that are in dire need of such centres.

That these recommendations were recognized as important in 1970 is significant, especially in terms of development programs in Malaysia since that time. With Government actively pursuing a policy of rapid economic growth and industrialization, more and more women from both urban and rural areas are currently seeking employment. Their needs for adequate child care are increasing, whereas the facilities available are extremely limited. There is, therefore, a strong case for implementing the kind of programs described above, but perhaps, nearly ten years later, with an equal emphasis on urban needs.

Summary

The Project "Child Care Needs of Low Income Women" focused on the needs of families of each ethnic group in urban Kuala Lumpur. Nearly 500 couples, both husbands and wives, were interviewed to determine the differing problems faced by working and nonworking women in their efforts to care for their children and provide for their basic needs. Low income families in selected squatter areas and low-cost flat complexes in Kuala Lumpur were the subjects of the study.

Additional data to supplement the research study was gained through a literature search and through discussions with development planners and implementors in government and national and international voluntary organizations. The following conclusions and recommendations are offered

as a result of this study to suggest policy and programs to meet the needs of Malaysian families.

Conclusions

1. There was little difference in the average number of children per family among the three ethnic groups. While this is not the case on the national level, the interviewed families were all living in very similar conditions and exhibited similar tendencies.

	<u>Working</u>	<u>Nonworking</u>
Malay	2.86	2.85
Chinese	3.06	2.95
Indian	3.28	3.14

2. The total number of children and the number of preschool children does not seem to influence whether a woman works. Women who work averaged 2.95 children with 2.47 of preschool age while non working women averaged 3.02 children, with 2.47 of preschool age.
3. The mother is the primary and preferred caretaker. When she is not available, relatives and older siblings are the preferred caretakers. The majority of both women and men express satisfaction with their present child care arrangements.
4. A limited number of organized child care facilities are available in the communities surveyed. Only 1% of those surveyed used such facilities, clearly indicating that child care needs are being met by alternative arrangements.
5. Husbands of working women help more with household tasks and child care than do those of nonworking women. The Malay husband helps the most, the Chinese the least.
6. Most families recognize the need for and approve of the wife's working to add to the family income. Arguments against a woman's working focus on difficulties in meeting child care needs and husband's disapproval.
7. About 61% of all women surveyed completed primary school, with 17% completing lower secondary or grade 9. Fourteen percent reported no education at all; the highest number reporting no education were the Chinese.
8. The working women surveyed are primarily in low paying jobs requiring little education and few skills. The women are involved primarily in production, service and sales, in that order. The types of work vary somewhat by ethnic group; for example, very few Indian women are in sales.
9. Of the working women, 62% work outside the home, 29% at home, and 9% work both places. The average number of hours worked per day is seven.

10. Mothers show a major lack of knowledge about the causes of illness in their children, and consequently are generally unaware of methods of prevention and treatment.
11. Surveyed families are generally dissatisfied with available health care, primarily due to poor service and inaccessible facilities.
12. The level of breast-feeding among those surveyed is lower than that in the Malaysia Fertility Survey in 1973.
13. Increased income does not necessarily improve the nutrition status of the family, as the additional income is often spent on material goods.
14. Living conditions in terms of services and amenities are not adequate in either the squatter or flat communities. Inadequate sanitation and water supplies, plus the insecurity of living on land that can be taken away at any time contribute to a basic discontent.

Recommendations

The purpose of the Overseas Education Fund survey was to determine needs of working women in terms of child care, family health and nutrition, and type of employment opportunities available to women. During the period of our survey, as their contribution to International Year of the Child, The National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO) held a series of seven seminars concerning needs of children. These seminars were held also with the idea of forming recommendations which could serve as policy implications for the Government of Malaysia. The findings from both efforts complement each other and are offered as suggestions for future efforts to improve the quality of life for women and their children in Malaysia.

1. Children must be considered as an integral part of any national development plan; for this reason a Children's Charter defining the needs and rights of the child is urgently needed.
2. Alternative methods of child care should be explored to meet differing community needs. Health and nutrition components should be integral parts of child care services. Full-day care is essential to meet the needs of working mothers.
3. Tabikas or kindergartens similar to those set up by KEMAS in the rural areas should be introduced into the crowded urban slum areas, with coordination with the Ministries of Health, Education and Welfare Services for an integrated community development program.
4. Legislation is suggested for the registration and regulation of various kinds of child care facilities. Appropriate standards should be set regarding number of children, staffing, equipment, feeding, health care, keeping of records and inspection for adequate child care.
5. A campaign to educate parents on the various aspects of child care for the promotion of health is of primary importance. This should include nutrition education with emphasis on the advantages of breast-feeding,

family planning, prevention of worm and other parasite infestation, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the necessity for immunization. Combined efforts of the mass media and health and extension workers in the various ministries should be coordinated for maximum utilization of effort.

6. The existing services for family health care, with emphasis on maternal child health/family planning and nutrition, should be strengthened and expanded in both urban and rural areas. Family spacing, with an emphasis on health and the value of each individual family member, should be emphasized. Priority should be given to underserved areas, especially the plantation sector.
7. Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers should be established to perform the dual function of treating malnourished children as well as involving mothers in their rehabilitation to improve nutritional well-being of the entire family.
8. Since primary school attendance is not compulsory, legislation is desirable for such compulsory education. Consideration should be given to extending this to include preschool and secondary education as well. This would necessitate large budget allocations to extend these services.
9. School health services should be expanded to include all schools, and the supplementary feeding program should be extended to include all needy primary and preschool children, with priority given to underserved areas.
10. Skills and/or vocational training for income generation activities for women should be provided based on locality, resources and work possibilities. Emphasis should be placed on home based activities and a marketing component should be part of the program.
11. In the urban squatter areas, efforts should be directed toward resolving the issues of land ownership to provide security for the residents in terms of legal land ownership or legal and permanent use rights.
12. Awareness and concern for problems of environmental pollution and sanitation as they relate to health and utilization of resources should be part of a campaign for community/nationwide responsibility.

CHAPTER II

COUNTRY AND STUDY AREA DESCRIPTIONS

MALAYSIA

Geographically Malaysia is composed of two distinct regions: Peninsular Malaysia which extends from Thailand in the north to Singapore in the south, and East Malaysia, which consists of the states of Sabah and Sarawak, and is located 400 miles across the South China Sea. Approximately 70% of Malaysia is covered by forests and swamps; the soil is rich and natural resources plentiful. See map of Malaysia next page.

Malaysia, due to its strategic location as a crossroads between two major sea lanes, has been heavily influenced by a variety of cultures and religions through the ages. Early in the Christian era trading ships sailing between India and China touched the Malay peninsula in search of tin, gold, spices and jungle produce. From the 7th until the 13th centuries Malaysia was under the influence of the Buddhist and Hindu empires. Islam was introduced into the area by Arab traders and became the dominant religion by the early fifteenth century. The vast majority of present day Malaysians are Muslim and Islam is the state religion.

European expansion into the Malaysian peninsula was established by the capture of Malacca in 1511 by the Dutch. The end of Dutch influence was marked by the transfer of Malacca to the British in 1824, at which time Britain gained control over the nine peninsular Malay States. British interests were primarily commercial in nature and during the next century, Peninsular Malaysia enjoyed a period of prosperity with the gradual establishment of a well-ordered system of public administration, extension of public services, and development of large scale rubber and tin production. This was interrupted by the Japanese invasion and occupation from 1942 and 1945.

The Federation of Malaya was established from the British territories of Peninsular Malaysia in 1948, and independence from Great Britain was declared in 1957. The British colonies of Singapore, Sarawak and Sabah joined the Federation of Malaya to form Malaysia in 1963, with Singapore withdrawing a few years later.

Malaysia is a multi-ethnic country with a population of just over 12.9 million, 85% of the population, or 10.84 million, living in Peninsular Malaysia. Malays and other indigenous people constitute 56% of the population, Chinese, 34%, Indians, 9% and others, 1%.¹ In 1975, 43.9% of the population was under 15 years of age and it is estimated that by the year 2000 the population will have grown to over 22 million.² The life



BURMA

THAILAND

LAOS

CAMBODIA

VIET
NAM

MALAYSIA

SOUTH CHINA SEA

PENINSULAR
MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur

SINGAPORE

SUMATRA

BRUNEI

SABAH

SARAWAK

BORNEO

1 inch = 230 miles

expectancy of a child born in 1975 was placed at 68 years. The comparable worldwide average life expectancy is 60 years, with 56 years considered the average for less developed countries.³

Birth rates and infant mortality rates vary considerably among the three ethnic groups in Malaysia, with the Chinese having the lowest of the three.

TABLE 2.1 BIRTH RATE AND INFANT MORTALITY RATE
PENINSULAR MALAYSIA - 1975⁴

Ethnic Group	Crude Birth Rate*	Infant Mortality Rate**
Malay	34.3	37.2
Chinese	27.4	24.0
Indians	30.5	38.3

SOURCE: National Family Planning Board, October 1978

*Number of births per 1000 population

**Deaths under 1 year per 1000 live births

Population density is just under 100 persons per square mile for the entire country; however, Peninsular Malaysia is 8 to 9 times as densely populated as Sarawak and Sabah.⁵ Of the total population in Peninsular Malaysia, 29 percent reside in cities of 10,000 or more and 71 percent in rural areas. Malays predominate in rural areas and on the east coast, while Chinese are concentrated in urban areas. The majority of Indians either dwell in towns or work on rubber estates. Among the urban population, 59 percent are Chinese, 28 percent Malay, and 13 percent Indian. Among the rural population, 64 percent are Malay, 26 percent Chinese, and 10 percent Indian.⁶

Roles within Malaysian society and economy are quite clearly delineated along ethnic lines. The Malay, who represent over half of Malaysia's population, have occupied the peninsula for centuries and enjoy a long-standing political dominance. When the area came under European rule, power and control were channelled through the Malay sultans. The Malays were granted preferred rights of citizenship and land ownership and at independence the government was essentially passed to them. The Malays, however, were a money-poor agrarian society, a condition which has persisted to the present. In recent years the Malays have been making use of their political strength to institute programs to improve their economic and educational situation.

The Chinese, in contrast, are a minority who hold very little political power, yet control a large part of Malaysia's economy. They came to Malaysia in great numbers during the late 1800's to work the tin mines and eventually assumed control of almost all business not directly under

the Europeans. As immigrants they could neither acquire large tracts of land nor participate a great deal in politics, so they consolidated their power in the fields of business and trade.

Caught between are the Indians who enjoy neither the political power of the Malays nor the economic power of the Chinese. A disadvantaged group, the Indian population is essentially confined to the plantation sector and have high rates of unemployment and infant mortality and low rates of participation in education and the economy.

This economic and racial imbalance was seen to be hindering national development, so the Malay leaders in 1970 instituted the New Economic Policy (NEP) to restructure society and redistribute opportunities within the economy. The major goals of this plan are to increase Malay participation in the areas of education, the professions and commercial fields by 1990 to a level comparable to the proportion they represent of the national population (approximately 56%) and to ensure Malay ownership of 30% of the country's capital. NEP and the New Education Policy have resulted in quota systems which place legal limits on the number of persons of each ethnic group accepted by educational institutions, limits the business and trade holdings permitted by each ethnic group, as well as the people who may be hired to fill openings in all sectors of the economy. By 1975 Malays holding jobs in the manufacturing sector had grown from 25% to 32%; their bank credit increased from 3.4% to 12.2%; and their ownership of capital from 2.4% to nearly 3%.⁷ The most dramatic advance made by the Malays, however, has been in the area of education. In 1969 Bahasa Malaysia was declared the medium of instruction, with the complete switch-over from English targeted for 1982. The Chinese, who since European domination have benefitted from the English medium educational system, are now at a disadvantage in terms of language, while the Malays have made significant gains. The university population has multiplied tenfold with Malays now representing 70% of the student body.

The degree of success of restructuring must be examined carefully. The percentage increase figures for Malay participation indicate the policy is proceeding successfully toward the stated objective. On closer examination, both Malays and others feel that so far the NEP has not reached the poor, one of its major stated objectives, and that there still is a growing inequality between the rich and poor. The government programs benefit a small group of well-placed Malay entrepreneurs and do little for the majority still trapped in rural poverty. This majority does not have access to goods and services, they have little opportunity to expand their skills and mental capabilities and so remain tied to the informal sector. In terms of quality of life they are limited in what they can achieve, and the cycle of poverty perpetuates itself. Thus the policies and programs instituted to equalize opportunities available to the Malays have aroused certain controversies among the affected populations which have in turn caused a slight shift in emphasis in subsequent national policy. The Third Malaysia Plan (TMP) for the period 1976-1980 sets as one of its major development goals the eradication of poverty irrespective of race.⁸ The 1978 Mid-Term Review of the TMP further modifies objectives in various areas and sectors

of society to more realistically and justly reach goals beneficial to all of Malay society.

The economy of Malaysia, based largely on agriculture, is one of the strongest in Southeast Asia and the per capita income in 1978 was M\$ 2,490 (US\$ 1,132).⁹ Servicing the economy is a relatively well-developed system of roads, air services, railways, coastal transport, postal and tele-communications services, power facilities and other basic infrastructure. Development to this level has been assisted by the favourable ratio of population to natural resources. Malaysia is the world's leading exporter of rubber, tin, tropical hardwoods, palm oil and pepper, and in 1977 supplied 50% of the world's supply of rubber, 36% of its tin and 68% of its palm oil.¹⁰ It is also a net exporter of petroleum. Rubber is Malaysia's main source of income and employment and is the largest foreign exchange earner in the country. Malaysia has historically been an importer of manufactured goods, having concentrated on the export of raw materials. A major emphasis of national development in recent years has been the expansion of manufacturing and industry to make use of natural resources, to lessen the economy's dependence upon rubber and to provide new work opportunities to alleviate employment.

Education

Education in Malaysia is not compulsory but 93% of the total population of children ages 6-12 attend primary school. Primary education (grades 1-6) is free and promotion is automatic up to Form III (grade 9) when the students must sit for an examination to qualify for the next level. Although attitudes and practices are changing, women still lag far behind men in educational achievement. The traditional female role has been that of wife and mother; it has been considered a waste of time and money to give them formal education. The number of female illiterates is higher than men; however in the lower age groups, the gap is rapidly narrowing. Of significance, however, is the fact that while 91% of the female population begin primary school, the majority of those who drop out later are girls. The proportion of women to men in higher levels of education is significantly small, as indicated in the 1976-77 attendance at the University of Malaysia, with 5500 male students to 2400 female.¹¹ The reason for this disparity seems to be tradition and cultural attitudes. The Drop-out Study conducted by the Ministry of Education in 1973 found that "in the provision of education girls seem to be discriminated against."¹² This discrimination is not only in the rural areas, but also in the highly urbanized metropolitan areas. The Study notes that one of the main causes leading to the differences in educational opportunity between the sexes is "sex role definitions . . . that is, the role of the male and female sex as perceived by society." This sex role stereotyping does "not encourage girls to continue their education."¹³

*Exchange rate, 1978: US\$ 1.00 = M\$ 2.20. All figures quoted in this report will be in U.S. dollars unless otherwise stated.

Consequently women are disadvantaged in terms of education and also employment. Because they lack education and training, the types of jobs available to them are limited. The higher salary levels, opportunities for promotion, and the ability to hold responsible positions are also restricted.

RESEARCH FIELD SITES

This study is primarily urban-focused and therefore selected squatter and low-cost flat areas were chosen. The current population of Kuala Lumpur is 950,000, and it is estimated that 200,000 residents live in squatter areas alone, and other low income families live in flats. Due to rural-urban migration the population is increasing at a rate of 7% annually, and the municipal government is attempting to carry out extensive housing projects to meet the increasing need.¹⁴

Most of the existing low-cost flats and squatter areas have been in existence for a considerable period of time, some as long as twenty years. In some cases the flats have begun to deteriorate and the available services and facilities are limited. Many residents of both the flats and squatter areas have lived there for years and the areas have a sense of continuity and permanence.

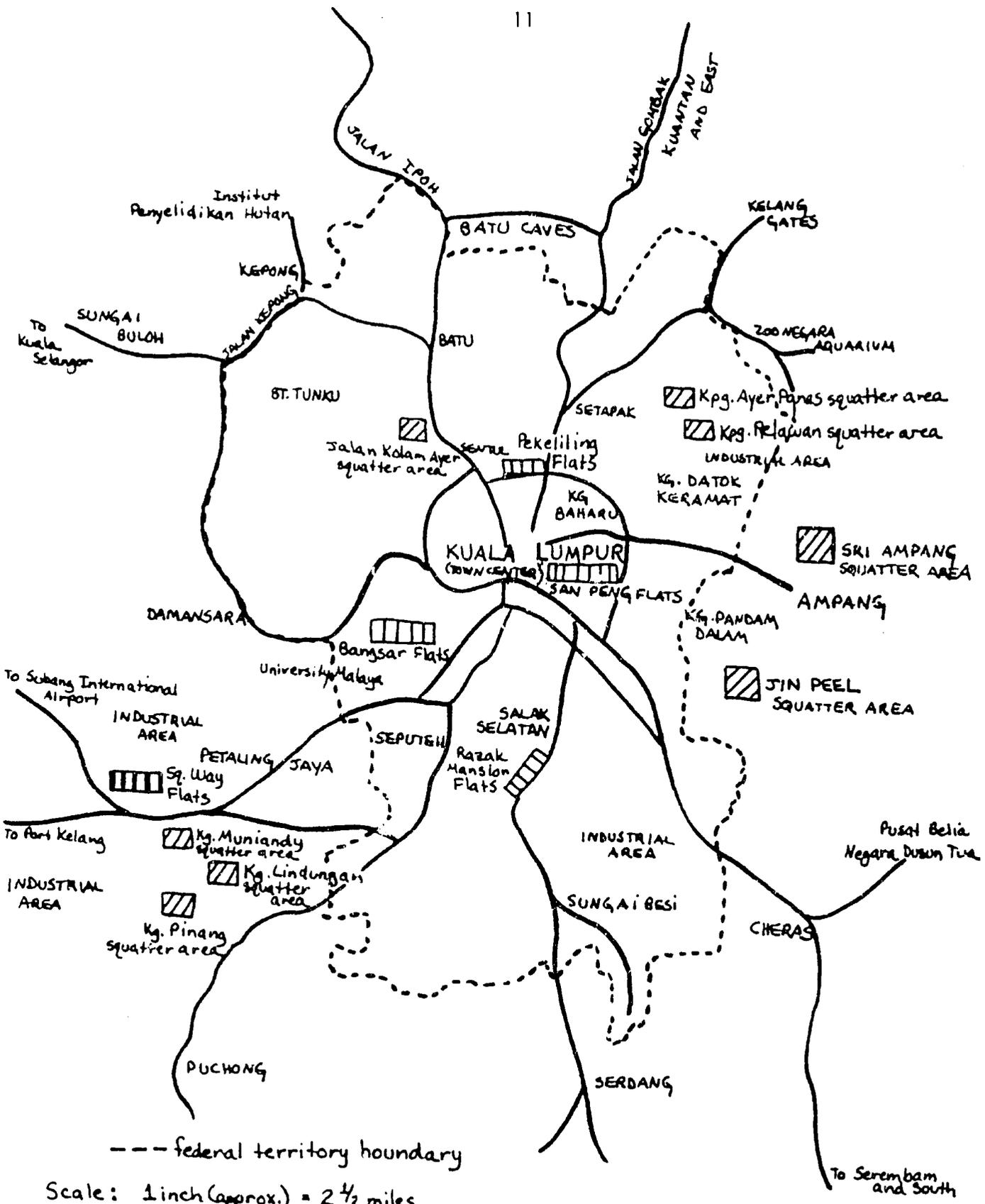
For some inhabitants, family economic situations have improved since they took up residence, but either finances have not improved enough to permit a move to a middle class neighborhood, or they prefer to use additional income to purchase consumer goods rather than upgrade their housing, or they are simply hesitant to leave the area where their families have lived for many years. Regardless of somewhat improved incomes, the low-cost flats and squatter areas are generally overcrowded, with insufficient public services, inadequate water supplies and unhealthy conditions.

For the purposes of this study four low-cost flats and three squatter areas were surveyed, representing a mix of ethnic groups and the varying conditions in which low income urban Malaysians dwell. A description of these areas follows. (See map of Kuala Lumpur next page.)

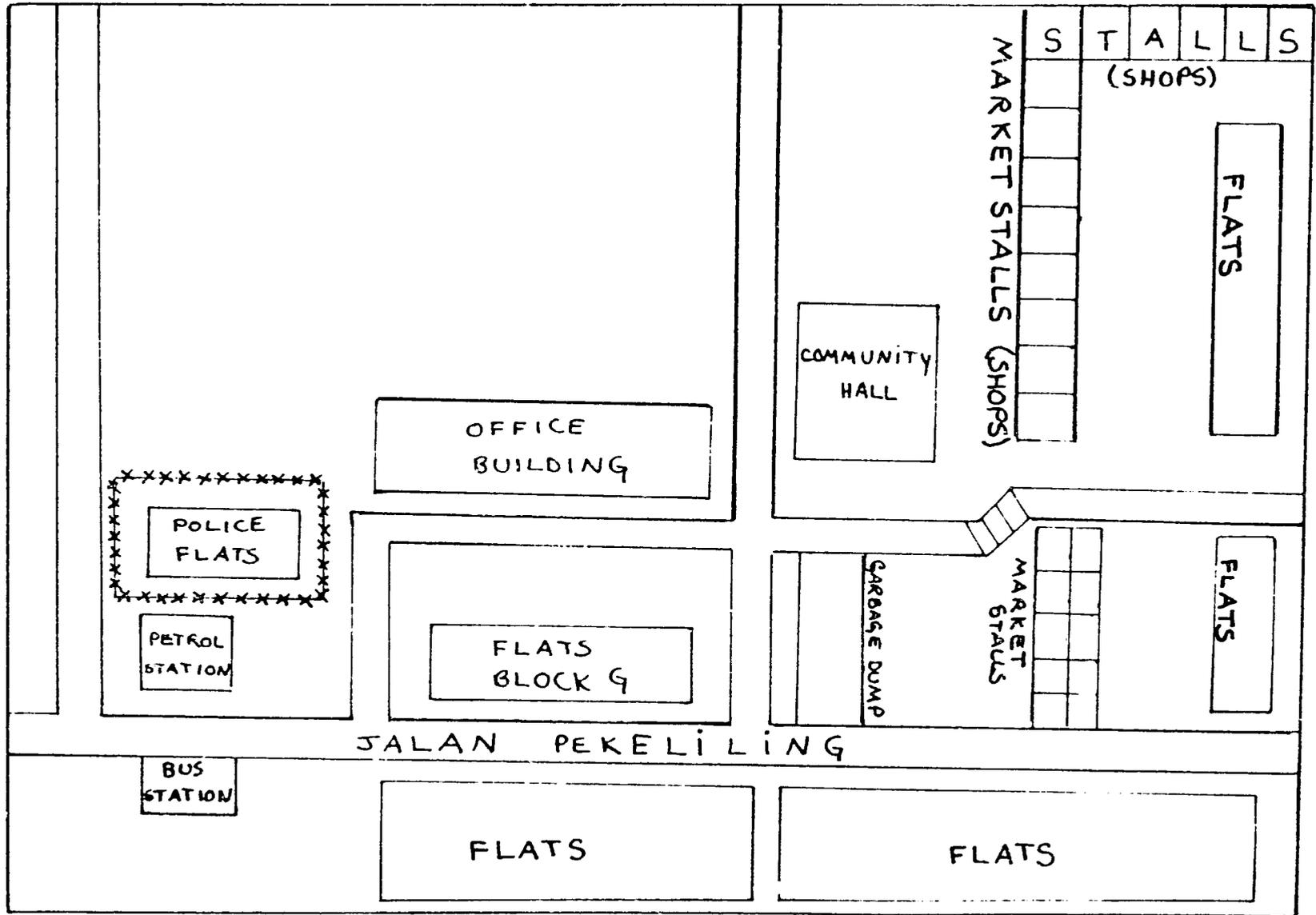
Pekeliling Flats (Malay)

The Pekeliling flats are composed of 12 blocks of 17 floors, each with 23 units per floor (total = 4692 units), housing over 20,000 people. Approximately 70% of the residents are Chinese, 25% are Malays, and 5% Indians. The Malay residents are primarily family members of the Police Field Force who occupy two blocks of flats which are somewhat removed from the other blocks. (See map, page 12.)

The flats were constructed 11 years ago and each unit consists of a kitchen, a bathroom and one or two bedrooms. One bedroom flats rent for \$20 per month while two bedroom units cost \$25 per month. Many units house 5-6 persons, resulting in crowded conditions that force some people to sleep in the hallways. Ventilation is bad and the lifts rarely function. Residents did not complain to the research team about the water supply, but were concerned about refuse collection, which is irregular and constitutes



KUALA LUMPUR & ENVIRONS



PEKELILING FLATS - MALAYS

a health problem. They also worry because there is no adequate playground and no study area for the older children, who find it difficult to do their homework in the crowded units. The residents agreed that they would like to see the lifts repaired and a local market established.

The men, many of whom came to the area as flood victims, work mainly as laborers or taxi drivers, or sell items in the Chow Kit Road market. Most men earn less than \$90 per month, though there are some teachers, clerks, government employees, businessmen and police officers who earn slightly more.

Most women who live in the Pekeliling Flats do not engage in income generating activities. Those few who do work are usually younger women who leave their children with neighbors because there is no child care facility in the immediate area. There is, however, a kindergarten as well as a dancing class, with plans to begin a music class. KEMAS* has a special class for women where sewing is taught and cooking demonstrations are arranged. Lectures on Islam are also given about three times a month. The response from the women to these programs is very encouraging and attendance is high. (Tuition classes are tutored sessions to offer special help.)

There are some school drop-outs, mostly before Form III, but the problem is not considered serious since most children complete elementary school up to grade 6. Some families cannot afford the school fees for children once they reach Form I. Free tutorial classes are held in the Community Hall for students who have failed Form III or Form V exams. There are also tuition classes for the few students whose families can afford to pay.

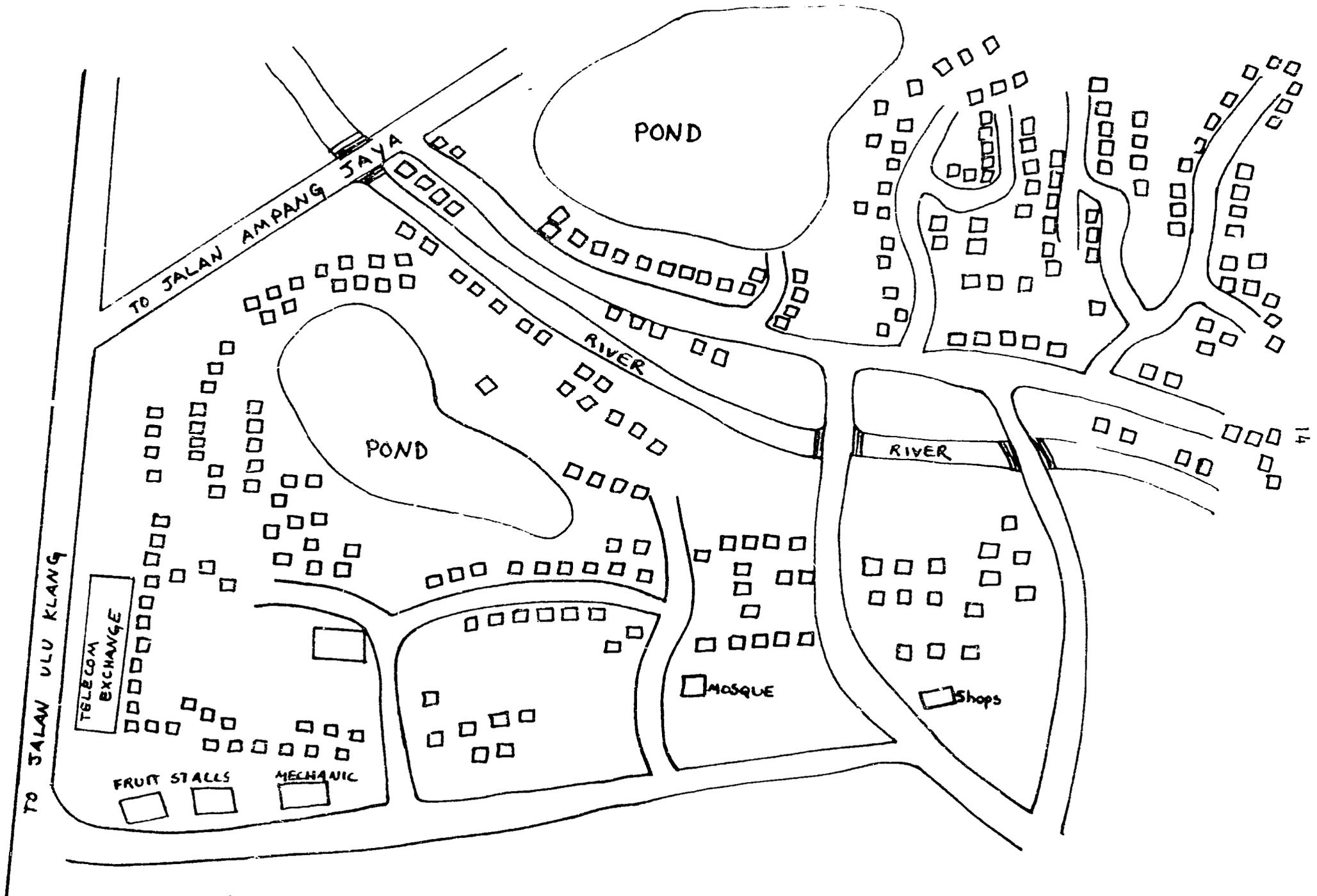
Most residents go to the nearby General Hospital when they need health care and stated the service is satisfactory. There are also two private clinics nearby which are used by those who can afford the cost.

The residents of the Pekeliling Flats envision little improvement in conditions during the coming years and view building deterioration, an increase in crime, and general worsening in their lives as inevitable.

Kampong Sri Ampang** (Malay Squatter Area) (See map next page)

The land on which the Kampong Sri Ampang is located originally belonged to the government and was settled by people who had worked nearby testing cars, had seen the vacant lot and decided it would be a good place to settle. In 1976 the squatters submitted an application for ownership but the land was not formally given to them. There are apparently no immediate plans to evict the squatters though they are concerned that this may happen and they will either be moved by the government to another location or have no place to go. Since they currently pay no rent, they would like to

*KEMAS - A program under the Ministry of Agriculture designed to provide education/information in various subject areas to both rural and urban women.
 **A kampong is a neighborhood or settlement.



KAMPOONG SRI AMPANG SQUATTER AREA - MALAYS

have the government give them title to the land. There are approximately 800 houses with an average of five persons per house. The residents are 90% Malay and 10% Indian. People who participated in the community group discussion stated their houses are valued at approximately \$8,200 each and that many residents own television sets and cars. The community leaders have established an annual election of a committee which approves (based on available space) requests to build more houses. The Indian community, however, occupies its own area and elects its own leaders.

It appears to some extent that the area is both more permanent and less poverty stricken than either the residents' concerns or the descriptive term "squatter" imply. The government has constructed bridges and roads and has provided electricity, and the Public Works Department sponsored the building of a mosque. The community, however, has no facilities for proper rubbish disposal. Some rubbish is burned, some is buried and some is thrown in the river that runs through the community. Most houses have pit latrines, and there are 14 standpipes to supply water to the area's 4,000 residents. The need for additional water supply was the major concern expressed by residents. There is a Community Hall funded and built by the residents with a contribution from the State Representative and other concerned individuals. This hall is used by various societies and associations such as the Youth and Women's sections of UMNO,* the sports club, cultural group and educational association.

A kindergarten has been in operation for about two years and cares for approximately 30 children. The class is held in the Community Hall. The teacher is a resident of the area, has received no formal teacher training and is paid by the parents, who seem satisfied with the quality of care. There is a primary and a secondary school nearby. No drop-out cases were reported in the group discussion. This may be partly due to the fact that most of the residents are young and few of the children have reached secondary school age. Tuition classes are provided by resident teachers for which fees are charged.

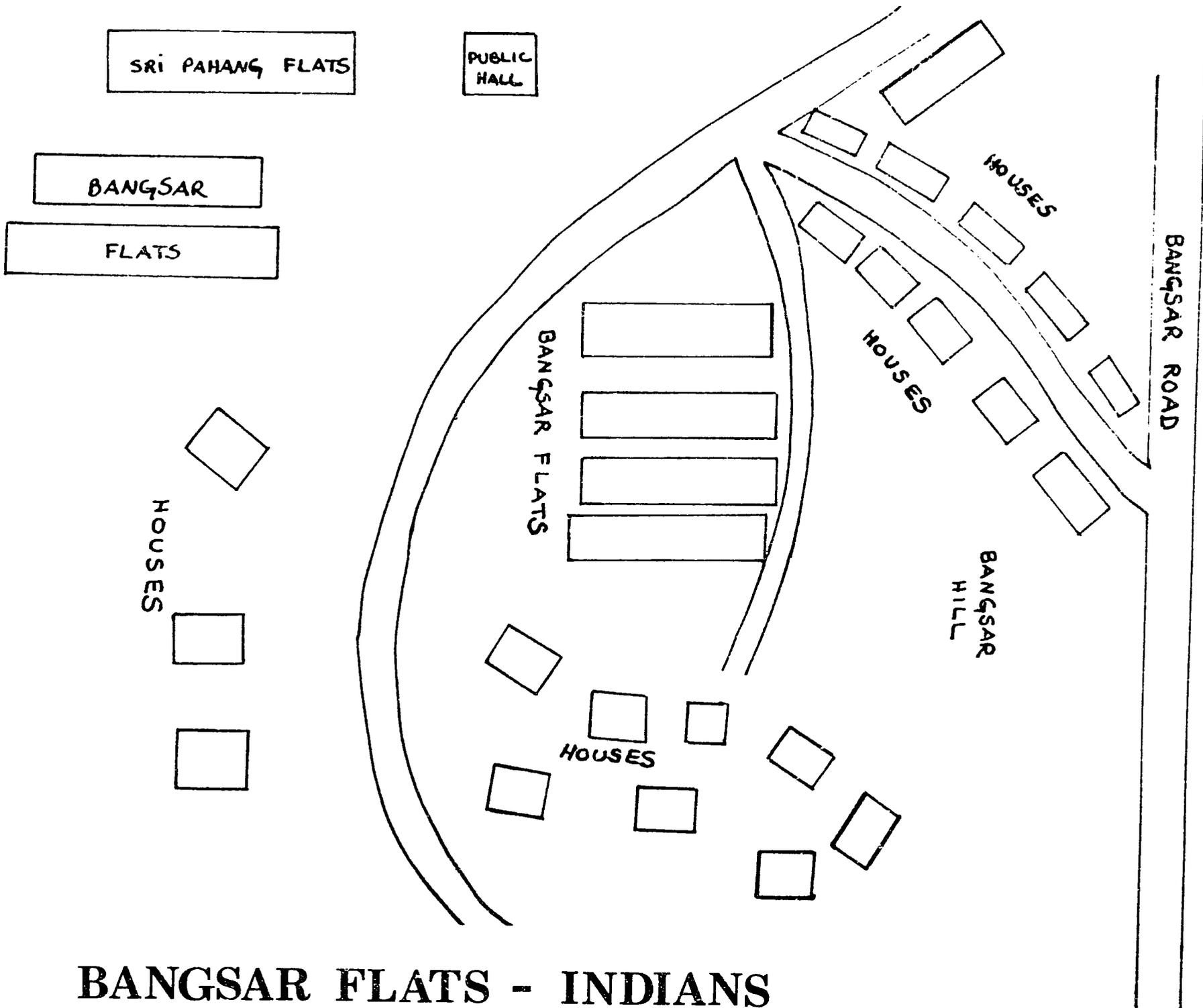
The men who live in the Kampong Sri Ampang are employed mainly in government service, work for private companies or run small businesses and earn \$270 - \$365 per month. Participants in the community meeting stated that only 10% of the women work, and that these women are employed by government departments or factories or work as domestic servants and earn \$90 - \$180 per month. When the women work the usual practice is to hire a girl from a rural area to care for the children.

People use the services of either a private clinic or the government clinic for their health needs. Most feel the local facilities are inadequate and regret the lack of maternal and child care services. Because the General Hospital is quite distant, the people would like to have a mobile clinic to service the area.

Sri Pahang Flats (Indian) and Bangsar Flats (Indian and Malay) - both in Bangsar Area (See map next page)

Bangsar Flats, started in 1965 and subsequently divided into the

*UMNO is the United Malaysian National Organization, the major political party.



BANGSAR FLATS - INDIANS

Municipality Flats and Railway Flats, house 80 families per block, with 8 families per floor, half Indian, half Malay. Sri Pahang Flats, built in 1971, house 156 Indian families.

Both groups of flats are crowded and the water supply is inadequate. There is no outdoor space where children may play. Participants in the group meeting feel that rubbish is the biggest problem. Because of irregular collection, rubbish piles up, creating a health hazard. Residents were concerned that youths who have quit school often loiter about the area and puncture bicycle tires. They recommended establishing a skills training center for these young people.

Many of the men in the flats are employed by manufacturing companies or are in government service. The women who work are also employed in manufacturing or work as domestic servants. Group discussion participants stated that children are left to take care of themselves when the mothers work.

Very few children drop out of school before completing grade six, but by grade 9 about 60% have quit. Parents stated they would like the government to institute tuition classes and provide books and other materials.

The residents reported many negative aspects of life in the flats, citing the petty thievery, lack of community spirit and the high degree of competition among residents to assume leadership. They would like to establish a library, but when the previous one was not strictly supervised, books were stolen and it was necessary to close it. In general residents of Sri Pahang and Bangsar Flats do not feel positive about life in the area or the possibility of improvement in the near future.

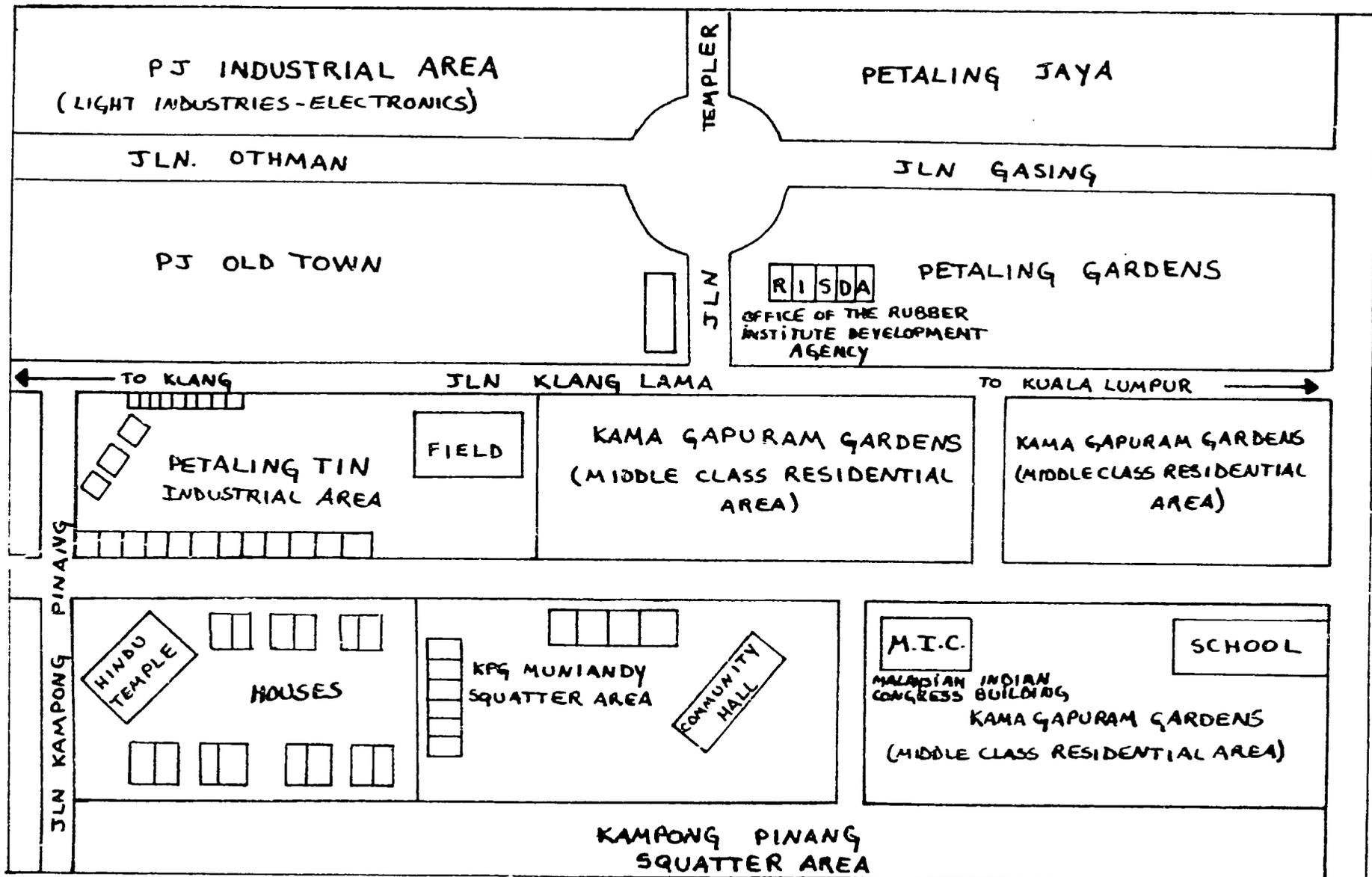
Kampong Muniandy (Indian and Chinese) and Kampong Pinang Squatter Areas (Indian and Malay)

Kampong Muniandy originated in 1953 in an unused mining area known as Petaling Tin. The first ten Indian families, cowherders who made their living selling milk, moved to this seven-acre area because of a municipal prohibition imposed on the rearing of cows in the Petaling Jaya township. Today there are 200 households; eighty percent are Indians and the remaining are Chinese. See map, next page.

There are 2,500 houses in Kampong Pinang with the ethnic breakdown in this settlement as follows:

Chinese households	-	300
Malay households	-	1000
Indian households	-	1200

The majority of the men in these kampongs work as construction laborers and earn approximately \$90 per month. Nearly 80% of the women work, primarily as domestic servants or as construction or factory workers. The women who are employed in local factories work long hours for low salaries.



KAMPONG MUNIANDY SQUATTER AREA – INDIANS & MALAYS
KAMPONG PINANG SQUATTER AREA – CHINESE

There is a kindergarten for children aged five and six, managed since 1969 by the Residents Association. Parents pay \$2.27 per child per month; 60 children attend with one teacher responsible for them. There is a primary school located one mile away. Working mothers normally lock their children out of the house by 6:30 a.m. and from then until about 7:30 a.m. when they go to school the children play unsupervised. According to the respondents nearly 60% of the children become school dropouts by grade 6. There is a secondary school some distance away but financial constraints contribute to a drop-out rate of 30% by the end of Form 1. The number who continue on to higher secondary levels is so negligible that those who do so are looked upon with pride by the residents.

Major problems in the area are lack of proper garbage disposal, inadequate drainage system and an insufficient water supply resulting in poor sanitation and health problems. There is no proper garbage disposal area and the municipality does not remove rubbish. Many residents have no system for disposal of human waste; others use a bucket system and pay \$2.27 monthly for collection.

One of the major problems is the inadequate water supply. In Kampong Muniandy three hundred households share five public water pipes, while in Kampong Pinang, 2,500 households must share 9 pipes. Here the queue for water is continuous and on an average it takes two hours to collect four gallons of water.

The residents are willing to do gotong-royong (cooperative work) to lay additional pipes if they are helped financially and if approval is granted from the authorities. The cost is between \$227-\$273 to lay one public standpipe.

The residents feel that the unsanitary conditions contribute to poor health, especially among the children. Dengue fever, colds and intestinal maladies are common. There are no nearby health facilities, no bus system, and taxi costs make visits to the nearest hospital rare.

The residents expressed interest in having family planning services made available within the settlement. They would like to have roads improved but essentially do not envision any significant changes being made to improve the quality of life in the settlement, and, in fact, have a continual apprehension of being evicted from the land, which is owned by the government.

Tun Razak Flats (Chinese)

The Tun Razak Flats represent one of City Hall's earliest experiments in providing multi-storied low cost flats for low-income groups, and were built over 20 years ago. The ethnic distribution is approximately 78% Chinese, 5% Indian and 17% Malay. Although years ago the area acquired the reputation of being a dangerous place to live with a high incidence of crime, current residents say this is no longer true. There are 15 blocks with a total of 432 units. Blocks 1 to 11 comprise the original

blocks, each with 24 units. Block 12 consists of shops. Blocks 13, 14 and 15 each have 48 units. There are 48 two bedroom units which rent for \$21/month and 360 one bedroom units which rent for \$16/month. There are no lifts. None of the blocks are more than four stories. (See map next page)

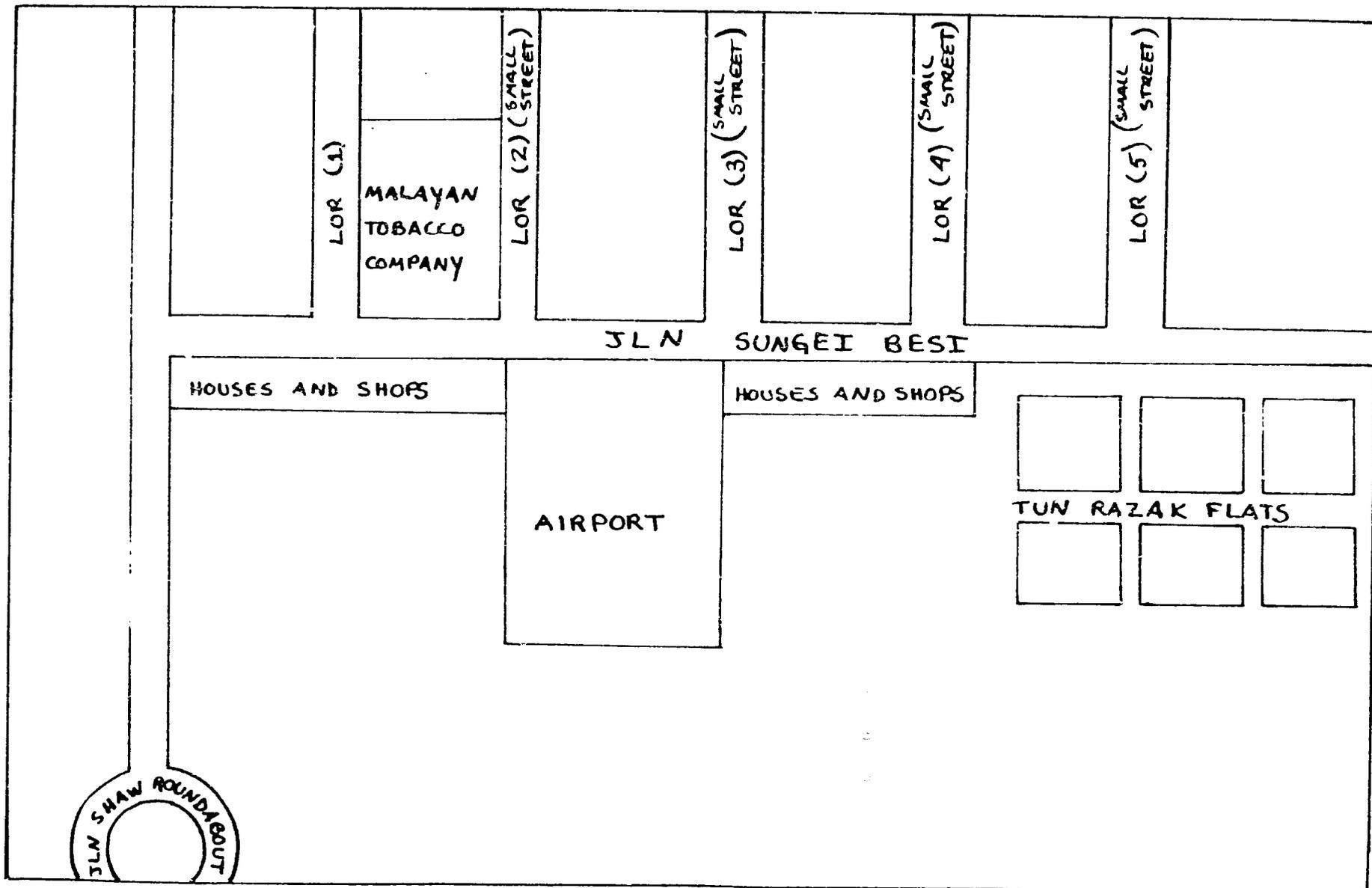
To initially qualify for these flats, family income must have been below \$136 per month, and applicants had to have at least three children. Many of the original residents are still occupants of the flats. All children whose names were in the original application have a right to continue occupation after the death of the person who initially qualified for residence. This continuity of residence is lending a settled atmosphere to the area. One of the leaders who has children in university overseas said he would not move out since his friends were all in the area. Although they were careful not to say it, it appears that the leaders are well satisfied with the rentals which have never been increased in spite of escalating accommodation rates in the city.

There is a large proportion of young people in the area resulting in an increasing pressure for more living space. Flats are crowded and services such as rubbish disposal are strained to the point of being insufficient. However, there are also signs of relative affluence--30% of the residents own cars and/or motorcycles and many families have television sets.

The majority of the men work as laborers, tradesmen, mechanics, welders, housing construction workers, market stall-holders, or taxi drivers. A few are clerks, and some are teachers. Most of the women who bring in additional income (about 30% to 40%) work within their own houses or within the area. Many take in sewing, are hairdressers, promote products such as cosmetics, household wares or do baby sitting. Most of the women were reported to have little education. When they work, mothers make various sorts of child arrangements, including 24-hour child minders and daytime child minders, as well as using other family members. A small proportion of the women are office workers.

Preschool children of working mothers are cared for in a variety of ways, depending on family income. Some are sent to 24 hour child minders for \$82-\$91 per month or to day child minders for \$46-\$55 per month. These fees do not include food. Although this would appear to be exorbitant rates for poor families, there is a sort of general acceptance of this as a necessity so as to free the parents to bring in additional income.

It seems that putting the child with child minding agencies was preferred to employing a person to care for the child in the flat as this would pose an additional problem of accommodation. Others who could not afford such high charges sent children out to be cared for by extensions of their families, e.g. grandparents, some as far as nearby towns and villages. The residents regretted the fact that most could not use the Tun Razak Creche located in the flat complex. The first of its kind, this care center is a private one which takes 45 children aged 3 years and above. The residents estimated that to fulfill their needs, the center should be



TUN RAZAK FLATS - CHINESE

extended to admit 150 children with the entry age lowered to one year so that more babies and toddlers in the area could be cared for. The center is well equipped, with a trained teacher, and has a large outdoor play area. There are two primary schools and one secondary school in the area. Parents are greatly concerned for the children's safety as an estimated 3,000 cross the heavily travelled main highway daily to attend school, and at least five children have died in road accidents with many more injured. The only access in and out of the area is the main Sungei Besi-Kuala Lumpur highway which has a continuous flow of traffic so that turning from or crossing this main road constitutes a hazard at all times of the day. When appeals to City Hall for an overhead bridge brought no results, some residents built a bump across the road to slow down traffic, but it was removed by City Hall.

There are no training facilities available for adult men or women. The leaders feel that with regard to women, even if there were some sort of activities, e.g. sewing classes, there would not be much participation by the women because they would be busy with work or family.

In spite of crowding, residents are satisfied with their housing, particularly since rentals have not been increased in over 20 years. However, they regret not being allowed to purchase these flats as they have grown up in this area and do not wish to move away from it. They lament the overcrowding especially in the one bedrooomed units and their failure to get a positive response from City Hall to their applications for more space or for consideration for larger flats in the new low-cost housing schemes planned in a nearby area. Some residents claim that they have sent in as many as twenty successive applications, with no response.

The residents are also concerned about pollution and the potential health problems caused by poor refuse disposal. They would like proper market facilities to replace the present collection of dilapidated stalls. This market should have a paved floor so that it is not muddy and dirty after rain as is the present one. They also expressed the desire to have a maternal and child health clinic, one which would offer family planning information, established in the area. They also asked for a government-sponsored mobile clinic and dental clinic.

Profile of Respondents

Most of the women interviewed were living with their spouses. Only nine women (2%) were widowed, separated or divorced. The average number of living children was 3.0 with little difference between working and non-working mothers or between ethnic groups (Malaysian Fertility Survey of 1974 showed 3.7 births from metropolitan areas).¹⁵

The average age of the wives interviewed was 29.3 years, ranging from 17 to 50 years, and for the husbands 34.4 years, ranging from 20 to 63 years. Here again there is little difference between working and non-working mothers.

More than half of the women (60%) and their husbands (54%) had lived in the locality for fewer than five years. Nearly one third of both women and men had come from rural areas to seek better jobs. This supports the rural to urban migration pattern remarked in recent years.

The following chapter will go into more detail on the labor force participation of Malaysian women in general with particular attention to those women interviewed in this study.

Notes

¹A Primer on Malaysia, March, 1979, supplied by Embassy of Malaysia in Washington, D.C.

²World Atlas of the Child, Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 1979.

³World's Children Data Sheet of the Population Reference Bureau, Inc., Washington, D.C., 1979.

⁴National Family Planning Board, Malaysia, October 1978.

⁵Malaysia Country Profile, New York: The Population Council, Inc. 1974.

⁶Newman, Barry, "Ethnic Upheaval: Malaysia Torn by Drive for More Malay Rights at Expense of Chinese," Wall Street Journal, May 8, 1978.

⁷Third Malaysia Plan, 1976-1980.

⁸Ibid.

⁹Mid-Term Review, Third Malaysia Plan, 1978.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Personal communication with Registra, University of Malaysia, 1978.

¹²Study of Educational Wastage/Dropout Study, Ministry of Education, 1973.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴"A Million People in Kuala Lumpur by 1981," Malay Mail, July 10, 1979.

¹⁵Malaysia Fertility Survey, National Family Planning Board, 1973.

CHAPTER III

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

The Third Malaysia Plan 1976-1980

. . . . The role of women in society has become an increasingly important factor in both the developed and developing countries. The active participation and contribution of women in development outside the family circle are no longer saddled by prejudice and traditional conservatism. This is manifested by their leadership potentials in the fight for individual rights and freedom in society, equal treatment and respect for individuals irrespective of sex, race, culture and religion and the acceptance of human individual worth and capability in all walks of life. These are significant factors in a nation's search for character and identity. The contribution of women to the evolution of a strong and self-reliant society in Malaysia needs to be appreciated and taken into consideration in the agenda for rapid development and progress.¹

This very general statement is the only reference to women and their role in development in the Third Malaysia Plan. While officially recognized as important to development, there is agreement among all levels of government and private sector employees that the contribution of women to development is very definitely hindered by "prejudice and traditional conservatism."

Under the law there is no longer discrimination against women in terms of employment; however, in practice there is frequent discrimination. A man is considered for a job on the basis of his professional qualifications and skills. When a woman is considered, her age, marital status and the number of children she has are factors as important as her qualifications. If she is married, chances are she will not be hired. If she has children the chances are still more remote. Out of desperation many married women, after repeatedly failing to find employment, apply for jobs as single women. Other disparities exist between law and practice. Women and men in government service with similar qualifications begin at the same salary level. The disparity can be seen over time when the man surpasses the woman in terms of promotion and salary increase.

Efforts to provide equal pay for equal work have been made in the public sector in response to constant demands and pressure on the government. In the private sector, however, for those occupational categories where large numbers of women are employed, there are few provisions to ensure that they receive the same pay as their male counterparts. In the agricultural and

mining sectors similar disparities exist. An example of this is shown in the recent wage scale increase for workers in the tin mines. Under the new agreement, women mine workers will receive pay increases of 40 cents a day, unskilled (male) workers 70 cents, semi-skilled (male) 80 cents and skilled (male) workers \$1.10. Under annual increments, women have risen a notch and compete with the unskilled (male) worker for 30 cents a day. Semi-skilled will receive 40 cents and skilled workers 70 cents.² The Women's Section of the Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC) is diligently working to remedy these inequities, but it is a slow process.

Other inequities exist in employment in terms of ethnic group. In 1975 the government of Malaysia estimated the national unemployment figure to be just under 273,000,³ which represented roughly 4% of the total population over 14 years of age.⁴ Unemployment, however, was not equally distributed among the three main ethnic groups.

TABLE 3.1 COMPARISON OF UNEMPLOYMENT BY ETHNIC GROUP - 1975⁵

Ethnic Group	Total Population Over 14 Years of Age		Unemployed		Rate of Unemployment
	Number	%	Number	%*	
Malay	3,365,680	56	128,123	47	3.3%
Chinese	2,347,020	34	93,800	34	4.0%
Indian	621,270	9	47,300	17	7.6%
Other	69,030	1	3,400	1	4.9%
Total	6,903,000	100	242,623	100	4.0%

SOURCES: World Atlas of the Child and Third Malaysia Plan in Brief

In 1975 Chinese represented 34% of the total population as well as an equal proportion of the unemployed. The Malays, who represented 56% of the total population, accounted for a considerably lower proportion (47%) of the unemployed, hence their rate of unemployment 3.3% was lower than the 4% national average. The Indians, who represented only 9% of the total population, were the most adversely affected group in terms of employment, with an unemployment rate of almost double the national average, 7.6%.

Comparable unemployment figures for 1973 show a similar national average unemployment rate of 4% of all persons aged 15-64.⁶ (See Table 3.2) When the data upon which this rate is based is analyzed, however, it is found that a rate of 4% national unemployment does not by extension mean that 96% of the adult population is actively involved in the paid labor force.

While 79.8% of the adult male population in Malaysia in 1973 was considered employed, meaning actively involved in the paid labor force,

*In all tables, percentages are rounded. Due to rounding, details may not exactly total 100%.

TABLE 3.2 PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION
OF WORKING AGE (15-64) POPULATION BY
EMPLOYMENT AND SEX - 1973⁷

Status	Men	Women
Employed	79.8%	35.8%
Unemployed	4.7	3.2
Students	8.9	6.2
Housewives	0.0	51.2
Other*	6.6	3.6

SOURCE: Department of Statistics,
Malaysia, in Women Today in Peninsular
Malaysia, p. 14.

*"Other" was not defined in the original
text.

the comparable figure for women was 35.8%, less than half the male percentage. Because women who fall in the category of housewives are not considered in the unemployed figures, the official rate of unemployment among women in 1975 was only 3.2%, one and a half percentage points less than the rate among men (4.7%). Because it is not known what proportion of women in the housewife category wish to be employed but cannot find work, it is not clear how much of an impact they have on unemployment figures.

The low level of education achieved by the vast majority of women who are active in the paid labor force severely limits the occupations and opportunities open to them. Lack of training and skills effectively relegate women to low-paid, unskilled labor. Even among those who are educated, unemployment is higher among women than men. For persons with secondary education where unemployment is highest, the rate of female unemployment is double that of males. One of the conclusions of the Drop-out Study was "Girls of the same qualifications as boys find that they are unable to compete for the same type of job."⁸

Over half of the women who work in Malaysia are engaged as unskilled agricultural laborers. Within fields that employ professional people very few women are in positions of leadership and authority. Only 3% of the total administrative and managerial positions in Malaysia are filled by women.⁹ In professional categories, women's participation in comparison to that of men is negligible except in the nursing and teaching professions, with a larger proportion of women teaching on the primary level than the secondary and tertiary levels.

Malaysia's work force is, to a large extent, delineated according to jobs considered "suitable for men" and jobs "appropriate for women." Paid work considered appropriate for women parallels the unpaid work traditionally done by women--nursing, domestic service, agricultural labor, and teaching young children.

TABLE 3.3 PERCENTAGE OF MALE AND FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED PROFESSIONS - 1970¹⁰

Profession	% Male	% Female
Jurist	91	9
Accountant	91	9
Physical scientist	85	15
Architect/engineer	97	3
Surgeon/doctor/dentist	85	15
Nurse/midwife	1	99
Statistician/mathematician	83	17
Economist	92	8
Teacher (university, post secondary)	76	24
Teacher (secondary)	63	37
Teacher (primary)	60	40

SOURCE: Department of Statistics, Malaysia, in Women Today in Peninsular Malaysia, p. 17

Demographers foresee in the next 20 to 30 years, a substantial shift in the age composition of Malaysia's population. Due to decreasing rates of fertility and increasing life expectancies, the proportion of children in the 0-14 age group will decline, while the proportion in the 15-64 age group will increase. (See Chapter IV Child Care.) The World Bank estimates that by the year 2000, children in the 0-14 age group will represent only 33% of the total population.¹¹

TABLE 3.4 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP¹²
PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

Age Group	Distribution		Average Annual Growth Rate 1976-80
	1975	1980	
0 - 14	41.4%	39.2	1.5%
15 - 64	54.9	57.1	3.4%
65+	3.7	3.7	2.9%

SOURCE: World Atlas of the Child, p. 25

This shift in population composition is likely to have a considerable effect on the labor force participation of women, though it is impossible at present to predict what these effects will be. Increased numbers of men and women may cause increased unemployment, with women unable to compete even as well as they do at present for jobs. The expected decrease in number of children per adult, however, may indicate that women will have more free time and may desire to expand their involvement in the labor force. If this is the case, and national policies to develop industry and

create jobs are effective, there is a possibility of considerably greater numbers of women in Malaysia working in the near future.

Urban Survey - Kuala Lumpur

For the purposes of this study an equal number of working and non-working women were selected for interview. Thus it is not known what the true employment rate is in the survey area, or whether the rate corresponds with the national average.

A comparison of national figures relating to men and women who are employed reveals that women who are active in the labor force are considerably less educated than men who are active in the labor force. While 41% of all women in the labor force are without any formal education, the corresponding figure for men is only 14%.

TABLE 3.5 LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION
BY SEX AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION - 1973¹³

Level of Education	Women %	Men %
No formal education	41	14
Primary	38	55
Lower secondary	10	18
Middle to upper secondary	10	12
Tertiary and religious	1	1

SOURCE: Department of Statistics, Malaysia, in Women Today in Peninsular Malaysia, p. 14

Among the 499 women surveyed during this study, the percentage of women who had received no formal education was considerably smaller than the 41% Department of Statistics quotation which appears in Table 3.5. Since the average age of women interviewed is fairly young (29.3 years), this supports the evidence that the gap between male and female education levels is narrowing.

TABLE 3.6 PROPORTION OF SURVEYED WOMEN
WHO HAVE RECEIVED NO FORMAL EDUCATION - URBAN
KUALA LUMPUR

	Working	Non-Working
Squatters	14.7%	15.3%
Residents of Flats	14.1%	10.0%

SOURCE: Author data

The proportion of interviewed women having no formal education varied significantly among the three ethnic groups with 22.6% of Chinese women,* 14% of Indian women and 5% of Malays having received no formal schooling. The level of education attained by the women who were interviewed varied little between women who work and those who do not.

Among the women interviewed in urban Kuala Lumpur, 249 are involved in some sort of income-generating activity. Of the 250 women who are not working now, 60% have worked before. This means that of all the women interviewed 80% of the women are currently working or have worked at some time. Those who have stopped working have not been working for an average of 5.8 years (ranging from less than 1 year to 23 years).

The majority (96%) of the women felt that it was all right for women to bring money into the house. This was true both of working and nonworking women. The Malays were higher with nearly 100% feeling that it was all right for women to earn money.

Table 3.7 shows that women who work feel that their husbands approve, while those who do not work feel their husbands do not approve. There is some difference in the ethnic groups but conclusions cannot be made on the liberal or non-liberal attitude of men of the three ethnic groups.

TABLE 3.7 WOMEN WHO FEEL THEIR HUSBANDS APPROVE OF THEIR WORKING

	Nonworking Women	Working Women
Malay	37%	87%
Chinese	37%	75%
Indians	32%	76%
Average	36%	80%

SOURCE: Author data

As has been found in other countries, when women in urban areas work, their work generally requires leaving the home. Among the working women surveyed in Kuala Lumpur, twice as many work outside the home as within the home, as shown in Table 3.8.

The types of work engaged in by these 249 women vary somewhat among the

*The high percentage of Chinese women reporting no formal education is supported by other National Family Planning Board (NFPB) surveys. The study surveyed mothers who in their generation had to pay school fees. Only since Independence has education through primary school been free. Malay girls have always had the opportunity to attend religious schools which charge only low fees. In the poorer Chinese families, the custom of male preference probably assured sons rather than daughters of continued education.

TABLE 3.8 LOCATION OF WORK - 249 WORKING WOMEN INTERVIEWED IN URBAN KUALA LUMPUR

Location	Women	
	Number	%
Within the home only	73	29
Outside the home only	154	62
Within and outside the home	22	9
Total	249	100%

SOURCE: Author data

three ethnic groups interviewed. Production work was a common occupation among all three ethnic groups in the urban area. While the Malay and Chinese women revealed a significant level of participation in sales, almost no Indian women do so. A greater proportion of the urban Indian women than the other two groups, however, engage in service occupations. When women enter industry and business, fields considered more appropriate for men than women, they tend to be concentrated in the lower income brackets.

TABLE 3.9 OCCUPATIONS OF 249 WORKING WOMEN INTERVIEWED IN URBAN KUALA LUMPUR

Occupation	(249) Total		(100) Malay		(99) Chinese		(50) Indian	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Professional	8	3	7	7	1	1	0	0
Clerical	22	9	19	19	2	2	1	2
Sales	49	20	26	26	21	21	2	4
Service	70	28	18	18	27	27	25	50
Production	98	39	30	30	48	48	20	40
No response/not known	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	4
Total	249	100%	100	100%	99	100%	50	100%

SOURCE: Author data

In almost all fields of work, women occupy low-level, low-skill positions which result in lower wages than those paid to men. (See Table 3.10)

Among the women surveyed in Kuala Lumpur, approximately 13% of those who work described themselves as "unpaid family workers." Excluding these women, the average monthly income of the working women is under \$90, ranging

TABLE 3.10 EMPLOYMENT BY SALARY/WAGE GROUP IN
ALL COVERED INDUSTRIES -
PENINSULAR MALAYSIA 1972¹⁴

Monthly Salary (Malay Dollars)	Men	Women
Less than \$100	24%	64%
\$100 - \$199	44	30
\$200 - \$399	24	5
\$400 or more	8	1

SOURCE: Department of Statistics, Malaysia, in
Women Today in Peninsular Malaysia, p. 20

from less than \$23 to over \$363 per month. The average monthly income of the surveyed husbands is \$182 ranging from \$91 - \$830.

The average number of hours worked by the 249 surveyed women who work is 7 hours per day. The few women who work as domestic servants reported they "work" 24 hours per day since they must be available at all times. Three women reported having a second job, though they spend an average of less than one hour per day at the second job.

An average of slightly over half of the working women in the three ethnic groups stated they work because their family needs the additional income. Financial considerations were stressed the most by the Indian community, with 88% of surveyed women and a similar percentage of husbands giving that as the primary reason for the women working. Slightly lower percentages of Malay (61%) and Chinese (64%) women gave "need for income" as their primary reason for working. Among women who do not work a comparably larger proportion of Indian women expressed interest in working, again mainly for financial reasons. Fifty-four percent of Malay, 53% of Chinese and 74% of Indian women who are currently unemployed stated they would like to work to supplement the family income. Of the 249 working women who were interviewed, slightly fewer than 20% stated they work because they have free time and under 5% said they wish to make use of their training and skills.

Women who stated they work because their family needs the additional income were asked if they would continue to work if there was no financial need--44% felt they would, 56% felt that they would not. Of those who said they wanted to work, financial independence was given by about half of them, and 20% reiterated that they work because they have free time. Of those who replied they would not want to work if they had no financial need, 45% wanted to devote the time to children and family. Similarly, the 159 husbands who had earlier stated their wives worked because the family needed the income were asked if they would allow them to work if there was no financial need. Only 22% stated they would allow their wives to work; 72% would not approve and 6% mentioned that it would depend on the situation. Of those who replied they would allow their wives to work, about one-third

mentioned financial independence for wife, and one-third felt their wives should make use of their free time. Of those who said they would not approve if there was no financial need, child care responsibilities were given by half as the reason and household duties by another 20% of the men.

Similar child and household related reasons were given for stopping work by those women who had previously worked but no longer do so.

TABLE 3.11 REASONS FOR STOPPING WORK -
WOMEN WHO DO NOT CURRENTLY WORK
BUT HAVE WORKED PREVIOUSLY

Reason	(177) Women	
	Number	%
Not interested	7	4.0
Husband disapproves	15	8.5
Take care of children	59	33.3
Due to pregnancy	17	9.6
Got married	35	19.8
Moved	9	5.1
Others	35	19.8

SOURCE: Author data

The surveyed women who neither work at present nor wish to work and their husbands revealed a great concern over child care and household chores.

TABLE 3.12 WIVES' REASONS FOR NOT WANTING TO WORK

Reason	(146) All Women		(58) Malay		(74) Chinese		(14) Indian	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Not interested	17	11.6	7	12.1	5	6.8	5	35.7
No financial need	1	0.7	0	0.0	1	1.3	0	0.0
No job	1	0.7	0	0.0	1	1.3	0	0.0
No skills	4	2.7	1	1.7	3	4.0	0	0.0
Children still young	91	62.3	39	67.2	44	59.5	8	57.1
Nobody to take care of children	10	6.8	2	3.4	8	10.8	0	0.0
Chores need to be done	7	4.8	0	0.0	7	9.5	0	0.0
Others	15	10.3	9	15.5	5	6.8	1	7.1
Total	146	100%	58	100%	74	100%	14	100%

SOURCE: Author data

TABLE 3.13 HUSBANDS' REASONS
FOR WIFE NOT WORKING*

Reason	(250) Husbands	
	Number	%
Not interested	2	.8
No financial need	3	1.2
No skills	9	3.6
Child care	217	86.8
Household chores	24	9.6
Husband disapproves	24	9.6
Others	24	9.6

SOURCE: Author data

*Multiple response

Problems Associated with Working

The survey revealed that among women who do not work, the most frequently given reasons for not working relate to the home and family (see Tables 3.11, 3.12, and 3.13). Among all surveyed women, those who work as well as those who do not, and their husbands, difficulty in adequately meeting child care needs is felt to be the most serious family-related problem caused by or exacerbated by women working.

It is interesting to note that while over 90% of the interviewed women and their husbands felt working created problems in respect to child care and household chores, when working women and their husbands were asked if the wife's working had affected specific aspects of home life, the vast majority felt most were unchanged. See Tables 3.14 and 3.15.

While all who were surveyed felt that working results in few family-related problems other than child care, they listed a greater variety of difficulties in respect to the work environment and conditions.

A significant number of women and twice as many husbands (nearly half) feel there are no particular work-related problems for women who work. The problems felt to be significant concern the low pay, long hours and tenuous nature of women's work. While the perceptions of working and nonworking women vary little regarding the types of problems associated with work, women who do not currently work view the problems to be slightly greater than women who do work. See Table 3.15.

All women who were interviewed were asked what would enable them to find a job (if they currently had none) or secure a better position (if they already worked). Table 3.16 shows their responses. Women placed the greatest emphasis on training and education skills acquired both through the formal education system and through informal channels.

TABLE 3.14 FAMILY-RELATED PROBLEMS
CAUSED BY OR EXACERBATED BY WOMEN WORKING*

	Families of Nonworking Mothers (250)				Families of Working Mothers (249)			
	Wives		Husbands		Wives		Husbands	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No problems	5	2.0	6	2.4	12	4.8	9	3.3
Child care	237	94.8	235	94.0	234	94.0	219	91.3
Husband neglected	27	10.8	31	12.4	14	5.6	29	12.1
Chores neglected	45	18.0	42	16.8	32	12.9	46	19.2
No free time	5	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tired	7	2.8	-	-	6	2.4	-	-
Less affection with child	6	2.4	6	2.4	-	-	2	.83
Cannot concentrate on work	3	1.2	-	-	3	1.2	-	-
Others	19	7.6	17	6.8	14	5.6	12	5.0

SOURCE: Author data

*Multiple response

TABLE 3.15 EFFECT OF WOMEN'S WORK ON HOME ACTIVITY
(249 women, 240 men)

	Better		Worse		Same	
	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Type of food prepared	13	11.0	13	12	74	77
Manner of preparing food	4	0.8	14	13	81	86
Feeding patterns	2	0.8	15	17	82	82
Education of children	2	6.0	11	11	86	82
Health of children	3	0.4	12	12	84	88
Affection between child and parent	1	1.0	13	13	86	85
General upbringing of child	3	4.0	12	12	85	84
Religious upbringing	2	0.9	3	3	95	96

SOURCE: Author data

TABLE 3.16 WORK-RELATED PROBLEMS OF WORKING WOMEN

	Families of Nonworking Mothers				Families of Working Mothers			
	(250)		(250)		(249)		(240)	
	Wives		Husbands		Wives		Husbands	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
None	37	15	86	4	55	22	99	41
Laid off	6	2	4	2	5	2	3	1
Long hours	30	12	40	16	39	16	35	15
Low pay	34	14	31	12	22	9	21	9
No training facility	15	6	11	4	14	6	10	4
Women take too much leave	27	11	20	8	29	12	12	5
Cannot concentrate	14	6	14	6	24	10	11	5
Fewer opportunities for women	27	11	14	6	16	6	7	3
Others	49	20	35	14	37	15	30	16
No response	11	4	-	-	8	3	4	2

SOURCE: Author data

TABLE 3.17 WOMEN'S PERCEPTION OF WHAT
WOULD HELP THEM FIND BETTER JOBS

Response	% Women Giving Response
Recommendation	9
Education	38
Experience/knowledge	16
Qualification/course	14
Ability/skill	11
Citizenship	1
Capital	2
Others	10

SOURCE: Author data

Current Trends

Various programs and plans are currently being offered and developed to improve the economic status of women. Increasing the productivity of farmers and of rural communities has been the central objective of rural development programs and of the various land schemes. Rural women constitute half of Malaysia's valuable human resource potential available for development. As greater and increasing emphasis is given to agricultural production and the improvement of rural life, there is the urgent need to give more attention to the education and training of rural women. Some current programs do include women, but there is a need for more consideration of their needs.

The National Association of Women's Institutes is a pioneer in the field of training for rural women. Begun in 1952, the Women's Institutes initially concerned themselves with traditional activities for women, offering cookery and tailoring classes, with talks given on health, nutrition and family welfare. The focus has changed in recent years and among the more successful projects are the production and marketing of groundnuts, tobacco, poultry rearing, handicraft production and cooperative ventures. These efforts have provided rural women with the opportunity to supplement their income and improve their economic status. Other programs will be discussed in the chapters on Child Care and Community Participation.

In the urban setting, coinciding with government plans for expansion of industrialization, the need for vocational training is being recognized. In the implementation of such programs, emphasis should be given to close coordination and integration of institutional and on-the-job training within industry. Most of the programs developed so far are aimed toward the male worker, but it is essential that these opportunities be extended to women and that their job horizons be expanded into new occupational fields.

Notes

¹Third Malaysia Plan 1976-1980, p. 105.

²Malay Mail, April 15, 1978.

³Third Malaysia Plan in Brief, Socio-Economic Research and General Planning Unit, Ministry of Information, Malaysia, September 1978.

⁴Total population in 1975 estimated to be 12,308,000 with 5,405,000 persons aged 0-14. World Atlas of the Child, World Bank, Washington, D.C., 1979.

⁵Table 3.1 is based on population figures from the World Atlas of the Child, population distribution percentages and unemployment totals from the Third Malaysia Plan in Brief.

⁶Women Today in Peninsular Malaysia, Federation of Family Planning Associations, 1976, figures based on Chart 2, page 12.

⁷Ibid. Figures based on Chart 4, page 14.

⁸Study of Educational Wastage/Dropout Study, Ministry of Education, 1973.

⁹Women Today in Peninsular Malaysia, op. cit., p. 16.

¹⁰Ibid., p. 17.

¹¹World Atlas of the Child, op. cit., p. 25.

¹²Ibid.

¹³Women Today in Peninsular Malaysia, op. cit., p. 14.

¹⁴Ibid., p. 20.

CHAPTER IV

CHILD CARE

The types of child care arrangements which evolve in any society relate directly to the particular needs and resources available. Changes in either needs or resources invariably necessitate adaptations in the child care arrangements. Changes in demographic and economic conditions in Malaysia indicate that the child care needs of low income women are being modified.

Third Malaysia Plan objectives of industrial development and eradication of poverty are providing increased job opportunities, and offering employment and skills training to growing numbers of the rural and urban population.

Urban migration accompanied by a substantial decrease in extended families will accelerate as rural people are attracted to real and/or hoped for job opportunities in urban areas. Quite often migration from the countryside to an urban area results in decreased ability to directly meet certain primary needs. The loss of food from family gardens, locally available housing materials, etc., necessitate increased cash income to purchase these items which may in turn make it necessary for mothers to work. The possible combination of the effects of urbanization is more mothers working with fewer other family members to assume child care responsibilities.

Rural Child Care

In the rural areas there are no all-day organized care facilities available for families of young children, but an innovative program is currently in operation. The need to improve and upgrade the quality of life in the rural areas was recognized in the early 1960's by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Under this Ministry, the Family Development Program (FDP) was formed and a rural preschool program developed. The TBK's or Tabikas (kindergartens) were designed to meet the social, physical, emotional and mental developmental needs of preschool children and to involve their families in community development. The government provides the trained preschool teacher and a few supplies. The community must provide a meeting place and the major expenses. The preschool center provides social and intellectual stimulation for the child, regular health examinations and dietary supplements. Mothers are expected to participate in the preparation of these meals and in other community activities involving the pre-school. Nutrition education, advice on home gardening and

utilization of local resources, sanitation, health, hygiene and other subjects are offered to the families.

The program, begun in 1969 as a pilot project, received increased support after the 1973 Ministry of Education Dropout Study found that children who grow up in a culturally deprived environment are not adequately prepared for school.² The preschool experience is seen as a positive factor in lowering the dropout rate in the future. The Third Malaysia Plan calls for the expansion and improvement of educational facilities, particularly in the rural areas, with emphasis on the development of pre-schools. The Plan calls for preschool development on a selective basis in the most deprived and underserved areas. The development of a nationally standardized kindergarten curriculum coordinates with this expanded preschool program.

In 1978 the Ministry of Agriculture opened 790 new preschool kindergartens reaching over 21,000 children. Currently, by June 1979, over 25,848 children are reached in 929 Tabikas scattered throughout Malaysia.³

The residents of the Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA) settlements are also benefitting from rural kindergarten services. FELDA is the largest government agency involved in land development and resettlement. As of December 1978, 136 of 169 settled FELDA areas had kindergartens reaching 9714 children in 266 classes.⁴ Many operate on a double session in order to meet community needs. Most of the teachers attended one of the training centers sponsored by the Family Development Program described above. Other volunteer agencies and individuals provide child care services in both urban and rural areas.

Efforts are being made in the plantation sector to upgrade the quality of the creches and to provide for preschool education. In the plantation sector legislation requires provision of creches for infant care by estate management, as well as free milk, but the conditions of most of these can only be defined as deplorable. Untrained elderly women provide minimal care, and the creches visited provided no play objects of any kind, with little evidence of attention and affection.

Only one large state corporation employs an industrial social worker who is developing and providing social services including pre-schools to the estates in the corporation. Every estate involved in this program has a community center, a hospital or dispensary with a doctor and/or nurse, and a family planning worker. The major concern is to improve the quality of life of the plantation workers.

Pertiwi, a Muslim volunteer women's service organization, has a model day care center in Petaling Jaya, and has sponsored 11 others in low income areas in other parts of the country. The Pertiwi volunteers provide advice, nutrition information, and sometimes training.

Numerous efforts such as the above are being made throughout Malaysia as the need and value of preschool education is recognized by parents and communities; nevertheless there are far too few to attend to the needs of the majority of the preschool population, whether it be for middle or low income families.

Urban Child Care

In the urban setting numerous child care facilities are available for middle and upper class families who can afford them. A fairly recent development is the 24-hour child minder, a woman who provides full-time care in her own home. The working mother has the choice of leaving her infant from Monday through Saturday, or picking the child up each night after work. Fees for 24-hour child minding range from \$68 to \$110 per month. Little is known about the quality of care received; however, one such home visited by the research coordinator provided a warm and loving atmosphere for the three infants cared for. The 24-hour service is used primarily by young professional or semi-professional couples, mostly Chinese, whose average total monthly income is \$910.⁵ The long-term effects of such care away from home is unknown. The number and extent of this type of child care facility is also unknown, since licensing and registering with local authorities is not required when fewer than ten children are involved.

A new and innovative baby sitting service for Malaysia has recently begun in the city of Ipoh, prompted by a child care needs surveyed sponsored jointly by the State Family Planning Association and the Ipoh Garden Youth Club. The preliminary results showed a pressing need for child care services among both working and nonworking mothers. Some wanted the service during the day, others at night. The service provides for baby sitting in either the child's home or the sitter's home, and so far 15 baby sitters have received basic training in child care and are available on a regular or part-time basis for \$.45 to \$.90 an hour.⁶ This type of baby sitting service is new in Asia and in this case developed out of community need. However, it does not meet the needs of low income families.

The Ministry of Labour and Manpower recently queried a number of factory managers to get their feelings on the formation of industry sponsored child care centers for working parents. A survey was conducted of 1000 married workers, male and female, to determine the actual need for such centers, who would use them if available, and what type of care was desired. The results showed the workers overwhelmingly in favor of the establishment of such centers near their place of work. (Our survey did not support this.) The Ministry then coordinated with UNESCO to explore what is required for such a center in terms of facilities, space, equipment and personnel. The Ministry hopes that some pilot factory child care arrangements will be formed soon to determine their utility, usefulness and acceptability.

Obviously the above arrangements and the private kindergartens available do not meet the needs of the low income people who must resort to less satisfactory arrangements. They may leave the young children with neighbors or with other children, or in extreme cases lock them either inside or out of the house for a few hours. Only 1% of the mothers surveyed in our study made use of organized day care facilities for their children.

Child Care Arrangements of Surveyed Couples - Kuala Lumpur

The survey found very little difference in the numbers of children of working and nonworking mothers and very little difference among the ethnic groups. The average number of children is 3.0 with the Malay mothers averaging 2.9 children, the Chinese 3.0 and Indians 3.1. Of the working mothers the total number of children under 6 was 616; the nonworking mothers had 617 children. Size of family or numbers of preschool children did not seem to be a factor in whether a mother worked or not.

Among the 499 families who were interviewed it is the mother who performs the majority of the tasks related to child care, regardless of whether she works or not. Nonworking women are almost always the primary caretaker, occasionally receiving help from other family members. Women who work are also the primary caretakers of their children. However, children of working women are twice as likely as children of nonworking women to be cared for by someone other than the mother. Table 4.1 shows that from birth until age 6, the children of nonworking women are cared for by their mothers about 90% of the time. Table 4.2 shows that children under 6 whose mothers work are cared for by the mother less than 50% of the time, with relatives assuming much of the role of care given.

TABLE 4.1 PRIMARY CARETAKER BY AGE OF CHILD - NONWORKING WOMEN

	Under 1 Yr.		1-3 Yrs.		4-5 Yrs.		6-11 Yrs.		12 Yrs.+	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mother	73	93.6	185	91.6	142	89.3	196	81.3	22	84.6
Relatives	1	1.3	4	2.6	9	5.7	23	9.6	2	7.7
Child Him/ Herself	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	0	0.0
Servant	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Neighbor	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	0	0.0
Brother/ Sister	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	0	0.0
Other	4	6.5	13	6.4	8	5.0	19	7.9	2	7.7
Total Children	78	100.0	202	100.0	159	100.0	241	100.0	26	100.0

Source: Author data

Among nonworking women, child care continues to remain the mother's role until the child is older, with the mother continuing to be the primary caretaker nearly 85% of the time even when the child is over 12 years old. Among the 250 nonworking women who were surveyed, only one stated that her child was responsible for caring for him/herself, and this child was in the 6-11 years age group. Similarly only one nonworking mother stated

her child (again in the 6-11 years age group) was cared for primarily by a sibling.

In contrast, Table 4.2 shows that children of mothers who work are much more frequently cared for by siblings, with 27 children aged 1 year and up cared for primarily by brothers and sisters. Again in contrast to the children of women who do not work, the children of working women begin to take care of themselves more and more as they grow older. Among those 4-5 years old, 2.2% are their own caretakers, increasing to 6.4% in the 6-11 years group, and further increasing to 13.2% of those over 11 years old.

TABLE 4.2 PRIMARY CARETAKER BY AGE OF CHILD - WORKING WOMEN

	Under 1 Yr.		1-3 Yrs.		4-5 Yrs.		6-11 Yrs.		12 Yrs.+	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mother	21	45.7	60	32.4	65	47.1	114	48.5	22	57.9
Relatives	12	26.1	69	37.3	27	19.6	54	23.0	4	10.5
Child Him/ Herself	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	2.2	15	6.4	5	13.2
Servant	5	10.9	11	6.0	3	2.2	3	1.3	0	0.0
Neighbor	3	6.5	13	7.0	10	7.2	7	3.0	0	0.0
Brother/ Sister	0	0.0	6	3.2	4	2.9	14	5.9	3	7.9
Other	5	10.9	26	14.1	26	18.8	28	11.9	4	10.5
Total Children	46	100.0	185	100.0	138	100.0	235	100.0	38	100.0

Source: Author data

Families of working women showed much greater variety than families of nonworking women in respect to primary caretakers. They more frequently use servants, neighbors and relatives to meet child care needs.

Among families of both working and nonworking women, because it is the mother who is primarily responsible for child care, the majority of the children of interviewed couples were cared for in their own homes.

Of those who sent their children outside the home, the payment varied from free (35%) to \$68 (3%) per month. The cost of having children cared for by someone other than the mother varied considerably, though over two-thirds of the arrangements were either free or cost less than \$9 per month.

The vast majority of the women surveyed were satisfied with their current child care arrangements. The interviewed couples revealed a strong

TABLE 4.3 MONTHLY COST OF CHILD CARE
OUTSIDE HOME

Cost in Malay Dollars**	Number	%
Free	112	37.0
\$1 - 20	86	33.0
\$21 - 40	48	16.0
\$41 - 60	38	12.0
\$61 - 80	4	1.0
\$81 - 100	5	2.0
\$101 - 120	3	0.9
\$121 - 150	9	3.0

SOURCE: Author data

*Multiple response

**Exchange rate US \$1 = M2.20

preference for the mother as caretaker because they feel she gives the best general care, provides the best education, and the children are happiest with the mother. Other family members/relatives including siblings were the preferred caretakers when the mother is not available, primarily because it is felt they provide good care and are trustworthy.

When asked to cite the disadvantages of various child care arrangements, the majority of couples felt there were no significant disadvantages. The disadvantages which were listed more often related to the effects the particular arrangement had on the mother (tired, inconvenient) than the disadvantages to the children. Servants and neighbors were felt to be the most disadvantageous to children because they do not provide "proper care."

Only two of the 499 interviewed women stated that elder children had quit school in order to take care of younger brothers and sisters. Both of these two children were elder sisters, and one was only six years old.

Of the interviewed women themselves, 13% had quit school in order to care for younger brothers and sisters, at a mean age of 12 years (after completion of primary school). A larger number, 10% of the 499 women interviewed, were prevented from working because they were needed to care for younger brothers and sisters. These women felt that this had adversely affected their lives in terms of decreased opportunities for higher education and better jobs.

All of the surveyed women and men were questioned regarding the men's participation in child care and household duties. A number of significant patterns of participation were revealed. See Table 4.4.

TABLE 4.4 MEN'S PARTICIPATION IN HOUSEHOLD
AND CHILD CARE DUTIES -
WIVES' AND HUSBANDS' PERCEPTIONS

Activity	Ethnic Group	Women's Responses		Husbands' * Responses	Husband Should Help	
		Working	Nonworking		Wife	Husband
Marketing	Malay	87%	73%			
	Chinese	42	39			
	Indians	72	82			
	Average	67	61	66%	85%	92%
Cooking	Malay	59	52			
	Chinese	27	25			
	Indians	52	40			
	Average	45	39	42	70	80
Washing Clothes	Malay	44	33			
	Chinese	8	8			
	Indians	16	16			
	Average	24	20	27	43	61
House Cleaning	Malay	77	67			
	Chinese	45	49			
	Indians	50	38			
	Average	59	54	74	73	89
Compound Cleaning	Malay	80	80			
	Chinese	56	47			
	Indians	50	61			
	Average	63	63	81	86	94
Playing with Children	Malay	95	97			
	Chinese	81	95			
	Indians	98	98			
	Average	93	96	97	99	99
School work	Malay	94	92			
	Chinese	56	76			
	Indians	84	92			
	Average	76	85	87	95	98
Child's Physical Needs	Malay	93	84			
	Chinese	63	67			
	Indians	76	70			
	Average	78	74	81	84	92

*The husband's responses are not given by ethnic group but are averages by their total responses.

SOURCE: Author data

1. Malay men help with basic tasks such as cleaning, marketing, washing clothes, and even cooking, twice as much as do Chinese men, with the Indian men between the two.
2. The husbands of working women in all three ethnic groups help with household tasks more often than the husbands of women who do not work.* The level of participation in household tasks of Malay men married to working women is an average of 10% greater than the level of participation of Malay men married to women who do not work; Indian men whose wives work help on an average of 10% more and Chinese men only 2% more than men whose wives do not work.
3. The husbands of women who work participate less than the husbands of women who do not in children's schoolwork and play, perhaps due to a shift from playing with children to helping with chores.
4. Men's participation in household and child care activities, for all ethnic groups regardless of whether the wives work or not, is greatest in relation to tasks such as entertaining the children, helping with their schoolwork and doing the marketing.

In comparing the interviewed men and women's perceptions of husbands' involvement in household tasks and child care, one finds that 1) men perceive their level of participation as being greater than their wives perceive it, and 2) when asked if they feel the husbands "should" help with particular household and child care duties, the men were more enthusiastic than the women, with significantly greater numbers saying men "should" help than do currently help.

All men and women were asked what they did either on their last day off (in the case of those who work) or the last weekend of holiday (in the case of nonworking women). The majority of the women spent their time off doing their usual tasks such as housework and marketing (64%) and taking care of children (23%). Only 29% of them participated in special outings with children, e.g., visiting friends, movies. For most women, a weekend or holiday seemed to be no different from any other day.

For the husbands a great proportion of free time was spent on outings with children (47%) followed by taking care of children at home (37%). In other words half of the fathers were doing children-oriented things. The type of activities for the husbands was thus quite different from the activities of a regular working day. Nearly one-fifth of the fathers managed to rest during the weekend, while only 4.6% of the women stated they rested.

*The DaVanzo/Lee study found that working women work less in the home and husbands, children and others (including nonhousehold members) help more when wives work outside the home. Husbands help more in families that include infants and less in families with older children.⁷

TABLE 4.5 ACTIVITIES DURING DAY OFF*

Activity	(499) Women		(490) Men	
	Number	%	Number	%
Work	6	1.2	26	5.3
Routine housework	290	58.1	140	28.6
Marketing/shopping	28	5.6	34	6.9
Take care of children (at home)	113	22.6	183	37.3
Outing with children	143	28.7	228	46.5
Social/religious (no children)	16	3.2	32	6.5
Resting	23	4.6	93	19.0
Others	41	8.2	25	5.1

SOURCE: Author data

*Multiple response

Families were asked if they felt the time spent with their children is sufficient. About 91% of nonworking mothers feel the time they spend with the children is sufficient, while only 68% of the working mothers feel the time is sufficient. Approximately 70% of fathers are satisfied with the amount of time they spend with their children.

All of the interviewed women and men were asked to describe the type of child care arrangement/facilities they would like to have available to help meet their needs. The opinions varied little between working women and those who do not work, among the ethnic groups or between men and women. Almost all respondents agreed that one element of a suitable facility is its proximity to the child's home. People felt children should be cared for in their own homes, or near their homes, and very few people recommended that child care centers be located near or in the parents' work place. The respondents wished to have child care facilities for toddlers and preschool children but were not particularly interested in centers for children over six or for infants.

The persons suggested as the ideal caretakers were very different from those persons who are currently the main responsables (see Table 4.1, 4.2 and 4.6). Women, whether they work or not, prefer teachers, followed by neighbors as caretakers. The men also feel teachers are the ideal caretakers, followed by "trained women from the community," then neighbors.

Considerably more women than men feel it is important to limit the number of children in a child care facility. More than half of the women felt there should be fewer than 5 children per center, with very few feeling more than 30 children is acceptable. The men were more ambivalent, with an equal number preferring 10-19 children per center as prefer under 5. The

TABLE 4.6 PREFERRED/IDEAL CARETAKERS*

	Families of Nonworking Wives (250)				Families of Working Wives (249)			
	Wives'		Husbands'		Wives'		Husbands'	
	Responses		Responses		Responses		Responses	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Teachers	67	26.8	73	29.2	68	27.3	76	31.7
Trained women in community	38	15.2	35	14.0	34	13.7	51	21.3
Nurses	24	9.6	22	8.8	30	12.0	19	7.9
Servant	23	9.2	24	9.6	39	15.7	22	9.2
Neighbors	52	20.8	40	16.0	59	23.7	31	12.9
Mother	19	7.6	23	9.2	13	5.2	7	2.9
Relatives	22	8.8	21	8.4	26	10.4	25	10.4
Sons/daughters	2	0.8	0	0.0	4	1.6	1	0.4
Grandparents	27	10.8	13	5.2	32	12.9	15	6.3
Others	17	6.8	24	9.6	6	2.4	20	8.3

SOURCE: Author data

*Multiple response

straight averages were 13 children per center recommended by women and 29 recommended by men (due to 14 women and 23 men feeling 50-200 children per center was acceptable). The majority of men and women suggested 8-10 hours as the ideal for a child care facility. This would coincide with the normal working day.

Parents expect to pay for child care services. Over 90% feel payment should be in cash, and an additional 6% feel payment in cash or kind is acceptable. The majority of men and women prefer to pay under \$18 per month, but many are willing to pay up to \$27 per month.

In summary, while over 95% of the women interviewed in low income areas of Kuala Lumpur stated they are satisfied with their current child care arrangements, when asked to describe the ideal arrangement/facility, their suggestions are for very different systems. Mothers are the primary caretakers at present; but both men and women feel that other arrangements, with teachers, trained women from the community, or neighbors are desirable as long as the location, cost and number of children are acceptable.

Notes

¹Taman Bimbingan Kanak-Kanak, Community Development Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Kuala Lumpur, 1975.

²Study of Educational Wastage/Dropout Study, Ministry of Education, Kuala Lumpur, 1973.

³Personal communication from Community Development Division personnel to the author.

⁴Personal communication from FELDA personnel to the author.

⁵Deva, Dr. M. K. and Deva, Dr. M. P., "Residential Nurseries and Parents Who Use Them," Malaysia and Singapore Congress of Medicine, Kuala Lumpur, October 1978.

⁶"Dialing a Babysitter," Sunday Nation, p. 25, July 15, 1979.

⁷DaVanzo, Julie, and Lee, Donald Lye Poh. "The Compability of Children with Labor Force Participation and Nonmarket Activities: Preliminary Evidence from Malaysian Time Budget Data," the Rand Corporation, California, 1978.

CHAPTER V

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The infant mortality rate in Malaysia has been greatly reduced in the past few decades, thanks to the Government's accelerated efforts to improve the quality of life and health condition of the people. In 1946 almost 90 infants out of 1000 did not survive their first year; by 1957 the rate was 76 deaths out of 1000. The post independence years have shown even more remarkable improvement. The infant mortality rate in 1962 was 42 out of 1000, by 1979 it had further declined to 26.7 per 1000.¹

Under the Mid-Term Review (1978) of the Third Malaysia Plan, the health and population planning sector is provided with a budget increase of 40% over the original allocation given in 1976. This large increase reflects the emphasis given by the government towards health improvement.

Malaysia has made significant advances in the provision of medical and health services to its rural poor. Under the TMP the conversion of rural health services from a three tier system for every 50,000 people to a two tier system of one main health center and four main rural clinics for every 20,000 population is being continued within the context of expanding and improving rural health services. The basic services provided through the rural health unit network include medical and dental care; maternal and child health care, including immunization and family planning; applied nutrition; school health services; communicable disease control; environmental sanitation; health education; and laboratory services.

The Malaysian Government introduced the Applied Food and Nutrition Project (AFNP) in 1969 to reduce pockets of malnutrition in the country, with emphasis given to the rural areas. The project was started in the District of Kuala Langat, Selangor and by 1978 had been extended to 46 districts in Peninsular Malaysia. The operating expenditure of the project has increased significantly from \$320,000* in 1976 to about \$19 million in 1978. Out of the \$10 million allocated under the AFNP's development expenditure in the TMP, the bulk has been provided for the states with high mortality rates such as Kedah (\$2.3 million), Kelantan (\$2.4 million) and Trengganu (\$2.3 million).³ A recent survey carried out in these 46 districts has identified 24% of the villages as underserved, with a population of 12%. This survey indicates a much higher level of health coverage than was initially believed and it is now expected that total health coverage of the entire population will be achieved by 1981, with more comprehensive coverage by 1985, including East Malaysia.⁴

As part of the AFNP, the Supplementary Feeding Scheme for primary school

*All currency figures on this page are Malay dollars.

children was started at the end of 1976. Its objective is to improve the nutrition level among rural school children within the 46 AFNP districts through provision of food of sufficient protein-calorie content. The school meals provide about 400 calories and 10-11 grams of protein per child per day, thus contributing approximately one-fifth and one-third of the daily energy and protein requirement respectively of the primary school child.⁵ In 1978, 400,000 pupils were reached through 2,188 schools.

Health statistics in Malaysia show great disparity among ethnic groups as well as a great regional variation, showing an unequal distribution of health services and knowledge. One fairly reliable measure of health and nutritional status among children of a given population is the toddler mortality rate, the death rate of children 1 to 4 years of age. This age group is particularly susceptible to nutritional deficiencies as they are being weaned or are no longer breast-fed at all. They frequently consume weaning foods and "children's foods" that are deficient, especially in protein and vitamins, so that better quality food might be conserved for use by economically productive members of the family, such as adults and older children. In addition these children often do not receive large enough quantities of foods to meet their nutritional needs. Although their deaths may be attributed to a variety of factors that are not nutritional in nature, a malnourished state makes the child more susceptible to infection and less capable of physiologically overcoming it. (See Table 5.1)

TABLE 5.1 TODDLER MORTALITY RATES
BY ETHNIC GROUP FOR PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

Year	Age 1-4 Mortality (per 1,000 of Same Age)				Total
	Malays	Chinese	Indians	Other	
1970	5.6	2.1	3.8	1.3	4.2
1971	5.3	1.9	4.3	2.6	4.0
1972	4.3	1.8	3.5	1.9	3.4
1973	4.8	2.0	4.1	1.9	3.7
1974	4.0	1.6	3.7	1.9	3.1
1975	4.0	1.4	3.4	1.5	3.1
1976	3.3	1.2	3.1	1.8	2.6

SOURCE: Department of Statistics, Malaysia, in Federation of Family Planning Association Newsletter, March 1979, p. 2.

The TMR declined from 4.2 in 1970 to 2.6 in 1976, indicating a general improvement in the nutritional status over the period; however, marked differences still existed between the various ethnic groups. For example, in 1976 the TMR for Malays and Indians, at 3.3 and 3.1 respectively, was much higher than that of the Chinese at 1.2.

Another indicator of the nutritional level is the expression of the number of deaths of children under five years as a percentage of all deaths. The percentage for Peninsular Malaysia has declined from 26.5% in 1970 to 20.4% in 1976 suggesting an improvement in nutritional level. However, there are wide disparities among the communities. For example, the 1976, the percentages were 25.5% for the Malays, 12.9% for the Chinese and 19.2% for the Indians as against 31.7%, 16.2% and 23.4% respectively in 1970. Disparities are equally, if not more, notable when we look at the TMR distribution by State.

TABLE 5.2 TODDLER MORTALITY RATE
BY STATES FOR PENINSULAR MALAYSIA -
1971 AND 1976

State	1971	1976
Johore	3.6	2.2
Kedah	4.5	3.1
Kelantan	5.6	4.0
Melaka	2.7	1.8
Negeri Sembilan	2.9	2.0
Pahang	5.9	3.0
Pulau Pinang	2.7	1.4
Perak	4.4	2.8
Perlis	3.3	1.5
Selangor	2.8	1.8
Trengganu	6.9	4.6

SOURCE: Department of Statistics, Malaysia, in Federation of Family Planning Association Newsletter, March 1979, p. 2.

Although there has been a general decline in TMR for all states in Peninsular Malaysia between 1978 and 1976, generally the TMR for the east coast states is much higher compared to that of the west coast states. For example the TMR for Trengganu and Kelantan in 1976 was 4.6 respectively compared to 1.8 and 2.8 respectively for Selangor and Perak. As the majority of the Malays live in the rural areas and as the major proportion of the population of the east coast states are located in the rural areas, this indicates that the health and nutritional level in the rural areas generally is less favorable compared to the urban areas.

Dietary deficiencies often cause problems of malnutrition. Severe forms of malnutrition are very rare in Malaysia though they are known to exist. For example, in 1975 the number of deaths in Peninsular Malaysia classified under "Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency" was 171 out of a total of 23,339 medically certified and inspected deaths.⁶ What is more common, however, is the less severe forms of malnutrition which can affect general health without its symptoms or cause being clearly visible. This form of malnutrition still prevails both in the rural and urban areas.

Recent studies in selected rural communities have found a considerable number of children to be malnourished and highly anemic. Nutrition studies in selected urban areas in Peninsular Malaysia have also revealed that problems of malnutrition occur in the urban areas, especially among the children. It was found that the common severe infections in toddlers admitted into the University Hospital in 1971 were pneumonia and diarrhea, and one-third of these children had underlying malnutrition. The malnourished children tended to come from poorer homes with large families and their nutritional status did not differ from that of similar rural children. This clearly suggests that nutritional status is predominantly associated with low income.⁷

Two recent studies in urban Kuala Lumpur support the above theory. In a school Health Service examination of 21,000 children in Standard 1, 12.5% were found to be underweight and apparently malnourished; these children came primarily from low income families. A University of Malaya study of 2340 students of the three main ethnic groups in Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya found a quarter of them between the ages of six and ten to be underweight and another quarter stunted. Family economics was the determining factor, not ethnic group.

The 1973 National Households Expenditure Survey of Peninsular Malaysia found that income level appears to be the major determinant of food expenditure patterns and can directly affect the level of nutrition. Unlike other countries covered by this study where increased income equates with eating larger quantities of the same basic diet, in Malaysia higher income appears to correlate directly with variety of diet, particularly more protein-rich foods. (See Table 5.3)

Table 5.3 indicates that those households earning higher incomes, regardless of whether they are in the urban or rural areas, are spending more on meat, milk, cheese and eggs, fruits and vegetables but less on rice and sugar, whereas those earning lower income follow the opposite pattern. However, in comparison with their urban counterparts, those rural households earning lower incomes spent very much less in proportional terms on meat and milk, cheese and eggs and relatively much more on sugar (8%). Both income groups more or less give equal emphasis in proportional terms to expenditure on fish and fruits and vegetables, although actual expenditures would differ markedly between urban and rural groups.⁹

A comprehensive urban health program for Kuala Lumpur is currently being organized. In 1978 The National Family Planning Board decided to conduct a parasite survey in selected low income areas of the capital area. The City Hall municipality learned of their plans and asked that a coordinated effort be made to include many other aspects of health care and social services. The following diagram shows the nature of the program being developed and implemented.

Two other groups, the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) and the Public Health Institute (PHI) both which are under the Ministry of Health, should be mentioned because of their efforts and contributions to the health situation in Malaysia.

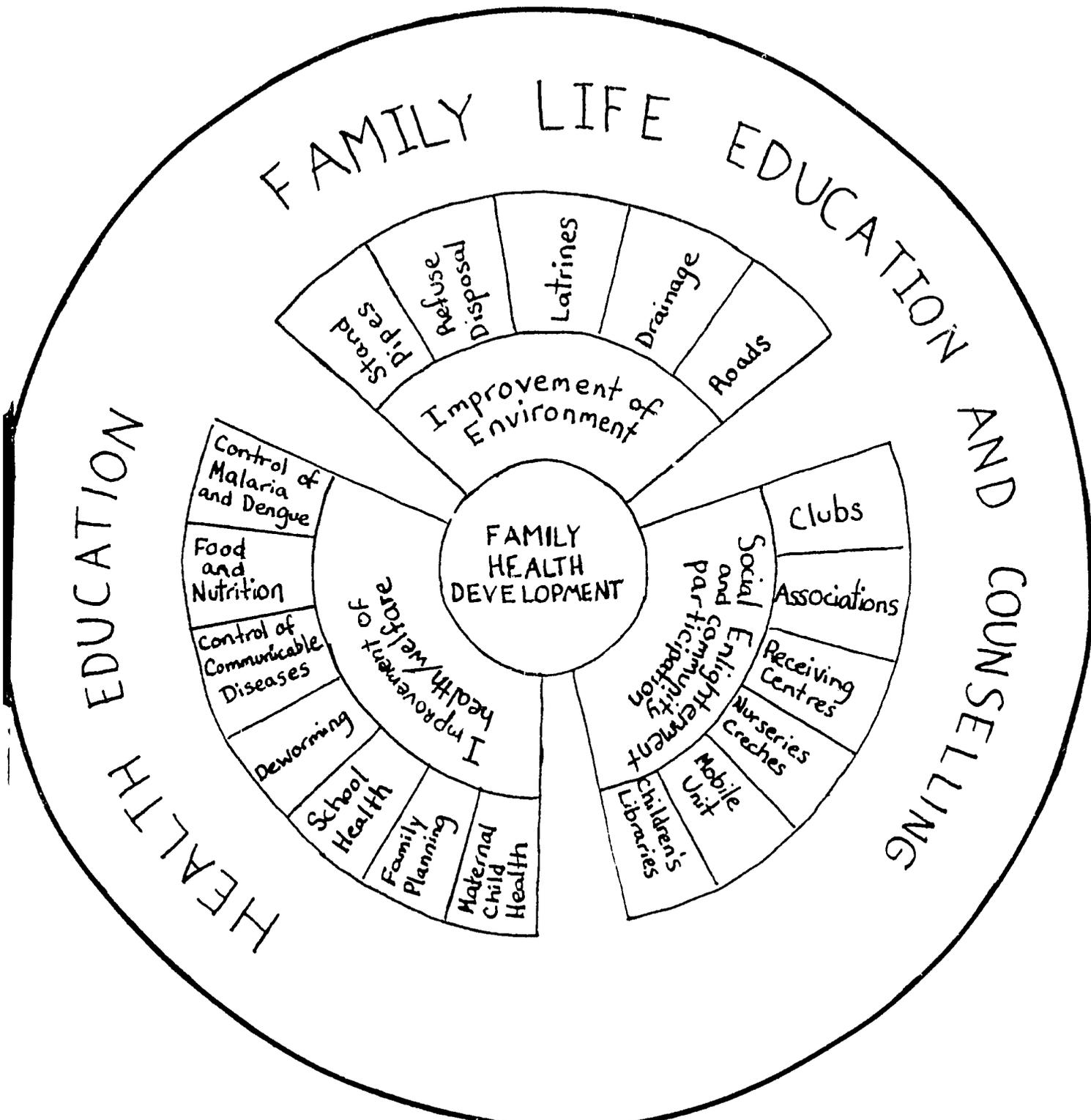


Diagram of integrated health program described on page 54

TABLE 5.3 COMPOSITION OF FOOD EXPENDITURE
HIGHEST AND LOWEST INCOME GROUPS, PENINSULAR MALAYSIA 1973

	Peninsular Malaysia %	M\$199 and Below/Month		M\$600 and Above/Month	
		Urban %	Rural %	Urban %	Rural %
% of Households to Total Households	100	9	38	6	4
% Budget Spent on Food Item:					
Rice	24	22	37	13	19
Bread and other cereals	9	11	8	9	9
Meat	15	15	5	21	22
Fish	14	15	14	13	11
Milk, cheese and eggs	7	8	5	10	9
Oil and fat	4	4	4	4	4
Fruits and vegetables	16	15	13	18	17
Sugar	5	4	8	2	1
Coffee, tea and cocoa	3	2	3	3	2
Other foods	3	3	3	4	4
	100	100	100	100	100
Food as % of Total Household Expenditure	36.2	39.5	52.6	22.8	26.7

SOURCE: National Households Expenditure Survey of Peninsular Malaysia, 1973, Department of Statistics

TMR research findings will be used in developing a National Nutritional Policy. The PHI trains Public Health Nurses and sends them to the rural areas, where they offer health care and nutrition education to rural communities. Their work includes maternal child health care and family planning, instruction, nutrition demonstrations, and emphasis on the advantages of breast-feeding. Home visits to give additional advice and help are also part of the plan to involve the family and community in health awareness activities and to utilize all available resources to improve the health situation.

Survey Area - Nutrition Status

The residents of low-cost flats and squatter areas in Kuala Lumpur voiced their concerns about the inadequate number of health facilities and poor quality of services available at these facilities that do exist. Other

major health concerns are inadequate supplies of potable water and inadequate disposal of refuse. While over one-third of the interviewed women felt there were no serious problems in relation to available health services, it appears from their response that they were thinking only of problems directly related to existing facilities rather than overall health problems.

TABLE 5.4 MAJOR PROBLEM RELATED TO
AVAILABLE HEALTH SERVICES*

Problem	(499)	
	Women Citing Problem Number	%
No problems	185	37
Long wait	145	29
Too far	70	14
Expensive	45	9
Transportation difficult	30	6
Poor service	10	2
Other	20	4

SOURCE: Author data

*Multiple response

While few women detailed a great number of serious problems in regard to existing health facilities, many felt an urgent need for additional facilities such as maternity clinics and maternal child health centers. This need was revealed by residents of all the squatter areas and flats surveyed, either by their stating directly the need for such a facility or by relating stories of women having difficulties delivering babies at home because the nearest medical facility was too distant to be a practicable alternative. Malay residents of Kampong Sri Ampang expressed the need for a mobile clinic since the squatter area is located quite far from health facilities. Indian residents of Kampong Muniandy are also effectively without accessible health facilities, with no direct bus route to the nearest hospitals, and would benefit from some sort of mobile service.

Although participants of the group discussions organized in each of the squatter areas and low-cost flats did not directly link inadequate disposal of rubbish with health problems, except in the case of Kampong Muniandy, there was a great deal of concern in all of the survey areas over the ever present piles of refuse. People did recognize that the infrequent collection of garbage and human waste results not only in unsightly surroundings and smells but also increased numbers of flies and rats which are undesirable.

The lack of adequate sources of potable water was a concern voiced by residents in both squatter areas and the low-cost flats (with the exception of the Pekeliling Flats (Malay)). In large part, complaints about the insufficient number of public taps and standpipes related to the inconvenience involved as opposed to the health-related risks of using

unpotable water or the unsanitary conditions brought on by overuse, such as cracked bases, improper drainage and muddy surroundings.

The residents of Kampong Muniandy were the most concerned about health conditions. This area appeared to be the most serious of the areas surveyed. While people in the other areas felt the status of their children's health was average and not a cause for worry, the people in Kampong Muniandy consider the health condition of their children very poor. Common illnesses include coughs, cold and fever. During certain periods of the year diarrhea and vomiting are also prevalent. According to the respondents, malnutrition has contributed to poor physical and mental development among the children. They talked of stunted growth and poor school performance and related this to inadequate nutrition.

The 499 women who were interviewed in all the urban study areas were asked to list the main causes of their children's illnesses. As is very common in Malaysia, mothers of all three ethnic groups blamed the illnesses of their children on changes in weather (hot/cold) or in consumption of wrong foods (heaty/cooling). It is significant that no mothers recognized inadequate nutrition, unhealthy environment or unsanitary practices as major determinants of child health.

TABLE 5.5 MOTHERS' PERCEPTIONS OF CAUSES OF CHILDREN'S ILLNESSES

Cause	Proportion of Mothers Listing Cause
Due to weather	44%
Play too much in water/rain	18%
Took wrong food (heaty/cold)	17%
Child prone to illness	4%
No specific cause	2%
Others	15%

SOURCE: Author data

The proportion of children protected against a number of diseases varied significantly for the various immunizations involved, ranging from 95% for BCG to 31% for double antigen booster. Many women stated their children had not been immunized because they were too young. However, a large number of interviewed mothers said that their children had not been immunized because they were sick, which could indicate that mothers fear the resulting fever and pity their children who suffer temporary discomfort due to immunization. Between 5-12% admitted that they were too busy to take the children for immunization. For oral polio and double antigen boosters about 10% were not aware of such immunizations. (See Table 5.6)

TABLE 5.6 PERCENT OF YOUNGEST CHILD NOT IMMUNIZED
AND REASONS FOR NOT IMMUNIZING

Immunization	Percent Immunized	Reasons for Not Immunizing					
		Too Young	Sick	Pity	Busy	Not Asked to Immunize/ Don't Know	Others
BCG	95%	13%	41%	4%	4%	0%	36%
Oral polio vaccine (1)	81	27	34	5	12	2	20
Oral polio vaccine (2)	77	32	29	7	11	2	19
Oral polio vaccine (3)	75	33	29	6	10	2	19
DPT (1)	79	28	35	6	9	4	17
DPT (2)	75	30	33	6	10	3	17
DPT (3)	72	30	34	6	9	3	17
Smallpox	69	43	34	4	5	2	9
Oral Polio (Booster)	37	49	18	3	6	12	10
Double Antigen (Booster)	31	49	16	3	5	12	10

The survey found that of the women interviewed 61% of mothers breast-fed their youngest child whereas 39% did not. The Malaysian Fertility Survey of 1974 found that 25% of women in Malaysia did not breast-feed.¹⁵

TABLE 5.7 REASONS FOR NOT BREAST-FEEDING

Stated Reason	% of Women
No or not enough milk	34
Inconvenient due to work	25
Medical reasons	10
Child refused	9
Mother weak	6
Mother shy	4
Child was sick	4

SOURCE: Author data

Average number of months that mothers breast-feed without other supplementary food was 3 months (ranging from less than 1 month, 37%, to 3 years, 0.3%). The duration of breast-feeding at least once a day was 6 months. (Malaysia Fertility Survey reported seven months.)

Because of the availability and media publicity of prepared milk products the number of women who breast-feed their children in Malaysia has declined in recent years. In 1976 a campaign to emphasize the health advantages and importance of breast-feeding was initiated. These efforts are being intensified, and women are being encouraged to breast-feed, through the media and through the efforts of health workers at all levels. There are indications that breast-feeding is on the increase and that the campaign is successful.

Supplementary foods given to infants are shown in Table 5.8.

TABLE 5.8 SUPPLEMENTARY FOOD

Food Given	Percent
Porridge and rice	21
Powdered/condensed milk	40
Juices	22
Biscuits	5
Others	4

SOURCE: Author data

The type of bottled milk is of great concern to health workers as very often milk not suitable for infants is given. About 66% of the milk given was some sort of infant formula milk, 1% evaporated milk, 14% ordinary powdered milk, 7% sweetened condensed milk. It is clear that the mothers need to be educated about the proper foods and milk to give to their infant children.

There is also a great lack of knowledge about causes of disease and the importance of immunization. Diet variety and quantity of foods is frequently poor and lacking in various necessary nutrients. Cultural taboos exclude certain foods from diets at times when they are particularly necessary. After pregnancy, for example, in some rural areas women refuse certain nutritious foods such as fruits and seafood because they are considered too "cooling."

To conclude, moderate degrees of malnutrition exist both in urban and rural areas, primarily among the low income groups. Nutritional deficiencies are primarily those associated with protein calorie malnutrition and lack of sufficient quantities of Vitamin A and iron. In women of childbearing age iron deficiency anemia is still a major nutritional problem. The Government, in its long-range plans to improve the nation's health condition, is aware of the necessity of developing strategies to reach the people and educate them in proper health practices.

Notes

¹"FFPA Newsletter," Federation of Family Planning Associations, Kuala Lumpur: United Selangor Press, March 1978, p. 3.

²Mid Term Review of Third Malaysia Plans, Government of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur: 1978, p. 34.

³"FFPA Newsletter," op. cit., p. 2.

⁴Mid Term Review, op. cit., p. 37.

⁵"FFPA Newsletter," op. cit., p. 3.

⁶Ibid., p.2.

⁷Personal communication with Dr. S. C. E. Abraham.

⁸"FFPA Newsletter," op. cit., p. 3.

CHAPTER VI

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Women participate in community activities in both urban and rural Malaysia in a variety of ways, although still on a relatively small scale. One of the most vivid examples of community participation by women is seen in the FELDA settlements.

All FELDA activities are community based. The settlers come together as a group; basic needs and priorities are discussed and decisions are made and implemented through community participation of both men and women. Most women's activities are channelled through the Home Economics Unit of the Social Development Division. This Unit offers a comprehensive range of activities and training for female settlers so they may take an active role in the community. Leadership training, classes in health and nutrition, child care, home resource management and family welfare are all part of the package approach to community development. Women have the opportunity to voice their opinions and make their wishes known. The responsibility of making the community successful is the obligation of the settlers at all levels.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, through the Community Development Division (CDD) and Farmer's Organization Authority, sponsors two major programs geared toward increasing women's participation and improving the quality of life for rural women and their families.

The Family Development Program (FDP) (briefly discussed in Chapter III, Child Care) is people-action oriented with an emphasis on self-reliance. It is committed to improving conditions of the family in the home. Female extension workers, known as Family Developers (FD) are sent to a rural community where they form a working committee of village leaders. Together they decide priorities and plan community improvement projects. The FD tries to get rural women involved in community participation by offering simple classes in nutrition, health and hygiene, child care, home and family management, family planning, food production, preparation, preservation and storage. Based on community requests and need, she may also offer advice on home-based income producing activities, formation of cooperatives and marketing mechanisms, and modern agricultural techniques. The FD adapts her work to the needs of the community. The program has recently been evaluated by the World Bank and plans for expansion of facilities are underway. This includes additional training centers for preschool leaders and other extension workers and the establishment of twelve Community Service Centers throughout the country. The major new activity is the establishment

of the Handicraft Sales Organization. This project is being funded by the World Bank and jointly implemented by the NFPB and the Ministry of Agriculture. Women will be encouraged to develop income generation activities compatible with the resources of their locality and will be provided with a marketing outlet as well.

The Women's Participation Unit of the Farmer's Organization Authority (FOA) was formed in 1975 to mobilize women to generate their own income producing activities. Prior to that time the activities of the cooperative primarily benefitted the male members, even though women have always been involved in farming work. At the village level a Women's Farmers' Committee is selected from female leaders and the village women present all project ideas to them. Group projects are the rule, and the Committee decides if the proposed plan is feasible and relevant and if so, approves it to be sent up to FOA for allocation. Allocation is given only to women farmers who are members of the Farmer's Cooperatives, and special allocations are made from FOA to initiate projects. Both agro- and non-agro-based projects are encouraged. Some of the activities pursued by the women's groups have been poultry raising, cash cropping, dressmaking and tailoring, cottage industries and the opening of small retail shops.

Success in the women's programme can be measured by the ongoing nature of projects begun in 1976, but according to the Women's Unit Director, the response is "encouraging but not satisfactory." Only 10% of women members (out of 24,000 total) benefit from the program. This is due largely to lack of knowledge about the activities and functions of the group and lack of interest and time on the part of the members. Inadequate female staff is another problem. Major efforts are currently being made to increase this staff in order to reach more of the rural women.

No similar types of planned or encouraged participation by outside agencies were found in the urban survey areas. In the group discussions in these areas, not many women attended; however, various groups requiring the participation of women were mentioned. These include cultural and recreational groups, the Death Welfare Funds and the woman's section of the major political party, UMNO. There was no indication of level of participation in these activities.

Two activities involving community participation resulting directly from the survey research in Kampong Muniandy (Tamil) are the improvement of the pre-school and the installation of more water stand pipes. A volunteer woman's organization from outside the Kampong is working with the local Residents Association who are rapidly taking over more and more of the responsibility in these two projects. It is hoped that these kinds of efforts can be replicated in other areas with a small amount of stimulus from outside the community.

APPENDIX

METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH

The goal of this study was to gain an understanding of the needs of low income women to participate in income generating activities, the current level of their participation, the extent to which child care responsibilities limit such participation and the effect of mothers' work on child care, family health and nutrition.

A combination of techniques was employed to gather the data required to assess these issues. Research conducted during October and November 1978. The primary survey instruments were two structured questionnaires administered to selected women and their husbands. Complementary information was collected through group discussions organized in the survey areas, anthropological observation by the research team, interviews with local leaders, government planners and representatives of national and international voluntary organizations, and a review of existing literature and current and projected government policy.

Selection of Study Areas and Survey Respondents

Malays represent just over half the population, Chinese about one-third, and Indians under 10%. With the urban population steadily increasing as people migrate to Kuala Lumpur in search of work opportunities being created through the expansion of industry, the Malaysian government is particularly interested in the demographics and needs of urban residents. Also since the rural pre-school program (see Chapter IV, Child Care) was currently being evaluated, it was decided to limit our survey to an urban area.

In Kuala Lumpur, most of the urban poor live in low cost flats or squatter areas;* therefore it was decided to conduct the survey in these areas. Since there is no listing of households, the areas selected were identified by ethnic composition and it was decided to interview an equal proportion of working and nonworking mothers to get a fair presentation of needs. Other necessary criteria for survey was the presence of at least one child under age and residence in a low income area.

Five hundred couples (200 Malay, 200 Chinese and 100 Indian) were randomly selected, 60% in squatter areas and 40% living in low-cost flats. At least half of the areas were selected for their location near factories or other job opportunities. In total 499 women were interviewed and 490 men (nine women were single parents). Although the average monthly household income of the selected sample group was under M\$500, a few families

*Kuala Lumpur has a population of approximately 950,000; 21% (200,000) live in squatter areas.

earned more than M\$1000 per month. Their responses were not deleted from the survey data as it was felt that in spite of income their environment is poor and the needs of the community were reliably reflected by the entire group interviewed.

Two separate questionnaires were devised to structure the household interviews, one for the mothers, and one for the fathers. The questionnaires were adaptations of a basic research design developed by the Overseas Education Fund and adapted to the conditions and particular needs of Malaysia and translated into Bahasa Malaysia, Chinese and Tamil. In most case the husbands and wives were interviewed simultaneously and separately by two different interviewer so as to avoid any possible influence one might have on the other.

Interviewers participated in a 2 1/2 day seminar/workshop in preparation for pre-testing of the questionnaire. These interviewers then carried out a pre-test in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan. Since the actual survey was to be conducted in the greater Kuala Lumpur area, it was decided to pre-test in an urban area outside Kuala Lumpur to leave Kuala Lumpur areas untouched for the actual survey. The pre-test sample was 235, 122 wives and 113 husbands. The interviewers were divided into Malay, Chinese and Indian groups and each group was given a quota to complete and were instructed to interview respondents from different age-groups, working status of wives and different type of low-cost residence (flats, squatters, low-cost quarters and new villages).

The interviewing was done in the late afternoon and evenings since this was the time both wife and husband would most likely be at home. Two interviewers were used, one interviewing the wife, the other the husband. At the end of each day, the interviewers met with the supervisors to discuss problems and possible solutions (e.g. certain questions deleted, wordings changed and additional questions substituted). Pre-testing was completed by May 1978 and the questionnaire was revised by the Committee and printed. The actual survey took place in October and November of 1978.

Interviews were conducted by 17 female and 5 male research team members. Average time spent per interview was 42 minutes for mothers, ranging from 15 minutes to 100 minutes. The husbands' questionnaires were shorter and the average time spent per interview was 27 minutes, ranging from 10 minutes to 95 minutes. Due to language and ethnic differences, 399 interviews were conducted in Malay, 380 in various Chinese dialects, 194 in Tamil and 16 in English.

Coding was done by members of the research team and the data analyzed by computer. The Malaysia Project Coordinator presented the findings after Steering Committee approval.

The research team found the level of cooperation, recall, and interest among families who were interviewed to be good. However, they felt that to

some extent false hopes were put in the minds of the people interviewed. Because of inquiries about need for child care facilities, the problems of working women and so on, respondents sometimes felt that they were going to be helped immediately.

Group Discussions

In each of the survey areas community leaders, teachers and local government representatives were enlisted to help organize group discussions. The meeting coordinators were given topical guidelines for facilitating discussion. These community group meetings were used to gather data to complement the survey findings, to observe group dynamics and to develop a community level picture of employment opportunities, degree of unemployment, cultural practices, the effect of social mores on women working, child care, accessibility to health care and education and community needs. The meetings were tape-recorded to enable the researchers to adequately analyze the information gathered.

Group discussion participants represented a cross-section of the community. Included were both people who had been interviewed and some who had not, community leaders, members of youth groups and representatives from the Malaysia National Family Planning Board, and other government departments. The number of area residents who participated in these community group meetings were as follows:

TABLE A-1 - GROUP DISCUSSION PARTICIPANTS

Area	Major Ethnic Group in Area	Men	Women
Pekeliling Flats	Malay	4	11
Kampong Sri Ampang	Malay	11	4
Bangsar Flats	Indian	9	6
Kampong Muniandy	Malay/Indian	Unknown, though all were considered community leaders	
Tun Razak Flats	Chinese	Unknown	1

Further information was collected in each survey area by speaking with teachers, health workers and other leaders, as well as through informal meetings whenever members of the research team encountered groups of men and/or women engaged in everyday activities.

CHILD CARE SURVEY: MALAYSIA

October - November 1978

Questionnaire Used to Interview Mothers

PRE-INTERVIEWING QUESTIONS TO ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY OF RESPONDENT

First of all, I would like to know how many persons usually live here, and eat together in this household, counting all adults and children. Please tell me who they are and what is their relationship to the head of the household. In addition I would like to know if married couples have any other children under 13 who live away.

(Interviewer: For all usual household residents list names and obtain data 1-4)

1. Name of usual residents and children under 13 living at home.
2. What is the relationship of this person to the head of the household?
3. Is this person male or female?
4. How old is he/she?
5. Names and ages of children living away from home.

RESULT OF INTERVIEW

Name of Interviewer _____

Date of Interview _____

Interview completed _____

Interview partially completed, appointment made for completion _____

Refusal: No interview made _____

New interviewer required _____

Respondent not at home _____

Respondent cannot be located _____

Respondent shifted _____
(NEW ADDRESS IF AVAILABLE)

Others (specify) _____

We are carrying out a survey to find out child care needs of families. We understand you have children under 16 years of age. We do hope you will give us your time to answer some questions on you and your children.

Name of Respondent _____

Household Member Number/E.R. Number _____

I.C. Number of E.R. _____

Ethnic Group: Malay
Chinese
Indian
Other

Location: Squatter Area
Flats
Quarters
Other

Name of Spouse _____

SECTION 1BACKGROUND

101. When were you born?
102. Have you had any formal education?
103. If yes, what is the highest level of education qualification you have?
104. In all, how many years of formal schooling have you completed?
105. In what month and year were you married?
106. Is this your first marriage?
107. If not your first marriage, in what month and year was your first marriage?
108. How long have you been staying in this area?
- Less than one year
1 - 4 years
5 - 9 years
10-14 years
15 and above
Since birth
109. Before you lived in this locality, where did you live?

SECTION 2WORK

201. Apart from housekeeping for your family, do you work regularly now, e.g. in a shop, or anywhere else?
If yes, proceed to question 209.
If no, proceed to 202.
202. If no, did you ever work before?
If yes, proceed to question 203.
If no, proceed to 205.
203. In which year did you stop working? (Last job)

204. Why did you stop working?

Not interested
Husband disapproves
Take care of children

Laid off
Others (specify) _____

205. If you have never worked before, would you like to work?

206. If yes, why do you want to work?

Financial-family
Financial-independence
Child/children big

Trained/skilled
Free time, bored
Others (specify) _____

207. What type of job would you like to have?

208. If not, why not?

Not interested
No financial need
Child/children small

No job
No skills
Others (specify) _____

209. Do you work mostly at home or do you work mostly away from home?
(for women currently working)

At home
Partly at home, partly elsewhere
Outside the home

210. Please provide me with the following information on your work.
(Interviewer: If respondent has more than one job, list and ask questions as indicated for each)

- a. What kind of work do you do? (specify activity)
- b. Where do you work? (specify establishment)
- c. How many hours a day are you engaged in this?
- d. How long have you been working in this job?
- e. If away from home:
How far is this from your house? Miles/time.
How do you get to this place? (e.g. 3 minibuses, walking)

211. How much a month on the average do you earn, including cash and kind?
(Interviewer: show range of income)

Unpaid family worker	\$250 - \$299
Below \$ 50	\$300 - \$349
\$ 50 - \$ 99	\$350 - \$399
\$100 - \$149	\$400 - \$449
\$150 - \$199	\$450 - \$499
\$200 - \$249	\$500 and above

212. Why do you work?

Financial-family
 Financial-independence
 Child/children big

Trained/skilled
 Free time, bored
 Others (specify) _____

(Interviewers: Ask Questions 213 and 214 only for respondents who give financial reasons for question 212; others skip to question 215)

213. If your family did not require the extra income from your work, would you still work?

214. If yes, why?

Financial independence
 Child/children big
 Trained/skilled

Free time, bored
 Others (specify)

215. If no, why not?

216. What are the main family-related problems married women and mothers face in working, e.g. in a shop, on a farm or anywhere else?

Child care
 Husband neglected
 Others (specify) _____

217. Which is the most important problem?

218. What are the main work-related problems for married women and mothers face in working?

Laid off
 Long hours
 Low pay

Lack of training facilities
 Others (specify)

219. Which is the most important problem?

220. Do you think women should help bring money into the family?

221. What kind of jobs are available for women?

222. What do you need to get a (better) job?

223. Does (would) your husband approve of your working?

224. If yes, why?

225. If no, why not?

226. If no, if work was done at home would he approve?

SECTION 3CHILD CARE

Now we would like to ask you about your children under 13 years of age.

301. (Interviewer: List all names and ages of all children under 13 years (last birthday 12). (Ask the following questions for each child under 6 years of age)

Household Serial Number
 Name of Child
 Age
 Who usually takes care of this child?
 Where is he/she being taken care of? (Name of place or town)
 How much do you pay for this arrangement? (write out basis,
 e.g. per day, per month)
 What are the advantages of this arrangement?
 What are the disadvantages of this arrangement?
 Are you satisfied with this arrangement?

302. (Interviewer: Ask this question to respondents who have children under 6 years of age)

(List names of children over 6 years of age) (Ask the following questions for each child)

Name of children
 Age
 How far is his/her school? Miles/time
 How much pocket money do you give him/her?
 Does he/she attend tuition classes? If no, skip to question 303.
 Where?
 How much do you pay for this?

303. Did any of your children stop schooling or never go to school in order to take care of younger brothers/sisters?

If yes, proceed to question 304

If no, proceed to question 309

304. Who were they and how old were they when they stopped schooling?

Elder daughter (s)	Age _____
Elder son (s)	Age _____
Both	Ages _____

305. Why did he/she/they have to do this?

306. Do you think that it is/was a good arrangement for your children to stop schooling or never go to school in order to take care of younger brothers and sisters?
307. If yes, why?
308. If no, why not?
309. Did you take care of younger brothers/sisters in your family when growing up?
If yes, proceed to question 310
If no, proceed to question 314
310. If yes, did you stop going/or never go to school to do this?
311. How old were you when you stopped schooling? _____ Years
312. Did you instead of working, stay at home to take care of children?
313. If you stopped school or were unable to work because of child care, how did this affect your life (e.g. in work, education, social life, marriage)?
314. How much time did you spend with your children yesterday?
315. What did you do with them and how long?
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Feeding | _____ mins. |
| Teaching | _____ mins. |
| Bathing | _____ mins. |
| Playing (how and how long) | _____ |
| Other (specify
_____) | _____ |
316. How often do you see your child/children who do not live with you?
317. Do you feel that you spend enough time with your child/children?
318. What kind of toys do you give to your children?
- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dolls/stuffed animals | Musical Instruments |
| Cars/airplanes, etc. | Alphabets, educational toys |
| Pistols/guns | Others (specify) _____ |
319. What type of books do you give your children?
- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| None | Educational |
| Comic | Others (specify) |
| Story Book | _____ |

320. When your son (s) grow up, what type of job would you like him/them to have? (If no sons ask, IF you had sons)
321. When your daughter (s) grow up, what type of job will you like her/them to have? (If no daughters, IF you had daughters)

SECTION 4

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

401. Where do you usually take your children when they need health care?

Government Hospitals	Healers
Government Clinics	Others (specify)
Private Hospitals/Clinics	_____

402. What are some of the problems in relation to health facilities/care your children receive?

Too far
 Long wait
 Expensive
 Others (specify) _____

403. What are the causes of your children's health problems?

404. Did your youngest child have the following injections? (If not, ask why not for each inoculation)

BCG
 Oral Vaccine 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
 Triple antigen 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
 Smallpox
 Oral polio (booster)

405. Do/did you breast feed your youngest child?

406. If no, why not?

407. If yes, up to what age do/did you give her/him breast milk alone?

408. For how long do/did you give him/her breast milk at least once a day before you stopped it altogether?

409. What supplementary foods do/did you give?

410. If you bottlefed, what kind of milk was used for your youngest child?

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Infant Formula | Condensed Milk |
| Canned Milk (evaporated) | Fresh Milk |
| Powder Milk | Others (specify) _____ |

411. (Interviewer: List the foods eaten the previous day by the children other than infants,

<u>Meal</u>	Rice/Flour/Potatoes	Vegetable/Fruits	Meat/Eggs	Drink	Others
Breakfast	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lunch	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Dinner	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Supper	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Snacks	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

SECTION 5

FAMILY

Now we would like to know how your working life has affected your children.
(For women who currently work)

501. How has your working affected your children in the following areas?

Why?

(Interviewer: Ask for each item)

	Better, Why?	Worse, Why?	Same
Type of food eaten	_____	_____	_____
Way of preparation	_____	_____	_____
Feeding pattern	_____	_____	_____
Education	_____	_____	_____
Health	_____	_____	_____
Affection	_____	_____	_____
Upbringing (discipline, etc.)	_____	_____	_____
Religion	_____	_____	_____
Others (specify)	_____	_____	_____

502. During your last day off what did you do?
(For working women)

During the last weekend what did you do?
(For women who do not work)

503. During the last month did your husband help you in the following chores at home?

	Yes	No	Should Husband Help?
Marketing	_____	_____	_____
Cooking	_____	_____	_____
Washing clothes	_____	_____	_____
Cleaning the house	_____	_____	_____
Cleaning the compound (gardening)	_____	_____	_____
Playing with children	_____	_____	_____
Helping children with school work	_____	_____	_____
Taking care of physical needs of children (feeding, bathing, changing diapers)	_____	_____	_____

504. If you got a windfall gain of \$5,000 today, what would you do with it?

SECTION 6

CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Now we would like to know the type of child care facilities you want for your children.

Child care facilities can be in many forms. It could be provided where you work, in a neighbor's house, community center or others. It could be run by professional teachers, nurses or even by women in the community who would be trained to take care of children. It could have many children or if in the case of a neighbor's house 2-3 children. It could be for all day, allowing you to go out work or for half a day. It could be for very small children or for school-going children.

601. What type of services would be most suitable for you and your children? (Probe on place by whom, number of children, time, cost, etc.)

CHILD CARE SURVEY: MALAYSIA

October - November 1978

Questionnaire Used to Interview Fathers

RESULT OF INTERVIEW

Name of Interviewer _____

Date of Interview _____

Interview Completed _____

Interview partially completed, appointment made for completion _____

Refusal: No interview made _____

New interviewer required _____

Respondent not at home _____

Respondent cannot be located _____

Respondent shifted _____
(NEW ADDRESS IF AVAILABLE)

Others (specify) _____

We are carrying out a survey to find out child care needs of families. We understand you have children under 16 years of age. We do hope you will give us your time to answer some questions on you and your children.

Name of Respondent _____

Household Member Number/E.R. Number _____

I.C. Number of E.R. _____

Ethnic Group: Malay, Chinese, Indian, Other _____

Location: Squatter Area, Flats, Quarters, Other _____

Name of Spouse _____

SECTION 1BACKGROUND

101. When were you born?
102. Have you had any formal education?
103. What is the highest level of education you completed?
104. In all, how many years of formal schooling have you completed?
105. In what month and year were you married to your current spouse?
106. Is this your first marriage?
107. If no, in what month and year was your first marriage?
108. How long have you been staying in this area?
109. Before you came to this locality, where did you live?
110. What work do you do?

(Interviewer: List all types of work and ask the following two questions in relation to all work)

How many hours/weeks?

What income do you earn?

SECTION 2WIFE'S WORK

201. Apart from housekeeping for your family, does your wife work regularly in a shop, in your home, or anywhere else?
202. If yes, why does she work?

Financial-family
 Financial-wife
 Child/children big

Trained/skilled
 Free time
 Others (specify) _____

(Interviewer: If the reason for wife's work is related to financial need, ask question 204)

203. If no, why not?

Wife not interested
 Husband disapproves
 Take care of children

No skills
 Others (specify)

204. If your family did not require the extra income would you allow your wife to work?

205. If yes, why?

Wife's financial independence
 Child/children big
 Trained/skilled

Free time
 Others (specify)

206. If not, why not?

Wife not interested
 Husband disapproves
 Take care of children

No skills
 Others (specify)

207. If uncertain, on what does your approval depend?

Work at home
 Others (specify) _____

208. What are the main family-related problems caused by a married woman working?

Child care
 Husband neglected
 Others (specify) _____

209. Which of these is the most serious problem?

210. What are the main work-related problems that married women and mothers face in working?

Laid off
 Long hours
 Low pay

Lack of training facilities
 Others (specify)

211. Which of these is the most serious problem?

SECTION 3CHILD CARE

Now we would like to ask a few questions on child care arrangements for your children.

301. Who takes care of your children under six years of age?

302. Is this a satisfactory arrangement?

303. If yes, why?

304. If no, why not?

305. Who takes care of your children six years to 13 years?

306. Is this a satisfactory arrangement?

307. If yes, why?

308. If no, why not?

309. How much time did you spend with your children yesterday?

310. What did you do with them yesterday and for how long?

Feeding	_____	mins.
Teaching	_____	mins.
Bathing	_____	mins.
Playing	_____	mins.
Others (specify)	_____	mins.

311. How often do you see your child/children who do not live with you?

312. Do you feel that you spend enough time with your children?

313. When your son (s) grow up, what type of job would you like him/them to have?

(If no sons ask, IF you had sons?)

314. When your daughter (s) grow up what would you like her/them to become?
(If no daughters ask, IF you had daughters?)

SECTION 4FAMILY

Now we would like to know how your children are affected by your wife's working.

401. If your wife works, how does her working affect your children in the following areas?

	Better (Why?)	Worse (Why?)	Same
Types of food eaten	_____	_____	_____
Way of preparation	_____	_____	_____
Feeding patterns	_____	_____	_____
Education	_____	_____	_____
Health care	_____	_____	_____
Affection	_____	_____	_____
Upbringing (discipline, etc)	_____	_____	_____
Religion	_____	_____	_____
Others (specify) _____	_____	_____	_____

402. How did you spend the last weekend (or last full day off)?

403. During the last month did you help your wife in the following chores at home?

	Should husband help?			
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Marketing	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cooking	_____	_____	_____	_____
Washing Clothes	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cleaning the house	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cleaning the compound (gardening)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Playing with children	_____	_____	_____	_____
Helping children with school work	_____	_____	_____	_____
Taking care of physical needs of children (feeding, bathing, changing diapers)	_____	_____	_____	_____

404. If you got a windfall gain of \$5,000/today, what would you do with it?

SECTION 5CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Now we would like to know the type of child care facilities you want for your children.

Child care facilities can be in many forms. It could be provided where you work, in a neighbor's house, community center or other place. It could be run by professional teachers, nurses or even by women in the community who would be trained to take care of children. It could have many children or in the case of a neighbor's house 2-3 children. It could be for all day or half a day allowing mothers to go out to work or work at home. It could be for very small children or for school-age children.

601. What type of services would be most suitable for you and your children?
(Probe on place, by whom, number of children, time, cost, etc.)

GROUP DISCUSSION OUTLINE

I. Work (income generating)

What kind of work do men do?
What kind of work do women do?
What kind of work do children do?
Who is responsible for household tasks?
Full employment, underemployment, unemployment?
How do labor laws affect women working?
Should women work to contribute to family income?
Who cares for the children when mothers are away from the house?
Is this arrangement satisfactory?
Would another arrangement be better?
Who in the family is responsible for handling income earned?
Do attitudes of women themselves deter their participation in
labor force, society, community?

II. Education

Do most children go to school? Until what age?
If not, why not?
Are there schools or training facilities for adults?
If no, would you use skill training facilities if provided?
Are there schools or training facilities for women especially?
Do you need training facilities? What kind?
Do child care responsibilities hinder women's participation in
training?

III. Health

What kind of health problems are there in the area?
How can the health of the people be improved?
Do you need additional health facilities or personnel? What kind?
How is the health/nutrition of your children affected by child care
arrangements?

IV. Community

What do you like about your area?
What do you dislike about your area?
What kind of community activities or organizations are there in
your neighborhood?
Do the people take an active part in these organizations?
Do women generally participate in the community activities?
If no, how could they participate?
Who owns the land in your area?
Who inherits? Are these patterns changing? What do you think about
that?
What kind of neighborhood will this be in a few years?
Would you participate in community development projects that would
improve your living environment?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ariffin, Jamilah. "Rural-Urban Migration and the Status of Factory Women Workers in a Developing Society: A Case Study of Peninsular Malaysia." Paper presented at the Conference of Sociological Association of Australia and New Zealand, May 1978.

This paper examines the factors involved in the rural-urban migration of unmarried, female workers and discusses the impact of these factors on their adjustment to the urban environment and status in society. Before 1970 it was uncommon to see girls working in factories, but by 1977 women represented 49% of the migrants. Findings indicate that these migrant women are not adequately prepared to cope in their new urban environment.

ASEAN Seminar on Women and Employment, NACIWID, Kuala Lumpur, Nov. 1976.
Country Paper for Malaysia, tables.

This paper discusses Malaysian women's unrecognized contribution to the home as unpaid family workers and the disparity between men and women in the labor market in terms of salary and opportunities. It stresses the necessity of making education available to women to ensure more equal access to jobs, especially in technical and scientific fields. Notes that 50% of the women who work are engaged in agriculture and recommends non-formal education programs to reach rural poor women. Discusses problems of working women such as child care, working conditions, lack of training facilities and lack of implementation of protective labor legislation.

Bhupalan, F.R. "The Status of Women and Role of Women in Malaysia." Paper presented at the ASEAN Meeting, 20-21 December 1975, Jakarta.

Discusses the role, functions and achievements of the National Council of Women's Organizations. Among the outstanding achievements are the acceptance by the government of equal pay for equal work, separate assessment of income tax for working women, and the pensionable status of married women. Discusses the role of women in society, in the political and economic field and in education, showing that inequalities exist between men and women. Suggests ways of improving the status of women in these various fields. Recommends greater participation of women at the policymaking level and stresses the importance of the International Women's Year in raising the general awareness of women in their multiple roles.

Boey, Dr. Lim Ksat, "Social, Physical and Mental Development of Pre-School Children", National Seminar on Planning, Faculty of Education, University of Malaysia, 1970. 20pp.

The paper discusses aspects of social, physical and mental development of pre-school children that are relevant to planning of programs for these children in Malaysia. Stresses the importance of good nutrition for proper mental development during the first four years. Discusses growth rates, nutritional status and incidence of disease among rural children. Recommends expansion of rural health services and coordination with the Ministries of Education and Welfare Services. Suggests making parents more aware of problems and remedies and adding a nutrition component to services offered by kindergartens and play centers.

Chew, Kee Mooi. "Some Aspects of Women in Employment in West Malaysia with Particular Reference to the Government and Estate Sectors." Academic exercise, University of Malaya, 1969.

A study of women's employment in West Malaysia with special reference to pattern and distribution as well as terms and conditions of work in government service and the estate sector. The study encompasses two periods: pre-World War II covering 1921-32 and the post-war period 1947-67 with emphasis on the latter period, and is based largely on censuses for the period 1921-67 and published data of the Ministry of Labor, the salaries commissions and surveys of the Department of Statistics. The study investigates the effects of demographic changes on the labor force structure and economics, degree of female participation and diversification. Considers inadequacy of education and training as main factors for the prevailing pattern of employment with women being concentrated in a few, primarily low level, occupations.

Chong Eu Ngoh, "Plans and Programs for the Pre-School Child", Ministry of Welfare Services, Kuala Lumpur 1977, 44 pp.

Discusses the need to improve the nutrition and health care services available to pre-school children in Malaysia. Since ages 1-5 are not effectively reached through the school system, offers suggestions for educating mothers and providing supplemental feeding. Describes efforts being made by the National Association of Women's Institutes and the Malaysia Voluntary Social Workers Corps.

Chong, Rosemay. "Women's Role in a Developing Country in the Women's Year 1975." Paper presented at the World Congress of Women, Berlin, 1975.

Focuses on the three themes of the International Women's Year 1975; namely, equality between the sexes, the role of women in development and the role of women in fostering peace. Maintains that discrimination against women still exists in Malaysia. Women usually occupy the lowest-paid

jobs rather than executive and decision-making positions. Women do not enjoy equal pay with men in the private sector. Argues that women should be encouraged to participate in politics and thus elect more women to Parliament and to join the trade union movement to articulate their grievances. Recommends ways of encouraging participation of women in economic activities dominated traditionally by men, and means of lowering birth rates so that the economic progress thus made is not negated. Also argues that women with their patience, sensitivity and general nature are most suited for the role of fostering understanding among the three main communities of Malaysia.

Chung, Betty Jamie and NgShui Meng, The Status of Women in Law, A Comparison of Four Asian Countries, Occasional Paper No. 49, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, 1977. 63 pp.

This paper examines and compares the legal status of women in the four Asian countries of Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of China and Thailand. The focus is on marriage and family laws, inheritance and property laws. The author also relates the legal status of women in these countries to their social, economic and political status.

Colletta, Nat J. and Donahue, Nancy. "The Child and His Surroundings: The Ecology of Child Development on a Malaysian Rubber Plantation," Chronicle, 1978, 19 pp. Bibliography.

This paper examines three factors effecting the development of young children: socioeconomic conditions, child rearing/family interaction patterns and nutritional/health factors. Data is based on field research covering Malay, Chinese and Indian families on a rubber estate, including descriptions of three segregated creches. The paper concludes that although differentials in cultural interaction expressed in child-rearing patterns exist, similarities in socio-economic and nutritional/health conditions contribute to an overriding environmental homogeneity for the children.

DaVanzo, Julie and Lee, Donald Lye Poh. "The Compatibility of Childcare with Labor Force Participation and Nonmarket Activities: Preliminary Evidence from Malaysian Time Budget Data," California: The Rand Corporation, 1979, 33 pp., Tables.

Some of the questions addressed in this paper are: 1) how wages of household members affect their allocation of time to various household tasks; 2) which home activities lose more of the mother's attention when she enters the labor force; 3) the types of market and nonmarket activities that are most compatible with child care and 4) how the accompaniment of small children affects the efficiency with which a mother performs a particular task. The analysis presented is preliminary and offers a useful framework for further research.

Deva, Dr. M.K. and Deva, Dr. M.P. "Residential Nurseries and Parents Who Use Them", Malaysia and Singapore, Congress of Medicine, Kuala Lumpur, October 1978. 25 pp.

Based on a study of two urban nurseries in Malaysia used by 22 families, this paper examines the features of the 24 hour nursery, the profile of families who use such facilities and their reasons for doing so. The author finds that it is fairly affluent families who use the nurseries. The decision to do so seems to be based not on economic considerations but rather on psychological factors related to changing social trends. The paper suggests that further studies of 24 hour nurseries should be undertaken to determine if children experience any serious, long term effects.

Devi, A. Sarojini. "Socio-economic Aspects of Women Plantation Workers: A Case Study of the Indian Women of Ladang Tengah." Academic exercise, University of Malaya, 1971.

Examines the socioeconomic aspects of Indian women plantation workers in Malaysia, their role in the family and the community and their role as workers. Special emphases are put on the social evolution of the Indian women and the practice of family planning as a modern feature of these workers. Utilizes data collected through interviews and observations of sixty Indian women working on a rubber estate. All are one of the primary contributors to their respective family income and about 22% of them are the main wage-earners. Describes the influences of mass media, religion and culture on the social life of the women. Discusses the attitudes and participation of women in unions and politics.

Education Planning and Research Division, Ministry of Education, Study of Educational Wastage/Dropout Study. 1973.

Study demonstrates that the difference in enrollment rates between males and females in Malaysia is quite consistent among all three ethnic communities. The disparity between sexes is greatest among the poor and in rural areas.

The Federation of Women Lawyers, Malaysia. "Current Legislation in Peninsular Malaysia: Some Thoughts for International Women's Year, 1975." Commentary by K.L. Devaser, Mehrun Siraj and Fatimah Hamidon at the Malaysian Law Conference, 13-15 October 1975, Kuala Lumpur.

This paper discusses legislation which discriminates against women in Malaysia and recommends amendments to rectify such laws. Deals with legislation pertaining to guardianship of children, intestate succession, income tax assessment, citizenship, immigration, social security, pensions and retirement. Also gives examples of legislation which discriminates against men and examines the bases for it. States that absolute equality

among humans is a physical impossibility but that equality before the law is desirable. Argues that much legislation is now anomalous with recent changes in women's roles and position and that the important criterion for laws is their reasonableness in today's Malaysia.

Firth, Rosemary. "The Position of Women," Housekeeping Among Malay Peasants, pp. 26-34. London School of Economics and Political Science, Monographs on Social Anthropology, No. 7. London: Athlone Press, 1966.

This chapter deals with the position of women in fishing villages along the east coast of Malaysia. Anthropological data show that women in these villages publicly interact with the men. Women's occupations include the making and selling of snacks, selling vegetables and fish, and making fishnets. At least one-quarter of the women in the community have some definite occupation either as sole wage-earner or to allow the family a higher standard of living. The chapter focuses on one of the occupations - snack making and selling. Argues that the ability of women to earn their own living is one of the reasons divorce is often preferred by older women who elect social independence to economic ease when husbands take a second wife.

Fong, Monica Skantze. "Social and Economic Correlates of Female Labor Force Participation in West Malaysia." Ph.D. dissertation, University of Hawaii, 1974.

Foo, Gillian Hwei Chuan. Women Today in Peninsular Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur: Federation of Family Planning Associations, Malaysia, 1976 (English) charts, illustrated.

Discusses the status of women in Malaysia with special reference to their education and employment opportunities, political representation and legal rights, and impact of family planning. Argues that because most women are confined to domestic and maternal roles, which are regarded as less economically-valuable and less intellectually demanding than salaried jobs, they are often discriminated against in regard to education opportunities and perceived as being intellectually inferior.

Gerhold, Caroline Rose. "Factors Relating to Educational Opportunity for Women Residents of the Malay Peninsula." Ph.D. dissertation, Cornell University, 1971.

A theoretical explanation of patterns of utilization of educational opportunities by women of the Malay Peninsula, based on library data and the Census and Annual Reports of the Department of Education 1947-57. Analyzes the levels of educational utilization and professional work participation in terms of the different attitudes toward women's social independence of immigrant and indigenous ethnic communities. Calculates educational opportunity ratios (relating size of student subpopulation to total population) and work participation ratios on the basis of census data. Data show that immigrant communities avail themselves of educational opportunities more than indigenous populations. Shows that women's educational utilization is complementary to that of men. Notes a higher participation in professional occupations by communities which utilize education to a higher degree.

Goon, Cecilia Ai Chin. "A Study of the Pattern of Vocational Preference of Form Five Girls in Selected English-Medium Schools in Selangor." Master's thesis, University of Malaya, 1975.

Gordon, Shirle. "The Conditions of Our Plantation Workers - The Fathers and Mothers of the Children." Intisari 3 (4) 1969: 49-55. Journal of the Sociological Institute of Malaysia.

Hamidon, Fatimah. "Continuing Education for Women." Paper prepared for the Seminar on Women in Population Education and Literacy Programmes, 24-27 January 1976, Kuala Lumpur.

Hamidon, Fatimah. "Malaysian Women Stride Towards Progress." Paper submitted to Commonwealth Secretariat, United Kingdom, 1975.

Hamidon, Fatimah. "Opportunities for Women in Education." Seminar on the Role of Women in Higher Education: Implications for Higher Education in Southeast Asia, 14-15 November 1975, Kuala Lumpur.

Describes the evolution of education for women in Malaysia in terms of three phases: the colonial phase (1900-45) during which opportunities were extremely limited; the transitional phase (1947-57) during which opportunities greatly expanded, though the ratio of female to male students remained low; and the third, or present, phase, marked by an improvement in female access to educational opportunities, as well as more positive attitudes. The paper notes, however, that female participation is still largely confined to primary and lower secondary levels. At post-secondary levels women tend to concentrate in the arts, law, dentistry and teaching. Women are beginning to diversify in choice of areas of specialization which the author suggest will lead to new opportunities for Malaysian women.

Hamidon, Fatimah. "The Status, Roles and Achievements of Women in Malaysia." Paper presented at ASAIHL Seminar - Workshop on the Role of Women in Development: Implications for Higher Education in Southeast Asia, 16-22 December, 1975, Manila.

The paper focuses on the educational and employment opportunities/participation of Malaysian women. Shows that only as family workers do women outnumber men, and that women represent the bulk of cheap labor. At all levels of education the proportion of females to males is at a slightly lower level. At the tertiary level women students tend to concentrate in the arts and humanities, law, dentistry and education, though women are diversifying into areas which have been dominated by men.

"Housewives - Housekeepers or Nation Builders." Paper presented at the Seminar on the Study of a Women's Bureau, 22-25 August 1965, Pantai Valley, Kuala Lumpur.

Ibrahim, Ahmad Bin Muhammad. "Law and Population in Malaysia". Medford, Mass.: Law and Population Programme, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, 1977. Monograph series #95. 51 pp. charts.

Discusses Muslim, Chinese, statutory and customary native law as administered in Malaysia. Relates laws pertaining to marriage, divorce, contraception, sexual relations, maternity benefits, employment of women, child labor, social security and inheritance. Investigates national family planning services in terms of regulatory laws, local attitudes and impact on birth rate. Recommends legal measures to improve status of women and children and to extend educational opportunities.

Malaysian Law Conference. "Papers of the Malaysian Law Conference Organized by the Federation of Women Lawyers, Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur from 13-15 October 1975." Kuala Lumpur: 1975.

O'Brien, Leslie Nola. "The Role of Women in the Economic Development of West Malaysia." Ph.D. dissertation, Monash University, 1975.

Ponniah, Vivian. "Opportunities and Treatment of Women Workers in Malaya," Kuala Lumpur, thesis, University of Malaya, 1968. 76 pp. bibliography, tables.

An examination of the opportunities available to and treatment of women workers in the Malaysian public and private sectors. The author finds that women workers are discriminated against with respect to wage rates, promotion policies, access to certain positions and types of jobs, working conditions, leave and retirement policies. Discusses factors that are helping women improve their bargaining positions, such as changing attitudes toward women, increased educational opportunities, family need for a second income and effects of the National Family Planning movement.

Rafidah, Aziz. "The Role of Women in Social, Economic and Political Development in Malaysia." Seminar on The Role of Women in Higher Education: Implications for Higher Education in Southeast Asia, 14-15 November 1975, Kuala Lumpur.

This paper discusses ways to increase the level and scope of participation of women in the development of Malaysia. Recommends access to education and literacy training, provision of work opportunities and formulation of policies that encourage participation in the economy and society, irrespective of sex. Presents an assessment of the present position of women in terms of literacy and educational attainment, participation in the labor force and involvement in political process. Quotes statistics that show that women represent more than 70% of the population which has had no formal education, that a high percentage of women are housewives, and that of those who participate in the labor force, most are engaged in agriculture.

Singh, Mrs. Jaginder, "The Role of the Medical Officer of Health and Rural Health Team in the Care of the Pre-School Child," Kuala Lumpur: Bulletin of the Public Health Society, vol. 7, 1973, 5 pp.

Authored by a government health officer in the state of Malacca, this paper discusses the structure and function of Malaysian health teams and the role of each individual member. Health care for pre-school children is one of the services provided by the rural health teams which work together with communities, parents and other agencies in each area. The author suggests expansion of the child health care function to provide adequate supervision of day care centers, nurseries and kindergartens. Advocates "whole" child approach of complete care and monitoring rather than simply treating specific problems individually as they occur.

Singh, Sarjit. "Equality of Educational Opportunity in the Federation of Malaya." Academic exercise, University of Malaya, 1967.

Based on census data and published education statistics, this thesis examines educational participation in Malaysia during the immediate post-war period (1945-46) and the period 1965-66. It focuses on differences in levels of participation among various ethnic groups, compares urban and rural populations and examines the difference in opportunities offered to boys and girls. The paper discusses the influence of parental and societal attitudes, family poverty and the present lack of job opportunities for females and the participation of girls in the educational system. It examines drop-out rates and male-female ratios during the two periods.

Strange, Heather. "The Weavers of Rusila: Working Women in a Malay Village." Ph.D. dissertation, New York University, 1971.

An anthropological study which examines the economic roles of women in Rusila, based on observations of and participation in daily village activities over a fourteen month period. Shows that of the 92% of adult women who engage in some form of remunerative work, 82% are involved in weaving. No other work offers such a high degree of congruence between the roles of housewife, mother and worker. Though education for women and possibilities for work outside the village are increasing, most men and women in Rusila will continue to be dependent upon local work. In that context, weaving will remain women's major activity as a source of supplementary household income.

Zakaria, Mazidah. "Aspirations for Women and Obstacles in Their Employment Opportunities." Seminar on The Role of Women in Higher Education: Implications of Higher Education in Southeast Asia, 14-15 November 1975, Kuala Lumpur.