

# Implications of Covid-19 Outbreak Spread on Small Traders in Bachok District, Kelantan

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**Abstract.** This study aims to investigate the effects of the Covid-19 outbreak on small traders in the Bachok district of Kelantan. The objectives of this study are to observe the implication of Covid-19 pandemic on small traders in Bachok and how it is affecting their businesses. The subjective evaluation conducted in this study was focusing on small traders in Bachok that comprises of 120 respondents. The findings from this study had shown the negative impact of Covid-19 pandemic on their business economic. Overall respondents are saying that Covid-19 had affected their business nature & profit. Besides that, this study was hope to be able to guide the traders on how they should overcome this problems by changing their nature of business to incorporate more achievable approach during the MCO and after the pandemic.

## INTRODUCTION

The Malaysian government has gazetted a movement control order (MCO) starting March 18, 2020, to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic [1,2]. There are several reports in the mainstream media about the impact of the Covid-19 and MCO crisis on the agricultural sector, especially the economic area. Small entrepreneurs, for example had lost their daily income due to the affected business chain with the closure of shops because of the Covid-19 epidemic. Some entrepreneurs are beginning to take alternative approaches in business operations to ensure the continuity of income. In addition, according to a report by the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER) and the Akademi Usahawan Malaysia (AUM), the economic stimulus package provided by the government to assist small and medium industry (SME) entrepreneurs is not a long-term solution. SME entrepreneurs need to think of strategies to plan and control cash flow as well as take alternative and adaptive approaches to reduce the impact of the crisis on their business [2]. Because of that, the study of Covid-19 impact on small industries especially for food sectors are needed.

Among the problems that can be seen throughout this study is that the small traders in Bachok are so dependant on their business for life income. Their businesses are quite thriving and successful during their operation before the Covid -19 pandemic occur. After the pandemic, the nature and profit of their business are drastically changed due to movement control order imposed by the government. This eventually affected their source of income due to customers lost. The order of movement control carried out not only affects human behavior and psychology such as depression,

turmoil and stress but also bring impact into the economic sectors [2,3]. Thus, the objectives of this study are to observe the implication of Covid-19 pandemic on small traders in Bachok and how it affected their business.

## METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted at Bachok district in Kelantan. Subjective evaluation and observation techniques were applied in this study to gathered important information from the subjects. Figure 1 below show the flowchart of methodology process involved in this study.

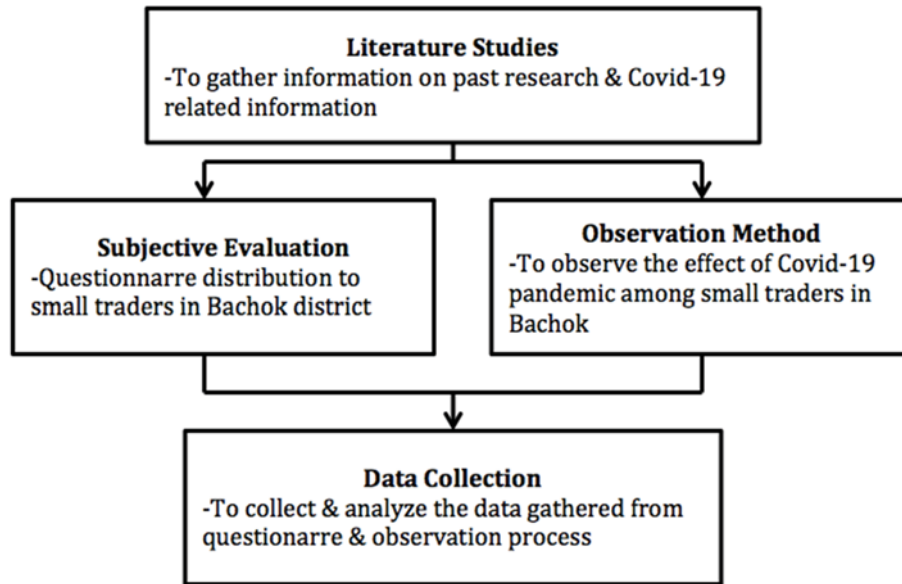


FIGURE 1. Research Flow Chart.

From the figure, it shows that there were three phase of methodology process involved. First phase is the literature studies which focuses on collecting information on related past research and information on Covid-19 pandemic. The second phase is comprised of subjective evaluation and observation process. During the subjective evaluation, a set of questionnarre was distributed among 120 participants that consist of 35 male and 85 female. Participants for this study were small traders that operate business in Bachok district. The questionnarre is comprised of two parts that are; 1) demographic data and 2) the related question on Covid-19 impact on their business. The observation method was conducted around the operation area of small traders' business in Bachok district. The third phase that is the data collection process was conducted using google sheet and Microsoft excel to obtain calculated results.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results from the findings conducted in this study is presented and discussed thoroughly in this section. Table 1 shows the demographic data collected in this study. As depicted in Table 1, it shows that majority of respondents are female with 70.8% and only 29.2% male. This maybe due to the unique business culture found in Kelantan that usually is monopolised by women traders [4-6] Majority of respondent' age involved in this study are 17-23 years with 89.2% while for race, Malay is the highest with 84.2%, followed by Chinese with 11.7%. Figure 2 shows the result analysis of subjective evaluation that had been conducted in this study. The data were collected from small traders in Bachok district using given questionnaire.

The results shows in Fig. 2 shows the percentage of answer from respondents related to the effect of Covid-19 pandemic occur in their area. There were seven related questions given to the respondents as seen in Fig. 2. Basically all questions posed were received with agreeable feedback from the respondents. As for the first question interm of the importance of small business is showing majority of 96% respondents agreeing with this statement. Respondents also showing a higher approval response that MCO had affected their business, had changed the nature of business and consequently had needed traders to invest their own money to sustain their business.

TABLE 1. Demographic data.

Demographic Data	Percentage %
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	29.2
Female	70.8
<b>Age Distribution</b>	
17-23	89.2
24-29	9.2
30 & Above	1.7
<b>Race</b>	
Malay	84.2
Chinese	11.7
Indian	2.1
Others	2

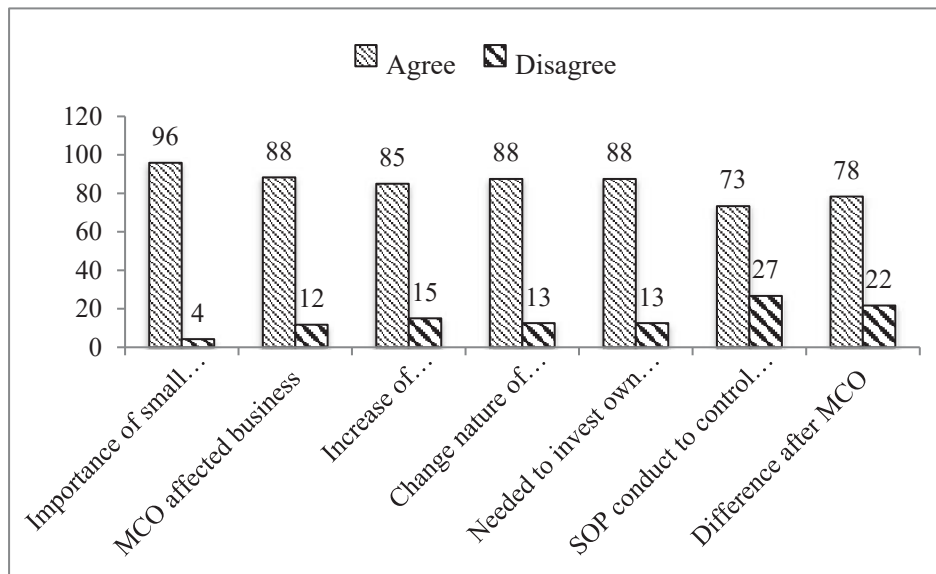


FIGURE 2. Subjective evaluations of respondents involved.

This is inline with results from several researchers which shown negative impact of Covid-19 pandemic on economic sectors. Ratnasingam et al. (2020) had reported the major impacts on financial & supply chain concern for SME of furniture business in Malaysia [4] also had described the negative impact of Covid-19 pandemic on tourism and hospitality industries in Malaysia [5-6,8].

The lowest agreeable result from this study is the precaution taken by the traders in order to control the spread of Covid-19. One of the reasons this parameters scoring a bit low is maybe due to the level of awareness among local traders in Bachok is quite limited [6-7].

Besides that, the sheer amount of information and misinformation communicated by various parties challenges efforts to use science communication and implement necessary behavioral-reliant public health interventions such as social distancing and MCO [5-8].

## CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, based on the research conducted, the objectives of this study that are to observe the implication of Covid-19 pandemic on small traders in Bachok and how it affected their business had been fulfilled. It had shown that Covid-19 pandemic had affected their small business profit with negative impact. It is hoped that the outcome from this study will able to raise awareness and concern of economic impact endure by small traders in Bachok district. Besides that, this study also should able to shows the impact of Covid-19 for traders and how they should overcome this problems by changing their nature of business to incorporate more achievable approach during the MCO such as online delivery.

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